

An indispensable, suitcase-friendly, insider's companion to the most fashion-forward cities for well-dressed and worldly gentlemen

# The Sartorial Travel Guide

Simon Crompton

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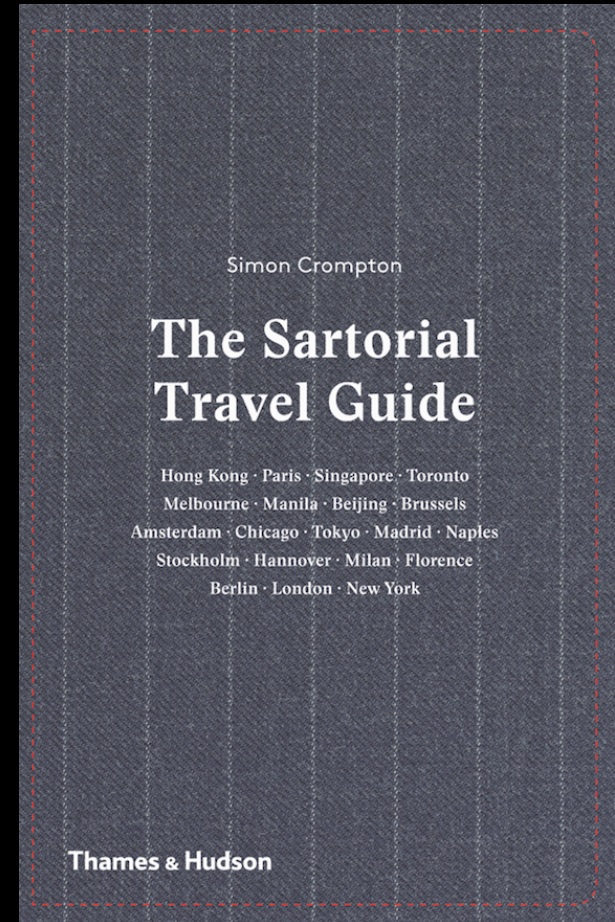
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## Key Sales Points

- From Paris to Tokyo, this compact guide explores the finest producers of menswear in twenty of the world's most stylish cities
- Taps into the growing sophistication, in worldwide markets, of menswear and accessories for men, covering iconic brands as well as emerging talents
- Includes local insights from the style insiders, tips on how to pack and what to bring back, as well as profiles on some of the world's leading craftspeople, many of whose wares are only available in-store

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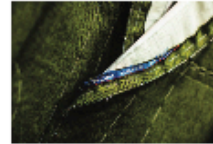
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## Introduction

When I was younger, one of my favourite aspects of travel was finding small local shops in European cities and bringing back functional souvenirs. Olive-wood boards from Mallorca, timepieces from Switzerland, kitchen knives from France – they made my house more characterful and personal, and finding them was one of the real pleasures of going abroad.

I remember discovering a beautiful shop in a small town outside Barcelona that sold crafts made by artisans from around Catalonia. The proprietor had purposefully collected together only the finest makers and brands, and the curation was wonderful. I walked away with an armful of pieces.

Over the years, this sort of local, artisanal shop got harder to find, both at home and abroad. Easier access to products through e-commerce and mail-order was the biggest culprit, but many of those local makers were also consciously expanding, selling into more stores, whether bricks-and-mortar or online. Suddenly every brand was everywhere.

It was a few years before I started writing in menswear, but I quickly realized that the problem there was even worse. The fast and easy visual communication of fashion, and the large marketing budgets of designer brands, were pushing everyone into rapid expansion.

The trend was most obvious in China, where new brands were opening a dozen stores at a time. Even for smaller start-ups, the plan was to launch a brand, quickly expand into multiple shops around a city, and then expand around the world.

Now there was very little that you had to travel to see. That core attraction of travel – encountering not just unique local architecture and natural wonders, but also local retail – had largely disappeared.

In recent years, the tide has slowly started to turn. New shops are prioritizing tactile encounter and a memorable customer experience. Stores like The Armoury in Hong Kong or Trunk Clothiers in London, both of which opened in the past decade, have developed passionate local followings and their own unique aesthetic.

Old shops, too, are being rediscovered. Italy and Germany, with their large regional cities, always had the best selection, and some great examples thankfully still survive.



Chinese shoppers now want to travel to Paris to buy their Chanel from the original source rather than visiting the brand's stores in Shanghai or Hong Kong.

