



Sequins - shimmer at Balenciaga. Inset, Bottega Veneta



Capes - drapes and trains by Fendi. Inset, Loewe



Colour - Molly Goddard. Inset, Brandon Maxwell



White - Altuzarra coat. Inset, Max Mara



Stripes - dress shirt by Schiaparelli. Inset, Raf Simons



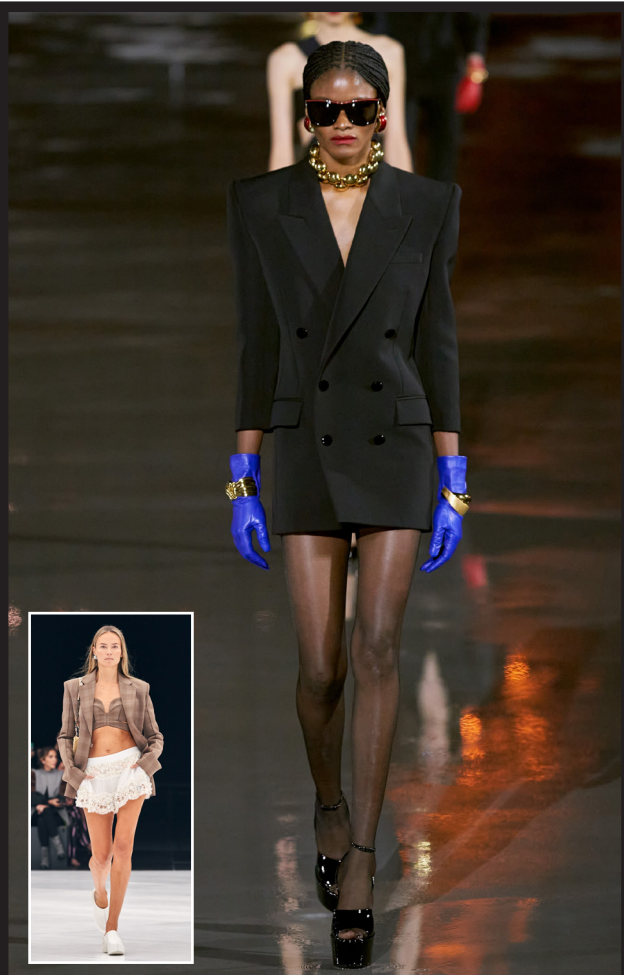
Mini skirt - woven leather by Hermes. Inset, Miu Miu



Biker chic - Simone Rocha. Inset, Alexander McQueen



Y2K - Tom Ford low-rise pants. Inset, Dolce & Gabbana



Boy Meets Girl - Saint Laurent. Inset, Givenchy



Twin sets - green outfit by Versace. Inset, Chanel

# HAPPY NEW GEAR!

► Sarah Maisey cherry-picks the 10 biggest fashion trends for the coming year

## 1. Sequins and metallics

Once the preserve of the festive season, sequins and metallics have been promoted to year-round wear, and deservedly so. Balenciaga's glorious full-length silver dress looks like it has been beaten out of foil, while Rodarte embraced fringed metallic beading that echoes the Roaring Twenties. Bottega Veneta, meanwhile, went for a dress covered in sequins, each the size of a coin.

## 2. Capes, drapes and trains

No doubt a reaction to the work-from-home fallback on sweatpants and hoodies, 2022 is instead set to bring all manner of theatrical drama back into our wardrobes, in the form of capes, drapes and trains. Dressed down, as a top that falls into a train and is worn over trousers, as seen at Loewe, or as a train at Fendi and Emilia Wickstead, or even as a cape over shorts, as seen at Valentino; these three cuts will lend an air of splendour to any outfit.

## 3. Colour wheel

For a blast of unadulterated joy, nothing beats bright colours,

either head-to-toe pink, as seen at Molly Goddard, or as unexpected combinations such as at Valentino, which mixed chocolate with blue and deep red, and Halpern that dressed ballet dancers in tangerine and pink. Brandon Maxwell, meanwhile, married emerald green with pink, showing that, for 2022 at least, fortune favours the brave.

## 4. Whiter shade of pale

Not a fan of colour? No problem, as all-white is set to be a sartorial palette cleanser. Hermes delivered it in a casual look of roomy trousers and a blouson jacket, while Peter Do went the other direction, with nipped-in tailoring. Issey Miyake offered it deconstructed as an asymmetric dress, while Altuzarra lent its long coat and linen trousers an almost wintry air in crisp white. A creamier version was seen at Max Mara as a simple dress and coat in buttermilk, while Chloe delivered something homelier, with a slubby crop top, coat and trousers fringed with amulets.

