

30

TRAVEL CAREERS

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know
About Careers in Travel



ITMI®

INTERNATIONAL TOUR MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

It may take a village to raise a family...

But it equally takes a village to build a community of passionate global ambassadors of goodwill dedicated to spreading knowledge of other traditions and cultures, to building bridges of understanding through compassion for others, respect for diversity, and a commitment to ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism as sacred stewards of our environment.

A salute and a thank you to the Founder of ITMI, Ted Bravos, who while walking the roads of war in Vietnam, dreamed of creating the village that ITMI is today. A community of like-minded individuals desiring to make a difference by championing the promise of a more peaceful world.

A grateful heart...

... For the people you will meet in this book who have allowed us to tell their stories from their vulnerable, authentic heart to yours. ...To Amy Noble for her continued support through our years side by side, ...To Aaron Ogg who wrote some of the articles you will read. ...To my sister Janet Keddell for her tireless editing skills, ...To Johana Crespo the designer who brought my vision of this book to life.

... To those reading this book, who have an adventurous heart, who dream of traveling the world, and a desire to make a difference, to nurture global peace and harmony. I wish you joy in the discovery, courage to follow your dreams and a life filled with awe and wonder.

Warmly...Joan

Joan Keddell, the President of ITMI, believes in the transformative power of travel. During her more than 40 years in the hospitality and travel industry, she has held a variety of positions on land and sea including an officer aboard a cruise ship, resort hotel manager, tour operator and tour director as well as a teacher and mentor for aspiring new travel professionals. Joan is also a valued thought leader in the hospitality and tourism industry and is frequently featured in publications and discussions on the future and the impact it can make.

From a very young age, Joan told her family that she wanted to use travel as a way to elevate happiness and understanding in the world. Today, from her floating home in Sausalito, California, Joan continues her unwavering commitment to building the ITMI community. Joan believes that her childhood dream of travel to bring about peace and the collective efforts of the ITMI community, are a perfect match for her passion to uplift the human perspective. In essence, by traveling, people participate in purposeful activities intended to inform and transform. That interaction will translate knowledge into meaningful conversations that spark actions to positively influence the advancement of harmony and diversity within our community, family, environment and our world.

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CHAPTER

SO YOU WANT A TRAVEL CAREER



8 EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING YOUR TRAVEL CAREER DREAMS

Whatever your reasons are for not pursuing a career in travel, it may be time to ask yourself “are they good enough?”

Depending on your current life or financial situation, starting a travel career seems far-fetched. Perhaps you’ve told yourself that now just isn’t the right time, or that it’s just not practical. Well, the fact is there are plenty of passionate travelers that once experienced similar doubts and since have made their travel dreams a reality.

Whether you’re a freshly-minted college graduate or an empty nester looking to begin a new chapter, a wealth of fulfilling, life-affirming opportunities awaits you.

Don’t let the negative voices in your head make your life decisions. Here are eight excuses for not following your travel career dreams. Which one is holding you back?

1 | My family thinks I’m crazy: So your parents see in you a third-generation doctor, but you don’t see it in yourself.



MEET ANNETTE

You told them you want to travel and see the world, and they looked at you like you’re moving to Los Angeles with a guitar to start a rock band. Unfortunately, this type of misinformed reaction isn’t uncommon. Tourism and hospitality are multibillion dollar, well-respected industries with stable careers and perks and benefits unlike any other. They’ll see.

2 | I have a steady job: Your 9-to-5 isn’t so bad, you say. Sure, you sit in a gray cubicle for eight hours with your boss standing over your shoulder at least half the time; or perhaps now you are working from home feeling disconnected from the world, but the pay is decent. Listen you say, there are potlucks at work and when I work from home, I snack anytime I want. Wait, did

you really just name company potlucks and snacking as a highlight of your job? Is Charlene's delicious redskin potato salad really that delicious; are the potato chips helping you lose weight? There's inherently nothing wrong with this kind of life; it works for a lot of people. However, you know it isn't for you. You feel like you could do more to make a difference in the world; you want to connect with people, other cultures, learn new things, feel inspired.

3 | Training costs too much: If you're seriously considering a career in travel like tour directing or tour guiding, you must be willing to invest in it. Yes, you have been to school; you know a lot; how hard can it be? Good question. Though we agree the price of tuition can make would-be applicants nervous, if you're a passionate traveler and people person, you won't have a hard time making that money back. While certification is not required to get a job, it greatly improves your chances of landing one with a reputable, well-paying company. Don't short change your dreams.

4 | Traveling isn't safe: This is a sensitive, complicated subject, to be sure. Between pandemics and terrorist attacks, it can make a career in travel seem like a dangerous prospect.

We're not going to downplay anyone's concerns. We live in unique times. However, that is no reason to abandon the path you know would make you happiest. Let your heart guide you. Living in fear is no life at all.

5 | Changing careers is too risky: You have equity in your current line of work, nearly 10 years on the job, lots of paid vacation time, a nice 401(k) match. Why would you give up a sure thing for uncertainty? Valid question, but here's a better one: Will sticking with a pays-the-bills job make you happier than living your lifelong dream of traveling the world? Others have struggled with your same doubts, made the right decision, and haven't looked back since.

6 | People won't "get me": So you think of yourself as a little different. Your closest friends are odd ducks, and you feel as if most people just don't understand what makes you tick. Maybe that's true, but guess what? The world of travel is filled with friendly, talented weirdos just like you! Those who share a passion for travel tend to see the world differently. Isn't it time for you to be with the people that "get you"?

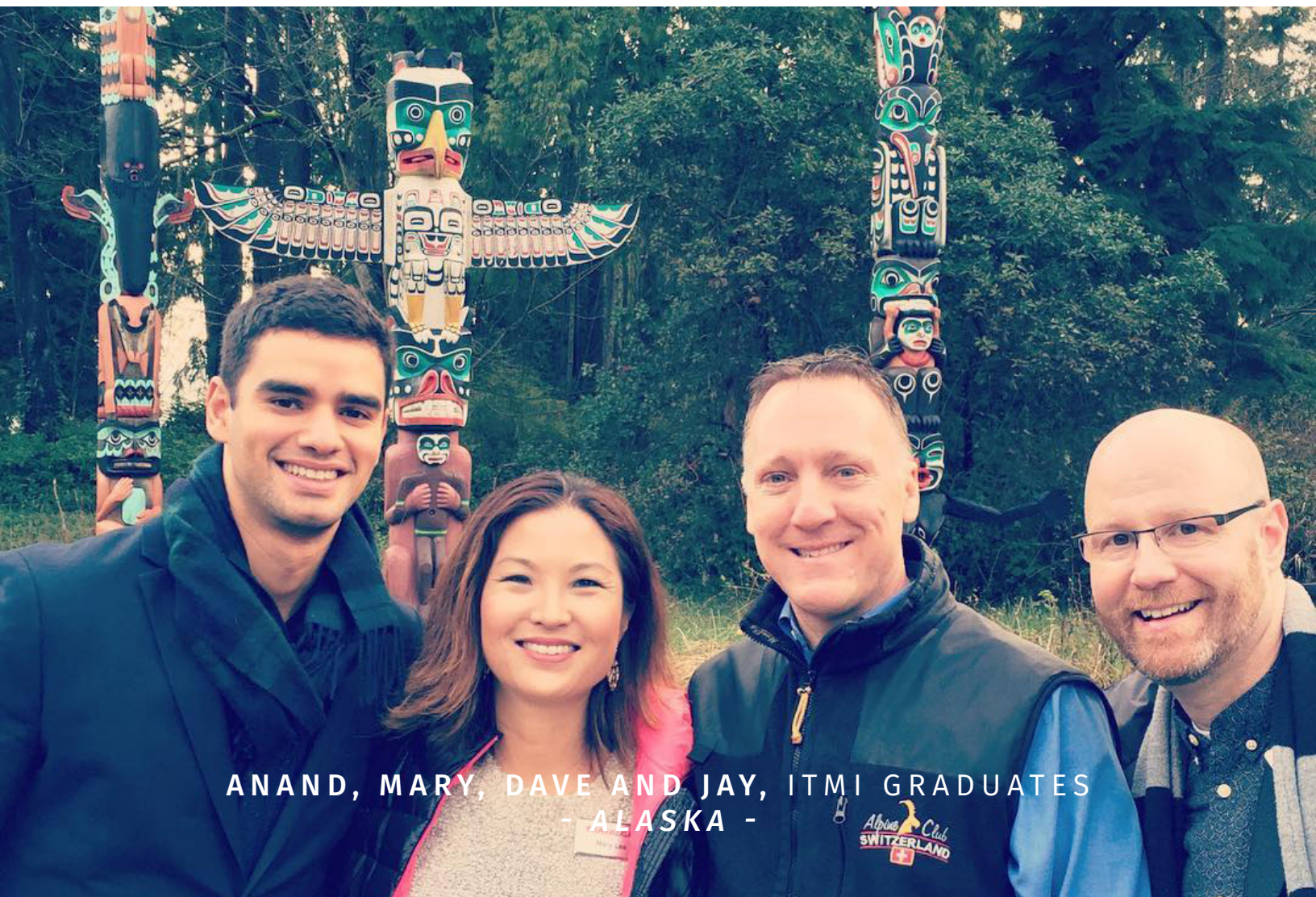
7 | My budget is too tight: Stacks of bills are huge weights. They can cloud your

judgment and encourage you to make decisions that aren't in your long-term best interests. Don't be paralyzed by debt. Get a handle on your current situation. If you're up to your eyeballs, start chipping away so that you can put yourself in the best position to start pursuing your dream career. You owe that to yourself.

