

Tammi Ruffini/ Honeymoon in Paradise

My Jamaica Short Story

Honeymoon In Paradise

I was married young (20 years old) and with my first husband had two beautiful girls. Because we were married so young and started our family, we could not afford to travel. Years later as we “grew up” we grew apart and went our separate ways. During the next 12 years being a single mom was difficult, often working 2 jobs to support my girls. It was during these years that I traveled a few times saving every penny I could, and my love of travel began. Six years ago I decided to leave the healthcare profession due to stress and was offered a job at my friends Travel Company as training and recruiting manager. Well, needless to say, my love of travel grew even more over the next couple years and I transitioned to a full time Travel Advisor. Working in the industry offered me many opportunities to travel, and it was also during these years that I met the now love of my life. On May 1, 2017 we married on the beaches in Mexico, but we Honeymooned in Jamaica. Our two favorite Caribbean destinations so we had to involve them both in new chapter together. We flew home from Mexico to Canada to drop off the kids (4 between the two of us) and then flew back out for ten glorious days in Negril and Montego Bay. We mostly relaxed in destination, met many amazing Jamaicans and became friends with a few that we still keep in touch with. Our time in Jamaica was magical (as always) and created many memories that I will always cherish, and we look forward to when we can get back there together! We miss the sunsets, the Jamaica Rum, the jerk chicken and the people of this beautiful island.....

Holly McBean/ Travel Only

Back in 1977 I was fortunate to be able to work for a well known travel agency in town just after graduating high school. The agency owner sent me on my first trip via aircraft which was to Jamaica. Travel time was 3 hours to Toronto airport, 4 hour flight and over 2 hour bus ride into Negril.

When I landed, it was the most beautiful island and scenery I had ever viewed! So lush and tropical with the most turquoise water I could ever imagine! The fam was to stay at Hedonism II, Negril and travel to a number of local hotels and Couples, Ocho Rios also. The bus ride was an adventure in itself but worth the long and winding roads leading to Negril. We had a toga party the first night and that was a real eye opener for a country girl who had never travelled. The hotel had plastic sharks teeth to obtain bar drinks that you purchased and wore around your neck. It was very lively and had lots of entertainment and a natural beach as well as a clothing required beach. The hotel tours were amazing as was the flight from Negril to Ocho Rios roundtrip to spend time checking out the Couples Resort. Both resorts have changed so much since that first fam trip. As my fiance wanted to experience the island after my return, we have spent our honeymoon and numerous Anniversary's for over 38 years so far, staying at numerous properties all over the island to ensure we get the full experience. There is SO much to do that you cannot run out of new activities to take in, no matter how many times you travel.

We look forward to travel back to the beautiful sunny island of Jamaica and all of the beautiful beaches, sun and most lovely islanders we meet each time. The JTB has been amazing keeping us up on the new protocols and entry requirements and I thank you for all you do for travel advisors!

Luana Johnsgaard/The Travel Agent Next Door

My second time in Jamaica was with 3 girlfriends at the age of 20. We had one day only in Ocho Rios as we were on a cruise ship, so we wanted to see as much as we could. It was intimidating with so many taxis and tours at the Pier, but a small, elderly local gentlemen touched our hearts. We soon realized that he was well known and respected by the locals as "The Professor". He treated us like his granddaughters, told us stories of his Jamaica, sang to us and recited poetry while all 5 of us rode along in his old VW Bug with views of the road below through the floorboards! We were curious of the Rasta life, so he took us where they live near a bridge and introduced us. We also met his wife at the market where she sold her baking. We explored Dunn's River Falls and felt like rockstars in the care of "The Professor". As we drove with the windows down, the warm breeze in our hair and the reggae music playing on his radio, many locals would wave and greet the "Professor"! It was such a memorable experience and all of us still speak of it yet today, over 30 years later!

Larry Canniff/ Expedia Cruiseshipcenter

Jamaica a first LOVE story

You always remember a first love. It is an experience that takes your breath away just thinking about it. A first love consumes your heart and touches your soul in a way you can hardly describe. This is my Jamaica.

I can remember talking about and learning about Jamaica in Geography in High School. The beauty of its mountains, its glistening waters, the way the waves embracing her shores whispers in your ear, you are home. Jamaica has always been famous for its people. Their absolute honesty, laid back approach to life and their warm and inviting way they greet you. They treat you like long lost family, coming home after a long journey.

Having this vision of Jamaica I can remember visiting her for the first time. From the moment I stepped off that plane 25 years ago I knew this was some place I needed to be. I wanted to embrace the island, her people, the culture, the cuisine, sights and sounds. The very first person I met leaving the plane was a beautiful Jamaican Lady attendant welcoming me to Jamaica. With all of the anticipation I had built up to come to Jamaica, I swear she made my heart miss a beat with just the sound of her voice.

In my mind I didn't want to just go to a resort, sit on the beach and eat 10 times a day. I wanted to visit, explore, immerse and talk to Jamaicans from all walks of life. I wanted to try local cuisine, see the Blue Mountains, raft down the Martha Brae, meet Annie Palmer and walk on the beach in Negril and shop in local markets. But most of all I wanted to spend time with some local Jamaicans and talk to them about how they feel about the island, their way of life and what it means to be Jamaican. Truly you cannot appreciate the Island until you have taken the time to talk to a local Jamaican and understand what it means to be Jamaican. Then you will know how strong their sense of pride as a people is, their sense of strong family, well-being, honesty and integrity.

In all of my visits over the past 25 years I have taken this approach when visiting Jamaica. My love for the island has only increased over the years. I continue to try new things, meet new people, visit different places but mostly talk and learn from her people. As a travel agent I have had this conversation with my guests who I have sent to Jamaica on vacation. Don't be satisfied with just staying at a resort, go out explore, embrace, learn, indulge but most importantly listen. None have come back the same. Taking this advice they too had fallen in love with all that Jamaica has to offer.

I have had the opportunity to do most of the things on my Jamaican bucket list so far. If it isn't moving faster than me I put Jamaican jerk sauce on it! I have my Jablum Blue Mountain coffee in the morning. I snack on Jamaican patties in a regular basis. I have eaten multiple versions of Callaloo, which were all

delicious. Rum cream, on ice, soothes the soul! I have has the pleasure of meeting some wonderful people who have shared their collective experiences of life in Jamaica.

