

Secrets of THE TRAVEL BLOGGERS



They live, breathe and write about travel. But where do they go on holiday? And, more importantly, what do they pack? *Grazia* quizzes some of the world's hottest online explorers



THE SINGLE GIRL

Ayngelina Brogan, 31, blogs about her single-girl travels – especially in South America – at baconismagic.ca

Favourite destination: 'In Central America I adore Nicaragua, in South America I have a soft spot for Colombia. Mexico has world-class cuisine, so I'm drawn there, too.'

The new hot spot: 'Colombia. I always tell people to go there before the rest of the world realises it's not dangerous. Also, Mexico is a fantastic entry point to Latin America: great beaches and welcoming people.'

Before I hit the road... 'I usually just show up in a country and figure it out from there. I talk to locals about where they think I should go, eat or stay. People often invite me somewhere and I can say yes because I don't already have a plan.'

My packing tip: 'Travel light! I take a 45-litre bag with mostly dresses (which I highly recommend).'



Latin lessons: Ayngelina has explored (from right) Guatemala, Colombia, Machu Picchu in Peru and Nicaragua (top)



WEEK IN WEEK OUT



THE THRILL SEEKER

Abigail King, 34,

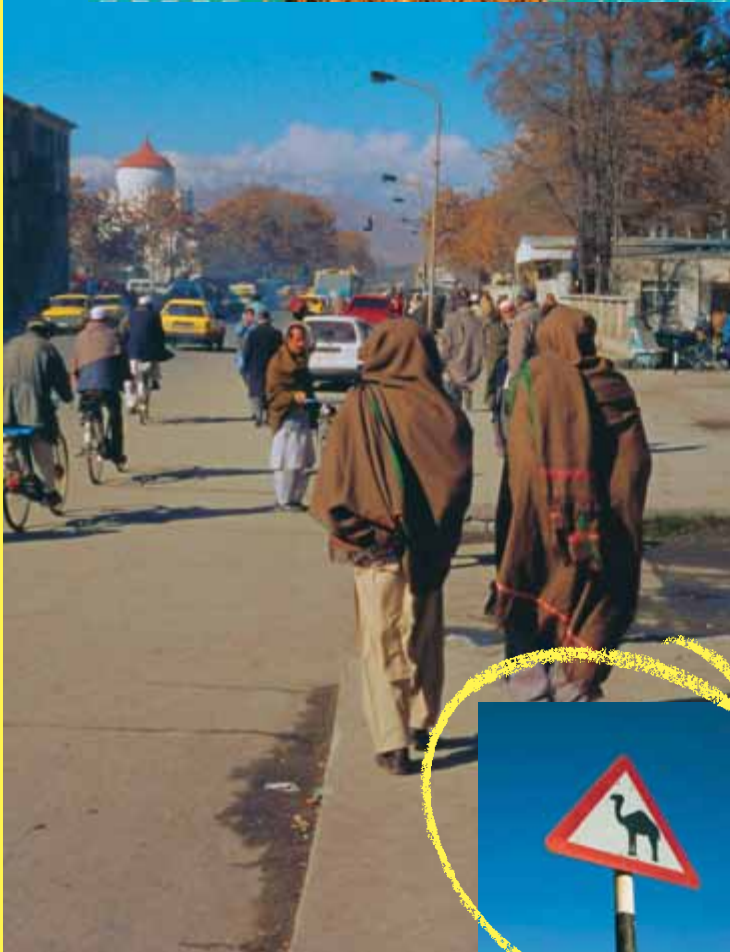
swapped life as a doctor for writing insidethevovellab.com, which chronicles her unusual journeys around the world

Favourite destination: 'One of my favourite places is the desert in Oman – watching the shadows of the camels shift over the dunes was awe-inspiring.'

Destination to watch: 'I'd love to visit Afghanistan one day. It would be brilliant to see the beauty of the country, away from the battlegrounds.'

Before I hit the road... 'Clear, zipped plastic bags make a huge difference to packing. You can see what's where but it doesn't all fall into a heap on the floor every time you open your suitcase.'

My one travel tip: 'I do my research on Twitter – you get the most up-to-date information. Use the hashtag #ttot for the quickest response from the travel community.' ▶



Not just deserts: although Abigail is a fan of Oman's dunes and the Dead Sea in Jordan (above), she longs to visit Afghanistan (left and top)

WEEK IN WEEK OUT



THE BLOGGER ON A MISSION

Travel Blogger of the Year. Jayne Gorman, 27, aims to visit 40 countries before turning 30, hence her blog 40before30.com