Slowly, the attraction of a distinctive customer experience is being rediscovered. This is particularly the case with bespoke craftsmen such as tailors or shoemakers. Many travel the world doing trunk shows, but dedicated customers always want to visit the original atelier, to drink in the heritage and see where their garments are made. There is real depth to those local roots.

For the past ten years, I've written about many of these shops on my website PermanentStyle.com. But I haven't seen a good guide to them: a publication that lists the best stores, explains what is unique about them, and gives the reader a reason to travel.

*The Sartorial Travel Guide* was born out of a desire to produce a targeted, pocket-sized guide to the best independent menswear stores around the world – and in the process, perhaps to help accelerate the trend towards high-quality, customer-oriented retail.

The main body of the guide explores ten of the world's best cities for such shops, mapping and listing contact details for the most interesting ones in each city, followed by detailed profiles of two or three of them.

A further ten cities are profiled more briefly, each with a handful of 'must-see' shops suitable for visiting as part of a quick day-trip or a long flight layover.

Whether in New York, Florence or London, these are stores I know personally, and have visited frequently. Both the lists of shops and the profiles therefore often centre on my own experiences, which makes them a bit subjective, but also allows space to talk about the process of being measured for a kimono, or of finding the hidden artisans of Naples. The focus of the selection is on independent shops selling quality menswear, with a leaning towards classic style, tailored and bespoke. There are recommendations for workwear and country clothing as well, but this is essentially a sartorial guide.

I've also included contributions from some of the world's most knowledgeable people on menswear and travel – buyers, editors, stylists and journalists – who share travel tips, techniques for scouting out new stores, and their insights on the fashion industry. Finally, 'What to Pack' presents a capsule wardrobe for travelling, and advice on fitting it all neatly in a suitcase.

This is a guide not simply to twenty cities, but to discovering the joy of independent shopping around the world. Bon voyage!



**Tokyo**

# The List

## 1 Bespoke shoemakers: Yohei Fukuda and Marquess

yoheifukuda.tumblr.com, BAL Aoyama 2F, 2-12-27 Kita-aoyama, Minato-ku  
marquess-bespoke.blogspot.jp, 8F Ginza Yurika Building, 1-19-3 Ginza, Chuo-ku  
Japan has a huge number of bespoke shoemakers, perhaps more than in the whole of Europe combined. They are largely young, working in small workshops, and offer good value for money – though waiting times for Western-sized shoes can be long. Most importantly, the quality is amazing, often beating that of the European masters from whom they learned. There are so many good Japanese shoemakers to try, but Yohei Fukuda and Shoji Kawaguchi (*opposite*), the latter operating under the brand Marquess, are certainly worth visiting.

## 2 Ciccio Japan

www.ciccio.co.jp, 5-4-43 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku  
Compared to the large number of talented young Italian-trained Japanese shoemakers, there aren't quite so many up-and-coming bespoke tailors returning home from Italy, but the quality of their work is still very high. They are largely influenced by the soft tailoring of the south of Italy, although some also trained in Florence or Milan. English influence is felt only in the older, more traditional tailors. Among the most skilled of the new generation of bespoke tailors is Noriyuki 'Ciccio' Ueki, who trained in Naples and cuts a soft-shouldered suit with a Japanese level of precision. He moved into new, larger premises last year, where you can also see the shoes of Hidetaka Fukaya, a Japanese shoemaker who operates out of an Italian workshop, in Florence.

## 3 Bespoke trousers: Igarashi and Osaku igarashitrousers.jp, 2-31-9 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku www.m039.net, 7-10-6 Ikuta, Tama-ku

It is worth highlighting two of the excellent Japanese workshops that make only bespoke trousers: Toru Igarashi and Hayato Osaku. Igarashi is located in the centre of Tokyo and is therefore the easier of the two to visit. Osaku works from a small town an hour's drive outside of the city, but comes into the centre for appointments. Their work displays a high level of precision in details such as curved waistbands and neat pick stitching.

## 4 Ortus

www.ortus-bag.com, 2F, 1-24-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku  
Leather master Naoyuki Komatsu has a stellar reputation for bespoke men's accessories. He runs a small workshop called Ortus, which does 90% bespoke pieces such as day bags and wallets. Everything in the shop is entirely hand sewn; in fact, Komatsu even goes so far as to make the brass hardware, which are small works of beauty in themselves. One of Komatsu's signature designs is the 'music bag' – a briefcase made from one piece of leather with a brass bar securing the single handle.