8 | I can't work full time / I can't work part time: Are you at a crossroads in your life? Starting a family and unsure of what your ideal work / life balance is? Travel careers are a great choice for

people in transitional stages. Determine your desired level of commitment and find the position that will offer you the flexibility you need. There are so many types of jobs available – full-time, part-time, seasonal, local, international. You shouldn't have trouble ramping up or cutting back at any point.

Though you may have some of these fears and concerns, your travel dreams keep calling you. That voice deep down inside keeps saying “there is so much more I want to see, do, and be in the world. Life is short, why am I not now?”



ANAND, MARY, DAVE AND JAY, ITMI GRADUATES
- ALASKA -

Maybe you're sitting at your desk or working from home, eyes glazed staring at spreadsheets, wondering how it came to this. Perhaps you're a newly-minted college grad with the debt to prove it, counting how many triple nonfat lattes you need to prepare to pay it off (ooh, a \$5 tip!). It's possible that you've recently lost a job or not sure if you want to go back to your old one. Worse yet, you may have lost a loved one and are unsure of your direction following such a devastating life change. Or it could be that you're retired, collecting a decent pension, and planning your next trip to see the kids because they're too busy to visit you.

What happened? You had dreams ... good ones!

You had planned to travel the world, learn another language, and revel in the beautiful common threads that bind us as human beings. You fantasized about filling up your passport, expanding your horizons, and discovering a deeper life meaning.

Instead, you find yourself being pecked away, day after day. Your joie de vivre, once so apparent, is replaced by frustration, stress, and fear of failure. The nagging feeling that you sold your dreams short keeps you up at night.

Well, dear reader, do we ever have fantastic news for you ...

...IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LIVE YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS.



LARRY, ITMI GRADUATE
- ITALY -

WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



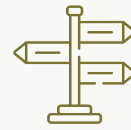
Young adult / Recent graduate

“I don’t fit the
traditional
career path.”



Burnt out worker

“I can’t take it
anymore!”



Major life change

“I am at a
crossroads.”



What do I really want?

“What do I
really want
next for me?”



Retiring from a career

“I am retiring,
now what?”

[LEARN MORE](#)



Young adult / Recent graduate

“I don’t fit the traditional career path.”



MEET LIZ

You’re probably wondering...

“What travel career opportunities are out there? Are these jobs real?”

“Am I qualified? Am I too young? What if I haven’t traveled much?”

“Do I need special training? Can I afford it? Can I just figure it out on my own?”

“Can I actually make a living traveling and doing what I love?”

“Where do I even start?” [LEARN MORE](#)



Burnt out worker

“I can’t take it anymore!”



MEET SARAH

You probably feel like this...

“I have too far to go until retirement, but I can’t do this anymore!”

“My job feels more frustrating, aggravating, and disappointing now than when I first started.”

“I’m just going through the motions, working long hours, and waiting for my next vacation.”

“I feel trapped with little control over my schedule and life.”

“The promotion I got actually increased my responsibilities at work, and extinguished the passion I once had for this career.”

“I feel burned out watching life go by sitting alone in front of a computer day after day.” [LEARN MORE](#)

THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE YOUR DREAM OF HITTING 7 CONTINENTS BY AGE 30? MEET ZOE...

Zoe knew she wouldn't be satisfied with sitting behind a desk just going through the motions in a passionless job. She wanted to see the world, experience other cultures and make a difference.

The explosive growth of the student tour and multi-generational segments of the tourism industry has created a high demand for college students and recent college graduates with a spirit of adventure and an outgoing personality, who can lead tour groups around the world.

"Kids and young adults who travel are transformed by the experience," adds Zoe. "It also makes them much more marketable for any career they wish to pursue in the future."

Tour Guiding is an excellent career opportunity for recent college graduates, especially those who have developed a passion for seeing the world through study abroad and exchange programs. The many

advantages to working as a tour guide include getting paid to travel the world, sharing their travel knowledge and passion with others and becoming global ambassadors; plus having friends all over the world is an extra perk. Tour guides can make a difference in the world by breaking down cultural stereotypes, becoming global citizens and supporting responsible and sustainable travel.

Are you a Zoe?

Are you trying to figure out if college is right for you? Have you recently graduated from college with a degree in history, journalism, liberal arts, or international studies?

Perhaps you are working in your first or second job but finding it unsatisfying. You are wondering, "What else is out there?" Are you bored, sitting in an office, just going through the motions? Do you feel like you don't have much control over your life as others tell you what to do?

Are you afraid if you continue on your current career path or choose a traditional one, that in the blink of an eye, you will get stuck in an office job many years later asking yourself, “Why didn’t I take that chance for myself”? Have you ever felt like the black sheep or odd one in your family who dreams of a job that will allow you to grow, find joy, and provide yourself with the means to do what you love?

You probably can’t stand the idea of being tied down to a 9-to-5 desk job. Have you ever been told that your dreams aren’t realistic; that it’s not a job with which you could support yourself; that you need to follow a more secure way of making a living? Maybe you’ve been told that it’s just another fad you are trying because you keep hopping from one job to another and can’t seem to commit to something. Deep down, you feel like you HAVE TO be yourself and do something you are passionate about.

Your ultimate dream is to live a life that inspires people, helps you grow as a person, and make a difference. You’re probably frustrated that society seems to have a career plan for others, but you just don’t fit that mold.

Looking back at your life experiences, did you feel happiest and connected

to the world when you were traveling and meeting people? When you were younger, did you study abroad, spend a gap year traveling, or visit many places with your family? If you did, was this experience exciting and life-changing for you? Did it open your eyes and heart to a greater world?

Do you miss being a part of an international community with friends around the world? If you have done some personal travel, do you find that traveling challenges your perspectives, pushes you out of your comfort zone, and helps you become a better person? Do you ever dream of getting paid to travel, learn, share ideas, and help others? Does the idea of exploring new places, trying different things, meeting people, learning about cultures, and making a positive impact through your career bring a smile to your face?

Do you ever consider yourself a teacher, but don’t see yourself in a traditional classroom? Perhaps as much as you love to travel, have your opportunities been limited because of your age or the fact that your current job doesn’t pay enough or give you enough time off?

Are you looking for a meaningful career that will use your talents and allow you to see the world? If so, the

big question on your mind might be “How do I make this happen?”

At the end of the day, you want to build a life on your own terms. You want a

fulfilling life and career where you can travel, make meaningful connections, continue to learn and grow, have friends all around the world, and make a difference in people’s lives.



ZOE, ITMI GRADUATE
- USA -



Major life change

“I am at a crossroads.”



MEET LORI

Do you catch yourself wondering...

“I’m craving a new life, a chance for freedom, adventure, growth, and connection with people without the heaviness of my old life.”

“I want to have fun, be silly, share meaningful experiences, and surround myself with a community of positive, like-minded people.”

“I have no idea what I really want. What is even possible for me? Where to start? What skills do I really have? I want a way to get unstuck.”

“What I do know is that travel has been one of the things that has always brought me joy and happiness.” [LEARN MORE](#)



What do I really want?

“What do I really want next for me?”



MEET JUD

You may be thinking...

“I’m going through a big transition in my life.”

“When it’s my turn, travel is something I’ve always wanted to do for MYSELF.”

“What would I do next, if I could do anything?”

“I’m at a place right now where I can finally do something I love or try something I haven’t had time to do before.” [LEARN MORE](#)



LUCERO, ITMI GRADUATE
- PERU -



Retiring from a career

“I am retiring, now what?”



MEET CAROL

When thinking about the possibilities of an encore career, these questions come up...

“Am I too old?” “How will my age be viewed in this career or industry?”

“How do I compete with much younger folks?”

“Do I have to start from scratch or can I use the skills and knowledge I’ve developed during my career?”

“Will I feel embarrassed learning something completely new?”

“Am I able to keep up with the technology?”

“Will I still be able to have the flexibility and control of my time?”

“Will I get a chance to work with people I like?” [**LEARN MORE**](#)



JENNIFER, ITMI GRADUATE
- OREGON COAST -

YOU ARE NOT TOO OLD TO START A CAREER IN TRAVEL

A traveler's heart beats stronger with each passing mile.

You might not have the energy you once did (or perhaps you do now that you've kicked the cubicle and finally have to focus on you!), but you're wiser about how you expend it. You know that time spent not doing what you love is time wasted.