## 5. Let there be stripes

Whether literal, vertical, horizontal or chevron-ed, stripes

are set to be everywhere for the new year. Marni offered both vertical and horizontal in one look as a happily clashing top and bottom, while Raf Simons made a case for giant-sized work shirts worn as a dress complete with a 1990s white collar and cuffs. Schiaparelli turned deckchair stripes into a sleek shirt dress, while JW Anderson went for chunky knitted body-skimming dresses with fringed hems. Fendi made stripes evening wear, as a diagonal kaftan dress, while Molly Goddard mixed it up for daytime, with a horizontal striped tabard top and ruched skirt.

## 6. Maximise on the mini

The mini skirt is back, and now shorter than ever. At Miu Miu it was so curtailed, the pocket lining hung past the hemline, while at Missoni, it was reduced to a strip of shimmery fabric hanging from the hip bones. Hermes, meanwhile, kept things classy with a matching outfit of skirt, top and coat in etched leather.

## 7. Biker-chic jackets

With the ongoing obsession with all things retro, another

relic from the 1990s has returned – the leather biker jacket. Once the jacket of choice for off-duty models, it has made a return in a big way, with Simone Rocha's supersized version. Alexander McQueen recut its jacket with denim, while Dolce & Gabbana mixed a jacket with lace and a mini skirt.

## 8. Y2K

Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and even J.Lo were big fans of low-rise trousers and crop tops in 2000, as women the world over added in skinny scarves, body chains and, inexplicably, butterflies. Well, now it's all back, mainly courtesy of Dolce & Gabbana and Blumarine, which gave us a quick history lesson with low-rider trousers and bra tops galore. Etro went for baggy, drawstring pants worn in a scarf-as-bra arrangement, while Tom Ford made it glamorous, adding a bra top to green satin cargo pants caught at the ankle, with high heels.

## 9. Masculine meets feminine

Perhaps the most wearable trend for 2022 is the masculine-meets-feminine one,

which blends the codes of both genders into one look. In other words, mix something masculine, such as a blazer, with something feminine, such as a floaty skirt. Givenchy combined dainty lace shorts with a sharply tailored jacket, while Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello kept it simple, elongating a tuxedo jacket into a dress. Worn with gloves, it was simplicity itself. Victoria Beckham, meanwhile, delivered a perfectly cut man's suit, for women.

## 10. Game, set, match

The twinset is another big mover for the new year. Perhaps the ultimate in pulled-together dressing, a matching jacket and skirt is lady-like yet effortless. There's nothing dowdy about this look, either, as proven at Versace, which had a set in zappy lime green, while over at Dior it was in chartreuse, and worn with knee-high flat boots. Of course, the queen of the twinset is Chanel, where a perfectly cut, below-the-hip jacket was paired with a flared, almost flirty, A-line mini. In a pink check and with pockets trimmed with chains, it was the perfect punk-meets-princess outfit.

## 'Frivolous travel indulgence' may now be a thing from another era

Since the pandemic took hold in March 2020, border closures and stay-at-home orders have brought economic disaster to much of the travel industry.

By this November, although some countries remained sealed to tourists, borders were reopening, testing requirements easing and an end to Covid restrictions seemed in sight. Then Omicron swept in, overturning plans and creating havoc all over again.

So what might 2022 hold for one of the world's biggest industries? The new year is not getting off to a promising start. Major airlines have had to ground fleets as they seek mergers, and even holiday giants such as Germany's Tui have had to lay off staff as bookings have shrivelled.

In the UK, bookings platform Hoo says not even the global boom in staycations has saved the hotel industry from a 73 per cent decrease in occupancy compared with 2019. And small holiday companies everywhere – the kind with owners who know all their employees and suppliers – have had an especially bleak time.

"For the last 22 months, I, my wife, sister and all our employees have been desperately worried about our jobs, our livelihoods and our futures," says the owner of a family business organising activity holidays in Scandinavia, who has asked to remain anonymous.

Some of the changes the travel industry has had to make, as staff shrink and costs have to be cut, were inevitable, he says. "The end of the era of ridiculous turn-down services, for example. I am more worried for the industry's current collective mental health. The pressure has been relentless."

