



The do everything vacation Blog:

Let's get to work: Dreaming is the best part

This is what I have learned in these last 12 months. I love to dream. It's the biggest part of me. I literally stop books in mid-sentence for a day just to dream of the outcome. It makes the story so much more fun and exciting. I will plan in three tiers. One is short term. Make life interesting weekly. I have a routine of body, mind, and soul every day. I read, pray, and exercise. I plan it.

Secondly, I plan medium things like paying bills in advance. Looking a month ahead at bills and time off. We plan dinners out and birthdays. Finally, I love to dream big. My son and I did around ten years of ironman adventures from the Grand Canyon to Egypt. The pyramids were planned 8 years in advance. This Italy/Greece trip has been planned for four years. The world has changed during that time to some degree. Will we still go? I think so, but we plan and dream.

The going is just the icing on the cake. Dreaming is the best part to me.

Ok, now let's get serious. I have learned a few things. I will plan in advance. The dreams are alive. However, I will not buy those dreams in advance like I used to. Deals are ok as long as there is an out. Buying insurance is fine as long as it's not hugely expensive. Adding 1000-1500 to a trip cancellation insurance is plainly dumb. 99.9 percent of the time you wasted it. So, what to do? There are two ways in my mind. One, is paying two months before for flights. There are always flights. As for rooms and cruises and such, you can book in advance as long as there is a refund available. Usually there are. You do not need cancellation insurance if you can cancel 48 hrs. before. Flights are a different matter.

Some credit cards have fees that include travel insurance. That is totally affordable. I have had travel well insurance for around 12 dollars a month. It usually covers it all. As for flights they are a different cat. No refunds. So, what happens if you need to cancel? They will put it on credit for a year for a fee. It could work. Recently I bought through Air New Zealand. After the beer bug I put it on credit. Problem was it only works on where they fly. What happens if I can't go to Australia now? My suggestion is only book domestic. Be able to use the credit in other ways if your plans fall through.

Finally, I strongly suggest you book directly through the carrier. Because of cancer and the beer bug I have had tremendous trouble with Expedia. The Airlines and hotels will only deal with your agent. What if your agent is terrible or lazy? It cost us about 600 each because of this mistake. How much more would your direct buying cost you over the cheaper Expedia? Plus, direct buying gives you other rewards in moving, canceling, and crediting your money. Only buy domestic and directly. So, dream and plan. Hopefully you will go too.