



Your Passport to the World since 1969

10 REASONS TO USE A TRAVEL AGENT

- 1. Choosing the right destination.** A travel professional has first-hand knowledge; they have been there or has a network of travel professionals who has. A good travel agent is part psychiatrist, part social worker, part keeper of family secrets. They know what you like and what you don't, and how to pose the questions that will point to the right destination for you and those with whom you are traveling.
- 2. Standing in your corner.** A professional agent sits on your shoulder from the minute you step out the door until you return home safe with your luggage intact. They are your advocate, your guardian angel, your defense attorney.
- 3. Keeping you safe.** Being a travel professional means knowing the news. They can warn you if there is illness or danger in a location you are considering. And if terrorists attack or stormy winds blow, they know where you are and whom to call to keep you headed toward your destination and out of harm's way.
- 4. Getting the paperwork right.** Many a traveler has been turned back from an airport for lack of the right visa, passport, or other credential. You may think you know the regulations, but then something unexpected will pop up. Your travel professional will ensure you have what you need.
- 5. Knowing the right insurance.** True, you probably do not need cancellation insurance for a simple flight. But there is a time and a place for travel insurance—and those times and places fluctuate and are buried in fine print and differ from carrier to carrier. Even more important, while most people believe their U.S. health insurance will cover them if they are taken ill abroad, that is often not the case. A travel professional will remind you to consider whether insurance is right for a particular trip, and taking into account your age, your health, and your existing medical coverage.
- 6. Saving you money.** Travel agents can help control your costs in many ways, sometimes by hundreds of dollars. They know all the discounts and promotions, the best times to book an airline ticket, the best days to travel. If you are traveling in a small group, they often can get amenities not normally given.
- 7. Scoring some perks.** Travel agents have many supplier contacts in cities and hotels and airports around the world. Often they can get you free excursions, spa visits, or room upgrades; entrance to private locations; or after-hour access to popular sites.
- 8. Offering extended payment plans.** Unlike online booking sites where you must prepay, travel professionals usually require only a deposit at the time of booking, followed by payments in installments as your trip departure date nears.
- 9. Gaining time to make up your mind.** Need a day or two to get everyone on your family trip on the same page? Agents can hold airline seats for their customers for up to 24 hours while everyone makes up their mind.
- 10. Insights into the unknown.** You're not likely to find a once-in-a-lifetime experience online. But that's the magic a professional can bring to your trip of a lifetime. Travel professionals know what's hot and what's overbooked—and even better, what's about to become the next big thing, so you can go before the crowds.