You've discovered what makes you happiest, so why aren't you doing more of it?

For many, it's about finances. Perhaps your retirement income is less than you'd hoped and you're living lean. A week a year in Mexico is all that fits into your budget. It's nice, but it's not enough. This is your chance to travel the world, to explore different cultures – to live your lifelong dream.

It's not too late.

Having a career in travel satisfies your wanderlust and plus, you get paid doing it. There is no age limit. In fact, many of the most successful travel professionals



excel by drawing from their life experience and previous careers. Your unique story gives you a perspective no one else can claim. Use it.

Do not let fear of uncertainty hold your dreams hostage. Take the leap (it's not as giant as you might think) and enjoy the fulfillment you deserve.

Here are 5 reasons you are never too old to start a career in travel:

1 | You still love traveling: You've found nothing that recharges you as fully or makes you smile the same way. You appreciate every aspect of the journey – even (maybe even especially) the parts that don't go as planned. Like most passionate travelers, you thrive on unexpected events and chance

encounters. Sometimes the most enjoyable, enlightening experiences are not on the itinerary.

2 | You still love meeting new people: If hearing about others' adventures excites you, this is the job for you. You'll develop strong bonds with fascinating individuals young and old and in between. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll share your favorite hotels, funny travel stories and food allergies. You'll connect on a level to which few others are attuned. Warning: the more people you meet, the longer your bucket list will get.

3 | You still love teaching: Travel is the greatest teacher in the world, agreed? More often than not, we've learned our most valuable lessons outside of our so-called comfort zones. Effective teaching is less about reciting facts to a tour group and more about motivating them to push their own limits. When encouraged to venture into unfamiliar terrain, whether that means trying a new food or diving out of a plane, the mind truly blossoms.

4 | You still love being active: Sitting around watching TV and waiting to hear from the kids is not for you. You'd much rather be hiking Machu Picchu, bicycling through wine country, cruising the Mediterranean or leading a Segway tour through Shanghai. Moving is life.

5 | You still love inspiring others: By following your dreams, you inspire others to do the same. You become a shining example of what is possible to those who can see themselves in you. That might mean another retiree, or your own grandchildren. It's never too late or too early to plant the seed and show just how rewarding it is to do what you know you were meant to do.

Many retirees have discovered a new chapter in their lives where they can continue to be active, go on an adventure and explore, enjoy the freedom they've earned, travel and meet wonderful people, learn about new places and things, spend time with their loved ones, and bring joy to many others. Come and finally enjoy an industry where your age, life experience and flexible schedule are all valued.



JEREMY, ITMI GRADUATE
- NORWAY -



SO WHERE DO YOU START?



Right here!

First, please allow us to introduce ourselves. We are the [International Tour Management Institute](#) (ITMI). We have over 40-years experience preparing wanderlusters such as yourself for exciting and fulfilling careers in travel. We have certified over 8,000 graduates, equipping them with the tools and connections they need to land jobs with the top Tour Operators in the world.

If you're unfamiliar with the term "Tour Operator," think of it as a travel architect – one who looks at all the building blocks of a trip (flights, lodgings, excursions, etc.), pieces them together, and sells them to the public. Tour Operators hire Tour Guides and Tour Directors to lead domestic and international tours and help execute their vision. Their relationship is mutually beneficial; the more the customer enjoys the trip, the better the chance of repeat business and referrals. The more repeat business and referrals, the higher the likelihood that the Tour Guide or Tour Director will get more jobs with the Tour Operator and its partners.

What is the potential for a career in travel?

The travel and tourism industry, unlike other industries, intersects with the fiber of every country, city and township worldwide.

Are you wondering which countries are the most visited in the world? The top 5 are France, Spain, United States, China, and Italy. The travel and tourism industry unlike other industries, intersects with the fiber of every country, city and township

worldwide. Globally, travel and tourism's direct contribution to the GDP was approximately 2.9 trillion U.S. dollars in 2019. It is expected that in 2022, the travel industry will not only meet the 2019 GDP but exceed it. When looking at countries that directly contributed the most to global GDP the United States' travel and tourism industry contributed the largest sum at 580.7 billion U.S. dollars.

There are more types of travel than we have time to cover here but, you are in the right place at the right time because there are countless jobs that will let you travel the world and get paid to do it. In the next few pages, we will be outlining the top 30 careers in the travel industry. There are of course countless others, but you will soon realize how far-reaching the travel industry truly is.

We will explore 30 Dream Travel Careers in detail.

You will be able to see:

- The job title
- Education
- Needed experience preferred
- Which backgrounds are a great fit
- The technology used for that role
- The amount of activity required to do the role
- Time and travel
- The current salary ranges of that role

**LET'S JUMP IN AND FIND YOUR
JOURNEY TO CAREER HAPPINESS.**



ALEXANDRA, ITMI GRADUATE
- TORONTO -

6 MYTHS WE TELL OURSELVES (OR OTHERS TELL US) ABOUT TRAVEL CAREERS

A day in the life of a travel career professional might sound too good to be true. Visiting exotic locales. Exploring fascinating cultures. Meeting amazing people. That's not a task list characteristic of a typical day job.

The truth is, these components make up only part of what it means to embark on this exciting career path. With the glamour and prestige comes dedication and hard work. Still, those who have devoted their lives to this noble profession concur that the rewards are well worth all the effort.

Don't let naysayers talk you out of your dream job! Here are 6 common myths about careers in travel debunked.

1 | It doesn't pay well: It must be noted that this is not a career you should pursue if your sole aim is to get rich. Travel careers are for those who are passionate about history, cultures, exploring the new, making a difference in the world and meeting people. That said, there are opportunities to make a very good living. For example, it's not



MEET ALEX

unheard of for tour directors who work hard and land a job with a top tour operator to make four figures a week. Those tips can really add up.

2 | It's impossible if you have a family: One of the perks of a career in travel is flexibility. There are opportunities to work as little or as much as you want. Looking for a weekends-only or seasonal gig? There are tons of them. If you're biding your time until the kids leave the house (!), that's fine. Transitioning from part time to full time and vice-versa is no problem. Talented travel professionals are always in high demand.

3 | It's repetitive: Some might be deterred by the idea of riding the same

route and narrating the same tour day after day. One great benefit of this career is you're never stuck. When you work as a travel professional, there are usually plenty of openings to pursue should your assignment begin to grow stale. Want to switch from land to sea or vice versa...done! Want to focus on adventure travel for a few years and then look into cultural and heritage travel...done! Feel free to explore them as you get closer to fulfilling your obligations. Also, remember that there is always more to learn about your subject matter. Keep your presentations fresh and it will feel like a new job every day.

4 | There's no free time: You're not a slave to the group! Most of the time they are self-entertaining and don't need a babysitter. While you must be available for emergencies and immediate needs, your training will help you handle these deftly. Each position in the travel industry requires different daily schedules; find what works best for you!

5 | You have to know everything: A common fear among would-be and new travel professionals is that they'll encounter group members who know more about certain subjects or who will pepper them with questions to which they don't know the answers. Well, guess what: it's true. You will meet people who are like human libraries. Some will probe you and fact-check you. They might be right and you might be wrong. Do not be discouraged! As long as you remain humble, sincere, and entertaining, you will win your group over no matter what.

6 | You have to leave your career when you move: One of the best perks of a career in travel is that your job can often move with you. Whether your significant other has a job where you move around every few years or whether you want to try living in different parts of the world, your travel career can move from city to city, country to country or continent to continent.





CHAPTER

30 TRAVEL CAREERS





FOR TEACHER & LECTURER



1 of 30 Cruise Ship Lecturers / Destination / Special Interest / Shopping

The Job: Provides passengers with interesting information on either cultural history and interesting sites based upon the destination, shopping or special presentations on subjects such as leadership skills, or technology.

Education: Bachelor's degree or higher preferred for in-depth experience and knowledge on topics

Experience: Teaching, especially university level educators, museum docents, curators, wildlife or ecology experts, archaeologists, anthropologists, tour guides, tour directors

Great Fits: Educators, speakers

Technology: Microsoft Office suite with focus on slide presentation

Activity Level: 3-6

Time and Travel: FT (Full Time), PT (Part Time), Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$100,000; possible compensation Complimentary cruise

2 of 30 Wildlife Experts / Naturalists

The Job: Inspires others to protect wildlife and the planet, found in National Parks, Cruise Ships, Safari's, wildlife conservation areas.

