# Flats surge in summer style as toe-ring and woven designs win over fashion fans



As summer approaches, the shift from heavier footwear to lighter, more stylish options is palpable. This year, flats, once relegated to the status of an afterthought, have surged into the spotlight, repositioning themselves as essential staples in every fashion-conscious wardrobe. With their diverse selection of prints, shapes, and materials, summer flats strike a perfect balance between elegance and comfort, allowing wearers to enjoy the season without sacrificing style.

Toe-ring flats have emerged as a chic favourite, particularly a pair from TU at Sainsbury’s, priced at an incredibly accessible £18. This design elevates a simple pair of sandals by featuring a striking metallic detail that gives them a premium appearance. For those less inclined towards the traditional toe division, brands like Dune offer alternatives wherein the golden trim mimics the elegance of toe rings without the discomfort that some might associate with them.

The evolution of the ballet flat is another notable trend this season, as the classic design is given a modern revamp through innovative weaving techniques. The woven style enables a playful peek at your summer pedicure while retaining a refined silhouette ideal for both casual outings and special occasions. Retailers such as Next and Anthropologie have responded to this trend by offering attractive options; Next's Mary-Jane style in pastel blue is both stylish and affordable, while Anthropologie’s leather variants ensure that comfort and luxury can coexist.

Fisherman sandals, too, are reclaiming their place in the fashion landscape as they capture the essence of relaxed summer vibes. Originally critiqued for their ‘dad shoe’ aesthetic, these sandals have been reinterpreted, appealing to a new generation of style influencers including celebrities like Katie Holmes and Hailey Bieber. The versatility of these sandals allows them to be worn with everything from casual denim to airy dresses, proving them to be as fashionable as they are functional.

Beyond these key styles, sliders are making their presence known as a go-to summer shoe. With their easy slip-on design, sliders in leather or faux leather add a touch of sophistication to summer wardrobes. Brands like Whistles and Primark are providing options that range from high-end to budget-friendly, ensuring a pair is accessible for every consumer.

The growing popularity of these various flat styles aligns with broader fashion movements that prioritise comfort and practicality alongside aesthetic appeal. Influencers and fashion experts are leaning towards minimalist yet functional designs, such as those from the Australian brand A.Emery. This brand has garnered attention for its sleek leather sandals that balance contemporary design with everyday use, underscoring that style need not compromise comfort.

The seasonal transition to flats signifies a cultural shift in footwear preferences, wherein practicality is increasingly valued. Regardless of occasion—be it a casual lunch or a summer wedding—these fashionable choices in flats provide an experiential blend of elegance and comfort. With a myriad of styles available, from luxury to high street, consumers are spoiled for choice. The only consideration left is to optimise that summer pedicure for the perfect finish.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: Source 1
2. Paragraphs 1, 2, 4: Source 2
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693071/Im-fashion-editor-Im-OBSESSED-18-Sainsburys-sandals-look-expensive-are.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693071/Im-fashion-editor-Im-OBSESSED-18-Sainsburys-sandals-look-expensive-are.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - A fashion editor shares her obsession with Sainsbury's £18 toe-ring sandals, highlighting their elegant design and affordability. She discusses various summer flat trends, including toe-ring flats, woven ballet flats, fisherman sandals, and sliders, emphasizing their versatility and style. The article also mentions other brands like Dune, Next, Anthropologie, Boden, Russell & Bromley, Whistles, and Primark, showcasing a range of options for different budgets and preferences.
* <https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/shoes/a-emery-sandals> - A.Emery, an Australian minimalist fashion brand established in 2017, has become a standout name in summer footwear with its sleek and versatile sandals. Among its offerings, the Jalen Leather Sandal has emerged as a fashion editor favorite and a hit among influencers and style icons. Crafted from supple leather with a square toe and thick straps, the Jalen exemplifies timeless, everyday elegance and practicality. The brand, founded by Anna McLaren, emphasizes utilitarian design meant for comfort and seamless transitions between casual and refined settings. Other popular styles include the Shel, Kinto, Mantei, and Mila, each incorporating chic design elements like tie-backs, ruched fabrics, and minimalist silhouettes. With their broad appeal and effortless style, A.Emery sandals are considered smart wardrobe investments that hold up beyond trends, making them a must-have for summer and beyond. Influencers like Marianne Smyth and Lois Sterling have been seen styling them in various sophisticated ways, affirming their versatility and appeal among the fashion-forward.
* <https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/fashion/shopping/summer-sandals-the-marie-claire-edit-216663> - As the warmer months approach, Marie Claire's fashion team has curated a comprehensive guide on the most stylish and chic sandals for spring and summer. The selection caters to different tastes, from minimalist Grecian designs and classic fisherman styles to bold 'ugly' sandals and metallic feminine heels. Slip-on sandals and strappy options are highlighted for their versatility and comfort, while evening and mule sandals offer a more refined look. The guide features a blend of high-street and designer brands, ensuring choices for various budgets. Notable mentions include metallic heels, trendy flower and cow print designs, knee-high gladiator sandals, and comfortable yet elegant slides from labels like Prada, Gucci, Birkenstock, and Aquazzura. With options suitable for weddings, holidays, and everyday use, the edit emphasizes both fashion-forward aesthetics and practicality, affirming that comfort and style are not mutually exclusive this season.
* <https://www.thezoereport.com/fashion/summer-flats-trends-2021> - The article discusses various summer flat trends, including minimalist designs, clogs, colorful flats, and espadrilles. It highlights how these styles can be incorporated into different outfits, from casual to formal, and provides examples of each trend with associated prices and retailers. The piece emphasizes the versatility and comfort of these flat styles, making them suitable for various occasions during the summer season.
* <https://www.refinery29.com/en-au/summer-shoe-trends-2023> - Refinery29 highlights key summer shoe trends for 2023, including mesh designs, crystal embellishments, and Mary Jane ballet flats. The article showcases various styles and brands, emphasizing the versatility and fashion-forward nature of these trends. It provides insights into how these shoes can be styled for different occasions, from casual outings to more formal events, and offers a glimpse into the evolving footwear landscape for the upcoming summer season.
* <https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/celebrity-sandal-trends-2023> - British Vogue explores the major sandal trends of summer 2023, focusing on simple crossover sandals, wrap-around flats, minimalist flip-flops, toe loop designs, and tiny kitten heels. The article highlights how celebrities and fashion insiders are embracing these styles, providing examples of each trend and discussing their appeal. It emphasizes the shift towards understated elegance and comfort in summer footwear choices, reflecting broader fashion movements towards simplicity and versatility.