

FASHION INSIDER

Each issue, we put one trend in

the spotlight. This month, it's culottes...

GIGI'S CROP OF THE CLASS

Distressed denim, little white dresses or cobalt blue culottes, there's very little model du jour Gigi Hadid wears that isn't a wardrobe winner in our eyes. Here, the 20 year old shows it's all about getting your proportions right. The wide legs are balanced by the tailored waistband and the tucked-in shirt ensures her figure isn't swamped with material. Although Gigi doesn't need any extra height, her choice of classic nude courts make her legs appear endless and keep this look elegant. The best bit? This eye-catching outfit can easily be recreated with a pair of standout culottes and two closet staples.



TO CULOTTE OR NOT?

Our fashion team answer your dilemmas

Q How do I style them for this season?

Kim: A common sticking point with culottes is what to wear them with. Tops-wise, there are lots of options. For on-trend 70s styling, silky, boho or pussybow blouses are go-tos while T-shirts and slim-fit polo necks offer a more casual pairing. The key is to tuck them in to balance the voluminous pants and show off the narrowest point created by their shape – the waist. A cropped top teamed with high-rise culottes or a boxy one that sits on or just under the waistband will also offer the same definition. Don't fancy tucking in? Tunics and oversized jumpers aren't ruled out, but they do provide less definition. Think lighter layers and slim fits to avoid looking bulky. As for your feet, there's a multitude of choice. In winter, invest in knee-length boots and make sure they are heeled to keep legs elongated.



Q I'm quite short. Can I wear culottes?

Claire: Yes. Being 5ft 1in myself, I've also wondered if culottes are a no-no, but they can look fabulous as long as you follow a few rules. Rather than buying a pair that skims the calves, go for a shorter option where the hemline falls just under the knees. This will stop your legs appearing stumpy and will give the illusion of a few extra inches. Speaking of which, heels are a must. The added height, whether that's from courts or platforms, is essential for a chic finish. A plush fabric will keep your outfit refined and is a great way to avoid that 'child in ankle grazers' look. Stick to luxurious linens and cottons in structured cuts. As Kim says, you should balance out your body. All that material needs a fitted cropped top or a knit to contrast with. Once that waist is on show, it'll fall into place.



STREET STYLE

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WHY WE ♥ CULOTTES

Calf-grazing slacks are this year's hero buy. They've taken the street style world by storm and have fast become a celebrity favourite. So why the cut-off crush? The wide-leg crops give your wardrobe an instant makeover, taking classic T-shirts and fine knits to high-fashion places. Skimming the calves and showcasing the waist, the shape works for all body types when it's styled right. Team with a roll neck and ankle boots for an autumn hit. Versatile, comfortable and oh-so cool, there'll be no stopping this love affair once you've bagged your first pair.

OUR PICK OF THE TREND'S BEST



Wallis Culottes, 6KEWN, £35



Finders Keepers New Line Culottes, from Veryexclusive.co.uk, 6DC39, £100



Karen Millen Denim Culottes, from Veryexclusive.co.uk, 6FLAM, £90



Definitions Satin Back Crêpe Cropped Trousers, 4VYHT, £32