## 5 Motoji

www.motoji.co.jp, 3-8-15 Ginza, Chuo-ku  
Those wishing to see traditional Japanese high-end silk menswear in Tokyo should consider visiting Motoji, the most famous kimono maker in the city. Although none of the work is done on-site (the fabric is produced by weavers all around Japan, and the tailoring done outside the city), the shop, with its bolts of beautiful cloth and many spectacular finished kimonos, is a virtual museum of the craft. Keita Motoji, son of founder Komei Motoji, is doing much to increase awareness of both Japanese kimono traditions and those of the silk producers, dyers and weavers.

## 6 Okura

www.hrm.co.jp/okura, 20-11 Sarugaku-cho, Shibuya-ku  
Shifting our focus from tailoring to workwear, Okura is a great stop for anyone who loves indigo-dyed clothing, another traditional Japanese technique. The shop in the Daikanyama area of Tokyo is stocked floor-to-ceiling with indigo-dyed jackets, T-shirts, sweatshirts and kimonos, both from brands like Blue Blue Japan and cheaper variations not made domestically. Look out for pieces in sashiko cloth in particular.





## Ciccio Japan

The best known of Tokyo's new crop of bespoke tailors is combining the style of Italy with the precision of Japan

Ciccio Japan – the brand of bespoke tailor Noriyuki Ueki – has become the best known of a new wave of Japanese tailors who have gone to Italy in the past twenty years, trained, and returned to Japan bringing an astonishing level of skilled craftsmanship.

Like many of these Italian-trained tailors, Ueki's style is soft: Neapolitan, but with a Japanese focus on precise details and execution. 'It's always the small things that get me excited', he says. 'Like the smooth run of a jacket's shoulder up into the neck. It's not hard to get the basic things right – the size of a lapel, the run down through the waist – but these little points are what set apart good tailoring for me.'

Ueki started his career at Japanese ready-to-wear suit factory Ring Jacket, as did many of his peers in this new generation. He joined in 2000 and was there for five years, before travelling to Naples to look for an apprenticeship.

'I wanted to go to Naples because I was impressed by the softness of the tailoring I had seen come back to Japan,' he says. 'And I knew that Ono-san (of Sartoria Angiofilo) had gone.'

Like most other Japanese apprentices, he knew little about Naples, but simply turned up and hoped for the best. Ueki ended up at Sartoria Dalcuore, where he worked for eighteen months, and then moved to Sartoria Pascariello, where he stayed for another two years.

He gained the nickname 'Ciccio' while in Italy. A shortening of 'Francesco', the name of several respected tailors in the past, it was given to him partly as a recognition of the quality of his work.

After Ueki returned to Japan, he was for a long time the in-house tailor for Japanese brand Tie Your Tie, renting a space upstairs from the shop. But after seven years, he felt he had enough business to set out on his own. He opened the new atelier in 2015 in a large space down a semi-residential street, with lots of light streaming through the windows. The atelier now has four other cutters and coatmakers.

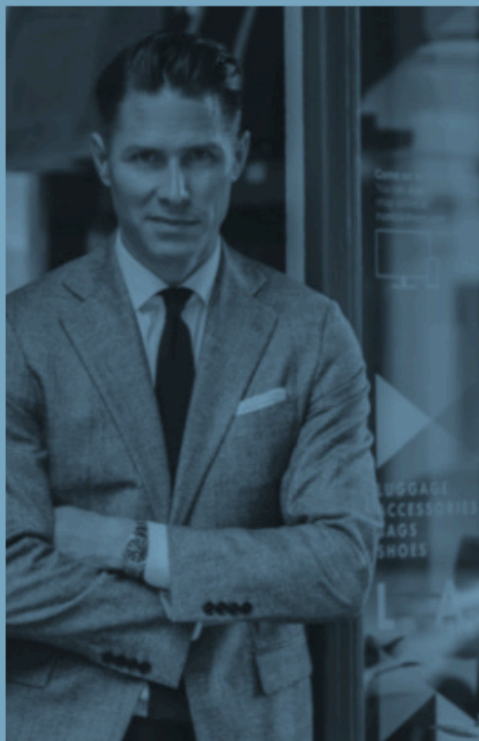
'Business has been good, steady', he says – with the first suggestion of a smile on a face that is otherwise still and attentive. 'We make nine or ten suits a month, and there has been some nice press.'

