



The do everything vacation Blog:

One year: and then there was nine

I can't stress this enough. I do mean enough! I love to travel. Honestly, I love piecing together a trip of planes, trains, and automobiles. It's way more fun finding interesting ways to travel. Yet, I will stress that you either find a really good agent or do it yourself. It's not in your best interest to use Expedia or any other third-party trip planner. You will pay more. So, I suggest using direct billing to an airline, cruise or hotel. We used Expedia to book our flights to Australia through Air New Zealand. The third party that Expedia uses to book is not traveler friendly. Be warned that cheap flight could hold hidden clauses. Expedia wanted to help. The third party did not.

I don't like opening so negative but it's your money and trips that concern me. My eyes have glossed over when I see a deal. I won't say I have never found a great deal and jumped on it. My Sandals trip in Jamaica was a deal. A deal through Sandals. We are talking about two things. One is, it's your money. A lot of money. Sure, covid does not happen every other year, yet cancer can happen, accidents can happen. The shiny trip is one thing but your money should be brighter.

Secondly, is time. Australia has been pushed back three times already. I have received most of the funds back. I lost 1200 of 4200 on the flights. Insurance (I did not buy) was between 750 and 1000 for three people. I was lucky it was a tradeoff I suppose. Yet time was lost too. I had to push my vacation. My wife lost her vacation. Be responsible for your vacation. Avoid deals for the most part. You can avoid expensive insurance. Look for cancellation deals.

Recently, I bought a room in Waterton Lakes. An expected/unexpected surgery arose and we had to cancel. Glad I booked with cancellation on booking.com. I am booking most of my stuff quite late now. I used to put a ton of time between booking and departure. It saved money. Yet, the hassle of canceling has changed my mind. The money saved will be lost in either insurance or cancellation fees. I book way closer to departure now.

What I'm saying is if I had used direct airlines like Air Canada, I would have had credit with them alone. Yes, I bought Air Canada but I did it through Expedia who bought it through a third party. Buy direct. Yes, you will pay more. The cancellation insurance more? No! hotels are tricky as are excursions. Hotels directly are more expensive yet, dealing directly with them is far better.

I do feel you can use Expedia and booking.com. Just make sure it's cancel-able. Just remember that I could have had credit directly with Air Canada if I only had purchased domestic airlines flights. I could have used the whole credit somewhere else. Through the third party I was stuck only flying over seas. Plus, they don't care why you can't go.

Let's end on a good note. Nine months to go. We have been planning this for over 4 years. Now we are under the big 10. Only single digits now. We are still stuck in Canada with covid restrictions yet, it's still nine months away. I am seeing small signs that we are heading back to normal. Kids in school and you can fly a little. I'm waiting on the US border. That's one of my big signs and sports arenas. Still waiting but hopeful: nine months to go!