The past year has been extremely stressful. The impact on all of our businesses has been monumental. Truly the one thing that has kept me going is the weekly "Irie Hour". I wasn't sure how this weekly meeting was going to help me survive the pandemic or even its impact on my business that had disappeared over night. I quickly learned I was not alone and appreciated the way the JTB team completely embraced all of the agents who attend these sessions each week.

The Irie Hours reflects the true feeling of being in Jamaica. You are treated like family. It's a laid back; fun filled approach is something to look forward. We are reminded of why we fell in love with Jamaica in the first place with each place we visit each week. But most importantly you know we are all in this together. I cannot thank the JTB for everything they have done and continue to do to embrace all of the travel agents.

I often think of my first loves from over the years and reflect of how they have made me feel. When I close my eyes and think of Jamaica I can feel the breeze on my face. I hear the ocean and the waves on the beaches. I smell the jerk chicken cooking on an open flame. I remember the beauty of her people and the wonderful souls I have met over the years. I see the Blue Mountains, the lush gardens, rolling landscapes and her glistening waters. She brings a smile to my face and for a while I feel lucky to have met her. She welcomes me back like a long lost soul, like no other place on earth.

To have a passion for a place and her people is something special. My love affair with Jamaica continues as a long to return to her shores. I dream of a time when I can be there and let her consume me once again. She is a remedy to sooth your soul.

I will return to her, I will embrace her and I will feel fortunate to be able to do so. One Love for Jamaica.

Robert Thomas/ Tie the Knot Vacations

In May 2009 Rob and I went to Jamaica. First to celebrate our anniversary and to celebrate our God Daughters destination wedding. We all stayed Bahia Principe Runaway Bay.

We decided we wanted to do an excursion, and Rob and I loved Reggae music and absolutely LOVE Bob Marley.

So we decided to do the Bob Marley Nine Mile Tour and visit his compound.

While there, we took a tour and they explained the history of Bob and the Rastafari culture and where some of his songs were composed. Like his house and room with "In my single bed".

We found it quite humorous as on one side of the wall there was a window, it looked like a take out window and people were coming up, ordering and they would get their stuff thru this window. Rob and I called it the Bob Marley Drive thru and take out window.

Part of the tour was we were able to be shown Bob Marleys Mom's Tomb and we were able to go into Bob Marleys tomb and we both lit candles. It was fascinating and it was filled with pictures of his family, tour posters, sheet music, and instruments.

Well at the back of the tomb there is a wall and had writing on it and I took the time to read the whole thing. While I was doing that I did not notice that the group had left and continued on to the next place and in doing so the Tour Guide shut the door.

Once I was finish reading I looked around and noticed there was no one here and I was all alone, well me and Bob. Thank goodness Rob noticed I was not with the group and the tour guide came back and opened the door to let me out. Can you imagine being locked in Bob Marley's tomb!

Well! That was an experience and somewhat scarey but boy what a story it made.

Iola Panetta/ The Travel Agent Next Door

A very popular vacation choice and the number one wedding destination for couples. There are many reasons why this is so, but I will give it a try: From the lush, green landscapes and cascading waterfalls, to the year-round warm, tropical weather, to the miles of spectacular worldrenowned beaches, from the endless, pristine coastline, to the friendly and hospitable locals, from the vibrant Jamaican culture, to the homecooked, rustic meals, and last, but certainly not least, the sound of reggae music that you can hear day and night! The laid-back attitude of the Jamaican people is easily assumed by all who visit. Jamaica, for many, is truly a tropical paradise where, "One of Many, One People" can live in harmony and connect with nature to experience life as it is meant to be lived. A very close family friend, who I was lucky enough to have booked and attend her destination wedding at the Hotel Riu Ocho Rios, found her soulmate and her partner in life while vacationing in Jamacia on one of her many trips to the spectacular island. I can now report that they are also the proud parents of three beautiful children who are full of life and reflect their Jamaican culture and heritage. She has also learned to cook "melt off the bone" oxtail and "finger licking good" jerk chicken; however, she is still working on refining her ackee and saltfish dishes. It is easy to see why visitors become addicted to visit.

Darlene McNally/ Uniglobe

My story began in 1987 when I graduated from high school and was going to spread my wings and fly!!! Jamaica is where I was heading off to. Montego Bay!! I fell in love with the people, the music, the culture and don't get me started on the food!! Amazing!!

Jumping to 2015 when my husband and I made it back to Jamacia. Negril was the spot this time and now my husband was in love. The Capital of Casual does not disappoint. Loved the cliffs, the sunsets, a more relaxed environment, and the amazing food!!

2015 was also the year I became a Travel Agent to help my dad in semi-retirement and I decided if I was going to sell travel then I was going to promote Jamaica. I became a Jamaica Specialist and told all my clients this is the place for your next holiday. I went on a FAM trip and familiarized myself with Ocho Rios which was one of the best things an agent can do to have the experience to share with clients. I cannot wait till the next FAM trip.

I then vacationed with friends in this area the following year. We went back to Negril in 2018 and it again did not disappoint.

You can't be a travel agent without travelling so I have been to Mexico, Cuba, Curacao, all over the US and Canada. So far nothing compares to Jamaica.

The weather, the people, the culture, music, mountains, sunsets, history, Blue Mountain coffee, Rum Raisin Ice cream, the numerous tourist attractions what is there not to love.

A few comments from my customers:

"Thanks again introducing us to Jamaica (I think you have successfully ruined Cuba for us (at least me)."

"We had a great time! That surprises me about the rumours, as I felt just as safe in Jamaica as anywhere else when off the resort (even more so than Dominican or Cuba)."

Jamaica has something for everyone. You can stay in a 5 star butler service suite or a 3 star hotel looking over the cliffs. You can find a villa that houses you and all your family to create those memories of a lifetime. It can be for the budget minded or those that spare no expense on a vacation. In the end it has to be a wise investment as it needs to make you happy and gives you the memory that makes you feel good until the next time.

I believe a vacation is an investment in your memory bank. Money wisely spent as you never know when you need to make a withdrawal. These covid times have shown just how important those deposits are in your memory bank as everyone has had to make a few withdrawals over the last year or so to "remember when".

I cannot wait to have my clients feel comfortable enough to travel again and start telling them about my story about Jamaica so that they can have a story to share.

Birdie Jefferson/ Birds of Paradise Travel

JAMAICA-ME WANNA COME BACK!!