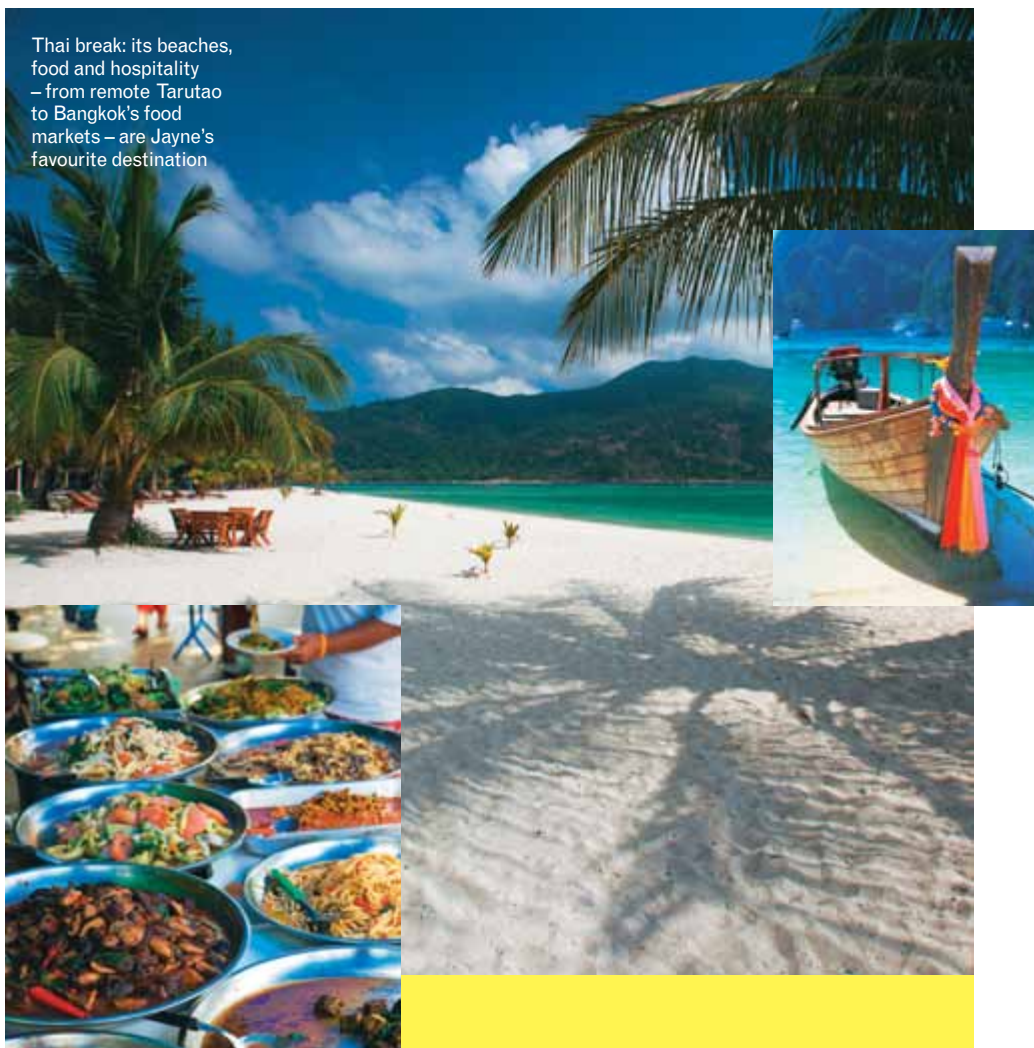
All-time favourite hot spot: ‘The honest truth is Thailand. I love the food, people, climate and especially the beaches. If you know where to look, you can still find some which aren’t overrun by tourists.’

Destination to watch: ‘I recommend visiting Brazil before it all changes when they host the World Cup in 2014 and the next Olympics double whammy.’

My packing tip: ‘Travel light. I always take the same things. They come out of the case, get washed and put back in. It makes life a lot simpler. I also always carry a notebook and pen. I may be social media savvy, but I’m a believer in the power of paper – it never runs out of batteries!’

When on the road... ‘I check out foursquare.com. It automatically brings up tips for the best dish or bedroom in your location. I once conducted a bar crawl around Beirut based on reviews from foursquare users!’

Thai break: its beaches, food and hospitality – from remote Tarutao to Bangkok’s food markets – are Jayne’s favourite destination



New Yorker Kirsten longs for the Seychelles (left) but her fondest travel memories are of sailing off the coast of Spain (below)



THE TRAVEL SNAPPER

Kirsten Alana, 31, is a New York photographer and teacher who showcases her pictures and travel tips on her blog aviatorsandacamera.com

All-time favourite travel memory: ‘On a boat off the Costa Brava, Spain.’

Cooldest destination for 2012: ‘The place I most want to visit is the Seychelles! I’ve been obsessed with it since college but it’s neither easy to get to nor inexpensive – which just makes me want to go more. Another hot destination right now is the Falklands. They’re almost as far as one can get from Britain and they cling to their British ownership despite serious contention from Argentina. That strikes me as a place one must examine in person.’

Before I hit the road... ‘I never do much research. I like to be surprised and to go without preconceived notions. And I do believe in the adage about taking half the clothes and twice the money – it really is true! I usually take too many clothes though – I should know better by now.’ ■

