

5 Reasons You Need to Use a Travel Advisor Now More Than Ever

People everywhere are back on the roads, in the air, and at sea traveling to destinations they've been dreaming about for the past few years. But travel is a little more complicated than it used to be. With still-changing border requirements and shifts in travel pricing and availability, it's more important than ever to work with a travel advisor in planning and booking trips. Here are five essential ways that travel advisors help travelers get the most out of their vacation time.

1. Saves you precious time

Although everything travel-related is accessible on the internet, each search takes time, and planning can be overwhelming, even for the most seasoned travelers. Enter ... your dedicated travel advisor. For example, making sure it's the right kind of hotel for why you are going there— especially important in all-inclusive beach destinations where you will spend a lot of their time, but also for city vacations, that hotels are in areas convenient to sightseeing or even organizing a trip to take advantage of opening times, shopping times, and special events.

2. You're given objective information

In a world where it seems there's a corporate sponsor for everything, travel advisors are the consumer's last line of objectivity. Meaning that when you look at a website or speaks to a reservation agent directly ... let's say a cruise line, the consumer may not be aware that the cruise line may not be a good fit for them (for whatever reason, i.e., itinerary, value, style, etc.). Obviously, it goes without saying that the cruise line will not offer or suggest a competing product even if it is better for them.

3. You have access to unadvertised discounts and special pricing

Because travel advisors have long-standing relationships with airlines, hotels, cruise lines, and tour companies, they can get discounts and special pricing for their clients that are not available to the general public, even online. Many times, people unfamiliar with using the travel agent think they will pay more when engaging a travel advisor to help them plan an adventure. In fact, travel advisors have access to unpublished rates, which help save you money ... Many times we have exclusive benefits and perks to add - like a resort credit that would otherwise be forfeited.

4. Their first-hand experience gives you insider information

Travel advisors love to travel, giving them first-hand experiences and knowledge of destinations, airlines, hotels, and attractions around the world. It's always better to connect with someone who has been there, done that. If you hire a professional to do your taxes, remodel your kitchen, change your oil, and cut your hair, why wouldn't you do the same for travel? I could do all of the above myself - but should I? I believe in doing what I do well, and consulting a professional to do what they do well to simplify my life!

5. Travel advisors are your advocate

Let's be honest, sometimes when we travel, things go awry. And no one wants to be on their own in an unfamiliar country trying to sort out new hotel reservations, an alternate route to or from their destination, what happened to their luggage, or changing tour bookings. And all of that became more complicated during the pandemic, further increasing the value of having your own travel advisor. There are still ongoing schedule changes, and customers are still contracting Covid during their travels, and they need a single point of contact who can be reached directly. Also, much has changed since before the pandemic, and many clients did not travel during the pandemic, so they are out of practice and are looking for reassurance and tips to feel comfortable.



SAILING THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SUMMIT



If you ever get the opportunity, sail in an aft Sunset Balcony where you can spend the afternoons lying in the sun or watching the sunsets.

The staff was outstanding.

Dining was a pleasure with Renan, our waiter and Rohan his assistant.

Aeverton at Innovations was there with answers to any questions with devices and connections.

Candy, the concierge was most helpful especially with disembarking in Bayonne.

Dave, the photo artist from Mauritius tried to make you look good in every photo. Kate, the dining hostess got us in our favorite table each night. It's impossible to mention everyone or thank them for a most memorable trip!

The Summit will be moving to her new home in Boston so be sure to take advantage of one of next year's groups to Bayonne's options to Bermuda or Iceland/Greenland.



The Best Tiramisu



Making this classic Italian dessert is surprisingly easy. We start the custard with a traditional Marsala-flavored zabaglione -- a cooked mixture of egg yolks and sugar. Then we lighten it with tangy mascarpone cheese, which provides just the right creamy, mousse-like texture. Once assembled, the ladyfingers soften sufficiently after 4 hours in the refrigerator, but if you can wait longer, the flavors will meld even more.

Directions:

For the mascarpone custard: Add the egg yolks, sugar and Marsala to a medium heatproof bowl and whisk to combine. Set the bowl over a medium saucepan of gently simmering water (do not allow the bowl to touch the water). Whisk constantly until the mixture is pale, hot to the touch and has doubled in volume, 4 to 6 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally with a rubber spatula. (This can be done with an electric mixer to speed up the process.) Remove from the heat and continue whisking until slightly cooled, about 1 minute. Whisk in the mascarpone cheese until combined. Refrigerate until ready to assemble.

To assemble: Stir together 1 1/4 cups hot water, espresso powder and 3 to 4 tablespoons Marsala in a liquid measuring cup. Evenly divide the mixture between two medium bowls. Dust the bottom of an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with 1 teaspoon cocoa powder.