My first trip to Jamaica was in October of 2013. I always dreamed of going there but never thought it was possible!! Well, my husband and I decided to go there to renew our vows and we had about 22 of our closest friends tag along to join the celebration!

Jamaica exceeded our expectations by a long shot! I can honestly say that the pictures we saw before we arrived did it no justice! There's nothing like going to a place that you see in magazines ... One of our dreams had come true! We were in Jamaica!! We stayed at the Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort and it made for the perfect vacation and Vow Renewal venue and it's something we will never

forget! The property was beautiful, the people were beautiful, and the island was magnificent. Our friends could not believe that they too were in such a fabulous place-it really knocked us off our feet.

I understand that nothing is absolutely perfect, but for us, it was. Actually, my Jamaica experience is the memory that I tend to recall each time I'm having a not-so-great day and it never fails because it puts a smile on my face every time!

We had the privilege and opportunity for a driver to show us around the island and the neighborhoods to learn about the land, and the culture and all the rich history that it has to offer. That experience alone was very humbling and is to be respected at its highest regard.

And last but certainly not least was the food and drink experience! The spices, the flavors, and the rum sipping was a celebration within itself, and I am sure that I can speak for each and every "JAMERICAN" that visits there is sad to leave when their time has come to an end! One thing is for sure, we all have to bring back a little piece of Jamaica after every trip. It may be in a bottle, or a seasoning, or even a tshirt-but these memories can NEVER be taken away! I love Jamaica, and it will always have a piece of my heart! I will be back soon!!!

Jamaica is not just an experience, it's a VIBE!!

Kathleen Pyke/ Go Travel

Double Love in Jamaica

Jamaica has done more than mesmerize me with its breathtaking scenery, beautiful beaches, delectable culinary experiences and cordial welcoming people.

Jamaica has captured my heart and soul in more ways than one.

My love affair with Jamaica began in 2014 on my first visit to the island. Prior to this, a few girlfriends and I would do a girls trip and we would take turns choosing the destination, which would always be a sun destination.

But in 2014, when I chose Jamaica, there were no other choices for me! I returned once more in 2014 and then early on in 2015.

During the 2015 trip, we left the resort to spend the day at Burwood Beach in Trelawny. There were lots of people this day as a local church had the youth group out for some fun in the sun. As I was getting in the water, a young Jamaican girl who was maybe 6 years old was splashing about and having fun, as children will do. She came close to me and got me pretty wet. But it's Jamaica. It's hot and the water is warm. I didn't mind. The youth camp leader came over to make the child apologize to me, which I told him was completely unnecessary. After a brief chat, we laughed and went on our way. Later that day, he approached me and we chatted a bit more, and exchanged social media contacts.

We spoke off and on for over a year through social media. I returned to Jamaica twice during this period, which he knew of and asked me out on dates. I refused as I was not interested in dating anyone at that time.

On my next visit I decided I would go out on a date with him. Well it's now 6 years later and we recently got married.

Although I found love and happiness in Jamaica in more than one way, I also continue to be overjoyed with each visit. Not just because I spend time with my husband, but also because of the things we do. It surprised me to know that even with him being born and raised on this beautiful island, there was so much of it that he hadn't seen.

Which does make sense now that I think about it. You work and live there everyday, so you really may not have the time to explore all of what Jamaica has to offer.

My visits are so educational for both him and I. He shows me off the beaten path places that tourists rarely see, the hidden gems that are seldom trekked upon. I get to show him the tourist attractions that he has never seen. He had never been to any of the popular places that our clients will see.

Although this story may seem like it's our love story, it may be just a bit.

But it is more about the love I have for Jamaica and the discoveries and deeper love I am helping my husband have for his homeland.

Judi Pearson/ SellOffVacations

A Wedding gone wrong

I had one of my regular clients come to me, asking me about joining into another agencies Wedding Group bound for Jamaica. She said that the plane was full and the agent could not help her. I thought this was odd. You just put in for another quote with another carrier same property.

The client had 10 pax who wanted to go to this Wedding in Jamaica. I put in for a group quote, with another carrier to depart the day after the original 20 pax were to arrive. I did cross-reference the file number so they could be in buildings close to each other.

The group of 20 had an evening flight and my group; I got them a great deal on the following early morning flight, a better rate than the Bride & Groom received.

When the group of 20 arrived, to their rooms all settled in. The next morning my group of now 14 arrived & they received rooms in the next building close by. All were happy.

On Sunday morning 7am, my time & there is an urgent face book message from my client... Apparently, the Bride & Grooms Travel Agent did not book the symbolic Wedding date with the resort, Wedding Consultant had no knowledge of a wedding happening. Here they are, in Jamaica with Wedding clothing and their families with no Wedding Venue. The Bride could not get in contact with of the agency or the agent whom she booked and left messages. My client asked if there was anything, I could do? I told her to give me an hour.

I reached out to the resort, got in touch with the Wedding co coordinator, thank god she spoke very good English. I told her the problem, also letting her know that the Bride & Groom were not in my group, but my group was also part of the Wedding Group. I asked about a symbolic date, questioned if

they had a spot available, the resort did squeeze the wedding in. I made an appointment for the Bride & Groom to meet with the coordinator.

I then messaged my client advised her to let the Bride & Groom know about their appointment, they went to meet and got all the decisions made.

Due to their numbers with both groups, they managed to get a free wedding and added on a couple add ins like photographer and extra champagne etc. The bride's parents were extremely thankful and face booked me to tell me I saved the Wedding and all went, better than well and they were very pleased.

When the Brides parents returned, they reached out to me. They were completely pleased, that I stepped in to help and made a very stressful situation happen. They also gave me an extremely generous tip.

The other agent never did return an email or call to the Bride or Groom or their parents at destination. : (Nor did she call any of them to see how the wedding went. I didn't even get a call or message. I am very miffed at this; I always reach out to the Bride & Groom re how the wedding went re any problems etc.

I know have been booking all who traveled with the wedding group for all their travel wants and needs.

I am not sure how this wedding reservation was missed; I always make sure my wedding date is pre booked before I even book the group with the carrier.

Although the booking was not mine, I am sure anyone of my fellow agents would have done the same thing. I was just pleased that I could secure a symbolic date on such short notice. Thank you to the Jamaica resort who made this all happen.