Hope for the best but prepare for the worst has always been the travel industry's unofficial motto. After all, these are the people who, at the best of times, routinely have to see, soothe and retain their guests through cancelled flights or flooded rooms. Those companies that are surviving – just – have done so by nimbly adapting to what *The Economist* calls "our new era of predictable unpredictability".

"The way we operate changed completely when the pandemic hit in 2020," says Lisa Fitzell, managing director of UK tour operator Elegant Resorts. "Navigating through so many changes, cancellations, re-funds, postponements, 100 per cent flexibility had to become our new norm. We introduced low deposits, rightful refunds, delayed balance payments. How we operated internally

changed, all to be able to pivot and adapt to the ever-changing new rules and trends."

Notable among these new trends is a desire to travel at short notice, with "a book today, fly tomorrow" approach increasingly common when holidays are feasible; a desire for remote, peaceful destinations rather than anywhere with crowds; and for group bookings. "Whether extended families or a bunch of friends, we've seen a real uptick in reunions and groups of 14 or more," says Oliver Bell of Oliver's Travels in London.

At luxury travel operator Carrier, managing director Mark Duguid is finding that his wealthy clients are keen on bigger, better, longer holidays. "Demand for secluded accommodation in sensational landscapes far from city centres is greater than ever – wilderness lodges, remote chalets, [or] luxury house-boats," he says.

Original Travel in the UK has responded to a similar desire among its clients to end "throwaway trips" with a Travel Less, Travel Better collection of philanthropically oriented "slow travel" holidays.



Travellers are now asking for trips that give back to local communities and are eco-conscious

Jonny Bealby, founder of Wild Frontiers in the UK, says the main change he's seen is around ethical and sustainable tourism. "Clients now are looking to get the maximum holiday out of the minimum air travel. They're asking for trips such as our walking with bears tour in Slovakia that give back to local communities through homestays, local drivers and local guides."

But even the best-planned trip can go horribly awry, and travellers are becoming more risk-averse. "We're meeting many new clients who've never used a tour operator before and who have realised the benefits of an experienced navigator," says Tom Marchant of Black Tomato luxury travel.

True Traveller's Covid-friendly insurance has also benefited from this shift, says managing director Tim Riley. "People are really taking the time to read policies now."

Unsurprisingly, wellness holidays have enjoyed robust bookings. Spa resorts in the Maldives, such as the Joali and the two Four Seasons properties, have remained open for

much of the pandemic. Yacht charter companies have proven to be the pandemic's great survivors, however.

"Demand has increased dramatically," says Nicholas Dean of charter company Ocean Independence. "It's the wholly exclusive element – the ultimate bubble. Clients have their own crew, their own chef and no need to go ashore. Nothing else is even remotely similar for those wanting to travel in safety."

Dora Vulic of Sail Croatia agrees: "We've seen a much bigger demand for superyachts, especially for multigenerational family groups. There's also more awareness around environmental initiatives and our newest fleet reflects that. Solar panels, water purifiers, hybrid-electric engines and much less plastic on board are now commonplace."

The pandemic has also been a major catalyst in the digitisation of travel services, with documentation, room access and proof of vaccine status all moving to our phones. Lynn Hood, chief operating officer of Focus Hotels, points to an increase in simplification, especially with hotels' food and beverage offerings, and a move away from cash payments.

Yet it's changing attitudes that may prove the most directional in the new year.

"I think people are more considerate than before the pandemic," says Sean Moriarty, general manager of Hotel Quinta do Lago in the Algarve. "It's made everyone appreciate the small things in life. People care more about the planet."

A philosophical Ted Wake of Kiker Holidays elaborates: "We have all become much more aware of what an extraordinary privilege it is to be able to glide effortlessly from A to B. And in the future, we will perhaps elect to ration ourselves, treat ourselves to more authentic experiences, take slow travel seriously. Frivolous indulgence belongs to another era."

Perhaps the last word, however, deserves to go to Raki Phillips, chief executive of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development: "Even before the pandemic there was an epochal shift in tourist aspirations, a growing ennui with the homogenisation of travel, the creeping sameness of every destination – and a desire to escape the resort mindset."

"Covid only accelerated that change. It's important for destinations now to really embrace the qualities that define them. That's the key to sustainable, transformational travel."

Adriaane Pielou



Wellness holidays like at the Four Seasons Maldives have stayed in demand through the pandemic