Education: Bachelor of Science, ideally in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management

Experience: Wildlife educator, biologist, wildlife enforcement officer, conservationists, oceanographer, wildlife photographers, advocate

Great Fits: Educators, speakers, environmental activists, storytellers, marine biologists, wildlife veterinarians

Technology: Microsoft Office, PowerPoint, Excel, social media, photography

Activity Level: 5-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$75,000+



ZOE, ITMI GRADUATE
- AFRICA -

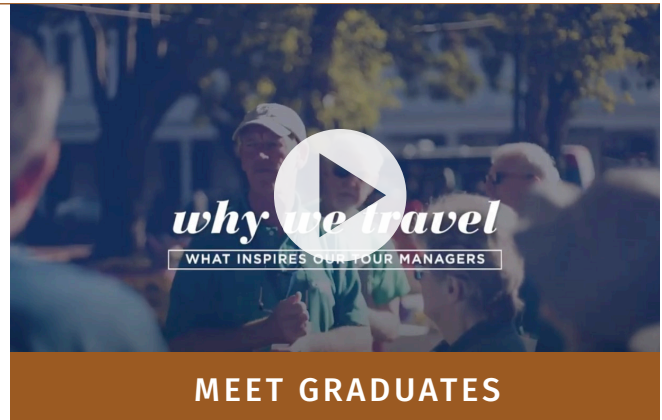
ARE YOU A LIFELONG LEARNER? HOW TO CREATE A CAREER WHERE YOU CAN TURN YOUR JOB INTO THE GREATEST CLASSROOM?

Travel is the greatest teacher in the world. The people-to-people connection is what travel is all about.

Travel creates global bonds that dwarf geographic distances and cultural differences. Each time you travel, you weave a thread in a larger world tapestry that creates a bridge across oceans and continents.

Those who travel, whether individuals or in collaboration as a group, actively participate in a global shift toward a partnership of cultural transformation.

No traveler comes back a little more close-minded nor do they add to a personal list of stereotypes and preconceived ideas about fellow humans in this world. Seeing not just the world, but yourself with a different eye and hearing the world and yourself with a different voice is essential. All travelers come back with a deeper understanding that we are not that different, that we all love, hope for a



Listen to ITMI Graduates Kristen, Beth, Luciana, Michelle, and Wesley talk about Why They Travel.

better future for ourselves and our families and want more peace in the world.

The personal impact of travel shows up in little nuances every day...by treating others less fortunate with a little more compassion, feeling blessed for our safety and privilege and the knowledge that it is our destiny to continue to reach out, explore, connect and share with one another.

And there are those individuals who find that just being a traveler is not enough and want to make travel their

career. The most exciting and satisfying part of being a Travel Professional is the ability to share the wonder of travel with others by having the privilege to empower people to stretch personally, to grow by trying a new food, use a

new language to say “hello” and “thank you”, explore the destination on their own and find that their life is enriched not only while traveling but in their everyday lives at home.



ITMI GRADUATES
- CALIFORNIA -

3 of 30 National / State Park Ranger

The Job: Protection of parks, historical sites and recreational areas as well as provide narration

Education: Prospective park managers generally have a bachelor's degree in the natural sciences such as botany, zoology, geology, environmental studies, or ecology. Wilderness First Responder preferred. Some universities offer programs specifically designed for park management or forestry. Candidates with a degree in park management or forestry may have a hiring advantage.

Experience: Group management, team leadership, excellence in communication, proven decision-making skills, crisis management

Great Fits: Recent graduates, new career seekers, retirees, military veterans, athletes, outdoor enthusiasts, camp counselors

Technology: GPS, Customer relationship management software; email software; spreadsheet software; social media applications

Activity Level: 7-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$60,000



Jennifer, ITMI Graduate, Road Scholar Tour: Rafting, Caving and Hiking Crater Lake, Oregon, USA
Jennifer makes National Parks, the wild scenery and adventure of the United States her office everyday. In one of the tours she leads through the Pacific Northwest, Jennifer says it creates “beautiful rafting opportunities, wildlife watching opportunities and a way to get out and about in our environment and see beautiful things.”



CLAUDIA, ITMI GRADUATE | VIKING RIVER CRUISES
- EUROPE -

4 of 30 Shore Excursion / Cruise / Riverboat Tour Leaders

The Job: Presentation of port information and tour descriptions, tour sales, tour dispatch, troubleshooting and accounting. Often lead outings off the ship like hiking, rafting, kayaking, and other adventure related activities.

Education: Bachelor's Hospitality & Tourism, and/or equivalent tourism experience

Experience: Tour guiding, customer service/relations, social savvy, guest relations, knowledge of ports, sales, accounting skill set

Great Fits: Speakers, adventurers, activity leaders

Technology: Microsoft Office, accounting, knowledge of social media, photography

Activity Level: 6 - 10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$25,000 to \$75,000

5 of 30: Cruise Ship / Riverboat Entertainers

The Job: Provide entertainment to ship passengers

Education: Relevant certifications

Experience: Singers, musicians, comedians, magicians, dancers

Great Fits: Anyone with performance background, video, photography and social media knowledge helpful

Activity Level: 3-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$1400 - \$4000 per month

6 of 30 Historians

The Job: Gather historical data from various sources, archives, books, and artifacts. Analyze and interpret historical information to determine authenticity significance to the audience you are lecturing.

Education: Bachelor's in History, certification in related fields, expertise in time periods

Experience: Teaching / lecturing experience a plus; published work related to field; demonstrated problem-solving

Great Fits: Educators, speakers, scholars, authors, archeologists, anthropologists

Technology: Microsoft Office, slide presentations, Google Maps, iMaps

Activity Level: 2-8

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$30,000 to \$75,000

7 of 30 Language Instructors

The Job: Teachers work with non-native speakers to help them learn to speak, read, understand and write English. Responsible for providing lessons and support to students, mentor, advisors, and liaison to families

Education: Bachelor's, ESL teaching qualification / certificate, TESOL or ESOL or linguistics

Experience: Teaching experience helpful, but not necessary; group communication; knowledge of the history and cultural sensitivity

Great Fits: Educators, trainers

Technology: Computer-based training and word processing software, video, film, online games, Grammar Up, digital field trips, 4-H Virtual Farm, Podcasts, Web Quest, blogging, administrative software

Activity Level: 1-6

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$75,000

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MONICA LECK

ITMI Certified Tour Director & Guide

Monica Leck started her career as a Cruise Director with American Queen Voyages aboard the American Star. Since then, she has worked aboard ships on almost all of American Cruise Lines itineraries including the Mississippi River, Columbia and Snake Rivers, New England and the Historic South.



In her current position as Excursions Director, Monica ensures that their guests have a fun and memorable experience. She briefs guests on the details of all excursions and is a primary contact with onshore vendors. Monica also accompanies guests on all of the onshore adventures.

You may ask what her favorite part of the job is? Monica says, “I’m fairly seasoned on many itineraries, especially along the Mississippi. I know the special moments that guests are about to experience as I lead them there. I love seeing their reactions and the joy on their faces. I also love sharing the history of each region we visit.”

“Because we are working at a new port every day, I never have the same day twice. I really enjoy that. I like every day to be different. I enjoy having to be nimble and flexible. Also, when living on the ship, the crew becomes your family and even the guests are your family for that week. Ship time is a real thing. Everything moves fast, so you get close to people quickly, even the guests.”

“My favorite itinerary (because I’m from the great state of Ohio) is the Ohio River cruise from St. Louis to Pittsburgh. It is 100% my favorite itinerary. I love the tiny towns and the fascinating cities along the way. There’s just such a nice variety and it’s so idyllic and beautiful.”

“My favorite memory was during my first season on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. There was a couple that was interested in signing up for our Hells Canyon Jet Boat Adventure. The gentleman was apprehensive because he had a breathing machine and was afraid that the battery would run out during the ride. I spoke to the Jet Boat Captain and he assured me that there would be a generator and power to plug in his machine on board. I told them with confidence that it would be safe for them to go on this excursion and they ended up having the time of their lives! They were so excited they were like little kids. That memory is so special.”

Monica says that as she grows with American Cruise Lines, she is most excited about the opportunities to mentor incoming Excursion Directors (many of them fellow ITMI Graduates) as well as reaching her goal to sail all of the itineraries that are offered.

Does working on board a cruise ship sound like the type of adventure that would bring you joy and excitement? If so, American Cruise Lines hires talented and dedicated crew members to help them continue to provide unsurpassed service to their guests.

American Queen Voyages Careers

[MORE INFO](#)



AREA CLOSED
BEYOND THIS POINT

**DAN, ITMI GRADUATE
- CANADIAN ROCKIES -**



FOR ADMINISTRATIVE & OFFICE



8 of 30 Reservation Agents

The Job: Book or reserve your guests' hotel, resort stay or cruise ship packages, make recommendations to consumers who are not sure of what they want. Learn about all aspects of what you are selling.

Education: High school or equivalent, CLIA Courses, ITMI Destination e-courses, train to certify for various specialties

Experience: Retail and sales

Great Fits: Customer service professionals, retail & sales experts / professionals

Technology: Reservation systems; database user interface, word processing, and query software

Activity Level: 1-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International, work from home opportunities

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$60,000+ or Commission based agents

9 of 30 Cruise / Hotel Pursers

The Job: The purser on a cruise ship is a staff member that handles cash and financial matters onboard. Chief Purser oversees a staff that manages money and accounts as well as guest services on the ship. Hotel pursers support financial officers to manage revenue & costs, including posting, balancing and reporting company accounts.