Vanessa/ Unforgettable Escapes

Oksana's client contacted her in distress, sharing his sadness that his Vancouver wedding was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The groom, a Canadian citizen and the bride a UK national, had planned for a Vancouver wedding. She was supposed to arrive in Canada to finalize the details. Family and guests were to join them in the celebration however, the pandemic forced them to change their plans.

Due to the border closure, she would not be able to visit him. Only residents and immediate family members were permitted entry.

An elopement was the best solution for them to be reunited. Under normal circumstances, the planning would be fairly straightforward however during these challenging times many stars would need to align.

In addition to confirming the destination was open to Canadians and UK Citizens, we had to ensure the process for a legal ceremony was as simple as possible.

Legal ceremonies are more complex than symbolic ceremonies and given the time constraints along with new travel protocols, options were limited. In order for the bride to be permitted entry, the couple needed to have a marriage certificate in hand. The legal certificate often takes 4 to 6 weeks to be processed and delivered, after the ceremony. I needed assistance to ensure that the couple could get an expedited service and have their marriage certificate in hand to enter Canada as husband and wife.

She had eliminated Mexico, Cuba and Dominican Republic (translation would add extra wait times) and explored Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, and finally Jamaica.

With time being of the essence, she was scrambling, contacting resorts to see if they could make this happen. She had to turn for help!

Vanessa of Unforgettable Escapes, a colleague of hers under the same host agency, Centre Holidays Inc. and her business partner in Jamaica Ophellia of the Destination Collective, came to the rescue and took quick action. While Vanessa and Ophellia were coordinating details, Renee (another colleague under the same host agency) was also called to assist with booking flights and checking connections, ensuring there would be no barriers for the couple.

Within 5 hours of communicating with Nicole Barnett at the Iberostar Rose Hall hotel and leveraging their contacts on the island, Vanessa and Ophellia had the wedding date, time and officiant confirmed and wedding package negotiated. They were also able to ensure that a rush for the certificate was possible. The Officiant himself went to request the marriage license, waiving the hotel's policy that required us to courier the original documents many days prior to their anticipated arrival. Vanessa and her team were also able to ensure the ceremony included what the couple wanted and within budget.

Three travel advisors, a wedding planner, Iberostar Rose Hall and an Officiant collaborated to reunite two hearts that were separated by the Atlantic

Elaine Miller/ Sanditz Travel Management

My husband and I were married in 1969, childhood sweethearts. We tried unsuccessfully to have children for over 13 years.

So, on holiday in Negril at Hedionism....I was sitting at the bar and the bartender asked me: "Why do you look so gloom"? I went on to relate my story that I was told I would never produce any children according to all of the doctors I've visited.

Well, after listening patiently to my story (hubby was taking a scuba lesson in the pool), the bartender said...."Nonsense my lady"! Let me fix a special cocktail for you. He then proceeded to mix a wonderful blend of various rums, etc.....and daily, I drank it like a morning refresher.

Back in the USA, I was scheduled for my regular annual exam, including the normal PAP smear and blood tests. To my surprise, while in the doctor's office, he said, "Mrs. Miller....do you know you are PREGNANT"? I screamed and leaped for joy!!!! All I think about in that moment is the special concoction the wonderful Jamaican bartender prepared for me. My husband and I were were so happy to have a wonderful son delivered to us later in the hear with perfect health.

So, it's no surprise, that on my son's 15th birthday, I wanted to revisit the fertile land of Jamaica to claim heritage to a wonderful story, and the beginning of his embryonic life!!! (By the way, I did try to find the bartender again with no success....but I did find out that special ingredient in that concoction was "Irish Moss".....and to this day, I've not touched it again. I'm more than happy with my family!!!! True Story!

Manya Faria/ Vision Travel

I arrived in Jamaica ready to soak in the culture, the food, and the people. What I left with was a feeling of warmth and a deep love of Jamaica.

Before my trip to Jamaica, I connected with 'Meet the People'; a wonderful organization that connects visitors with someone in a similar profession so you can spend a day with them and exchange ideas and learn differences in the same profession . I wanted a different experience...I wanted to connect with a school to bring school supplies and other items that would connect my daughter's kindergarten class to an inland school. This turned into an amazing experience.

I was picked up early in the morning by the school principal with my 3 suitcases of toiletries, school supplies, clothes and shoes that my daughter's class had gathered and the pictures they had drawn for the students. We drove up into the mountains to a town called Beechertown. There, I got to see the school, see how the children were learning and the challenges that the teachers and students faced. I was elated to see that everything we had brought from afar was going to go a long way... there was a box of toothbrushes and toothpaste that the principal said they would hand out to each of the students at the end of the day as those could be used immediately. The school had one requirement in order for children to attend school and that was that children must wear shoes... while I was there, 2 children came to her to let her know that their sibling would not be attending school as they had outgrown their shoes and had to wait for their parents to purchase a larger pair. Since this visit, I ask my passengers to see if they have any children's shoes, sports cleats or sandals that they can donate when they travel to Jamaica. People love knowing that there is something that they can bring that will make a difference when they travel.

After this enlightening and touching morning, I was taken to Seville Great House, a Historic Site that I was told, every Grade 4 student in Jamaica is taken to as part of their History class. This plantation is not frequented by tourists but definitely should be! I cried reading all stories and the conditions that were endured by the slaves. I was fascinated and experienced such a range of emotions at this site... I felt the ghosts reading their stories and the school principal and I were able to have a very in depth conversation of what I was feeling and how the children react when they first come to this inspiring site.

I had the opportunity to see the history of the slave trade in Jamaica and the archaeological digs that are happening. The fundraising needed for this important work is ongoing and the travel agent in me wondered why this wasn't on every visitor's list of must sees!

I came back to my resort with a deeper appreciation of Jamaica and a love for the island that will last my entire life.

The next day, my husband and I walked along the road to Scotchie's Draxhall for a proper lunch of Jerk Pork, Chicken and Red Stripes. I struck up a conversation with some taxi drivers on break and mentioned my adventures the previous day. They did not believe that a tourist would take the time to go inland to a poor community like Beechertown. I gave them a few details of what I had experienced and that I had also been to Seville House. They looked at each other and I wasn't really sure what they were thinking... after what seemed like a very long pause, I was declared honorary Jamaican by these drivers and they asked if there was anywhere I needed to go that afternoon, it was "On Da House!". I told them I wanted to go somewhere with local artisans to buy some gifts for my children. I was taken to a market in Ocho Rios and the driver went through the market to introduce me to everyone he knew and explain to them that I was to get 'local rates' for anything I wanted to buy. This discount was no joke! At one place, I was told that any price label was not what I would be paying and that I should show her what I wanted and she would tell me the local's price. I am not revealing my discount but I spent like I was at a boxing day sale!