# How I Shop When I Travel:

## Mats Klingberg

Trunk Clothiers

Mats is not only the proprietor of one of London's best independent menswear shops – Trunk Clothiers, in Marylebone – but also one of the best-travelled men around. Whether going abroad for business or pleasure, he often has some of the best advice on how and where to go. We asked him for his top tips.



I'm always very interested in discovering new shops and re-visiting old ones when I travel, both for myself and to source things for Trunk. It's actually one of the reasons I travel, so I consider myself very lucky being able to travel and go shopping and still call it work! When I'm looking for gifts, the focus is on the person I'm buying for rather than for myself or the shop. But even then I tend to discover things that I think might be suitable for Trunk, so it's difficult to keep the two separate. Which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Discovering something new and interesting always gets me excited, so when I travel I do my research in advance to make sure I don't miss any obvious places. But I also allow myself to get lost in a city by just walking around in nice areas and following the flow without paying too much attention to maps and travel guides.

I do quite a bit of research when going to a city for the first time or revisiting one I haven't been to for a while. My main sources are stockist lists, friends and travel guides.

Stockist lists of brands that I like are always a good place to start as those brands are usually only in nice stores in nice areas, which are then near other nice stores and restaurants.

Friends, preferably ones who live in the city and know what I like, are another good source for intelligence, so I always make sure to check in with my network before going somewhere.

Travel guides come in many forms, so it's important to seek out current ones from sources that you trust, both online and in print, as well as books and magazines. The Japanese are very good at finding all the hidden little gems in cities around the world, so I usually try to get hold of a recent Japanese magazine with travel tips to the city in question. Even if it's all in Japanese (which I don't speak or read!) I can usually tell what's interesting by just looking at the images. Luckily I also have lots of Japanese friends, so if in doubt I just ask one of them to translate.

I usually plot all the places of interest on Google Maps in order to see where they are in relation to each other, and then put an action

plan together, making sure there are nice stops for breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, drinks and dinners in between all the shops. As walking around is essential for finding new places that aren't already on my radar, I prefer to walk as much as possible rather than taking taxis or public transport.

These are some of my favourite shops around the world:

*Any Beams or United Arrows shop in Japan (menswear and accessories).*

Japanese buyers always go the extra mile to find nice, interesting things that you haven't seen anywhere else, so it's always inspiring to visit Beams and United Arrows (and lots of other shops) whenever I'm in Japan.

*A.GIEMME in Como (menswear)*

A lovely family-run business that has been around for quite some time, so they've known some of the local customers since childhood, which creates a nice atmosphere in the shop. It's also well curated with a nice mix of everything you need, both smart and casual.

*Andreas Murkuadis in Berlin (menswear, accessories)*

I get space envy with this one! It's a beautiful gallery-like space in a hidden part of Berlin that you wouldn't stumble upon unless you knew it was there. Very well-edited mix of clothing, accessories and nice objects.

*Nitty Gritty in Stockholm (menswear)*

Located on a residential street in the Södermalm district, it's a bit of a destination, but they always have a good mix of casual contemporary brands. Next door is a great magazine shop also worth visiting.

*Archivando in Tokyo (stationery, homewares, etc)*

A cute little shop with objects you didn't know you needed until you saw them and felt you just had to have them! Nice and cosy interiors with dimmed lighting.

*Svenskt Tenn in Stockholm (interiors)*

This interior design store is bit of a staple for Swedish wedding gifts and home accessories. Many of the designs were made by Josef Frank in the 1940s, but still feel very relevant today, with lots of bright colours and patterns – so not minimalist at all, which is what most people associate with Swedish design.



# What to Pack

Although a travel wardrobe is specific to the trip itself – its location and purpose, and the people you plan to meet – the general principles and level of formality outlined here should be appropriate to most journeys.

### Travelling

The items on the following pages are what I might pack for a trip of five days: that is, five full days on location, with up to a day of travel either side.

For the travel days, I wear something more obviously comfortable than the tailored pieces I will pack for the other days. I wouldn't sink to jeans and a T-shirt, however – and I also want to be wearing something (such as a shirt with a good breast pocket) that allows me to carry my passport and boarding pass reasonably securely.



A sample list of items for summer travel might include:

- Green tailored shorts, from Bardelli
- Navy linen blouson, from Hermès
- Grey long-sleeved Friday Polo or denim button-down shirt
- Tan suede loafers from Edward Green

For an autumn or winter trip, I might swap Incotex chinos for the shorts, and my favourite navy suede jacket from Stoffa for the linen blouson.

