

DEBUNKING TRAVEL AGENCY MISCONCEPTIONS

MISCONCEPTION #1: TRAVEL AGENCIES ARE TOO EXPENSIVE AND CHARGE HIGH FEES.

FACT: OUR AGENCY CHARGES PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FEES FOR COMPLEX, CUSTOM ITINERARIES, THIS IS IN EXCHANGE FOR SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE THAT SAVES YOU TIME AND STRESS.

MISCONCEPTION #2: YOU CAN GET BETTER DEALS ON YOUR OWN ONLINE.

FACT: ADVISORS OFTEN HAVE ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE "BUNDLED" RATES, PERKS (LIKE FREE BREAKFAST OR ROOM UPGRADES), AND ONBOARD CREDITS THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

FACT: ONLINE TRAVEL AGENCIES (OTAs) ARE JUST MACHINES; REAL TRAVEL ADVISORS PROVIDE PERSONALIZED, EXPERT SERVICE THAT A COMPUTER CANNOT.

MISCONCEPTION #3: TRAVEL AGENTS ARE OBSOLETE IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET.

FACT: TRAVEL AGENTS ARE MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER, PARTICULARLY FOR HANDLING DISRUPTIONS, COMPLEX TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AND PROVIDING SUPPORT WHEN THINGS GO WRONG.

FACT: A LARGE PORTION OF TRAVEL, INCLUDING **87% OF CRUISES** AND **51% OF FLIGHTS**, IS STILL BOOKED THROUGH TRAVEL AGENTS.

MISCONCEPTION #4: THEY ONLY BOOK LUXURY VACATIONS OR BIG GROUP TRIPS.

FACT: ADVISORS WORK ON ALL TYPES OF TRAVEL, INCLUDING SMALL, BUDGET-CONSCIOUS TRIPS, RENTAL CARS, AND, DISNEY TRIPS. EVERY BOOKING IS VALUABLE TO THEM.

MISCONCEPTION #5: TRAVEL ADVISORS ARE NOT IN YOUR CORNER.

FACT: MANY ADVISORS ARE INDEPENDENT, OR WORK FOR AGENCIES -SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS- WHO RELY ON REPEAT BUSINESS AND REFERRALS (OFTEN 90% OF THEIR BUSINESS), MEANING THEIR PRIORITY IS KEEPING YOU SATISFIED, NOT JUST MAXIMIZING COMMISSION.

MISCONCEPTION #6: THEY DON'T HAVE BETTER INFORMATION THAN GOOGLE.

FACT: ADVISORS OFTEN HAVE FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE, HAVING TRAVELED TO THE DESTINATIONS THEY RECOMMEND. THEY CAN PROVIDE IN-DEPTH, NUANCED, AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION THAT SEARCH ENGINES CANNOT.

YOU TRAVEL BECAUSE...



ALGVACATIONS.



STOP DIY-ING YOUR VACATION



WE USE THE SAME INDUSTRY TOOLS AS THE BIG SITES
BUT ADD THE ONE THING THEY CAN'T:
EXPERTISE

WE'RE 100% TRANSPARENT ABOUT OUR
PROFESSIONAL PLANNING FEES
BECAUSE WE PROVIDE REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE AND
24/7 ADVOCACY.
YOU AREN'T JUST BOOKING A TRIP; YOU'RE HIRING A
PARTNER.

KEEP CALM AND CALL A TRAVEL ADVISOR -
BECAUSE THERE'S MORE TO TRAVEL THAN A TICKET.



7 KEY AIRLINE POLICIES EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD KNOW



REMINDERS FROM TRAVELPULSE.COM

1. **24-Hour Cancellation Policy:** Within 24 hours of booking, you can usually cancel a flight for a full refund, provided the booking was made at least a week before departure.
2. **Baggage Policies & Fees:** Airlines have strict, varying limits for checked and carry-on bags. Exceeding these often results in high fees. It is essential to check your specific ticket's baggage allowance.
3. **TSA Liquids Rule (3-1-1):** Carry-on liquids must be 3.4 ounces (or less, in a 1-quart bag, with 1 bag per passenger).
4. **Flight Cancellation/Significant Delay Compensation:** If an airline cancels or makes a significant change to a flight, you are entitled to a full refund, even for non-refundable tickets.
5. **ID and Ticket Name Matching:** The name on your ticket must match your government-issued ID or passport exactly to avoid boarding issues.
6. **Boarding Time Cut-offs:** Airlines can cancel your seat if you are not at the gate, usually 10-15 minutes before departure for domestic flights.
7. **Lithium Battery & Device Policy:** Electronics with lithium batteries (laptops, phones) should be in carry-on bags. Spare batteries must be carried on, never checked.

STAY SAFE AND WELL-INFORMED WHILE TRAVELING WITH: Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

S.T.E.P. is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals to enroll their trip abroad so the Department of State can accurately and quickly contact them in case of emergency.

- Get updates about health, weather, safety, and security for your destination.
- Plan ahead using information from the local U.S. embassy.
- Help the embassy or consulate contact you if there's an emergency like
- a natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency.



MyTravelGov

Visit: mytravel.state.gov/s/step

MEET THE ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT



Tabitha Regoli

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Tabitha has 7 years of travel service experience and is a Verified Travel Advisor. Along with English, she can speak some French, German, and Italian. Her favorite places to visit are Italy, Germany, and Switzerland (she loves castles, history and food!). Her specialty is Europe including river cruises and independent customized travel itineraries. She is currently booking for clients traveling to Italy, France, England, Poland, Africa, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and Croatia. Her recent or current personal trips are Egypt (amazing bucket list trip) and Germany. Machu Picchu, hiking in the Dolomites (she would love to live in Italy for a year to explore), and New Zealand are on her bucket list trip.

Best travel tip: Slow down and savor the moment. Leave "downtime" in your itinerary to explore a little longer.

Favorite Travel Story: The most memorable ones are with my family and friends: first Italy trip when the boys were 12 and 8 years old, Puerto Vallarta with my sister, Egypt with my brother and first river cruise experience with one of my best friends.

Favorite Travel Quote: "I'm going on an adventure!"

Fun Fact: "My husband says I'm a nerd in a Sci-Fi way. I love to read/watch Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings/Hobbit, documentaries and mysteries. I've named my pets after characters: Arwen, Greybeard, Kili and Tauriel."

Other Hobbies or Interests: Music, food, being outdoors (hiking/walking), my animals, and hanging with family and friends.

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We highly recommend using Travel Insured for all your travel insurance needs