I spent an hour with an elderly man carving earrings and bracelets out of shells... I was fascinated by his scalpel sharp knife and sure hands. I think I ended up buying everything he made that day!

I dream of returning to Jamaica... I dream of her beaches and of her lush mountains... but most of all, I dream of spending time with people and meeting over fantastic food and drink and feeling like I never want to leave... The mantra of 'One Love' is truly felt by this traveler!

Teodor Mihail Centre Holidays

I traveled to Jamaica in November 2018 for the first time in my life. I could not wait to visit one of the Caribbean islands that I had never visited yet. And ever since then, Jamaica has been the heartbeat of my travels. Landing at Montego Bay International Airport, the views were fabulous. I stayed at the Bahia Principe Luxury Runaway Bay, which was a beautiful 45-minute coastal drive from the airport. Upon arrival, the friendly staff checked me in, and said that I was a VIP. They gave me a VIP bracelet, which allowed me extra privileges. I had no idea how I got that service, because the room I booked was a Luxury Junior Suite Oceanview, and got a fabulous travel agent rate. In other words, they noticed that a travel agent was visiting their property and took extra care to make me feel welcome. I traveled to Jamaica in 2018 for the first time in my life. I could not wait to visit one of the Caribbean islands that I had never visited yet. And ever since then, Jamaica has been the heartbeat of my travels. Landing at Montego Bay International Airport, the views were fabulous. I stayed at the Luxury Bahia Principe Runaway Bay, which was a 45-minute coastal drive from the airport. Upon arrival, the friendly staff checked me in, and said that I was a VIP. They gave me a VIP bracelet, which allowed me extra privileges. I had no idea how I got that service, because the room I booked was a Luxury Junior Suite Oceanview, and got a fabulous travel agent rate. In other words, they noticed that a travel agent was visiting their property and took extra care to make me feel welcome. The view from my Oceanview

Room was one of the nicest ocean views I've ever had, without paying for an Oceanfront Room. And the room had a jacuzzi, which was wonderful. The restaurants had great food, and having exchange privileges with the Bahia Principe Grand Jamaica next door, there was an abundance of dining options. There were Italian, Asian Fusion, Brazilian, Japanese, Caribbean and 3 international restaurants. With all this luxury, I never went to the buffet except for breakfast. And when I went to the swim-up bar in the pool, the staff held a conversation with me about where I was from and how I liked Jamaica. When I told them I had never been, they introduced me to the Bob Marley drink, which was "love at first sip" for me. And they helped me learn the local vocabulary and some Jamaican traditions. As a result of this trip, the amount of times that I have gone back has been a record breaker: a total of 3 times in less than 365 days! I have never gone back to another country that often, but Jamaica became my heartbeat. I went back in August 2019 for a FAM at the Melia Braco Village, and then again in mid-November 2019 with a trip I won from WestJet Vacations which included a 5-night stay at Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton. To date, I have done the catamaran to Dunn's River Falls and climbed the falls, visited the Blue Mountains and donated to a school there. I have also visited the Green Grotto Caves and had lunch at the nearby Ultimate Jerk Centre. Other attractions I've visited include Dolphin Cove Ocho Rios, Chukka Adventure Park, ATV and horseback riding in Negril, and Rick's Cafe. Last but not least, my fiancée and I are talking about doing our honeymoon in Jamaica, and I cannot wait to take her on the romantic raft ride on the Martha Brae River! I skipped that while I was there, thinking that this is where I would take my fiancée/wife when the time comes. And that time is almost here!

Arlene Gibbons/ The Travel Agent Next Door

Aug 2021, JAMAICA – ONE LOVE, MY LOVE..

Feb 1989, My Love for Jamaica officially began on my first visit, I am 19 years old. My first travel & tourism job was in Dec 1988 as a reservation agent at Conquest Tours and I was invited on a 1 night fam trip. It was an early morning departure from Toronto to Montego Bay on Air Jamaica, we stopped enroute in Kingston to let passengers deplane. The flight was full and I was bursting with excitement of what was yet to come. We arrived at the MJB airport and was swiftly met and whisked off to do some hotel inspections. The very first thing I remember of the island was how lush and green everything was. The day continued and we finally arrived at our resort, The Sea Garden, I immediately could feel the British influence. I clearly remember the room décor was all white, very crisp & clean. Time for a quick change for dinner where we dined under the stars poolside at the resort. I thought how special this was, I had never dined under the stars, yet alone under a beautiful Jamaica Sky. Our group discussed our night plans over Dessert and we decided to walk offsite for a bit of entertainment nearby on the famous Hip Strip. We headed for a refreshment at the Doctors cave bar, a pretty cool place I must say, it was like it was made of bedrock and I remember the decor was that of a "cave" We purchased a string of drink "beads" that we wore around our neck for a beverage. I thought how what fun this was, and the Bob Marley music was fabulous for dancing, our night ended early as the next morning's schedule was an early rise for a few more hotels to inspect before hotel checkout and time to get ready to head back to the airport for our evening departure for Toronto. This was my first ever fam and one of the many takeaways when you are on a business trip, a.k.a. "Fam" is to make sure you are always on time, to dress professional and to stay courteous, of course I still follow these very important rules on every trip whether business or pleasure as We are guest, Much Respect! Jamaica was my very first ever Caribbean trip and I knew I was already in love with this place, the people, the food and the culture! I

am an island girl, born in Newfoundland and raised on the oceanfront, I have travel in my blood and hence the reason I choose the travel industry as my career choice. Fast forward a few years and I am back to Jamaica again, this time stopping in Ocho Rios for the day on a cruise ship, not enough time to explore this side of the island, however I did get time to check out the markets and local vendors and bring back some jerk spice, local art painting & souvenirs. One of the many things I love about this island is the people, their beautiful smiles show their warm hearts and wonderful personality. You just feel an instant connection. Being from Newfoundland, We also have a connection with this place. "Back in the day", Our island traded cod fish for rum, it was transported by barrel, hence how Newfoundland Screech was invented and when in Jamaica be sure to check out the Saltfish/Ackee dish at breakfast, it is delicious! Check out some of this history between our islands in this article.

