

VOGUE

ARABIA

JANUARY 2021

THE GOLDEN YEAR OF
Mona Zaki

STYLE AND PURPOSE: HOW FASHION WILL LOOK IN 2021



SARAH AND ZEINA GEORGES

BETWEEN SKY AND SEA

Whether dreaming of far-off places or journeying to the landscape next door, for these seasoned travelers, this year, wanderlust is stronger than ever

Words CATERINA MINTHE

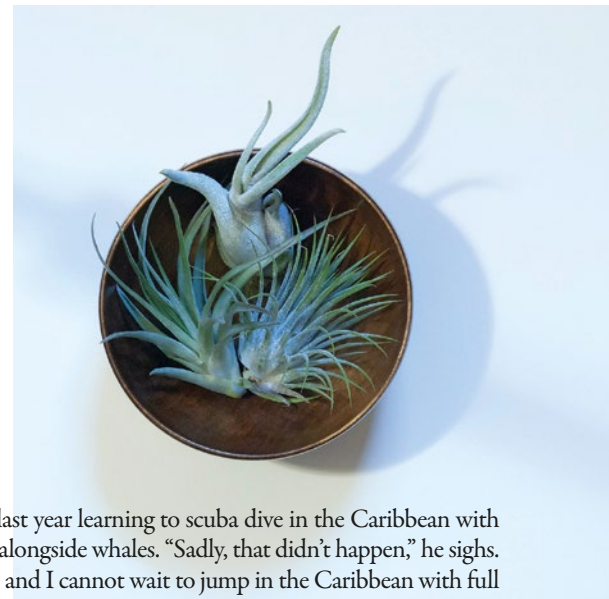
SARAH AND ZEINA GEORGES

General manager and deputy managing director of Hotel San Régis, Paris

“We would love to go back to Costa Rica; it has everything I look for when traveling: fabulous landscapes, disconnection, total immersion, beautiful encounters, and respect for the environment,” starts Sarah Georges with an air of whimsy. The health crisis has reinforced her desire for intimate and authentic travel, and, like many people, she will be searching for smaller environments offering authenticity, heritage, and conviviality. “Also Namibia for its large expanses, its charm, its abrupt nature... It is very different from what we know,” pipes in her sister Zeina. “The pandemic will undoubtedly impact our way of traveling. Like many people, we will be looking for a smaller environment with fewer people,” they agree.

Sustainable travel has also become more important to the Lebanese sisters and they expect certain standards to be met at the hotels they choose to stay at. “If our desires evolve over the years, one thing that does not change is that it must be comfortable. We always travel with our Mila Jack slippers. They look like shoes, but they are timeless and extremely comfortable slippers. It is essential to feel good and at home in every place.” The Georges also never leave without their Duvelleroy fans, stating, “Whether we go to a

hot or cold country, this accessory is indispensable to us.” Finally, each has a small handcrafted bag from Sarah’s Bag. “We tend to bring back textiles or handicrafts objects. Natural materials bring a raw and authentic charm and make an interior lively and warm. It is very satisfying to decorate your home with a unique object that also contributes to helping the local population.” Meanwhile, they both concede that once back home, nothing beats a meal with family and friends. “We dream of a great dinner where we would share our discoveries and tips about a destination.”



ABDULLAH ALJUMAH

Saudi travel writer

Abdullah Aljumah had hoped to spend last year learning to scuba dive in the Caribbean with the goal of eventually being able to swim alongside whales. “Sadly, that didn’t happen,” he sighs. “Now, I’ve shifted the resolution to 2021 and I cannot wait to jump in the Caribbean with full diving gear.” Like many whose lives have been affected by the pandemic, he appreciates the “little joys of life,” that perhaps have been taken for granted in the past. “When I get to travel next, I will try to be more mindful of the smallest things,” he comments, citing the Mediterranean Sea breeze

“When I get to travel next, I will try to be more MINDFUL of the smallest things”

at dusk at the top of his list. The taste of Argentinian *alfajores* – sweet and crumbly shortbread sandwich cookies – and the deep, long conversations with a good friend while looking out at the clear sky over East Africa are also noted as meaningful moments that bring him happiness.

In his suitcase will go his air plant from Mexico, purchased ahead of the pandemic. “I developed an emotional attachment to it during lockdown and I feel it should accompany me while traveling.” His fondness developed into a hobby and he intends to collect seeds and plants from around the world to create his own homegrown paradise, alongside handpainted vases from Colombia or Guatemala that he hopes to acquire. He will also pack a notebook and pen and “go back to writing travel diaries the old way.”





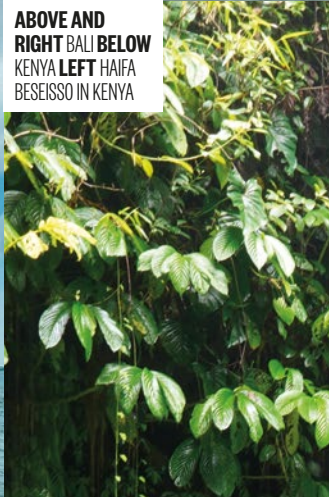
LEFT SUKAINA RAJABALI IN INDIA **ABOVE** OMAN **BELOW** **LEFT** RAJABALI IN THE MALDIVES



