



The do everything vacation Blog:

Creating a trip: gaining knowledge

It's true that there are many days to go. Actually, there are 598 days to go. It seems so far away but we started well over 1700 days to go. I have been going through our itinerary stops for this cruise. Posting facts one month at a time. The best part is two-fold. One is that I can dream of going. That is fun. The second thing is seeing this trip through other people's eyes. I am noticing posts from others going to the same places we will. Their experiences are helpful. There is work to do.

I have mentioned that my Australia trip has been moved because of my wife's cancer. I had no idea that moving flights and cruises could be so tricky. In a way this has become training ground for the Italy trip. When to book flights? Do you buy trip cancellation insurance? Personally, I would buy a travel well package that costs around 10-20 a month. It covers all that you need anywhere you go. I would have cancelled this Australia thing if I had done that. Still, we need to think really hard on how you buy your flights, cruises, and excursions.

I say buy a flight around 6 months before or so. I realize now that the closer the better. Sure, you might pay a little more but then your probably safer to go. Make sure most things you

buy beforehand like show tickets are refundable. Really, I was lucky with Australia. I was able to move it all. Trust me, that was lucky. Expedia and other travel sites buy wholesale. Most of those deals are non-refundable. Again. Be very vigilant on a travel agent. It's your money! Sometimes I feel that airlines and travel agents assume it's their money. Rule of thumb now is that cruise lines and airlines are only in business to take money. They are really not interested in you. Be smart and be vigilant with your trips.

Take the time to look at this trip to Italy and Greece. Notice these places when others post pictures and food. Where are the golden nuggets to visit? Next month is a milestone for me. It will be under 20 months. Just think about it. In November it will be a year and a half to go. It's not that far. Trust me, save bottle money. Save through grocery optimum points and visa points. Usually, that money will buy at-least one excursion.