<https://torontocaribbean.com/fish-and-rum-the-rich-trade-history-between-newfoundland-and-jamaica/>
This island of Jamaica is very dear to my heart; I have sent many clients over the years who also raves about their amazing experience and it is always my first choice to offer to clients as a destination when they are looking to plan their holiday. The personal experience I have gained over my 30 plus years career of selling dream vacations and exploring this island is truly a passion for me. I have been blessed to visit this amazing island and all her beauty at least 15 times now and each time it brings new adventures and precious memories for me. My next visit is scheduled late October 2021 and I am already counting down the days until We meet again. Soon, One Love.

Every "ting" is gonna be Alright, Until Next time. You are The Heartbeat of My World! Out Of Many – One People

Lyne Joyl/ Espace Voyage

Jamaica

On a familiarization trip, I had the chance to visit downtown Ocho Rios! A nice walk with the locals who are very cordial and friendly! I had a great meeting! Just before leaving the hotel, I went there to be able to hand over food and hygiene products to random people! I remained speechless because this population is not used to receiving gifts from tourists! Everyone wondered why I gave them a bag of their own without asking for anything in return! Here is an example of resilience! Such a good people! Women who sell fruits and vegetables in the trunk of their van! A woman who waited for the bus without expecting to receive a big gift bag! A homeless man walking down the street... who threw his hat off and jumped for joy when he received this gift! My mission was accomplished and I left with a heart full of gratitude!

Zeeyad Popat/ CWT Kerrisdale

Growing up in Kenya, we listened to a lot of Bob...especially in the early hours of the morning at the night clubs. He was a legend. Then after watching Cool Runnings..... I was sold.... 'Sanka was not dead maan' and I had to go find him. When I got to Western in London, Ontario as an international student, I bumped into a Chinese girl with a Jamaican accent ... which just blew my mind...(yes... it had to be the fairer sex that re-ignited my passion to visit)! I just fell in love with her accent and the way she even said the simple English words... including 'Deodorant!!' :-D

Fast forward 27 years later... I have moved to Vancouver, got into the travel industry and 10 years later, I still haven't visited Jamaica and the opportunity for a fam trip comes up. I started talking with my wannabe Jamaican accent from a month before the trip and even my 6 & 3 year old boys at the time started looking at me funny, but then they started imitating me too :-P

The trip was just fantastic, seeing the famous Negril beach, Rickys, Dunns River Falls and even eating at Scotchies..... but what really just hit me and made me stop in my tracks and just cherish the moment was one of the evenings when we had a live band playing one of Bob's songs and the realization that 'I

WAS LISTENING TO REGGAE... IN IT'S BIRTHPLACE!!!' Mindblown :-o

I am not normally the type to get speechless, but I had to take few moments to just recompose myself and make a commitment that I had to bring the rest of the family with me back to soon!

I still resonate with the old Jamaican slogan 'The Heartbeat of the World' as I think a small piece of most of us just belongs on this beautiful island :-D

Sandra Williams-Reid/ TTI Travel

Jamaica Land We Love(The Reid's Ancestral Tour of Jamaica)

In the beginning a tall, dark, and handsome young man (Heron) came to Jamaica International Travel to book a flight to Jamaica. He was leaving when he decides to ask the Travel Advisor (Sandra) out on a date, and as they say the rest is history! In 1991, we were invited to our friends' destination wedding in Jamaica. Prior to going, we decided we might as well get married too. In November 26, we got married in a perfect ceremony at Sandals Dunn's River Falls Resort with our friends as our witness.

In May 2017, the dream of bringing our children to show them their Ancestral home and learn why Jamaica is the Heartbeat of the World was realized. We wanted them to see Jamaica's tourist attractions but also to mingle with the Jamaicans and experience the culture of our people and land. This Ancestral tour would bring us back to Jamaica the land of our birth with our children.

Upon arriving at Norma Manley Airport, we got our rental car and began our tour. We stayed at the Marriott Hotel overlooking Emancipation Park. That was a great location as the locals came to the park at nighttime to socialize, and we were able to go out and enjoy ourselves with them. One of the highlights of our trip was going to the Jamaica Invitational Track and Field event at National Stadium with track stars like Yohan Blake, the 2016 Rio Champion and Queen of the tracks Elaine Thompson, Allyson Felix, and Andre De Grasse. The other was having the best finger licking Jerk Chicken and hard dough bread from a local vendor. Usain did not participate but we visited his Tracks and Records restaurant. Other highlights were visiting Blue Mountain and having brunch at Strawberry Hills, going to Caymanas Park, and mingling with the locals who provided us with so many jokes and laughs. We visited Heron's High School and he had the opportunity of sharing his experience with the children, even taking them to a classroom and explaining the differences then and now, and later we drove through his hometown. We also visited the Bob Marley Museum, Port Royal, Hope Garden, toured University of the West Indies, Kings House, the local craft market, Red Hills, and finished off at Devon House I Scream enjoying some rum and raisin ice cream.

After a few days in Kingston, we headed out on Highway 2000 to Ocho Rios. We started the day by visiting Jewels Dunn's River Resort to show the children where we got married. In the afternoon we cruised on the Cool Runnings party cruise on a day when it was 95 degrees in the shade (as Jerron would say), went snorkeling then docked at the foot of Dunn's River Falls, so we could climb it, dance to the Reggae music, and enjoy some rum punch. The children had an awesome time. We spent an afternoon at Mystic Mountain enjoying all the activities there. Our time in Montego Bay was spend visiting Rose Hall Great House, the Hip Strip, Doctor's Cave Beach and hanging out with the locals and enjoying the vibes. The following day we left for Clarendon and Manchester to continue our Ancestral Tour. As we travelled along the North Coast, we stopped at Columbus Park then took the scenic route

that would bring us to the heart of the Island and Baillieston where I lived. We visited our Ancestral family home, spend time with our cousins and visited the site where the children's great-grandparents are buried. The highlight here was visiting my Primary School with gifts and supplies for all the students. This was a school day, and Kiah and Boyd were able to spend time with the students and teachers and hear stories about what it was like when I attended school there. We wanted the children to experience a day in the life of a Jamaican, so we stayed with my cousin's family in Christiana for a night. The children really enjoyed this because they had some good meals including a traditional Jamaican breakfast and got a history lesson from Ms. Cynthia about living in the land of wood and water. We visited Cousin Gwen who is our oldest relative in Jamaica at 96 years old and lives in Mandeville. She shared some amazing stories about our family's history with us and my son was able to climb a Mango Tree and picked his own, which he did like a pro. We then visit the Mandeville market, tour this historical and beautiful town before we left to visit Little Ochie for steam fish and bammy. We then drove along the South Coast to Negril for an overnight stay. While there we visited Ricks Café to watch the divers and see the famous sunset, tour the lighthouse, and spend the day on the famous seven-mile beach. Our final stop was in Lucea staying at the Palladium Lady Hamilton where we could chill out and enjoy ourselves before returning to Canada. We all loved the Palladium because there is so much to do there including pampering ourselves at the spa and dining at several of their restaurants. The next day as we departed Sangster International Airport for Toronto, we could not help but feel the sadness as this trip of a lifetime was coming to an end.

