

Letter From the Editor



Editing (and testing sunscreens) in Antigua



Off Antiparos, Greece

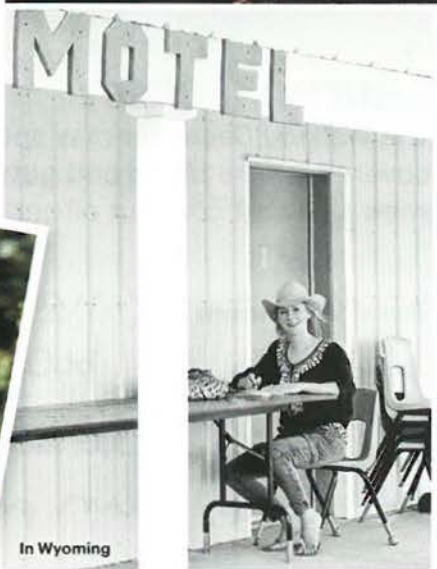


In Scotland

On the Road



In Antigua



In Wyoming

I brought 16 beauty products with me to a campground in Michigan last summer. Wearing sweatpants, a T-shirt, bug spray, and a headlamp, I crawled into my sleeping bag—and the only thing I recognized about the whole scene was the array of lotions next to my inflated pillow. My younger son, in the next sleeping bag, thought I was ridiculous, and he was 100 percent correct. Then I handed him a Yes to Cucumbers face wipe and a Pacifica coconut-water towelette, and he quickly changed his tune. We may have been roughing it, but our skin wasn't going to.

I wish I were one of those people who travel with 3.4 ounces of essentials in a carry-on full of rolled-up drip-dry neutrals, but that's just not going to happen. My luggage is high maintenance, even when I'm going camping in Michigan or fishing in Alaska. And if a trip coincides with the testing period for *Allure's* annual Best of Beauty Awards, packing fewer than eight shampoos (plus matching conditioners) would be a dereliction of duty.

I've learned a few things on my product-testing adventures. Fact: In the so-called wild, dry shampoo is as crucial as a dry matchbook. Second truth: There is no such thing as too many face wipes. When a hot shower presents itself, jump in—preferably with a full bottle of lemongrass body wash and, for good measure, a sweet-almond oil spray. And if you're tempted to toss an

eye-shadow palette or a nail-polish set into your duffel bag, snap out of it. You're being ridiculous.

For a very different trip on a yacht in the Mediterranean, my stash of products wore foreign labels with accents *aigu* and *grave*. The dry shampoo was unnecessary, as were, I'm happy to say, the Off Deep Woods Insect Repellent and the headlamp. Gradual self-tanner and botanical dry oil became nightly staples. Though surprisingly, there were notable similarities, at least in the beauty realm. I went through bottles and tubes of sunscreen. And even on the yacht, I never looked twice at a blow-dryer or a pair of high heels. I wasn't roughing it by any stretch, but I was still on vacation.

Linda Wells

Linda Wells, Editor in Chief



The products I took camping (above) and to Paris (right)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF SUBJECT; CRISTINA MACAYA; COURTESY OF SUBJECT (2); PENNY ASHFORD; JEFF NUechterlein; PENNY ASHFORD