

For Dash, Croatia elegant, timeless

By Jae-Ha Kim
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For New York City-based activist and model Ava Dash, traveling is less about an itinerary than it is about embracing the moments she never planned for, like “watching the sun set over the ocean with close friends, discovering a tiny restaurant you found by accident or getting completely lost in a city and ending up somewhere even better than where you intended to go.”

The daughter of music mogul Damon Dash, she co-wrote the novel “96 Words for Love” with her mother, Rachel Roy. Additionally, Dash is one of the stars of the Bravo reality series “Next Gen NYC.”

This interview with Dash has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What can you share about your role on this season of “Next Gen NYC”?

A: (It) feels a lot more personal. People will see me navigating a new chapter of independence, building unexpected friendships and saying yes to opportunities that pushed me outside of my comfort zone. It’s definitely a side of me viewers haven’t seen.

Q: You were born and raised in New York. Have you discovered anything new about the city while working on this show?

A: Growing up in Manhattan, you think you’ve seen everything. But filming reminded me that the city is always evolving. Every block can become the backdrop for a completely different story. It also



Ava Dash, seen May 7, says the best way to experience New York City is by walking. **DIA DIPASUPIL/GETTY**

reminded me how much I love this city. Personally, I realized I’m more adaptable and resilient than I ever gave myself credit for. Reality television is unpredictable. I learned to trust myself instead of trying to control every outcome.

Q: Some things you would recommend in New York?

A: My favorite days in New York don’t usually involve checking landmarks off a list. I’d spend the morning walking through the Tribeca with a matcha, window shop in SoHo, wander through the galleries at the MoMA, stop for a bagel at Apollo Bagels and end the evening with dinner at Sant Ambroeus. The best way to experience New York is simply to walk. You always stumble upon something or someone memorable.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: Hvar, Croatia, is somewhere I never get tired of. There’s something so timeless about it. The pace slows down, every meal feels intentional, the cobblestone streets are safe to wander, the sea is calm and refreshing, and even the simplest afternoons somehow become unforgettable. It’s the perfect balance of elegance and ease.

Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?

A: Visiting India will always be one of the most meaningful trips I’ve taken. It

gave me a deeper appreciation for my heritage. I still think about the colors, architecture, markets and incredible food. It’s a place that stays with you long after you leave.

Q: Where are some places modeling took you?

A: Modeling has taken me to places I dreamed about growing up, including Paris, London, Italy, Mexico and throughout the United States. One of my favorite parts of the job is seeing how every city has its own perspective on fashion and creativity.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A: The Hamptons in the summer, my dad’s house in Florida or my mom’s house in Texas. And anywhere on the coast where I can completely unplug for a couple of days.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Ibiza has been at the top of my list for years. I’m hoping to finally make it there this summer. Beyond that, I’d love to explore Korea and Japan.

Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?

A: A great skincare routine, my camera, wired headphones, a speaker, a good book for the flight and a portable charger.

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