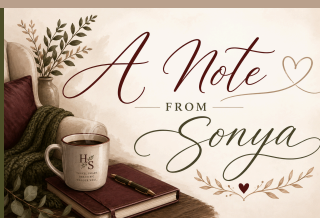




October 2026 Newsletter



This time last year, I had just returned home from a 19-day trip through Europe. I was still reeling from everything I had seen and experienced—the places I had visited, the people I had met, and all of those moments that had made the trip so memorable.

It's hard to believe an entire year has passed.

There is something about this time of year that makes me want to slow down just a little. I'm not a huge fan of Halloween, but I do love fall—the colors, the festivals, and the smells of pumpkin spice and cinnamon that seem to find their way into just about everything.

The mornings are beginning to turn cooler, the days are getting shorter, and I think this season gives us a choice.

We can settle into it and begin dreaming about the return of warmer weather and longer days. If we have the time and means, we can chase the sunshine to warmer climates and extend summer just a little longer. Or, like my oldest daughter, we can head in the opposite direction—chasing the cooler days of fall and happily embracing everything winter has to offer.

I think that's one of the wonderful things about travel. There really isn't a “travel season.” There is simply the experience you're looking for.

For me, this time of year makes me dream about **my next experience**.

Maybe it's because I remember so clearly where I was this time last year. Maybe it's because slowing down gives us a

little more time to think about the places we've been and the places we haven't experienced yet. Whatever the reason, I find myself wondering where I might go next, what I might see, and what new experience is still waiting for me.

And perhaps this season has you dreaming a little, too.

Where would you like your next experience to take you?

Sonya

Travel Smart. Dream Big. Wander Well.

Travel Tip: What Should You Book First?

There isn't one answer for every trip.

Sometimes a great airfare can be the perfect starting point—especially when your destination and dates are flexible. Once the ticket is purchased, the trip becomes real and the planning begins!

But if your trip revolves around a specific cruise, tour, event, resort, or limited-availability experience, it may make more sense to secure that piece before committing to your flights.

The key is knowing which part of your trip has the least flexibility—and planning around it.



Let's talk about where to start

[Click here
to start](#)

What a Day at ChesterFest!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to see me at ChesterFest! I loved meeting so many fellow travelers, hearing about your favorite travel experiences and dream destinations, and sharing what's happening at Hidden Spaces Travel.

And congratulations to **Teresa J.**, winner of our ChesterFest Travel Basket!

Thank you for helping make the day such a wonderful success!



The Travel Club Is Here!

The response to the Hidden Spaces Travel Club at ChesterFest was amazing—**40 people signed up that day!**

The Travel Club is a free community for people who enjoy travel—or simply enjoy dreaming about where they might go next. Come on your own, as a couple, or bring a friend. We'll talk travel, share ideas, discover destinations, and enjoy opportunities to get together and explore.

Our first meeting is now in the works!

Didn't sign up at ChesterFest? You can still join us!

JOIN THE TRAVEL CLUB

[Click here
to Join](#)

Taking the Uncertainty Out of Travel Part 3 of Our Monthly Travel Series

Missed the first two? Catch up on previous editions of the series.

Taking the Uncertainty Out of Travel

A Destination Is Not an Itinerary

Choosing where you want to go is an important part of planning a trip.

But **a destination is not an itinerary.**

Selecting a destination is only one piece of the travel equation. How much time you have, how you like to travel, the pace you prefer, and what you want to experience can completely change the trip you ultimately take.

That's why one of the questions I like to explore with my clients isn't simply:

“Where do you want to go?”

It's:

“How do you want to experience it?”

Because there is rarely only one way.

How Do You Want to Experience It?

Rail Journeys

Imagine enjoying an elegant meal and a glass of wine while mountains, countryside, and villages drift past your window. On an overnight journey, you might wake in your sleeper cabin, sip your morning coffee as you pull into the station, and step off the train ready to explore another destination.

Rail travel can transform the time between destinations into part of the vacation itself. Sometimes the journey really is part of the experience.

Ocean Cruises

If you enjoy energy, entertainment, choices, and meeting other travelers, an ocean cruise can feel like a destination unto itself.

Spend the evening choosing among restaurants, enjoying a show or live music, or sharing a drink with people you've met along the way. Then wake the next morning and discover that you've arrived somewhere entirely new.

Depending on the itinerary, one journey can introduce you to several ports—and even several countries—while allowing you to return to the same room every night.

River Cruises

River cruising offers a more intimate way to move through a destination.

Imagine enjoying an evening cocktail onboard as the scenery slips past, then waking the next morning within easy reach of another town or city. Excursions may offer different activity levels, allowing you to choose the way you want to explore.

