

Easy-to-wear shade that exudes luxury

fashion notes
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Taking your wardrobe from autumn/winter to spring/summer can sometimes be tough. If you're looking for a particular colour to push you through the transition, consider the camel spectrum. Think sandy beige tones; neutral, but still pigmented, ever so slightly.

It's "the colour that makes everything look more expensive", claims the title of a Who What Wear article. I couldn't have said it any better myself, because that's exactly the vibe that camel colours connote. Luxury, not to mention the chic and effortless, are adjectives often used to describe an outfit that flaunts a significant amount of this shade. There's a variety of ways to incorporate the colour into your outfit, especially during this "in-between" season, where it's sometimes chilly, sometimes warm; neither very cold, nor excruciatingly hot.

I'll start off with the easy looks, and get more glamorous as I go on. The simplest combination to pull off is a pair of black leggings or skinny jeans, paired with a white blouse and a camel knit on top. This can be a light cardigan or chunky cable-knit sweater. Or trade the black trousers for a pair of boyfriend jeans. Stay aware: if the look gets too boxy, opt for slimmer denims. Also, don't go too outlandish with your accessories. Keep it classy with a pair of heels and a sleek handbag, or stay street-chic in white trainers.

If you feel like adding a pattern, go for leopard prints. This is one of the few times I actually condone them, since they really work well with camel-coloured bases, not to mention they're a cute ode to the current safari-style trend. If you're headed somewhere cold, perhaps on holiday, a camel-coloured coat is a great investment. If you see a trench in the same tone, or even a light duster jacket or long

tuxedo-style vest, buy it – it will be well worth your money. For an edgier piece of outerwear, look into purchasing a suede fringed jacket in a tan colour – while its trend value may be short-lived, it's a killer look for this season.

If you have tried and tested camel casualwear, and are happy with the result, raise the sophistication a notch, and use the shade for your next brunch or dinner look. Think about wearing a simple beige top with dramatic white flares or culottes, and throw on a chunky gold necklace as a finishing touch. If you can find a cute sweater dress or pleated skirt in camel, give it a try.

After I have gushed about the trend appeal of camel colours, I must include a warning. There's a tendency for some women – and some teenaged girls (ahem, Kylie Jenner) to take the lushness of camel colours to an extreme that's not very commendable.

I'm referring to the "hoochie" look propagated by the Kardashian clan – figure-hugging body-con dresses, in neutral, beige tones, worn two sizes too small, thus leaving nothing to the imagination. Sometimes, it's simply underwear that these women are clad in, with the addition of a longer mesh dress or skirt worn on top.

My descriptions don't do justice to the fashion atrocities often committed with skin-coloured shades, so if you'd like a visual back-up, just look at Olivier Rousteing's spring/summer collection for Balmain. Or worse, take another glance at that family photograph from Kanye West's Yeezy Season 3 presentation at New York Fashion Week last month to see a picture of beige-shaded fashion faux pas after faux pas, complete with countless plastic surgeries, and a certain infant with fur-covered wings.

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Left to right, models for Elisabetta Franchi, Victoria Beckham and Jil Sander wearing the latest spring/summer collection camel shades. Ernesto Ruscio / Getty Images; Catwalking / Getty Images (2)

trend



Styling by Hafsa Lodi / The National; photo by Mona Al Marzooqi / The National

Current 'it' colour

For a laid-back-luxe look, invest in clothes and accessories in camel shades

1. Skirt, Dh420, COS, Yas Mall, 02 492 6590; Dubai Mall, 04 388 2072. **2. Shoes**, Dh199, Stradivarius, Marina Mall, 02 681 8020; Dubai Mall, 04 434 3198 and elsewhere. **3. Leopard mini bag**, Dh1,420, Pink & Rose at S*uce, Marina Mall, 02 681 8650; Village Mall, 04 344 7270 and elsewhere. **4. Wallet**, Dh89, Stradivarius. **5. Sling-back heels**, Dh1,410, Kate Spade, Abu Dhabi Mall, 02 447 5289; Dubai Mall, 04 325 3518 and elsewhere. **6. Sunglasses**, Dh505, Spektre at Boutique 1, Yas Mall, 02 566 8848; Mall of the Emirates, 04 395 1200 and elsewhere. **7. Watch**, Dh1,230, Kate Spade.

trend-ometer this week's highs and lows



▲ Naval gazing

We love the soft, flowing, sea-inspired collection from Pucci.



▼ Not so handy

Dh280 for hand cream? We don't care if it's Amouage, that's way too expensive.



▲ Get things shipshape

We like this fierce take on shipshape stripes from Max Mara.

▼ **Are you kidding?**
The model Jourdan Dunn launches new children's T-shirts for Marks & Spencer? Oh dear.



▲ Earn your stripes

These striped trousers by Alice and Olivia are colourful, fun and riotously happy.