SUKAINA RAJABALI

Photographer

For 2021, rather than a destination per se, travel photographer Sukaina Rajabali considers that her next great escape will be about the journey. “What I’ve been wanting to do forever is a road trip from Dubai to Oman with several strategic stops on the way,” she comments. Pinned on her map is the old fort town Nizwa, along with Musandam for a spot of snorkeling. “I would also want to include a short stop at the Bimmah Sinkhole, which looks so beautiful in photos, and possibly a hike to Wadi Shoppe, which has glorious pools at the end of the trek.” Rajabali considers no road trip complete without some rest and relaxation by the beach, where she is always sure to collect some of her favorite souvenirs – seashells. She also loves collecting snow globes, with one of her most treasured featuring a Finnish snowscape. Rajabali shares snapshots of her travels on her Instagram feed with her 100 000 followers. “I always share on Instagram: photos on the feed and stories showing behind the scenes.” Mindful of her photography, she always packs a white dress in case of a photo opportunity, “because white goes with everything.” She also travels with water floaties “because you never know when you’re going to come across a beach or a pool – and I like to relax.”

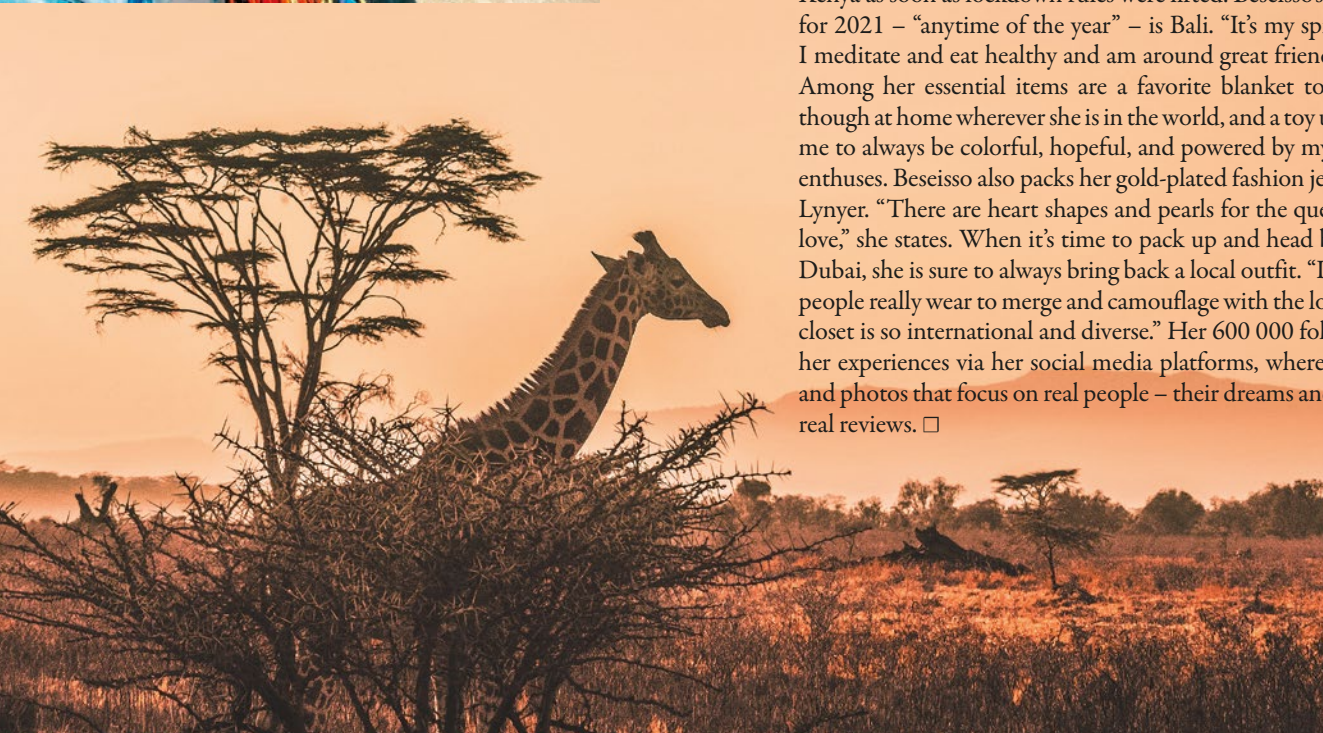


ABOVE AND RIGHT BALI **BELOW** KENYA **LEFT** HAIFA BESEISSO IN KENYA

HAIFA BESEISSO

content creator, entrepreneur, and TV host

“Travel has changed me in ways that are wild,” starts Haifa Beseisso. “With each location that I go to, I learn more about myself. Sometimes it’s hard for my brand to catch up with my actual, real change.” The pandemic hasn’t stopped her travel aspirations, with her visiting both Lebanon and Kenya as soon as lockdown rules were lifted. Beseisso’s dream destination for 2021 – “anytime of the year” – is Bali. “It’s my spiritual Disneyland. I meditate and eat healthy and am around great friends,” she comments. Among her essential items are a favorite blanket to help her sleep as though at home wherever she is in the world, and a toy unicorn “to remind me to always be colorful, hopeful, and powered by my imagination,” she enthuses. Beseisso also packs her gold-plated fashion jewelry created with Lynyer. “There are heart shapes and pearls for the queen in me and self-love,” she states. When it’s time to pack up and head back to her base in Dubai, she is sure to always bring back a local outfit. “I love wearing what people really wear to merge and camouflage with the locals,” she says. “My closet is so international and diverse.” Her 600 000 followers can witness her experiences via her social media platforms, where she creates videos and photos that focus on real people – their dreams and aspirations – and real reviews. □



VOGUE

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العام الذهبي للنجمة MONA ZAKI
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