



Travelling Light

There was a time when it never occurred to me that there was any other way to travel, than with everything but the kitchen sink to accompany me.

I can now confess to once travelling with a steam iron (no wrinkles allowed), enough clothes to outfit an entire netball team (just in case), and a jersey even if I was going to the equator (you never know with El Niño). The luggage allowance meant take 23kgs and smile broadly at the check-in counter so that they did not charge me overweight.

The hoard of large, light-weight, cheap black suitcases purchased in Hong Kong, Jaipur, New York, Las Vegas, Mombasa and London which clutter all available storage space in my home bear testimony to the problem of travelling out with just too much stuff for 'just in case'.

I dashed around the globe fretting about not enough suitcase space or luggage allowance to take home the treasures acquired along the way.

And then one day it dawned on me as I stood packing to come home with three-quarters of my luggage filled with old familiar stuff, that if I just simplified my wardrobe to a few very carefully chosen, wrinkle-proof items that would move from day wear to a glamorous night out, it would mean that I could travel...light.

I can honestly say that for me it was one of those earth-shattering, life-altering, 'ah-ha!' moments that you hear about on *Oprah* or read in the fillers of the *Reader's Digest*.

Today I travel in tones of black – softly fitting, wrinkle-proof garments – smart yet comfortable for the hours spent upright

disguised with eye patches and headphones prior to disembarking looking fresh as a daisy due to every woman's secret weapon – the vanity bag.

Within this magical case my one perfect lipstick, mascara, eye shadow and sunscreen jostle for position with my ultimate travel trump card – JEWELLERY!

A single strand of beautiful, gleaming gemstone beads destined for a trip to the art galleries is accompanied by simple diamond studs. Add a second strand to the same outfit, throw on an exquisite pashmina, another layer of lipstick and a dab of perfume, and head off to dinner and a concert.

Join the strands together the next day and wear them around your hips - a colourful casual statement – with several large bangles tinkling on your wrist as you explore the markets for

me as hand luggage wherever I go.

Bright, cheery carnelian, juicy yellow citrine, apple green peridot mixed with aquamarine and pearls to brighten the days in Copenhagen. Sultry amethyst, mysterious garnet, gold, and shimmering dark-green obsidian flash against my wonderful gold silk pashmina as I take in the wonders of the Hermitage.

This liberating style of travel has worked wonders for my travel fatigue – no more sitting on suitcases trying to get them to close, no more bulging veins as I stagger through busy airports with cases that weigh a ton (that steam iron!), and no more stress staring at the luggage carousel wondering if my entire wardrobe has landed elsewhere.

For even when I landed at Basel Airport to visit the world's most prestigious jewellery fair and my suitcase went to Abu Dhabi, I simply

{ gleaming gemstone beads destined for a trip to the art galleries... }

local jewellery to add to your fabulous hoard.

Resplendent in my jewels – gifts of the earth as I see them, fashioned by man into wearable art, I feel dressed to the nines even wearing espadrilles. A small collection, different for every trip, 'mix and matchable', accompanies

piled on my jewels, threw on an embroidered pashmina and a slick of rose-coloured lipstick and headed off to meet the team at Cartier.

Have jewels and lipstick – will travel! LIGHT! ✨