

# Flights of fashion

With *The Devil Wears Prada 2* out in cinemas, Alice Barnes-Brown tailors fashion-inspired trips and designer stays across the world

**m**eryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and the team from *Runway – New York's hottest (fictional) fashion magazine* – are back on our screens, 20 years after the first *The Devil Wears Prada* film.

If your clients love to get a feel for local styles as they travel, or simply plan their trips around a spot of shopping, now's the time to pitch a package that encourages them to indulge their passion for fashion. Fresh from *Travel Weekly's* own Inspiring Women: Fashion Forward event, we've curated a few clothing-inspired trips, from city breaks in fashion hubs to witnessing traditional weaving techniques up close.

#### DESIGNER-INSPIRED RESORTS

The pinstripe awnings and serene Montego Bay surroundings of Round Hill Hotel and Villas will be familiar to many agents – but did you know that the 36-room hotel was designed by the fabulous Ralph Lauren himself?

Built in the 1950s on a 100-acre peninsula, Round Hill was once a gathering place for the well-heeled. When Ralph Lauren visited in the 1970s, he declared Jamaica to be his favourite spot on Earth and redesigned the Pineapple House in his own sleek style.

The designer wanted to capture the essence of Jamaica, so hotel guests can expect Lauren's typical monochromatic decor with splashes of bright colour, four-poster beds and sweeping views of the sea.

The cocktail bar also bears his mark, with country club-esque furnishings and retro photographs.

**Book it:** Red Savannah sells a seven-night half-board stay from £4,888 per person, based on two sharing an Ocean View King room. Includes transfers, luggage and flights, for departures between October 10 and December 17. [redsavannah.com](http://redsavannah.com)

**Or try:** Amid the cypress and orange groves of Majorca's Tramuntana mountains is La Residencia, a Belmond property made up of two 17th-century manor houses. Within the warm stone walls is a villa infused with British designer Matthew Williamson's uniquely bold style: think hand-stitched animals on the cushions, Portuguese tiles and a bathroom as boldly turquoise as the private pool.

**Book it:** Jet2holidays sells a seven-night stay at La Residencia from £7,849 per person, based on two sharing, as part of its Indulgent Escapes collection. Includes breakfast, 25kg luggage, transfers and flights from Gatwick on June 2. [jet2holidays.com](http://jet2holidays.com)

#### SHOPPING TRIPS

Paris, darling! A break during the haute couture exhibition for designers' fall/winter collections (July 6-9 this year) is a sure-fire sell for clients who like to keep up with what's going on in the world ➤

# DESTINATIONS

## DESIGN BREAKS | FASHION

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### Hotel Amigo

Diane von Fürstenberg designed a suite (pictured) in this Brussels city centre pad, owned by Rocco Forte Hotels. Accents include framed silk scarves by Andy Warhol, plus a wardrobe filled with the designer's signature item: jersey wrap dresses.

### La Venezia

Uniwold's river ship takes note from the Venetian design house Fortuny, with hand-printed fabrics featuring prominently and a lobby inspired by Fortuny's Venice showroom on the island of Giudecca.

### Tortuga Bay Resort

Dominican designer Oscar de la Renta was the visionary behind this 13-villa beachfront enclave at the Punta Cana resort, with plantation-style buildings and a boutique by Colombian fashion designer Silvia Tcherassi.

### The London West Hollywood

The largest hotel suite in Los Angeles – the Penthouse at The London (pictured) – was designed by the late Vivienne Westwood. The two-storey suite blends cool tones with punkish accessories.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Round Hill Hotel and Villas, Jamaica; Portrait Milano, Milan; sari fitting for an Intrepid Travel group in Agra PICTURE: Nicola Bailey



of fashion. There are plenty of pop-ups and independent shows to discover, and just strolling the streets with so many style icons in town will give clients lots of inspiration.

The French capital is just as packed with trendy hotels. The Hoxton is set within an 18th-century townhouse in the 2nd arrondissement, once a bustling textile district. Inside, clients will find photo-friendly rooms with industrial-chic stylings and a glass-roofed restaurant. Plus, it serves as a base for browsing the boutiques of La Marais.

Travelling via Eurostar means clients can carry home (almost) as much as they like – with no weight limit and two suitcases, they can upgrade their entire wardrobe.

**Book it:** Fred Holidays sells a three-night city break at The Hoxton Paris from £999 per person, based on two sharing, including breakfast and Eurostar travel on July 6. [fredholidays.co.uk](http://fredholidays.co.uk)

**Or try:** Clients looking to sample classic Italian style can stay in the Portrait Milano, operated by the Ferragamo brand – the fashion house known for leather footwear and accessories. Portrait Milano sits in the heart of Milan's shopping district, with Dolce & Gabbana and Louis Vuitton boutiques mere steps away. The 73-suite hotel is set in a baroque seminary and overlooks the Piazza del Quadrilatero, which is teeming with its own fashion boutiques.

**Book it:** Expressions Holidays sells a three-night stay from £2,850 per person, based on two sharing. Includes breakfast, private transfers and flights from Heathrow on October 30. [expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://expressionsholidays.co.uk)

### TEXTILE TOURS

The vibrant colours of India make the country an exciting place for fashion fans. Each region has its own traditional dress, but the sari is ubiquitous. On Intrepid Travel's India: Women's Expedition, the group visits the house of Aarti Agarwal, an Agra local who helps clients pick out a sari to wear for a sunset trip to the Taj Mahal.

With Agarwal's guidance, tour guests browse for the fabric that suits them best, then match them up to skirts with perfect pleats, making them easier to wear. They'll complete the look with a bindi and eye-catching jewellery, then take to the Taj Mahal at dusk, where the domes will reflect the orange hues of the setting sun and provide the perfect backdrop to their very own fashion shoot.

**Book it:** Intrepid Travel sells the 13-day itinerary from £1,115. Includes accommodation, ground transfers and selected meals and activities, but excludes flights. [intrepidtravel.com](http://intrepidtravel.com)

**Or try:** Ghana's national cloth, kente, is recognisable for its bright, geometric patterns. On Jules Verne's Ghana Discovery tour, clients visit the Tafi Abuife village to see how the fabric is made. Rosematilda Hasford of Ashanti African Tours (Jules Verne's local supplier) says: "Travellers observe weavers at work using centuries-old techniques, learn about the cultural significance of kente patterns and even try their hand at weaving on a loom."

**Book it:** The 11-night Ghana Discovery tour costs from £3,545 per person, based on two sharing. Includes all meals, park fees and excursions, but excludes flights. [vjv.com](http://vjv.com) **TW**