



## Travel On Your Terms

Hidden Spaces Travel

June 2026 Newsletter

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### From My Desk...

As travel continues to evolve, more travelers are discovering the freedom and flexibility of exploring the world on their own terms. Solo and independent travel is no longer viewed as something reserved for backpackers or business travelers. Today, travelers of all ages are embracing meaningful experiences designed around their own interests, pace, and personal goals.

What I find especially exciting is that solo travel does not necessarily mean traveling alone. River cruises, rail journeys, small group tours, and curated independent itineraries are creating new opportunities for travelers to experience the world while also

connecting with others who share similar interests and a spirit of adventure.

Whether it is finally taking that dream trip, exploring a destination at your own pace, or simply saying “yes” to a new experience, travelers are increasingly discovering that there are more options than ever before to travel with confidence, flexibility, and connection.

As we move into summer travel season, I hope this month’s newsletter inspires you to think about what “travel on your terms” might look like for you.

## **Why Travelers Are Choosing Solo & Independent Travel**

Solo and independent travel has become one of the fastest-growing trends in the travel industry, and it is easy to understand why. Today’s travelers are increasingly prioritizing experiences that allow them greater flexibility, personal freedom, and meaningful connection with the destinations they visit.

For many travelers, solo travel is not about “traveling alone,” but rather about traveling intentionally. It allows travelers to move at their own pace, focus on personal interests, and enjoy the freedom of creating experiences that truly reflect what they enjoy most.

Some travelers are choosing rail journeys through scenic countryside, while others are embracing river cruises, small group tours, or curated independent itineraries that provide both flexibility and support. Many travelers also enjoy the opportunity to meet like-minded people along the way, creating connections and friendships through shared experiences and adventures.

What once may have been viewed as intimidating is now becoming increasingly approachable as the travel industry continues to adapt to the growing demand for solo and independent travel. Cruise lines, tour companies, and travel suppliers are now offering more options specifically designed to accommodate travelers seeking flexibility, comfort, and connection.

Whether it is exploring a destination independently, joining a small group experience, or finally taking that “someday” trip, more travelers are discovering that there are now more opportunities than ever to experience the world on their own terms.

## What Solo Travel Looks Like Today

Solo and independent travel today looks very different than it did even a decade ago. While many people once associated solo travel with backpacking or navigating unfamiliar destinations completely alone, today’s travel experiences offer far more flexibility, comfort, and support.

Many travelers are discovering that independent travel can take many forms. Some may enjoy the structure and social opportunities found on river cruises or small group tours, while others may prefer curated independent itineraries that allow for personal freedom while still providing professionally planned accommodations, transportation, and excursions.

Rail journeys have also become increasingly popular for travelers seeking a more relaxed and scenic way to explore multiple destinations without the stress of driving or navigating airports. River cruises continue to appeal to travelers who enjoy unpacking once while experiencing multiple cities and cultures along the way.

For travelers who enjoy both independence and connection, small group experiences provide opportunities to meet like-minded travelers who share similar interests in history, food, culture, photography, or adventure. Many travelers find that some of the most meaningful conversations and friendships happen while exploring new destinations together.

Today’s solo and independent travel experiences are less about isolation and more about flexibility, confidence, connection, and discovering the world in a way that feels personal and meaningful.

## Safety & Confidence While Traveling

One of the most common concerns travelers have when considering solo or independent travel is safety.

Fortunately, today's travel industry offers more resources, support, and services than ever before to help travelers explore with confidence.

Whether traveling independently, joining a small group tour, taking a rail journey, or embarking on a river cruise, thoughtful planning can help create a comfortable and enjoyable experience. Choosing reputable travel suppliers, selecting accommodations in convenient locations, arranging transportation in advance, and purchasing travel protection are just a few ways travelers can prepare for a successful journey.

Technology has also made it easier than ever to stay connected while traveling. Mobile phones, travel apps, digital maps, and messaging services allow travelers to communicate with family and friends, access important travel information, and navigate unfamiliar destinations with greater ease.

Many travelers find that confidence grows with each new experience. What may feel unfamiliar at first often becomes one of the most rewarding aspects of travel. With proper planning



and the right support, solo and independent travel can open the door to new destinations, new friendships, and unforgettable memories.

The key is not traveling without preparation—it is traveling with confidence.



## Introducing the Hidden Spaces Travel Community

What if travel could begin long before you ever pack a suitcase?

The Hidden Spaces Travel Community is being created for those who love exploring the world, discovering new destinations, and connecting with others who share a passion for travel.

Members will receive opportunities to:

- Learn about destinations around the world
- Attend travel-themed gatherings and presentations
- Enjoy cultural experiences, wine tastings, and culinary events
- Hear travel stories and travel tips from fellow travelers
- Meet others who share a love of exploration and adventure
- Receive early information about upcoming group trips and travel opportunities

**Our first group trip is currently being planned for November 5–9, 2026, with a visit to Helen and Dahlonega, Georgia,** featuring scenic mountain views, wineries, local culture, and unique experiences.

Detailed itinerary and pricing information for the November 5–9, 2026 Helen & Dahlonega group trip will be released within the next two weeks.

If you would like to receive early information about the Hidden Spaces Travel Community and upcoming group travel opportunities, please email:

**[info@hiddenspacestravel.com](mailto:info@hiddenspacestravel.com)**

In the subject line, please type:

**Hidden Spaces Travel Community**

You'll be among the first to receive updates as this exciting new community takes shape.

## Travel Tip: Prepare Before You Depart

A little preparation before your trip can provide tremendous peace of mind while traveling.

Before you leave, make sure your travel documents are up to date and appropriate for your destination. Depending on your itinerary, you may need a passport, Real ID-compliant driver's license, visas, cruise documents, travel insurance information, or other required documentation.

It's also wise to leave a copy of your itinerary with a trusted family member or friend who is not traveling with you. Include flight information, hotel details, cruise information, and emergency contact numbers. In the event of an unexpected delay or emergency, someone back home will know how to reach you and assist if needed.

One of the benefits of working with a travel advisor is having someone help navigate these important details before departure, allowing you to focus on enjoying the journey rather than worrying about paperwork and logistics.



## Ready for Your Next Adventure?

Whether you're considering your first solo journey, looking for travel companions who share your passion for exploration, or simply dreaming about where to go next, I'd love to help.

Travel isn't just about seeing new places—it's about creating experiences, building memories, and sometimes discovering a little more about yourself along the way.

If you're interested in:

- Solo travel opportunities
- The Hidden Spaces Travel Community
- Cruises, tours, rail journeys, or custom itineraries
- The upcoming Helen & Dahlonga, Georgia group trip

Email me at [info@hiddenspacestravel.com](mailto:info@hiddenspacestravel.com) and let's start the conversation.

Travel Smart. Dream Big. Wander Well.

Sonya Waters

Hidden Spaces Travel Agency™

## Stay Connected

Travel inspiration, destination highlights, travel tips, and upcoming group travel opportunities are shared throughout the month on social media.

Follow Hidden Spaces Travel on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected and never miss an update.

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<https://www.facebook.com/HiddenSpacesTravel>

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11200 Winterpock Rd, Chesterfield  
United States of America

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