

TIPS TO REFINE YOUR

BUCKET LIST

FOR MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT

It's a mini-tragedy when a bucket list ruins travel, instead of doing what it is supposed to do. Make sure your bucket list expands your horizons, reflects your conscience, provides a source of anticipation and joy, and then delivers an experience you'll treasure for the rest of your days.

1 GIVE YOURSELF UNSCRIPTED TIME

Consider a “being” mindset instead of a “doing” mindset. Slow down. Shorten the number of experiences or destinations and give yourself some breathing room. Instead of running yourself ragged, soak up the moments.

2 CONSIDER JUST AS GOOD OR EVEN BETTER

Maybe try Brussels instead of Paris. Bratislava instead of Prague. Istria instead of Tuscany. Panama instead of Mexico. The Philippines instead of Bali. Uruguay instead of Argentina. Sofia instead of Istanbul. Hanoi instead of Bangkok. You might be delightfully surprised!

3 DECLARE BRAND INDEPENDENCE

We all have our favorite brands. But we've also had marvelous experiences with new travel brands, and non-brands, too. Give your business to independents for more meaningful relationships. If you're willing to let go of familiarity, much of the time you can save money, too.

4 REFRAME YOUR IDEAL EXPERIENCE

If you've always dreamed of skiing the Alps, is it the Alps or is it about skiing? Is a good time at Oktoberfest dependent upon celebrating in Munich? Maybe something as simple as visiting a destination in the off season would make it delightful, instead of disappointing.

5 MODIFY IN A POPULAR DESTINATION

Do you really need to stand in line for the Louvre? Maybe wander the gardens at the Rodin instead? If a place is too touristy, try a workaround. Instead of the #1 Trip Advisor restaurant, ask where to eat with the locals. Take advantage of a special aspect: if transport is cheap, ride to the end of the line, walk around and ride back.

6 OPEN YOUR MIND AND HEART

With the way things are in many parts of the world these days, we have an amazing opportunity to be the bridge toward understanding and goodwill. Be open to new opportunities and experiences. Meet new people, be receptive. Strive for significant encounters with fellow humans. Eat the food, drink the wine, share the love.