This dream of Heron and I to take our children to Jamaica was now complete. The children were overwhelmed by the hospitality of the Jamaican people and how much there was to see and do. They are extremely grateful that they were able to go to their Ancestral home which they absolutely love and now we can all sing "Jamaica Land We Love".

#FAMILY #ONE LOVE #JAMAICA LAND OF MY BIRTH
#JAMAICA HEARTBEAT OF THE WORLD #IRIE HOUR

Gabrielle Verville-Felix/ Voyages Action

We went for the 1st time in Jamaica in 2012 and we stay at Sandals Whitehouse. We met a couple from Louisiana, we spent the week together. We really had a lot of fun at the piano bar, during the day at the pool bar or at the beach party! We connect a lot even if we don't know much each other!

Since that, we've kept in touch. Every year, we call us to get news and talk about the good memories we had from this travel.

Unfortunately, this year, we receive a call from her to tell us that her husband Randy passed away suddenly. What a shock...she call us sometime, just to get support and we feel that is good for her.

We hope to see her one day, maybe in Louisiana!!

Sabrina Mantel/ Centre Holidays

It all started with a 'Story Book' Collection.

When I heard about this contest, I immediately said I should sit down and write a story. A story about Jamaica and why I am so attached to this wonderful island. You see, not many people know where I am from originally. They would guess anything, but my actual place of birth – which is India. India as we know is a British Colony along with Jamaica and many other Caribbean countries. We do love our curries and roti's and everything spicy! We might prepare our dishes differently, but don't we all love oxtail, plantain, coconut and mangoes? Anyway, I digress!

A few years ago, I was invited on a FAM to the Moon Place. We were asked by the Palace Foundation, to bring 'story books' for the kids. Many agents were asking what is a 'story book'. I giggled, as I knew exactly what it was. Remembering my days in India and how hard it was to 'own' your own book (we had to pay a small fee at the library to read and educate ourselves, something my kids don't know what that is like). I decided to reach out to my kids schools and ask for any old books. Before I knew it, the school had made an announcement that I was looking for books to take with me to Jamaica. The outpouring of books from the kids was overwhelming. There was just too much and there was no way I was going to be able to take that much excess luggage. However, our good friends at West Jet came through for me

The day arrived that we were going into the school with books for the kids. The plan was that each agent would sit with one student and help them read. Here is where it gets emotional – the kids were so happy to have their very own book! The shock on their faces when we told them it's theirs to keep was just priceless. Some of them kept looking for reassurance that it was indeed their very own now and that they can bring this book back home with them in their back packs. The girl assigned to me picked up her book and came and sat with me. So now we get to reading together. This should be easy right? Well, was I ever mistaken! My little girl wanted to chat with me and I was scared I would get in trouble and be taken to the Principals office just like I was sent down a few times in my time. But I figured this is a fun activity for both of us, so I took a break and got to know this new little friend of mine. We started talking and this girl tells me "My mom died". I was taken by complete surprise! Perhaps her mom did die many years ago and she's letting me know because she now has a new friend? Or did her mom just pass away? What was I supposed to do or say at this time? I did offer my condolences and tried to find out when she had passed away. To be honest, at that time I'm not sure if I lost my hearing, or if I was just shocked or just not sure what was happening. It's like I blanked out. The only other thing that I clearly remember as part of the conversation was that this little girl and her family were coming to Canada! Am I hearing right? What's going on here? Her mom died and she's immigrating? But when did all this take place? And when is she immigrating? This is all moving too fast for me. I came here to bring books to the school and read to a child. Now I'm shocked, sad, concerned and holding back tears and I have many questions which I don't know who to turn to for answers.

We now are done for the day and are ready to leave. We go down and I see the drinking water taps and more memories come flooding back to me. My mind drifted back to my days drinking out of the water taps - which I must say looked old and rusty, but we still did it! I was fit as a fiddle back then and I think I owe some of my immunity to those taps and the water that came out of it. This did help take my mind off that girl for a bit. As we said our goodbyes, I was able to ask one of the teachers if her mom did indeed pass away and if so, if it had occurred recently. To my utter dismay, the answer was unfortunately 'yes'. Needless to say, I shed quite a few tears on our way back to the hotel. It put a lot of things into perspective for me. We did have a lot in common but yet here she is, much younger than me and going through something that I have no idea what it's like, to be without a mom. Going through a pandemic and not seeing my mom as much as I would like to is nothing compared to what this little girl has been through.

The Palace Foundation gave me and the school a letter thanking me for the books. I have pictures of my little reader with me as she proudly held her book. I often times pull out the letter and pictures and think of her and wonder if she indeed immigrated to Canada. How is she doing? How is she handling being without her mom? So many questions but no answers. If there is anything I have learnt from that one trip, it is to be thankful for what you have and that "every little thing is gonna be alright" – Bob Marley

Sandra Dindayal/ Airliner

My Jamaica Memory

Leading up to the start of 2015, we started to discuss family milestones. The following year my daughter would be turning 40 years old and my granddaughter would be planning her sweet 16! We thought the best way to celebrate these milestones would be a long overdue family vacation. This started out with just our household, but soon turned into all of our cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family! This turned into a nice inside joke due to my daughters 40th birthday, and 40 of us were heading to Jamaica!

We started looking online and planning out our vacation. After all of our research we collectively decided on the **Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa**. We booked a one-week all-inclusive vacation & the planning really commenced. We printed matching shirts, party favors and rounded up anything we could to help make this celebration a memorable one.

