

FASHION | THE GOOD LOOK

VACATION WEAR THAT'S STYLISH AND COMFORTABLE

Appropriate and relaxing are key to the wardrobe

By JOY SEWING

ZOE Alexander didn't set out to buy an entire vacation wardrobe.

It started with a new swimsuit, then a coverup, then sandals. Soon she realized she had everything she needed for a family vacation to Disney World in August.

"Anything chic and comfortable is my friend," said Alexander, who co-authored Disney's Style: Royalious Fashion, Beauty and Lifestyle Secrets from Disney's Child with Tina Knowles (Beyoncé's mom) in 2002. "Before I became a mom, comfort was negotiable. Now, it isn't, especially on vacation."

Alexander said she also invested in summer dresses, leggings, rompers and flats from retailers such as Express, Bloomingdale's and shop repunzel.com. She turned to Target for inexpensive sunglasses and lingerie.

"Nowadays, you don't want to blow your entire savings on outfits for vacation," said Alexander, who also founded the networking group Divas Who Dine (www.divaswhodine.com).

"But you want clothes, especially flowy things that aren't tight, so you can be relaxed if you gain a few pounds on vacation."

As many vacationers set off for their summer treks, packing an appropriate, fashionable wardrobe is key. Lightweight, wrinkle-free fabrics are important, as are pieces that can mix and match easily. For warmer climates, dresses are often the most comfortable, versatile option.

Houston native Leah Reed, who lives in New York with her husband Mark Kibbutz and 4-year-old son, keeps it simple for her yearly vacation to Kenya.

This year, she bought a few Tili sundresses for day and evening and a pair of lightweight Paige Denim white jeans. She travels with J.Crew and American Apparel T-shirts, but doesn't pack jackets or cardigans. Instead, she opts to buy colorful African scarves that make fashionable coverups.

"I never pack high heels," she said. "I want to be comfortable and chic."

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TRAVEL ESSENTIALS ■ KNITS AND COTTON-BLENDED fabrics with stretch, which pack better and come out wrinkle-free. ■ COLORS that can mix and match easily. ■ A LARGE WRAP-OR-SARONG. It can work as a swimsuit coverup or lightweight sweater. ■ CHEAP ACCESSORIES, from sunglasses to bangles. ■ FLATS. Flip-flops, ballerinas and gladiators are a must. ■ A HAT, whether a straw beribboned style or a chic fedora. ■ A LARGE TOTE. Pack it in your luggage for souvenirs.



CLASSIC: This black short-sleeved top from Yves Saint Laurent can be mixed with other pieces for vacation.



THE BAG: Don't forget a great beach tote, such as this one, \$24.99 at Marshalls.



RELAXED: A great pair of sunglasses, such as these from Jason Wu's 2011 resort collection, can work well with Fabrics.



SHORTS: Khaki shorts, like these from Jason Wu's 2011 resort collection, can be dressed up or down.



ALL TOGETHER: The GRITTY Organizer comes in three sizes and is \$34.99-\$24.99 at the Container Store.



MADE IN THE SHADE: Inexpensive sunglasses can be found almost everywhere. These Aviator sunglasses, \$12.99, are from Target.



COLOR: There's always room for a pop of color. This look is from Jason Wu's 2011 resort collection.



TRAVEL LIGHT: Daisy Funties' smocked tube dress, \$54 at Kohl's, is virtually wrinkle-free.



AFRICA BOUND: Houston native Leah Reed, with son Reed Kibbutz, wears a T Bags dress from Neiman Marcus and Jucy Couture sunglasses during her annual trip to Kenya.



COMFY: Chaps Obama Espadrilles, \$49.99 at Kohl's, are an alternative to ultra-high heels.

12 IDEAS GET THE LOOK

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HOT PICK PUT A RING ON IT

SINGLE ladies everywhere were shouting "Put a ring on it!" when Beyoncé belted out her chart-topping anthem on her I Am...Sasha Fierce CD in 2008. Now, the singer is doing just that with the Beyoncé Heat Solid Perfume Ring, \$35, at Macy's.

The ring, a companion to Beyoncé's celebrity scent, Heat, offers a fun new way to wear the perfume. Heat brought in \$3 million in sales between early February and early March and is currently one of the highest-grossing celebrity fragrances.

And for guys, Beyoncé's perfume ring won't break the bank.

—JOY SEWING

COOL CHIC: Sundresses, such as this striped empire dress by LC Lauren Conrad, \$50 at Kohl's, are a great way to look and stay cool.

THE DRESS: Angelina Jolie shows how comfy a strapless jersey dress can be. She pairs it with cream leather peep-toes from Ferragamo.

THE COVER-UP: A lightweight coverup, such as this one, \$24.99 at Marshalls, can double as a top with shorts.

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FAVES: BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

BEST COMMUNITY STORE: River Oaks Bookstore, across from Lamar High School. "It is just a 'very cozy place'."

BEST FOR TIPS: White goes to Brazos Bookstore for its staff-picks section, where employees select their favorite books for the month and write accompanying reviews. "It is enormously helpful that someone has culled through tons and tons of books and pulled out these wonderful groupings. I don't even know where you would find them in a regular bookstore."

BEST OF THE BEST: Murder by the Book has "every murder mystery that you could ever want," and the Mentil has amazing art books. She likes to go to the Long Center Bookstore for books about psychology and spirituality.

—TAMARA PORTNEY

HIT THE LAKE: A summer full of fun events for the entire family, all along the shores of Lake LBJ and just 45 minutes from Austin. STRY 2 NIGHTS, GET A \$100 RESORT CREDIT. Get rates as low as \$109/night or stay 7 nights for the price of \$!

BONDING AT BARTON: Stay and play this summer with our Fun & Family special. Stay two nights and enjoy the deal with our exceptional food in the Aurora Hill Country where you can enjoy spa, shop, swim, tennis and enjoy all the amenities of our resort.

Sandal Clearance!!! UP TO 80% OFF Entire Stock. BAYBROOK BOUTIQUE GALLERIA 1328 W. Bay Area Blvd. 713-941-1170

\$5.20 IAH Covered Airport Parking. Protect Your SUV from UV with Covered Parking. FasPark2

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