Education: Accounting degree or higher education, minimum of 2 years experience preferably on board a ship

Experience: Bookkeeping; accounting; accounts payable/receivable; treasury, hotel front desk

Great Fits: Accountants, cashiers, administrative assistants

Technology: Database user interface and query software; accounting software; document management software, Microsoft Office

Activity Level: 1-4

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$30,000 to \$100,000+



MICHELLE & ALEX, ITMI GRADUATES
- TEXAS -

WANDERLUST... ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET PAID TO TRAVEL?

For many people, traveling around the world or even around your country is a passion. But traveling can be expensive and for many, it's simply not in the budget. So, why not find a career where you can get paid to travel?

Many people are unaware that there are jobs that not only pay you to travel by land or sea, but you can also lead local tours in your city or show off the trails and hiking paths you love. If you are looking for a way to get paid to travel and have the freedom to chart your own course, consider a career in the travel industry.

Let's look at two possible directions... tour guiding and working onboard a cruise ship.

What does a tour guide do? Tour guides work for tour companies who organize and book the tours. Tour guides are either leading local tours or are on the road with the tour guests. They are responsible for the guests, making sure that all of the guests are safe and accounted for and that the tour proceeds on schedule.

You might say that tour guides are also performers, teachers or historians who inform and entertain their guests with stories about the places they visit. Most importantly, tour guides really like people and relate well to them. They set the tone for the group and ensure that the participants enjoy themselves. An outgoing personality, a spirit of adventure, love of history and cultures and a good sense of humor are definitely part of the job description.

How can you become a professional tour guide? One way is by enrolling in a tour guide / tour director certification program. Look for a school that has an excellent reputation and a great working relationship with tour companies. You can call tour companies such as Globus Family of Brands, Tauck and Worldstrides...they can give you the inside scoop on where to get your certification.

What does a cruise ship employee do? There are so many opportunities and different jobs onboard a cruise ship. Are you interested in working with children? Perhaps you're a foodie

and the thought of traveling the world while honing your culinary skills seems like an impossible dream. Or maybe you are interested in photography, working for a hotel (cruise ships are just awesome hotels on water) or using your performing arts background while going from exotic port to exotic port.

How can you work on a cruise ship? Check out the major cruise lines Careers or Jobs page. They hire people from all over the world.



SHELBY, ITMI GRADUATE
- ANTARCTICA -

10 of 30 Hotel Concierge / Front Desk

The Job: Assists guests by promoting resort activities, handle customer service issues, check-in and out, scheduling, local recommendations, reservations and administrative tasks

Education: High School or equivalent, training and certifications in hospitality, tourism, destination knowledge, conflict resolution,

Experience: Customer service / guest relations, VIP experience,

Technology: Database user interface and query software; accounting software; document management software, Microsoft Office

Activity Level: 1-4

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$65,000+

11 of 30 Travel Agent / Travel Advisor / Corporate or Leisure

The Job: Consult with travelers and book trips and packages

Education: High school or equivalent; related certifications

Experience: Sales, travel history, knowledge of geography; second language a plus

Great Fits: Customer service professionals, salespeople, experienced travelers, entrepreneur

Technology: Database user interface and query software; calendar and scheduling software; customer relationship management software, social media

Activity Level: 3-6

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International Relocation, stay at home work opportunities

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$60,000+ or Commission / Discounted travel



ANAND, ITMI GRADUATE
- NIAGARA FALLS -

12 of 30 Retail Experts: Cruise or Resorts / Sales Associate

The Job: A host to all passengers or guests by presenting unique retail experience, brand strategy, while achieving or exceeding budgeted financial goals. Performs inventories, receiving, transfers, deletions, price changes, stock rotations and ticket processes as directed.

Education: High school or equivalent, certification in customer service / guest relations

Experience: Retail experience, preferred 2 years retail experience as a sales person or cashier.

Great Fits: Retail experts, sales professionals

Technology: Point-of-sale software; database user interface and query software; e-mail software

Activity Level: 1-8

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, Relocation International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$60,000

13 of 30 Flight Attendants / Leisure or Corporate

The Job: Ensure safety and comfort of passengers during an airline flight. Customer service professionals who provide a welcoming atmosphere to passengers, stow luggage, do presentations, answer questions calmly, facilitate beverage and food services, guide passengers in case of an emergency.

Education: High school or equivalent; relevant certifications ie: customer service, guest relations

Experience: Group communication, crisis management, guest relations, presentation skills

Great Fits: People oriented, caregivers, independent traveler,

Technology: Calendar and scheduling software, spreadsheet software, and computer-based training software

Activity Level: 7 to 10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic and International

Pay Range: \$25,000 to \$80,000



FOR WRITERS



14 of 30 Travel Writer

The Job: Write articles for travel magazines, publications

Education: BA in Journalism, Communications, or Travel and Tourism, Certifications related to writing / photography

Experience: Knowledge of travel, travel history, knowledge of geography; second language a plus

Great Fits: Desire to explore new destinations, storyteller, willingness to work freelance, independent adventure seekers

Technology: Note-taking tools ie: Evernote, Apple Notes app, iPad or similar, Dictaphone device, Writing / Editing Software

Activity Level: 0-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: Varies widely; usually per article

15 of 30 Blogger

The Job: Create or curate content about travel-related goods, services, or experiences

Education: High school or equivalent

Experience: Professional writing

Great Fits: Writers, web designers, social media gurus

Technology: Multimedia design; web-page creation and editing software; Microsoft Office; analytics software; sales

Activity Level: 2-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$120,000



JIMMY, ITMI GRADUATE
- RWANDA -



FOR FOODIES & VOLUNTEERS



16 of 30 Wine & Culinary Aficio-foodies

The Job: Interpret, critique, and review wine and food

Education: Associate's or Bachelor's

Experience: Food service management; professional writing; published reviews; journalism

Great Fits: Writers, chefs, critics, television personalities

Technology: Microsoft Office

Activity Level: 0-5

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$30,000 to \$100,000



Joana, ITMI Graduate, Taste Porto Food Tour Guide, Portugal

Joana has traveled half the world to transform herself from archaeologist to tour guide. Her love of Porto, its food and heritage led her to Taste Porto. Her motto is "if you have a problem, put some cheese on it. There's nothing that won't get better with cheese."

17 of 30 International / Domestic Volunteer / Internships

The Job: Provide resources to communities in need. Many opportunities for organizations such as Peace Corps, Americorps, Agritourismos or Farm Internships, House Building and Village Improvements and Wildlife Conservation just to name a few. For those interested in interning in the travel industry, look to your local Destination Marketing Organizations / Convention and Visitors Bureau, Destination Management Companies, Hotels, Conference Centers and Special Event Venues for internship opportunities.

Education: High school or equivalent

Experience: Volunteer experience; group communication; social savvy; second language a plus

