



September 2026 Newsletter



September has always felt a little like a turning point.

The kids head back to school, Labor Day gives us one last long weekend, and summer vacation officially comes to an end. What remains are hopefully wonderful memories of family vacations, lazy days, laughter, and a few adventures along the way.

But what many travelers may not realize is that the end of summer doesn't have to mean the end of travel.

September, October, and November can be some of the best months to explore. For many destinations, the fall marks the beginning of the shoulder or off-season, when summer crowds begin to disappear and prices can become more affordable. That vacation that may have stretched the family budget during peak summer travel could suddenly be a little more within reach.

Cruises, resorts, and other vacation suppliers may also offer attractive fall pricing and promotions, giving travelers an opportunity to experience something they may have thought was outside their budget.

And there is another benefit I particularly appreciate: the weather.

Exploring a new city, wandering through a historic town, or spending the day sightseeing can be much more enjoyable when you're not doing it in the heat of July or August. Cooler fall temperatures can make slowing down and actually experiencing a destination much more comfortable.

So, while the backpacks come back out and summer vacation becomes a collection of photographs and memories, don't assume your opportunity to travel has disappeared with it.

Don't count out the fall.

September, October, and November may just hold some of the best memories you haven't made yet.

From my desk to your next adventure,

Sonya

Travel Smart. Dream Big. Wander Well.



North Georgia Awaits

NOVEMBER 1-5

DAHLONEGA & HELEN, GEORGIA

Travel Smart. Dream Big. Wander Well.

MINIMUM 15 TRAVELERS REQUIRED

\$2,400 PER PERSON | DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

TRIP INCLUDES

- Roundtrip Airfare and Hotel
- Excursions Included
- Gratuities
- Ground Transportation & Guide
- Welcome Dinner
- Farewell Lunch



If you're ready to trade the summer heat for crisp mountain air, charming small towns, and unforgettable experiences, I'd love to have you join me this November.

Could you picture yourself here?

[Discover the Journey](#)

Travel Tip: AirTag or ReturnMe? Why Not Both?

Losing your luggage—or any important item while traveling—can quickly turn a great vacation into a stressful one.

Fortunately, there are a couple of simple ways to give yourself an extra layer of protection.

An AirTag helps you find your item.

Placed inside your luggage, an AirTag can help you track its location through Apple's Find My network. If your suitcase doesn't arrive at baggage claim with you, being able to see its



approximate location can provide valuable information as you work with the airline to locate it.

A ReturnMe tag helps your item find you.

ReturnMe works differently. Each recovery tag has a unique ID number that you activate and connect to your account. If someone finds your tagged item, that ID provides a way for it to be reported so ReturnMe can help reunite you with it.

And ReturnMe isn't just for luggage. Recovery tags can be used for keys, cell phones, laptops, luggage, and other belongings. You can even add photographs, serial numbers, item details, multiple contact methods, and an optional reward to your account.

So which one is better?

They actually solve two different problems.

AirTag: “Where is my stuff?”

ReturnMe: “Someone found my stuff. How does it get back to me?”

That's why using both can provide an extra layer of protection when you travel.

I personally use ReturnMe tags and like them enough that I include them in some of my Hidden Spaces travel baskets. They're one of those small travel preparations that you hope you'll never need—but you'll be very glad you made if something goes missing.

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Taking the Uncertainty Out of Travel

September has a way of putting life back on a schedule.

School is back in session. Activities begin again. Work projects pick up. Calendars start filling with appointments, commitments, holidays, and everything else that demands our attention.

And somewhere in the middle of all of that, we tell ourselves:

“I'd love to travel, but I just don't have the time.”

But maybe the question isn't *“When will I have the time?”*

Maybe it's **“How can I make the time I have work for me?”**

For families with school-age children, start with the school calendar. Look at long weekends, Thanksgiving break, winter break, spring break, and teacher workdays. For everyone else, look ahead at your work schedule, holidays, family commitments, and those occasional three-day weekends that tend to disappear if we don't intentionally do something with them.

Then choose your time before something else claims it.

Planning several months in advance also gives you time to arrange the rest of life around your trip. You know when projects need to be completed, when arrangements need to be made, and how much time you have to save and prepare.

And remember: **a vacation doesn't have to last a week or two to be worthwhile.**

How Much Time Do You Have?

3 Days — Keep It Close

Explore a nearby city or small town you've always talked about visiting. A change of scenery doesn't require crossing an ocean.

4 Days — Get Away

A short cruise, resort stay, or quick flight can turn a long weekend into a genuine vacation.

5 Days — Go a Little Farther

Flying instead of driving can give you more time at your destination and open up possibilities that might otherwise seem too far away.

7 Days — The Possibilities Really Open Up

A cruise, all-inclusive resort, national park, major city, or even some international destinations can become realistic options.

Of course, figuring out what you can realistically do with the time you have takes time, too.

That's where your travel advisor becomes your advocate.

Tell me what you have to work with—your available dates, the number of days you can be away, your budget, who is traveling, and what you'd like to experience. Then I can research the options and help you find the trips that fit those parameters.

Maybe four days means a short cruise. Maybe flying instead of driving gives you an extra day at your destination. Maybe there's an incredible experience much closer to home than you realized.

You don't have to spend your limited free time figuring out how to make the trip fit. That's part of my job.

The goal isn't always to find **more** time.

Sometimes it's simply to make better use of the time you already have.

I recently heard someone respond to the question, *"How can you afford to travel so much?"* with another question:

"How can I afford not to?"

I've been thinking about that ever since, and I think the same thing can be said about time.

How long have you talked about putting your feet in the sand on that beach you've been dreaming about? Visiting that little town you've always wanted to see? Trying the restaurants in a city you've heard about for years? Taking your children or grandchildren somewhere they'll remember?

If you're waiting for the perfect time, there will always be something competing for that space on your calendar. Another project will need to be finished. Another obligation will appear. Something will always be going on.

And eventually, **"someday" can become "no day."**

So pull out the calendar.

Find the long weekend. Circle the week. Choose dates several months from now if that's what you need. Once that time is protected, you can plan around it rather than waiting for your calendar to magically clear itself.

And when the day finally arrives, you can close the laptop, put down the to-do list, and enjoy the time you intentionally made for yourself and the people you love.

You don't have to wait until life gives you time to travel.

Sometimes you have to put travel on the calendar—and let life work around it.

Because the question may not be, "Do I have time to travel?"

It may be, "How can I afford not to make time for the things I've always wanted to experience?"

Ready to Start Planning?

Every unforgettable journey begins with a conversation.

Whether you're dreaming of a relaxing weekend escape, a custom European itinerary, an unforgettable cruise, or simply aren't sure where to begin, I'd love to help.

Together, we'll talk about your travel style, your interests, your budget, and the experiences that matter most to you. My goal isn't simply to book a trip—it's to help you create memories you'll treasure for years to come.

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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