Depending on the ship's schedule, you might return onboard for a beautifully prepared dinner or continue wandering—browse the local shops, find a restaurant tucked along a side street, and enjoy more time experiencing the destination before returning to the ship.

You unpack once, but the world outside keeps changing.

All-Inclusive Resorts

Sometimes the experience you're looking for is simply to **settle in and enjoy where you are.**

Often found in tropical destinations, all-inclusive resorts offer dining, activities, entertainment, pools, beaches, and other amenities without requiring you to plan every detail of every day.

And when you want to venture beyond the resort, excursions can give solo travelers, couples, friends, and families opportunities to experience more of the destination.

Sometimes luxury is simply waking up and asking:

“What do I feel like doing today?”

Walking Tours & Walking Holidays

Sometimes the most memorable way to experience a destination is at the pace of your own two feet.

Walking gives you time to notice the things that are easy to miss—to wander into a small town, meet local residents, stop at a neighborhood café, enjoy authentic regional food, and discover places beyond the usual tourist route.

It can also create a wonderful sense of camaraderie as you share the experience with travelers from around the world.

It's slower. It's immersive. It's active.

And you may return home with stories about places you never would have experienced any other way.

Guided Motorcoach Tours

Picture traveling through rolling countryside, mountain roads, historic villages, or vibrant cities while someone else handles the driving and navigation—and **you get to watch the world outside instead of the GPS.**

Motorcoach journeys can take you farther inland, reaching towns, landmarks, scenic areas, and cultural sites that aren't accessible from the water. Planned stops allow you to get out and experience the places you've watched approach through the window.

And because much of the transportation and itinerary has already been coordinated, you can spend less time figuring out how to get there and more time enjoying where you are.

For travelers who prefer to stay on the ground, motorcoach travel can also open wonderful possibilities both domestically and internationally.

Independent & Personalized Travel

And perhaps your perfect trip doesn't fit neatly into any one category.

Maybe you want several nights in a city, followed by a scenic rail journey, a few days exploring independently, and then somewhere quiet to relax before heading home.

Independent travel gives us the flexibility to build around **your interests, your pace, and your priorities**—and even combine different ways of traveling into one experience.

None of these is the one **right** way to travel.

They're simply **different ways to experience the world.**

When Mother Nature Has Other Ideas

Of course, sometimes circumstances beyond our control change the plan.

European river cruising offers a current example. Low water levels on portions of some European rivers have affected certain itineraries this year, requiring some cruise lines to modify routes or make other adjustments.

Does that mean river cruising isn't a wonderful way to experience Europe?

Absolutely not.

It does mean that sometimes Mother Nature gets a vote.

And that's another reason I believe it's valuable to understand your options.

Maybe your original plan changes. Could rail offer another perspective? Could a motorcoach journey take you farther into the countryside? Could an independent itinerary allow you to experience the towns, food, culture, and history that attracted you to the destination in the first place?

A change in plans doesn't always mean losing the experience. Sometimes it simply creates an opportunity to experience the destination differently.

Travel is an adventure. And sometimes the experiences we remember most are the ones that don't unfold exactly as we originally imagined.

The Destination Is the WHERE.

The Experience Is the WHY.

The Itinerary Is the HOW.

Having all of these possibilities is exciting.

Navigating them can also be overwhelming.

That's where I come in.

Through Hidden Spaces Travel, I work with more than 250 travel partners, giving me resources across a wide range of destinations, travel styles, accommodations, tours, cruises, and experiences.

But my value isn't simply having access to those resources.

It's knowing how to use them for you.

When we work together, I want to understand where you want to go—but I also want to know why you want to go. What do you hope to experience? How much time do you have? What pace do you prefer? What's important to you? What would make you come home and say, *“That was exactly the trip I wanted”*?

Then I do the research.

I explore the possibilities, compare travel partners and itineraries, consider the logistics and current conditions, and narrow the choices into options that make sense for **you**.

You don't have to spend hours trying to determine whether you should cruise, take the train, join a tour, travel independently—or somehow combine several of them.

That's part of what you're investing in when you work with me.

Anyone can book travel.

I create experiences.



Let's Explore the Possibilities

Maybe you already have a destination in mind but aren't sure how you want to experience it.

Maybe you know exactly what you'd love to experience but aren't sure where to find it.

Or perhaps you're simply ready to start dreaming about what's next.

You don't need to have the trip figured out before you contact me.

Bring me the destination. Bring me the dream.

Let's explore the possibilities together.

Let's start with a complimentary 15-minute travel consultation and begin turning your travel dreams into reality.

[Let's Start Planning](#)

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