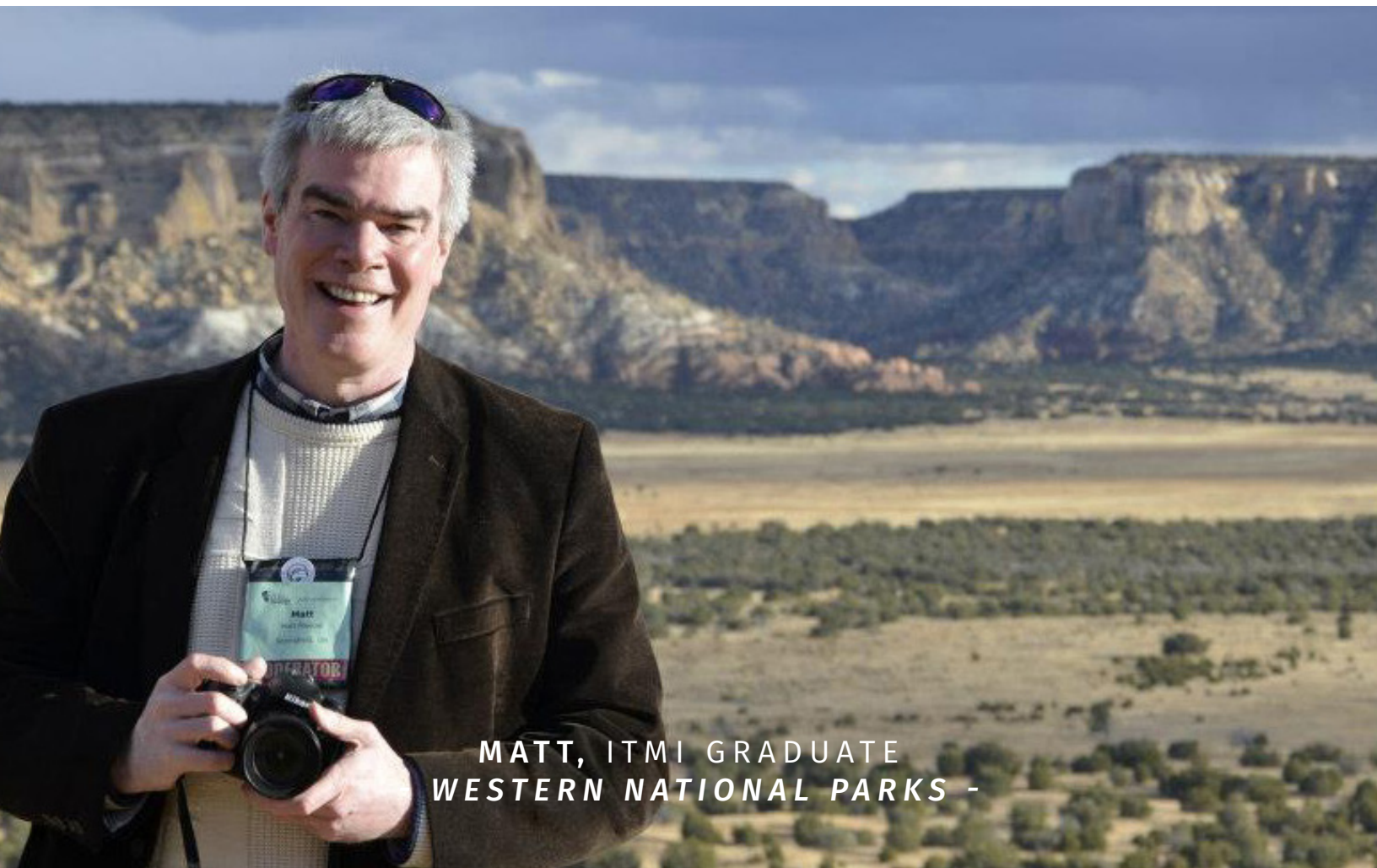
Great Fits: Anyone who wants to help

Technology: Microsoft Office

Activity Level: 1-8

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: Stipends, room and board or \$12,000 – \$17,000 per year



MATT, ITMI GRADUATE
WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS -



FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO WORK WITH KIDS



18 of 30 Au Pair / Childcare Worker

The Job: Care for a family's children abroad

Education: High school or equivalent; relevant certifications

Experience: Babysitting; nannying; elder care

Great Fits: Nannies, parents, babysitters

Technology: Computer-based training software; word processing software, web browser software

Activity Level: 6-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000

19 of 30 Kids Activities Staff / Cruise Ship and Resorts

The Job: Care for a family's children aboard a Cruise Ship, River Cruise or Luxury All-Inclusive Resort. Plan activities to educate and entertain kids.

Education: Bachelor's degree preferred; relevant certifications and CPR Training (infants), languages and early childhood development a plus

Experience: Babysitting; nannying; elder care, preschool and early childhood educators, camp counselors, water sports knowledge / swimming

Great Fits: Nannies, parents, babysitters, teachers

Technology: Customer relationship management software; email software; spreadsheet software; social media applications

Activity Level: 7-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000

20 of 30 Student Tour Director

The Job: If you love kids and love travel, this is the perfect job for you! Every student, regardless of gender identity, race, physical ability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status deserves to experience the life-changing impact of educational travel. Likes to work with kids from ages 9 – 18, handle logistics, confirmations, planning, inspiration and fun, group dynamics and provide narration. Be the catalyst to teach students about tolerance, other perspectives, and themselves

Education: ITMI Certification preferred

Experience: Group management, team leadership, excellence in communication, proven decision-making skills, crisis management, teaching or coaching background

Great Fits: Recent graduates, new career seekers, retirees, military veterans, coaches, history buffs, retired teachers or youth counselors, parents, Girl & Boy Scout volunteers, Big Brothers & Sisters volunteers

Technology: Social media applications, slide share programs, Microsoft Office

Activity Level: 6-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$70,000



Carrie, ITMI Graduate, Student Tour Director, EF Explore America

For Carrie, it's all about working with kids, "you watch kids transform into their own unique beings, you watch them get a sense of independence they gain through this trip and then go back home feeling really good about themselves. I hope they continue to travel, travel is the best education you can have. It fills your soul and makes you a better person."



MICHAELA & ALEXA, ITMI GRADUATES
- ITALY -



FOR LEADERS & MANAGERS



21 of 30 Cruise Director

The Job: Cruise directors are considered an officer on board organizing entertainment, putting together shows, performing, attending other cruise performances and rehearsals and working with choreographers and entertainers. They oversee the development of entertainment programs and ensure that all aspects of cruise ship entertainment (including lectures) go smoothly. This includes a variety of tasks like working directly with AV crews and managers to ensure lighting, sound and any technological aspects are ready for the ship's performances. Their responsibilities also include some administrative work, which can entail budgets, billing and scheduling. Cruise directors are often considered the face of the cruise ship's entertainment and directors are almost always present at social functions onboard.

Education: Bachelor's degree in related fields

Experience: 5+ years in lodging management; group communication; expert problem-solving abilities, Previous work experience on board from entertainment or activity staff positions. Usually promoted from Assistant Cruise Director

Great Fits: Managers, supervisors, people oriented, strong team skills, event background, speakers, entertainer, outgoing personality

Technology: Facilities management software; customer relationship management software; spreadsheet software, Microsoft office

Activity Level: 10

Time and Travel: FT, International

Pay Range: \$60,000 to \$125,000

22 of 30 Tour Guide

The Job: Tour guide is an exciting, adventurous and rewarding way of sharing your love of travel, seeing the world and learning cultures, and history from people from different countries and regions. They are cultural interpreters, ambassadors of their country of origin. They help travelers visit local attraction sites, walking tour leaders, City Guides, Museum Guides and Docents. Tour Guides may work on or in ships, river cruises, motorcoaches, walking tours, trolleys, museums, local attractions and more.

Education: Bachelor's degree and in many countries an additional Tour Guide License and Higher Education

Experience: Local tour guide experience helpful, knowledge of local attractions, historic sites, interesting stories, but not required; group communication; proven problem-solving ability

Great Fits: Gets along with people of all cultures and backgrounds, age groups, nationalities and values, speakers, performers, possessing empathy, understanding and sensitivity to guests with special needs. Teachers, lecturers, docents and historians.

Technology: Slide share programs, Microsoft Office; social media applications

Activity Level: 5-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$60,000



HANNAH, ITMI GRADUATE
- NEW ZEALAND -

WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU ONLY FEEL JOY WHEN TRAVELING OR AWAY FROM WORK?

Travel Leaders are professions that attract a wide range of personality types. Artists, actors, musicians, writers, scientists, and historians are among those who gravitate toward this exciting and challenging career path.

Despite their differences in education and interests, most share one common characteristic: they're just plain fun to be around. They made the decision to focus on a career where they made a difference in the world, bringing joy to others and also to themselves.

Here are 8 reasons tour directors and tour guides are the most fun people you'll ever meet.

1 | They have great senses of humor: The ability to find the punch line in the most harrowing of circumstances is an art form few master. For Travel Leaders, it's pretty much obligatory. The more variables you juggle – weather, traffic, 50-plus people coexisting for several days – the more that can go wrong. Sometimes you just have to have a good laugh and move on.



MEET GRADUATES

Listen to ITMI Graduates talk about the Joys of Being a Tour Director.

2 | Their enthusiasm is contagious: Wide-eyed wonderment is a feeling that never fades from the most passionate travelers. New experiences with new friends in exotic locales tend to bring out the kid in them. For some Travel Professionals, it doesn't matter if they've been to a place on one occasion or 100 – they see its soul and it lights them up every time.

3 | They're great listeners: It's interesting that this is so true of people who make their living by speaking. Ever wonder why a good tour guide is able to grab the attention of so many tour members? It's because they've spent a huge chunk of their time listening

to their guests, finding out what they like, what they don't, and continuously modifying their approach based on this feedback.

4 | They know how to work a room: Travel Leaders have a knack for bringing the social butterfly out of the most deeply rooted wallflowers. One major reason is their sensitivity. When you deal with so many different personalities and people from all over the world on a regular basis, you become a master at identifying shared attitudes and interests. Don't be surprised if you see them help the most introverted person in the room break out of their shell and forge a lifelong bond or two.

5 | They can communicate with anyone: No one can overcome a language barrier more deftly than a Travel Professional. The more you travel, the more commonalities you observe among different groups of people. You learn the gestures, intonations, and expressions that speak universally. When two people earnestly try to understand each other, they can usually find common ground.

6 | They're people pleasers: Arguably, most people are genuinely concerned about the happiness of others. Travel Leaders tend to feel responsible for it –

even to a fault. They will do everything in their power to ensure that their group is as entertained and full of joy as they deserve to be. That doesn't mean they're doormats. It means they understand that a group's mood is dynamic; it ebbs and flows with every positive and negative word and thought.