Working one at a time, dip half of the ladyfingers into one bowl of the espresso mixture for 2 seconds per side, until soaked but not soggy. Arrange them over the cocoa powder in one layer, breaking up as needed to fill in any gaps. Pour any remaining liquid from the first bowl over the layer of ladyfingers. Spread half the mascarpone custard over the ladyfingers. Repeat the process with another layer of ladyfingers and the re-

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or up to overnight. Sift the remaining 1 table-spoon cocoa powder over the top just before serving.

Ingredients:

Custard:

- 4 large egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons sweet Marsala
- Two 8-ounce containers (16 ounces) mascarpone cheese

Assembly:

- 4 tablespoons instant espresso powder
- 3 to 4 tablespoons sweet Marsala (see Cook's Note)
- 1 teaspoon plus 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder, for dusting
- One 7-ounce package ladyfingers, such as Savoiardi (see Cook's Note)

Groups 2023-2024

SEPTEMBER 15-24, 2023—SIX NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and spend three days at King's Wharf Bermuda enjoying the idyllic, pink sand beaches while imbibing a delicious rum swizzle. Experience everything the Meraviglia has to offer. Our special balcony rate includes accommodations, all current government and port taxes, gratuities, wi-fi for two devices, an upgraded beverage package for \$1,299.00 per person double. Upgrade to Aurea features for \$1,529.00.

OCTOBER 4-15, 2023 –11 NIGHT NEW ENGLAND AND CANADA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and visit Newport, RI, Boston, MA, St. John, NB, Halifax and Sydney, NS Charlottetown, PEI returning to New York by way of Portland, ME. The Meraviglia is packed with extraordinary features for the perfect experience at sea. Enjoy gourmet dining, out of this world entertainment with new panoramic areas, an innovative ocean lounge, a two-deck high inside promenade with an LED dome and spectacular amusement area connected to an outdoor water park. Rates include cabin accommodations as selected, all current port and government taxes, beverage package for drinks up to \$9, wi-fi for two devices and gratuities. Ocean view \$1,277.00, Premium Balcony \$1,487.00 and Aurea Balcony \$1,877.00 (includes additional amenities, room service and more).

OCTOBER 11-19, 2023—EGYPT AND NILE CRUISE ABOARD THE BRAND NEW H/S NEBU

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising and visiting these ancient sights? Spend two nights in Cairo and visit the new and exciting National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride? Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night cruise visiting Karnak & Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Obo and more. Return to Cairo for a farewell dinner and your return to the U.S. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising, lunch while on Old Cairo tour. Rate per person, based on a minimum of 15 passengers is \$4,935.00 including air from JFK. Single supplement \$985.00

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 3, 2023—HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN DUBLIN AND GALWAY'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Enjoy this unique getaway visiting the Christmas Markets in Dublin and Galway. Included in this package is round trip airfare from Newark, a professional tour director for the duration of the trip, four breakfasts (including morning of arrival), two hotel dinners and one traditional Pub dinner, a walking tour of Galway, tour of Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, Clonmacnoise, Newbridge Silver Factory, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse. Rate \$2,249.00 per person double occupancy. Minimum participation of 15 is required. Call Tara for more info and reservations.

FEBRUARY 7-12, 2024—TENTH ANNUAL ICELAND WEEKEND GETAWAY

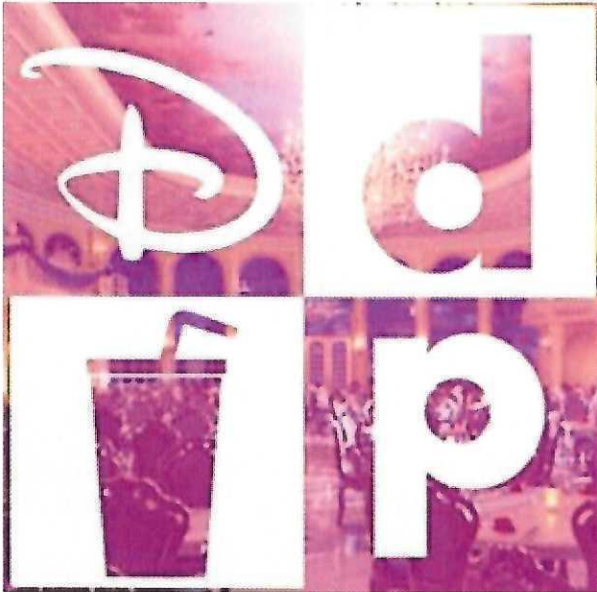
Explore the 'Land of Fire and Ice' witnessing spectacular waterfalls, boiling geysers and spend a few hours relaxing with a cocktail while watching the sunrise in the Blue Lagoon. A visit to Thingvillar National Park is not to be missed; called the Grand Canyon of Iceland because it is where the tectonic plates of North America and Europe merge creating an awesome sight. There is always the opportunity of seeing the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Our package includes round trip air from Newark on Icelandair, four nights hotel with a full buffet breakfast daily and a continental breakfast at Viking World Museum on the morning of arrival, all current taxes. Optional tours will be available. Rate is \$1,998.00 per person double. A valid passport is required and insurance is highly recommended.

NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 3, 2024—ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE ABOARD AMA WATERWAYS AMA LEA

Depart USA on the evening of November 23 flying to Prague where you will board the AMA LEA for your seven night Christmas Market cruise. The intimate AMA LEA was built in 2018 and sails with a maximum of 156 passengers. Sail the Continental Divide and visit Passau, Melk and Vienna enroute to Budapest. Cruise only rates start at \$3,799.00 per person double including port taxes. Single cabins surcharge range from 125 to 150%. Pre and post nights along with airfare will be available at the end of this year. Call Nancy for information and reservations.

DECEMBER 7-14, 2024—SAIL THE CARIBBEAN ON STRA CLIPPERS ROYAL CLIPPER

Details will be available soon



Disney Dining Plan Returns!

The Disney Dining Plan was suspended after the pandemic closures and hasn't returned in more than three years since. This was a highly unpopular decision by Disney because the Dining Plan was incredibly popular with Guests.

The Disney Dining Plan will return for stays beginning on January 9, 2024, and you'll be able to book it starting May 31, 2023. While we had hoped it would return this year, this is still amazing news. You still must be a Disney Resort hotel Guest in order to book, and contrary to popular rumor, there is NOT a ticket type restriction. That means Disney Resort guests can book a dining plan whether they have Park Hopper or Base Tickets.

When they return, there will only be two options available: the Quick Service Plan and the Regular Dining Plan. These were hands down the two most popular options among Disney Guests before the pandemic.

Wondering what you get with the Disney Dining Plan?

Quick Service Plan



The Quick Service Plan is perfect for those who have better things to do on vacation than eat. We get it. You've got rides to ride and shows to see!

The Quick Service Plan includes*:

2 Quick Service meals (including a beverage. Guests 21 and up may select an alcoholic beverage)

1 snack or nonalcoholic beverage

Refillable mug (mugs can only be refilled at Resort hotels and cannot be refilled in the Parks)

*Total amount is based on the number of nights stayed in a Disney Resort

For those that know that food is part of the experience there is the Regular Dining Plan. This includes a bit more food and takes more time than the Quick Service Plan, but it is perfect for those who want to sample everything that Disney has to offer.

The Regular Dining Plan includes*

1 Quick Service meal (including a beverage. Guests 21 and up may select an alcoholic beverage)

1 Table Service meal (including a beverage. Guests 21 and up may select an alcoholic beverage)

1 snack or nonalcoholic beverage

1 Refillable mug (mugs can only be refilled at Resort hotels and cannot be refilled in the Parks)



EGYPT 2023



TOUR FEATURES (October 11-19, 2023)

- Round trip air on Egyptair from JFK (also including domestic air CAI-LXR and ASW-CAI)
- All transfer in Cairo (CAI), Luxor (LXR) and Aswan (ASW)
- 2nts accommodation at Conrad Cairo hotel 5* or similar based on bed & breakfast basis
- 4nts accommodation on board of the H/S Nebu or similar on full board basis starting with lunch & ending with breakfast
- 1nt accommodation at Intercontinental City Stars or similar on bed & breakfast basis
- Full Day tour including the Pyramids, Sphinx, Museum, Old Cairo including lunch in a local restaurant
- Camel ride and balloon ride over the Nile
- Visits on board of the boat : Karnak & Luxor Temple West Bank : Valley of Kings, Hatshepsut and the colossus of Memnon
- Edfu, Kom Ombo
- Aswan : Philae temple, the High Dam & Obelisk
- Felucca around Kitchener islands
- Farewell traditional dinner at El Azhar Park
- English speaking guide throughout

NOT INCLUDED: Visa (approx. \$25 USD on arrival) and gratuities

Price: \$4,935.00 per person (based on a minimum of 15 passengers). A passport (with two empty pages for visa and a six month validity is required), a deposit of \$500 pp plus insurance \$326 (to cover pre-existing conditions this must be taken with deposit, otherwise with final payment). A more detailed itinerary will be provided at deposit. Single surcharge is \$985.

Call Nancy with any questions or to make your deposit. Check or credit card (no AMEX).

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