

wardrobe travel

DREAMING OF TRAVELLING TO FARAWAY LANDS AND DISCOVERING EXOTIC FASHION ALONG THE WAY? THANKS TO THIS SEASON'S TRENDS, YOUR WARDROBE CAN TAKE YOU AROUND THE WORLD, SAYS ANNEMARIE LUCK



Every time I slip on my pink jewel-toned court shoes, with tiny star cutouts along the toes, I experience an undeniable thrill. Because, like Dorothy's ruby slippers in *The Wizard of Oz*, they transport me to a faraway place: Hong Kong. Their conservative shape and edgy hue embodies the juxtaposing spirit of the city: traditional and cutting edge. Three clicks of the heels and I'm surrounded by bright city lights and Chinese culture.

A similar thing happens when I wrap myself in my patterned black-and-gold, paisley and floral scarf. Suddenly I'm on the dusty streets of Vietnam's Hanoi with its turquoise roadside huts, colourful lanterns and sumptuous fabrics with intricate designs.

If I feel a yearning for Kenya's hustle and bustle, I dig out the mahogany bangles I picked up at a market in Mombasa. The sound of them knocking against each other reminds me of the earthy, humble people I met there.

For me, fashion has always offered an escape, long before I was sophisticated

enough to know the difference between real and fake leather, let alone able to afford overseas travel. But unlike back in the '90s – when in a bid to embrace the '60s revival I was forced to fashion my own bell bottoms by sewing triangles of material into the side seams of my jeans – these days global fashion is at our fingertips. SA designers and stores are catering to the growing demand for fashion-forward style, which means that escape via your wardrobe is more

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possible than ever. Fashion has become your ticket to ride.

Dying for a slice of Mexico? One of the hottest prints at the moment is Aztec. It offers instant street style flair with a sense of Hispanic culture. You may never have set foot in the land of authentic tequila and ancient tribes but don a statement piece that includes

bold geometrical shapes and a mix of patterns and lines, and you'll be one sombrero away from the real deal. If you're less *arriba arriba* and more *calma calma*, stick to black and white prints or invest in an accent piece, like a chevron-patterned clutch.

On your sartorial round-trip, be sure to give Hawaii a nod. Take your cue from designers like Proenza Schouler and Altuzarra, whose Spring/Summer 2012 ranges included punchy florals reminiscent of festive luaus and beach-bar cocktails. And go on safari with the perennial animal-print trend, this year finding its most flattering form in tribal pantsuits by Gwen Stefani and sporty swimsuits by Michael Kors.

When travelling via your wardrobe, even the time-space continuum has no limitations. With Baz Luhrmann's movie *The Great Gatsby* inspiring catwalk and red-carpet looks, '20s attire is no longer restricted to dress-up parties – you can beam yourself right into Daisy Buchanan's jazzy world with some flapper chic or pyjama elegance.

Forget the Wicked Recession Witch of the West. Your 2012 wardrobe is a one-way ticket to anywhere. **C**