7 | They're natural storytellers: What makes a great storyteller great is his or her ability to make the audience feel as if they were there. It's about making memories relatable and tangible. That requires being incredibly observant and aware of one's surroundings. They are the thirstiest of sponges, always looking to soak up the essence of every place and experience so they can share them in the most engaging ways possible.

8 | They know how to party: No, we're not referring to how much they can drink. We're talking about how they can cut loose and have fun when the time is right. The most successful Tour Leaders are incredibly balanced. They work hard, play hard, travel hard (and often!) and realize the importance of both. For every ounce of meticulousness and planning expertise they possess, they are often blessed with spontaneity and carefree silliness in equal measure.



**JAN, ITMI GRADUATE
- SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK -**

23 of 30 Adventure Guide

The Job: Working as an adventure guide is for those with a passion for the outdoors and willingness to work in a dynamic environment. It can entail long hours with a reward of meeting people from all over the world, and getting to work outside everyday. Handling logistics, confirmations, planning, group dynamics and provide narration, first aid if needed.

Education: ITMI Certification preferred, Wilderness First Responder preferred, National Outdoor Leadership Course (NOLS)

Experience: Group management, team leadership, excellence in communication, proven decision-making skills, crisis management

Great Fits: Recent graduates, new career seekers, retirees, military veterans, athletes, outdoor enthusiasts, camp counselors

Technology: Customer relationship management software; email software; spreadsheet software; social media applications

Activity Level: 6-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000+



Chris, ITMI Graduate, Adventure Guide with Adventures by Disney

Whether it's Egypt, the United States, Greece or Italy, Chris says, "for me, there's no greater thing to do than to show somebody these incredible experiences."



CHRIS, ITMI GRADUATE
- UTAH, USA -

5 SIGNS IT'S TIME TO SWITCH CAREERS AND BECOME A TRAVEL LEADER

If you find yourself constantly daydreaming at work about faraway lands and fascinating cultures, you might need more than a vacation. It could be time to pursue your dream of a career in travel.

Travel Leaders enjoy exciting, fulfilling, and lucrative careers. They meet new people every day and get to experience the beauty and variety that makes life worth living.

Here are 5 signs it's time to say goodbye to your desk and hello to a world of limitless possibilities:

1 | You suspect your office chair means you harm: If your back could talk, it would kindly ask you to destroy the torture device you subject it to day after day. It's no secret that prolonged periods of sitting are bad for your health, and the ripple effect is huge. Body pains often equal foul moods. It's time for you to stretch.

2 | Your manager is a lurker: She just bought new, quieter shoes. She

claims they're orthopedic. You call them her "dream-busting flats" – the ideal footwear for catching employees scanning instagram, their next vacation idea or the job classifieds. You don't waste (much) time at work, but try telling your supervisor that. Stop worrying about who is looking over your shoulder and start being your own boss on the road.

3 | You're not a fan of company potlucks: You never were the Betty Crocker type, and eating crock-pot chicken prepared by people you don't know very well always makes you a bit squeamish. As a tour leader, you will enjoy five-star restaurant fare and sumptuous buffets. If you don't trust a dish, you can avoid it without offending Pam in accounting.

4 | You don't love small talk: It's not that you don't love people. You do. You really do. You just tire of the same old 8-day weather forecasts and sports analyses, and you don't exactly feel comfortable offering dating advice to your neighbor even when he begs for it.

When you travel to exotic locales with fellow adventurers, your conversations will tend to be about topics you care about.

5 | Your view leaves a lot to be desired:

Perhaps you're stuck in a gray cubicle with a name plate, a fake plant, and a few family photos to remind you that your job doesn't define you. Or you

might be fortunate enough to have a stunning cityscape view from your high-rise corner office. Either way, you can't escape that feeling that there is so much beyond your nook that is begging to be explored. As a Travel Leader, you will get a major office upgrade. This prime piece of real estate is otherwise known as the entire world. Feel free to kick your feet up.

CHING, ITMI GRADUATE
- MONTEREY -



24 of 30 Driver Guide / Motorcoach Operator / Driver

The Job: Driver guides handle narration and transportation while leading tours to a city, National Park, wineries and more in a one-of-a-kind touring experience which allows them to engage with and get to know guests over the course of the day

Experience: Valid Commercial license and commercial vehicle with passenger endorsement experience a plus, some companies may train. Tour guide experience helpful; group communication; proven problem-solving ability, demonstrated good judgment in high-pressure situations, safe driving record

Great Fits: Tour guides, Tour directors, docents, speakers, performers, educators, historians, truck or package delivery driver, school bus and public bus drivers

Technology: Slide share programs, GPS familiarity; social media applications

Activity Level: 5-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$80,000

25 of 30 Tour Director / Tour Manager

The Job: Tour Directors are part tour guide, part concierge and part friend to their guests! They are highly trained and certified experts who are with their guests every step of the way. They're passionate travelers who draw on their own backgrounds to enhance every journey. They impart historical information, storytelling, local restaurant and sightseeing suggestions, interesting stories about the destination the group is visiting and even a good laugh. They also handle logistics, confirmations, planning, troubleshooting and group dynamics.

Education: ITMI Certification preferred

Experience: Group management, team leadership, excellence in communication, proven decision-making skills, crisis management

Great Fits: Recent graduates, new career seekers, retirees, teachers, veterans

Technology: Email software; spreadsheet software; social media applications

Activity Level: 4-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$100,000

26 of 30 Tour Operator

The Job: Own your own tour company, decide when you want to travel, with whom and where. Dreaming of traveling internationally, this is the ticket! Handle logistics, confirmations, planning, damage control, group dynamics and marketing.

Education: ITMI Certification preferred, plus Local and International Entrepreneur Certification [Click for Local Tours](#) and [Click for International and Multi-Day Tours](#)

Experience: Group management, team leadership, excellence in communication, proven decision-making skills, crisis management, marketing, previous business owner, travel advisor or tour director / guide

Great Fits: Entrepreneurs, new career seekers, retirees, military veterans, business owners

Technology: Customer relationship management software; email software; spreadsheet software; social media applications

Activity Level: 3-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$40,000 to \$100,000+

27 of 30 MICE* Tourism Leader / DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) / DMC (Destination Management Company)

**Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Events*

The Job: Plan, book, and facilitate conferences, seminars, and other events for business groups and other events for business groups, meetings, conventions, annual association events, incentives and more

Education: Bachelor's degree, relevant certifications

Experience: Corporate and social event planning; group communication; social savvy; proven problem-solving ability

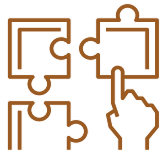
Great Fits: Planners, gifted communicators, organization experts

Technology: Database user interface and query software; project management software; graphics or photo-imaging software

Activity Level: 8-10

Time and Travel: FT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$25,000 to \$85,000



FOR COORDINATORS



28 of 30 Event Planner

The Job: Coordinate all aspects of professional meetings and events

Education: Bachelor's degree

Experience: Corporate and social event planning; group communication; social savvy; proven problem-solving ability

Great Fits: Planners, gifted communicators, organization experts

Technology: Database user interface and query software; project management software; graphics or photo-imaging software

Activity Level: 10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$25,000 to \$85,000

29 of 30 Activities Coordinator

The Job: Work in hotels and resorts and on cruise ships creating and leading fun activities for guests

Education: High school or equivalent

Experience: Team leadership; group communication; social savvy

Great Fits: People people, athletic types, cheerleaders









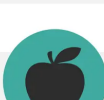

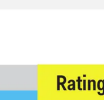
Technology: Microsoft Office; database user interface and query software; spreadsheet software

Activity Level: 11

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Seasonal, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$20,000 to \$50,000

20 BEST JOBS FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND TOUR GUIDE IS #3!

	JOB TITLE	WORK-LIFE BALANCE RATING
	1. Data Scientist	4.4
	2. SEO Specialist	4.3
	3. Tour Guide	4.3
	4. Lifeguard	4.3
	5. Social Media Manager	4.3
	6. Group Fitness Instructor	4.2
	7. User Experience Designer	4.2
	8. Corporate Communications	4.1
	9. Firefighter	4.0
	10. Equity Trader	4.0
	11. Law Clerk	4.0
	12. Investment Analyst	4.0
	13. Administrative Assistant	4.0
	14. Office Assistant	3.9
	15. Sales Representative	3.9
	16. Help Desk Technician	3.9
	17. Substitute Teacher	3.8
	18. Carpenter	3.8
	19. Real Estate Broker	3.8
	20. Game Designer	3.8

Ratings are based on a 1-5 scale, 1 = Very Dissatisfied • 3.0 = OK • 5 = Very Satisfied

Source: Glassdoor

BUSINESS INSIDER

Whether you are seeking your first career or a change of course, Tour Guiding will offer you a unique combination of flexibility and fulfillment.

If you love traveling and meeting interesting people, training to become a Tour Guide is the greatest gift you can give to yourself.

Tour Guides are able to balance their careers and their personal lives in a manner that few other jobs afford. Online career community Glassdoor ranked Tour Guide among its 20 Best Jobs for Work-Life Balance based on feedback from its user base.

