

SOLA

BECAUSE SOLO TRAVEL IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

AUGUST 2023

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SAVIOURS**



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TRAVELS**



£3.95



"A TRAVEL MAGAZINE PRODUCED BY WOMEN, FOR WOMEN"

DEAR ADVERTISER,

Sola is a magazine covering all things female solo travel. We will serve as both a travel guide and a point of connection for female travellers between the ages of 20 and 55.

As a travel magazine produced by women, for women, Sola will promote female liberation via discovery, while putting safety and inclusivity at the forefront of our brand ethos.

We aim to give women the information, preparation and most importantly the confidence they deserve to explore the world. By putting emphasis on the traveller, rather than the destination we fill a topical gap in the travel industry to cater for the two thirds of female travellers that make up the lucrative solo travel market.

Travel is expensive, and women have historically earned less than men, but this is beginning to change. The travel industry is one step ahead of the recent trends towards women who want to travel. They understand the strength of female empowerment and the opportunities the largely untapped market of female solo travel will bring.

The most common reasons women said they would like to go solo travelling were to do something they had not done before and to have the freedom to do whatever they want.

So whether you're 21 years old and looking forward to a post university gap year or 51 years old navigating life after divorce, Sola will cater to all women regardless of age, sexuality, and ethnicity to ensure they have access to what our world has to offer.

Visit our website and social media channels for access to extra travel content and to join our digital Sola community.

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Bethany

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

ON THE COVER

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TO SKIN
DAMAGE
THIS
SUMMER
WITH OUR
TRIED AND
TESTED SPFS

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LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

FOUNDER OF LGBTQ+ TRAVEL BLOG INSIDE OUR SUITCASE CORA HARRISON SPEAKS TO BETHANY READ ABOUT HER MISSION TO MAKE LGBTQ+ TRAVEL ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL, INCLUDING THIS YEAR'S HOTTEST LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY TRAVEL SPOT TO ADD TO YOUR BUCKET LIST.

Cora Harrison did not always have an urge to travel. "My dad used to have a quote: 'The sun is the same everywhere', which it is not, he now realises." It wasn't until Cora travelled to China for a school conference at 15 that she realised there's more to the world for LGBTQ+ people than just Spain.

Now the 31-year-old travel blogger from Wakefield has become a trusted voice in the travel industry thanks to her brand Inside Our Suitcase, which she founded with her wife Helen in 2017.

The pair explore the world and record their travels for their thousands of followers, albeit now with their son as an LGBTQ+ family. Their mission is to make LGBTQ+ travel accessible for all, but initially Cora shied away from creating this kind of content.

"I didn't want to make anybody feel uncomfortable and I wanted to appeal to everybody. But last year I decided there's not a lot out there for people of the LGBTQ+ community. I am significantly more self-confident in who I am as a person and I've had some really good feedback, which snowballs the effect of wanting to help more people."

Cora has found TikTok particularly effective in growing her brand and community of LGBTQ+ travellers. She recalls, "After a solo press trip to Lesbos in Greece I did a couple of TikToks on my experience and somebody replied saying, 'Thank you so much for this. I've just broken up with my girlfriend. I'm going out to Lesbos on my own. Can you give me advice for a solo lesbian traveller?' She told me she'd searched my profile hoping I had covered the destination and I thought it was so cool that she'd thought of me for specific advice."

Cora has travelled extensively, but some of her best experiences have been in Malta. The nation currently sits at the top of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and



IMAGE CREDIT: INSIDE OUR SUITCASE

LGBTQ+

CORA FREQUENTLY TRAVELS TO FLORIDA AND ENJOYS VISITING DISNEY LAND WITH HER WIFE HELEN, 30, AND THEIR SON.

Intersex Association (ILGA) Rainbow Map & Index, which is an annual benchmarking tool, ranking 49 countries in Europe on their LGBTQ+ equality laws and policies. The United Kingdom currently sits at 17th with a score of 53%.

"Nobody gave me a second glance in Malta. They're also hosting EuroPride in September, which is awarded to the most progressive countries. ILGA has given them a score of 89%, which is great to hear."

**"THERE'S MORE TO THE WORLD
FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE THAN JUST
SPAIN"**

But not all people in the LGBTQ+ community have such positive experiences when travelling, especially in destinations where homosexuality is criminalised or considered socially unacceptable. Cora admits she was naïve to the problem when she was younger, but since she has become more masculine presenting, she has a heightened concern for her safety.

"If I have a flight change in Qatar, which is quite common when flying to Southeast Asia I put my head down and walk to the other gate as fast as I can."

"As a more feminine presenting woman my wife could travel to Dubai no problem, but if I travel to Dubai, I'm going to have a very different experience."

Her advice for LGBTQ+ travellers is to research extensively before travelling. She says, "You have to do what suits you best and what you think is safe. Don't just look at what's being said on the news but look on social media so you can see real people's experiences and make a conscious decision from that."

Since becoming a parent Cora's content has changed as she adopted a more risk-averse strategy to travel. She reflects, "We are more aware now of where we go. It was one thing somebody saying something to us, but it's another thing saying something to us in front of our son. Now I know why my parents took me to the same destination every year, as familiarity is a big part of holidaying as a family."

Cora has big dreams for the future of Inside Our Suitcase. "I can't always represent what a transgender or gay person might face when travelling, so I want to be the go-to person for lesbian travel. But in order to do that I have to visit more places!"

Next on Cora's bucket list is Australia and South America. She flies out to Lithuania tomorrow and has just returned home from the Czech Republic. It's safe to say she lives a lifestyle that many would be jealous of.

She responds, "I have the best job. I'm able to travel and simultaneously help people, I wouldn't change it for the world."



1. MALTA
2. BELGIUM / DENMARK
3. SPAIN
4. ICELAND
5. FINLAND

SUNKISSED BUT SAFE

In the pursuit of healthy and radiant skin SPF takes on the role of guardian angel to all skincare lovers. This trusty companion is an essential for your packing list in order to shield your skin from the sun's harmful UV rays. Here are five travel-sized SPF's that will save your skin whilst not busting the bank.

Keep in mind that everyone's skin is different, and what works for one person might not work for another. Always consult a dermatologist if you have any concerns.

Words and photography by
Bethany Read

BONDI SANDSFACE MIST

SPF 50+ - £8.99

This gentle, fragrance-free formula dries to an invisible finish. It also can be used over make-up making it great for lasting protection on the go.



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SIMPLE PROTECT 'N'

GLOW RADIANCE

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NIVEA UV FACE ANTI-AGE

& ANTI-PIGMENT SUN

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HAWAIIAN TROPIC

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