Later on into 2015 I suffered a massive heart attack. After partially recovering I found out that my situation was very far from being out of the woods. I had lots of blocked arteries and was required to undergo a surgery to help rectify these health concerns. I was warned ahead of time there was a high chance that things may not go as planned once they opened me up and I had to prepare for the worst possible outcome. With the grace of God, I was able to pull through and started my road to recovery.

Heading into 2016 everything was viewed differently, especially the time I spent with my family. Although we did the same things we normally would have for the holidays and birthdays, these occasions carried a different meaning from my life flashing in front of me the year before.

As we approached vacation time, I was very uneasy about travelling given my circumstances. I had a few checkups and meetings with the doctors to clear me before going, which all ended in them saying they don't recommend it. I figured after all of this, I was given a second shot at life and I am not missing out

on any family time from this point forwards. We arrived on our vacation safe and sound and then the memories started to form. We booked A LA CARTE dinners & coordinated to wear all matching outfits and we planned excursions to visit Dunn's River Falls, Rick's Café and the Bob Marley tour. I swam in deep waters without fear for the first time, I jumped off ledges at Rick's Café into the deep waters, and watched a beautiful sunset & learned so much about Bob himself plus his worldwide impact.

We celebrated all week on the resort which was nothing short of amazing. The staff, the entertainment, the food and overall atmosphere was spectacular. Arriving back home after the vacation and years later to still be alive & breathing as well as still talking about those wonderful memories until now-brings me euphoria. We had such a great time, we have been back to Jamaica several times since & have stayed here multiple times...the staff even remembers us year after year!

This was the start of my second chance at life, the start of my love for Jamaica & all it has to offer and will always be the best memory not just for Jamaica, but my entire life thus far.

#Jamrock2016

David Humphrey/ Travel Experts

Goldeneye, The Name Is Goldeneye

For four decades, I have been a James Bond fan, from the first time I saw *From Russia With Love* on the ABC Sunday Night Movie when I was a pre-teen. It wasn't until I started reading the Ian Fleming books in my early 20's however, that I became a 'fanatic'. I adored Fleming's colourful prose, making the Bond novels thrilling travelogues with some sex and violence thrown in. After reading the books several times, I turned to biographies about Fleming himself because with his World War 2 exploits, his life was almost as exciting as Bond's. It was here that I discovered his Jamaican hideaway villa, Goldeneye, where every winter from January to April, he would sequester himself to write the books, with the occasional party and houseguests like Noel Coward, Errol Flynn and former British Prime Minister Anthony Eden...who actually made Goldeneye the temporary headquarters of the British government during the Suez Crisis in 1956!

Goldeneye was always high on my bucket list, but even more so when I discovered that it was now a small resort with the original villa relatively intact. We were spending an evening in Ocho Rios in 2017, 20 minutes from the resort (and 10 minutes from Ian Fleming Airport) and I had a window of free time in the late afternoon so I reached out to the property for an 'inspection' and with the help of the Jamaica Tourist Board, I spent a shiver-inducing (for me) hour touring this incredible property...including the Fleming Villa! Good fortune shone on us because if the villa were booked, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to see it!

We left our hotel and in 15 minutes we were passing through the community of Oracabessa and with a sign signifying James Bond Beach, I knew we were close. We pulled over to a small, unspectacular gate

surrounded by forest and with an element of doubt in my voice, I inquired if we had arrived. We had. I would have never found this on my own as there was no signage that a resort lay behind this gate. Once inside we drove along a winding path through a dense forest of tropical foliage until we came to the resort offices, where we met the manager who had been looking after the property in one capacity or another for 28 years, even though he didn't look a day over 30 himself.

As we made the short walk to the Fleming Villa, he filled us in on some of the history, most notably that when Ian Fleming suddenly passed away in England in 1964 at the surprisingly young age of 56, the property was left uncared for, as it was never a favourite spot for his wife Ann who felt so ignored when Ian was ensconced at his writing desk that she stopped accompanying him on the trips. Over the years, the villa was plundered and left in relative ruins until it was purchased in 1976 by Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records (Bob Marley, Emerson Lake and Palmer, U2), whose mother Blanche was a neighbour and frequent houseguest during the Fleming years. He then set about creating a small boutique hotel around the villa, that has grown to a 52 acre property with 22 units of varying sizes.

The storied main villa was to be our first stop as we came upon a small bar and lounge with a wide entryway opening onto a small man-made lagoon-style pool. We were informed that this lounge was Fleming's original garage, formerly housing his 2 Aston Martins and as we turned to our right, we saw the Fleming Villa itself. As I walked through the entrance, the history was palpable. A large bamboo-framed sofa sat in the centre of the large main room and along one wall, Fleming's original desk with his typewriter, formerly in what is currently the tree-house restaurant, where he would write after a morning of snorkeling.

A door and windows face the breathtaking cliff-top view of the Caribbean, a view so distracting that Fleming famously had his desks facing in the opposite direction so he could get his work done. Neighbour and close friend Noel Coward painted this view and the painting hangs along the front wall. Fleming's bedroom adjoins the great room and contains his original bed frame as well as another original desk, then beyond that is one of 3 amazing outdoor baths with rain shower, clawfoot tub, sink and vanity. The other bedrooms are in the back of the villa separated by a quiet Japanese-style reed garden.

This villa is stunning in its beauty and simplicity and it's no surprise that a long list of celebrities have stayed in the villa including Sting, who wrote Every Breath You Take here, Jay Z and Beyonce, Daniel Craig and Pierce Brosnan (of course!), Michael Caine and Harrison Ford. Many have even planted trees in the villa area during their stay with small signs denoting the year with their name.

There are smaller villas nearby, aptly named 001, 002 and so on. The rest of the resort is separated from the villa section by the Fleming Room which doubles as reception and concierge area and is filled with Fleming paraphernalia, with comfortable couches and views to die for. A walking bridge leads to the resort proper with well appointed 1 and 2 bedroom cottages and the latest additions, 1 bedroom beach 'huts'.

We walked out to the end of a long promontory, offering us an unparalleled view of the full property and were told that private candlelight dinners could be held out here...nothing could be more romantic!

I spent years building up great anticipation in seeing Goldeneye, and as I wandered the very villa and beaches where Ian Fleming created so memorably the books that I love, this experience actually

exceeded my expectations and although I was able to check off a bucket list item by seeing it, I have now added another by wanting to stay here!