



The do everything vacation Blog:

Crossing over: here we go again

I just keep learning. Recently, I am creating a cruise to Australia. It's a test run on planning a trip over seas on a different cruise line. This has been interesting. First of all is the flights. Find a place you trust for flights. I have heard stories of trouble with cheap flight sites. I am not so sure? I have used Airline travel sites like Air Canada. They work but the price is usually bigger for some reason. I have tried my Mastercard travel and that worked really well. I have also gone the traditional route through a travel agent. This is what I think.

Travel agents are good if you get a good one. Test out small trips on an agent. Be picky! I had a really good agent. We tussled over flights, times, and itinerary. She was good at listening and insisting. Unfortunately, the last time I phoned her, I found out she had died. I was stunned. Just make sure you use a place that will update you on flights. I have heard that some don't. With that said, you can book quite a bit on your own.

We have heard of Airbnb. It's a cheaper way of finding places to stay that are off the grid like a condo. I heard they work fairly well. We are going to test that out in Australia. I have usually used Expedia. They work really well too. I have even phoned an airline on a flight

change and they changed my flight to accommodate me. That was united airlines. I'm not sure if other airlines are that friendly and helpful. It's just my gut feeling to stay closer to the popular mainstream sites for flights and hotels.

I do find that the official tourism site for a city or country is very good. They want you to be safe. We just applied for the Australian visa. The confirmation came back to me within a minute. I was stunned. The Egyptian one made me nervous. You buy it when you arrive at a kiosk in the airport. I did not like that but it worked. In this last month I realized I should have picked my own flights. Travel agents are not always the best way. This Airbnb will be a test I will use in Italy if it works well.

I say book things a head of time. Just make sure there are seats for planes, cruises, and events you want to see. Work on it. You don't want to get there and find that things are sold out. I believe that you should plan a head about a year in advance. There is always room for last minute travel, but it's not the norm. Plan it! Use trusted sites! Be picky! Keep record of it all!