

message from the founder



Fifteen years ago I thought I knew how to pack for my first solo trip to Europe. As I wheeled my overstuffed duffel down the streets of Zurich, I felt a tad smug. I'd found the perfect luggage for the trip. I could sling it over one shoulder to climb aboard a train and roll it across the platform once I got off.

My bag lasted about an hour. I'd crammed it so full with unnecessary items—such as my hair diffuser and curling iron (hey, it was the early 1990s)—that the bottom dragged along the pavement beneath the tiny, wiggly, shopping-cart-like, wheels. When the friction rubbed a sizable hole through the canvas, I left a trail of underwear behind me somewhere in Switzerland. Like an American Hansel and Gretel, I could find my way back to the train station by following a trail of my own lingerie.

Times have changed. Thankfully, technology has too. You'll want to check out our travel gear review on page 58 to ensure that minor mishaps like mine don't happen to you on your next excursion.

On a more serious note, we explore the depth and breadth of the lives of two amazing women: climbers Sue Nott and Karen McNeill, who lost their lives on Mount Foraker in Alaska this summer. And Alison Levine visits the Rwenzori Mountains' women porters in Uganda, who, with her assistance, have improved their lives by breaking into the male-dominated industry.

So, dive into this issue with all the adventurous gusto and wanderlust you can muster. Enjoy a beautiful fall season. No packing experience required.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

Michelle Theall,
Editorial Founder/Publisher