

Stripes — bold and colorful, are everywhere this season

Updated April 7, 2017 2:34 PM

By Anne Bratskeir Special to Newsday

It's pretty commonplace for stripes of the nautical variety to rear their lines come spring and summer. But this season, there's a new stripe in town — bolder, colorful and showing up on unexpected wardrobe pieces.

J.Crew is offering stripes galore. "We invented a holiday just to celebrate our love of stripes," says Somsack Sikhounmuong, head of women's design. They really did — National Stripes Day — and while it passed a few weeks ago, J.Crew is selling many spectacular pieces, including a thick, vibrant stripe of in-house created colors that runs horizontally on a pencil skirt.

Did someone say horizontal? Pencil skirt? Designer Nikki Kule is a serious stripe devotee whose brand, Kule, consists of mostly striped apparel. "There are still people who don't like to wear stripes because they think it makes them look wider," she says, "but I don't believe that myth at all. Stripes are for all shapes and sizes and ages." Celebrity stylist Phillip Bloch agrees. "The rules are gone. People aren't scared of stripes anymore and that's why they're having a huge renaissance," he says. With a broader acceptance of different body types, he notes that the only question people should ask is "does the garment make your body look the way you want it to look?"

Of course, preppy types have found comfort in stripes forever. They've always been part of our DNA, says J.Crew's Sikhounmuong, whether deck-striped tees, button-up shirts or ball skirts. At Penelope, a trendy boutique in Woodbury that's far from preppy, owner Gabrielle Banschick says "you can make stripes very bohemian or rock and roll."

Adds Kule, "We believe stripes are urban and can be worn day or night." And the more the merrier, she says. "Wearing stripes on stripes is fun and playful." For Kule, stripes are meant for every occasion — except one. "The only place I don't like to wear stripes is on a boat. It's so

cliché.”

Vibrant stripes



(Credit: J.Crew)

Wow to this slim skirt in bold, colorful stripes (note the colors were specially designed in-house at J.Crew); \$98 at select stores and jcrew.com

Shady lady



(Credit: Kate Spade)

Keep the sun out of your eyes with this chic, colorful straw visor, \$68 by Kate Spade at [katespade.com](https://www.katespade.com)

Sunglass stripes



(Credit: Alice and Olivia)

Funky and fierce, these chic shades will add drama to any look; \$375 at [aliceandolivia.com](https://www.aliceandolivia.com)

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISEMENT

Sunglass stripes



(Credit: Alice and Olivia)

Funky and fierce, these chic shades will add drama to any look; \$375 at [aliceandolivia.com](https://www.aliceandolivia.com)

Maxi stripes



(Credit: Kohls)

Be the belle of the music festival in this striped crochet maxi dress; \$68 by k/lab for Kohls, at select stores and [kohls.com](https://www.kohls.com)

His and hers



(Credit: Nordstrom)

Pinstripes meet up with a romantic ruffle on this smart but sweet one-shoulder top; \$35 by BP at select Nordstrom stores and [nordstrom.com](https://www.nordstrom.com)

To the beach



(Credit: Neely and Chloe)

This awning-striped beach tote in coral and white is an eye-catching carry-all;
\$248 at neelyandchloe.com

Body suiting



(Credit: Kohls)

Get unexpected striped oomph from this bodysuit; \$48 by k/lab for Kohl’s at select stores and [kohls.com](https://www.kohls.com)

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISEMENT

Pointy flats



(Credit: Talbots)

Get caught flat-footed in these cute and cushy flats, \$109 at select Talbots stores and [talbots.com](https://www.talbots.com)

Streamlined



(Credit: Chicos)

Go for a long, lean look with these tapered ankle pants; \$89 at select Chico's and [chicos.com](https://www.chicos.com)

Striped crusader



(Credit: Queensberry)

Go dramatic in stripes with this swoop-backed cape top by Queensberry; \$128 at Penelope, Woodbury.

Sparkly stripes



(Credit: Ann Taylor)

Flaunt your sparkling personality in this vivid sweater, \$169 at select Ann Taylor stores and [anntaylor.com](https://www.annataylor.com)

Striped sandals



(Credit: Tommy Hilfiger)

Multi-color wedges feature saucy and summery stripes along with pretty ankle laces; \$129.50 from the Tommy X Gigi collection, at [tommy.com](https://www.tommy.com)

;

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISEMENT

Patchwork pretty



(Credit: Tommy Hilfiger)

Gigi Hadid rocks the stripes in this patchwork ensemble featuring a crop top (\$99.50) and pencil skirt (\$149.50), both part of Tommy X Gigi, her collab with Tommy Hilfiger; at select Macy's stores, [macys.com](https://www.macys.com) and [tommy.com](https://www.tommy.com)

A fresh combo



(Credit: Skemo)

An assortment of stripes meet up with embroidery and tassels on this airy maxi dress by Skerno; \$149 at Penelope, Woodbury.

Romper time



(Credit: Intermix)

Summery striped romper features tassel trimmed sleeves and waist ties; \$260 by Cool Change at select Intermix stores and [intermixny.com](https://www.intermixny.com)

Shoulders and stripes



(Credit: Banana Republic)

Banker meets babe in this pinstriped off-the-shoulder job; \$78 at select Banana Republic stores and [bananarepublic.com](https://www.bananarepublic.com)

Tanks a lot



(Credit: Milly)

Cheery rainbow stripes elevate this knit top: \$265 at milly.com

Go bold



(Credit: Kule)

Style this slinky sweater with capris and ballet flats and it's kind of a young Audrey Hepburn moment; \$235 at [kule.com](https://www.kule.com)

Footloose



(Credit: Nordstrom)

Stripes are turning up everywhere this season, feet included. You may have to earn your stripes with these extravagant and fun Gucci platform metallic topped sneakers; \$950 at select Nordstrom stores and [nordstrom.com](https://www.nordstrom.com)

Make a splash



(Credit: J.Crew)

Ooh la la, sporty one-piece swimsuit with shoulder tie; \$118 at select J.Crew stores and [jcrew.com](https://www.jcrew.com)

Striped sheath



(Credit: White House/Black Market)

Go from desk to dinner in this fit-and-flare number with well-placed stripes and a flippy hem; \$140 at select White House Black Market stores and whitehouseblackmarket.com



(Credit: J. Crew)

Ball skirt beauty: What a heavenly summer piece — a striped, seersucker ball skirt by J.Crew, \$188 at select J.Crew stores and [jcrew.com](https://www.jcrew.com)

Lip flips



(Credit: Alice and Olivia)

Red lip detailing meets graphic black and white stripes on these flip flops, \$48 at select alic + olivia by Stacey Bendet boutiques and aliceandolivia.com