In my hand luggage I will often have a mid-weight piece of knitwear, in case the plane is chilly. I don't like to wear a jacket on the plane, as it can so easily get creased or left behind.





### Two jacket/trouser combinations

For a five-day trip, I pack two jacket/trouser combinations: two jackets, each with a pair of trousers to be worn with them. If the two trousers can be swapped, or work with part of the suit (left), all the better.

As with all pieces taken on a trip, there is an urge to take the most versatile, functional pieces. Examples would be:

#### Combination 1:

- Navy hopsack jacket from Ettore de Cesare
- Tan twill trousers from Richard James

#### Combination 2:

- Green and black checked jacket from Solito
- Grey Crispaire trousers from The Disguisery

The advantage of these four pieces is that each jacket can also be worn with the other trousers. However, if this is overkill in terms of versatility, one of the jackets could be more unusual - for instance, a Liverano purple flannel.

Note also that cream-coloured trousers are probably the most versatile in terms of what they can be paired with. The only problem is that cream trousers are not suitable for colder destinations or autumn and winter trips. Otherwise, bring them!

With these tailored pieces, plus the single suit that follows, I have three outfits for the first three days.

On the last two days, I can then wear other combinations of these pieces, or two of the same outfits again (perhaps with different shirts or accessories).

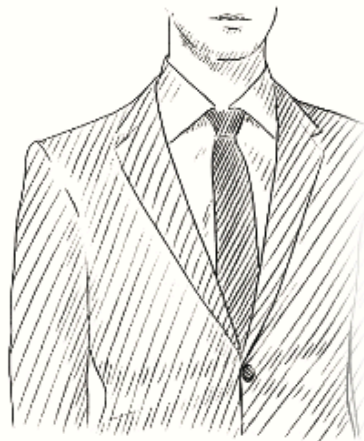
### One suit

I rarely travel on a trip of this length without a suit. It's always good to know I have something formal to wear if the need arises - such as an unexpected dinner or event invitation.

This suit will usually be navy or grey, and I will aim to choose one whose elements can also be worn with the two separate jacket/trouser combinations I've packed.

Although a 'three-way suit' like my Pirozzi corduroy would be good for travel because the trousers and jacket can be worn on their own with the right partners, or together as a suit, such three-way suits tend to be in more casual materials like cotton, and therefore don't fulfil the requirement for a formal look. An exception would be a navy cotton suit, or a heavy hopsack.

Suits I more usually turn to, therefore, are my brown Crispaire from Sartoria Dalcuore (whose trousers are quite versatile) or my Anderson & Sheppard grey flannel suit.



### Shirts, ties and handkerchiefs

Shirts in a plain blue are usually the most versatile, followed by plain white - or with subtle patterns that make them no different in effect from plain blue or white.

In order to avoid this being boring, I try to combine different materials (e.g. cotton with linen) or design (e.g. a long-sleeved polo shirt for a tieless day, instead of a button-down shirt).

Ideally the shirt collars (whether spread or button-down) are such that they can be worn effectively either with or without a tie.

My favourite travel ties are navy and black large-knot grenadines. To avoid looking too boring, I would chuck in one or two more interesting options - perhaps a dusty orange Mattabisch.

I always carry two handkerchiefs with me: one in white linen and one in dark silk or wool/silk, e.g. a navy silk from Drake's.

As with the ties, it is also good to bring one bright-coloured handkerchief to add interest, e.g. a yellow and cream patterned silk from Rubinacci.



### Shoes and socks

There's nothing worse than discovering that one pair of shoes, for whatever mysterious reason, becomes uncomfortable to wear while you're travelling, leaving you with only one other pair to wear every day. Having had that experience, on any trip of more than a couple of days I take a minimum of three pairs of shoes, all brown.

One pair, such as my Edward Green 'Oundles', must be so dark that they can be worn with a smart, dark suit. The others can be mid- or light browns, but, as ever, it's helpful if they can go with multiple pairs of trousers.

The socks I pack are pretty much all in my favourite dark green. They go with everything, and they have a little personality - the perfect combination.

### Knitwear

I pack at least one piece of knitwear that goes with almost everything. This is usually a mid-weight navy crewneck.

If I have room, I also bring one cardigan in a strong colour such as cream or burnt orange that can add interest to an otherwise versatile (read: dull) outfit.

And last of all: pack a lightweight scarf. It takes up almost no additional room in a suitcase but makes a big difference on a cold evening.



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