

SECOND QUARTER

Quarterly Email Newsletter curated by our team

CHECKING IN

Oh hey, we've made it to the end of Q2!

If you're wondering, "Did I miss the Q1 newsletter?"—you didn't. It's been that kind of year, but we're here now, and we're so grateful you're joining us for all things responsible travel and community.

This year, we've been on a serious foodie's paradise tour, starting with the delicious, intentional Caribbean flavors of Belize (think: fresh-caught red snapper, slow-stewed seafood soups, and fry jacks that'll ruin all other breakfasts for you). Then, we went to Portugal for divine food and wine pairings that had us saying "sim, por favor" to every sangria and port. Honestly? Traveling for good food just makes you smile. I bet you're grinning at the thought of something yummy right now. Welcome, friend.

And our culinary quest isn't stopping! This fall, we're heading to Mexico City for Día de los Muertos, a festival unlike any other, where the streets bloom with marigolds, the air smells like mole and pan de muerto, and every bite tells a story.

FEATURED FALL ESCAPE

Join us this fall for an unforgettable escape to Oaxaca and Mexico City during the vibrant Day of the Dead festival. We'll explore Oaxaca's rich traditions, colorful markets, artisanal crafts, and indulge in authentic cuisine and mezcal tastings. Then, we'll head to Mexico City to experience the energy of Día de los Muertos — from altars and marigolds to parades and historic landmarks.



OCT 30- NOV 2

This immersive cultural journey blends celebration, history, and connection. It's perfect for travelers seeking depth, beauty, and unforgettable memories.

AI vs. Human Travel Planners: Why Authentic Adventures Require Real Relationships

While AI trip planners can generate an itinerary in seconds, here's what they'll never provide: the human relationships that transform a good trip into an extraordinary one. Let me break down exactly why this matters:

1. We Talk to People (Who Actually Answer)

When you work with me, you're not getting some algorithm's best guess, you're getting real connections and personalized service. I text tour operators in Tanzania to handpick the perfect hotels for your travel style. I call my contacts at the Jamaican Tourism Board to secure exclusive access for your group. I reach out to my trusted driver in Grenada to ensure your honeymoon is seamless and stress-free. These aren't just hypotheticals—they're real relationships, built over years, and they're the reason my clients get experiences others can't.

2. We Fact-Check Everything (Because AI Hallucinates)

AI planner told a client about an "amazing hidden beach club" in Tulum...that closed in 2019. Meanwhile, I know:

- Which eco-lodges in Costa Rica deserve their sustainability certifications
- Which "local experiences" are authentic versus tourist traps
- When cruise ports change their docking rules (before the cruise lines announce it).

3. We Care About Impact (Not Just Convenience)

AI will always take the easy route - booking you at international chains where profits leave the community. I go deeper:

- Connecting you with Indigenous-owned tours in Australia's Outback
- Arranging meals at social enterprise restaurants that employ at-risk youth
- Ensuring your wildlife encounters meet strict ethical standards

4. The Real-World Difference This Makes

When storms canceled flights to Belize last month, my clients weren't stranded - because I have built relationships with:

1. The airline's group desk (which held seats on the next flight)
2. Our ground operator (who kept drivers on standby)
3. The hotel GM (who arranged late checkouts)

AI would've sent you into a customer service black hole. We had solutions moving before the official cancellation notice.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL PLANNING

Can't make it to one of our hosted experiences? No worries, we provide travel planning services for all group sizes.

Contact us [here](#) to let us know how we can make your holiday uniquely memorable.

Find us on:





JUNE TRAVEL STORY

BLACK JESUS

Traveling through Central America provided an **opportunity to explore several ancient cities** and learn about civilizations that existed well before the time of colonization.

We heard alot of wild stories about how the Spanish colonized Central America but one of the most memorable was when we found Black Jesus. That's right, located in CDMX at the Zoologico was our first *Cristo Negro*.

Where can you find Black Jesus? Head to the **Mestropolitian** Cathedral of the Assumption of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Into Heaven, and yes that is the name of the Church. Everyone calls it the Metropolitan Cathedral because the name is a sentence.



As soon as you walk in you cannot miss him, but the Cathedral itself is massive. Our guide had a few quips on the gawdiness of the spanish and christianity at the time but the story of Black Jesus sucked us in.

You see he wasn't always Black. Legend has it that he turned Black because of hatred.

Supposedly, a bishop of the Church always came in and prayed at the crucifix as soon as he entered the cathedral.

BLACK JESUS

It was part of his routine, and he ended his prayer by kissing the feet of the crucifix. In true Catholic fashion, there were other clergy who envied him and wished him to die, so they plotted on his demise.

These men of the cross decided to put poison on the feet of the wooden Jesus, knowing that the Bishop would come to kiss the feet. They really tried to use Jesus to kill the Bishop.

Wild.

So the Bishop comes in, does his prayer, kisses the feet, and lives. But the poison, though, negatively impacted the wood and turned Jesus Black.

What interesting folklore!