Here are 5 reasons becoming a Tour Guide will provide you with the balance you need.

1 | You Determine Your Own Schedule: There is no better career for those who want to avoid 9-to-5 monotony. One of the most appealing aspects of becoming a Tour Guide is the wealth of work schedules available. There are part-time gigs, full-time, seasonal – you name it. Whether you want to take a full dive or simply dip your toes, you'll find no shortage of opportunities.

2 | You Earn a Solid Living: The money is good and can be great depending on the job you land and the tips you earn. It is important to note, however, that getting wealthy shouldn't be your sole motivation for pursuing this career. Tour Guides find their satisfaction in the rich and varied experiences they enjoy on a regular basis.

3 | You Enjoy Beautiful Locales: Tour Guides have the greatest offices in the

world. Even when they're "at work," Tour Guides get to experience beautiful sights and fascinating cultures. You will probably be amazed at how inspired and energized your job will leave you at the end of the day. Tour Guiding can have an incredibly positive impact on how you approach your personal or family time.

4 | You Choose Assignments Based on Your Interests: If you're a history buff, you'll have no problem finding a job where you can both teach and learn. If you'd rather be eating your way through the best new restaurants in Italy, you won't be disappointed in what's available either. With so many travelers desiring so many different types of niche and specialized tours, you will find an opening that suits you to a tee.

5 | You Keep Company with Like-Minded People: The value of this fact cannot be emphasized enough. When you are constantly with others who share your wanderlust and thirst for new experiences, you recharge each other's batteries. You lift each other up in ways that few other working relationships can. Every time your guests try an exotic new food or reach a stunning mountaintop and their eyes light up, you will be reminded why you chose this amazing career.



ROBIN, ITMI GRADUATE
- ICELAND -

30 of 30 Specialty Travel Careers

The Job: No need to start over in a new career, many jobs can be turned into domestic or international jobs. If you are a Nurse, Doctor, Librarian, Wedding Planner, Corporate and Leisure Sales Director, Ski Instructor, Human Resources Manager, Translator, Teacher, Archaeologist, Foreign Service Officer, Scuba Instructor, Digital Nomad and more, you may be able to take your experience and turn it into a traveling career.

Experience: Your existing expertise

Technology: As required

Activity Level: 1-10

Time and Travel: FT, PT, Domestic, International

Pay Range: \$25,000 to \$100,000+

SO, HOW WAS THAT?

You should be feeling more confident about finding the perfect Dream Travel Career!

There are travel career opportunities for everybody. All you need is the spirit of adventure and some tips and tools to get you started!

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HOW YOU CAN GET STARTED





CHAPTER

BUILDING YOUR PLAN





BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR PLAN



You need to take an honest and relatively comprehensive look at your current life situation.

STEP 1

Begin your plan.

Some of these questions might be uncomfortable to answer, and that's fine. We're not looking.

Based on our experiences with successful career-transitioning candidates, we can confidently assure you that this is an important step in determining what your goal is and the direction you should take toward it.

1. What is one of the most joyful moments or stories you have experienced while traveling?
2. What do you imagine are some of the fun perks of a career in travel?
3. How do you feel about your life, situation, and career right now, at this point? What is happening in your life that is prompting you to pause, reflect, and perhaps change directions?
4. Deep down, what is that travel dream or career goal? What do you envision your life could look like if you took the leap knowing that a travel career can work for all lifestyles?

STEP 2

Make a list of the travel careers that appeal to you and fit your lifestyle.

1. What would it mean to you if you could have that dream or goal?
2. What do you believe this career will allow you to do that you can't do now? Get paid to travel? Meet new people? Have a fun job?
3. What do you feel is getting in the way of your dreams and what you really want? Connections to the travel industry? Ways to find a job? How to get professionally certified?
4. What do you feel that you need at this moment in order to pursue your dreams, to achieve your goals, or to be successful?
5. What problem do you need to solve to feel that you are making progress towards your dream travel career?
6. What one small step will you do today to move forward towards your dream travel career?

STEP 3

Listen to the experts!

What if...there is a way to put you on the fast track to starting your dream travel career this year that calms those fears and answers those questions that are on your mind? What if...

...there is someone who is already successful in your dream career? What if they hold your hand and walk you through all of their steps, secrets to success, mistakes to avoid, and help you get hired so that you can confidently take that first step towards your dream travel career?

For six decades Tour Companies have been hiring ITMI graduates because they have invested in themselves to be professionally trained, mentored and supported in their future growth and success.

As you begin to imagine your world expanding and transforming beyond what you thought possible, you may have feelings of self-doubt and fear. We are here to let you know that whatever your dream travel career is, it's totally possible for you to design your world how you want it to be, full time, part time or seasonal. Whether you're interested in adventure guiding, international, student educational travel, faith-based, cultural, food & wine, music performance, or any other types of tours, we can help launch your dream travel career!

Through our partnerships with countless travel companies, we know exactly how to get you started. We've designed a world-class training experience to prepare you for these opportunities and help open doors to make your career dreams come true. We've integrated the latest trends in travel along with technology to help you be prepared for success.

When you are accepted into the ITMI Tour Certification Training Program and enroll, you will begin your journey through the following process.

Listen To Others Who Found Their Dream Career



Why we travel: what inspires our tour managers?



Qualities of a Successful Tour Director and Guide



Why getting certified by ITMI for your travel career will get you hired?

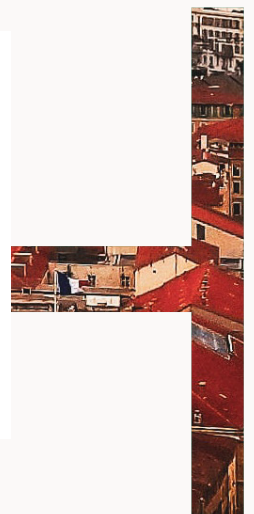
READY TO GET STARTED?





CHAPTER

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR
DREAM TRAVEL CAREER





TOP 25 TIPS AND INSIDER-SECRET TRAVEL CAREER JOBS



Onboard Cruise Ship Positions

Princess Cruise Lines

Head Office Address

24844 Ave. Rockefeller
Santa Clara, CA 91355-4999
800-744-6237

If you want to apply for any shipboard position and reside in the United States, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand, instructions are in the next paragraph. For all other regions:

[START HERE](#)

To apply for a position, please send an email with the job you are interested in and include your cover letter in the email body with an attachment of your résumé in a PDF format.

[AVAILABLE POSITIONS](#)

A recruiter will contact those applicants who meet the qualifications should we have available openings.

Carnival Corporation & PLC | P&O Cruises

Head Office Address

100 Harbour Parade
Southampton SO15 1st, United Kingdom
44-23-8065-6666

VISIT WEBSITE

Go to employment links – Explore Our Careers. You will need to register for an account the first time you click on “Sign Up For Job Alerts.” If you are applying for Spa, Casino, Retail, Photo Or Port Shipping positions:

START HERE

Norwegian Cruise Lines

NCL Corporation

7665 Corporate Center Dr.
Miami, FL 33126
305-436-4000 | +27-21-200-6586

Whether you are looking for on land positions or on board, follow the click to available positions. NCL is introducing eleven additional ships through 2027.

START HERE



Fine Arts Positions on a Cruise Ship

Applicants for positions within the Fine Arts department are recruited through Park West Gallery.

MORE INFO



Spa and Fitness Positions on a Cruise Ship

Applicants interested in positions in the Lotus Spa and Fitness Center are recruited through Steiner Leisure.

[MORE INFO](#)



Casino Positions on a Cruise Ship

Applicants for positions in the Casino, including Dealers and Slot Technicians, are recruited through Carnival Corporation.

[MORE INFO](#)



Entertainment and Performers on a Cruise Ship

Applicants interested in positions within the Entertainment department:

[EMAIL HERE](#)



Lecturers | Port and Shopping Lecturers | Presenters on a Cruise Ship

Posh Talks

Head Office Address

201 A McCray St. – 352

Hollister, CA 95023

Handles: Celebrity, Azamara, Princess and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines

Step 1 Go to website

Step 2 Review Speakers / Topics Tabs

Step 3 Fill our application online or email to poshtalks@aol.com

Onboard Media

Head Office Address

1691 Michigan Ave. Ste 600

Miami Beach, FL 33139

305-673-0400

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Step 1 Go to website

Step 2 Review info and click on “Apply Now” top right and follow the application procedures.

PPI Group

Head Office Address

6261 NW 6th Way, Suite 100
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
954-377-7777

Handles: Costa, Holland America, Carnival Corp, Norwegian Cruise Lines

VISIT WEBSITE

Review the video and click on “Apply Now”, you will then be directed how to apply.



Photographers | Videographer Positions on a Cruise Ship

The Image Group

P.O. Box 10310 APO
Grand Caymen, Caymen Islands
345-945-3737

Positions include: Singers, Dancers, Comedians, Illusionists, Impressionists, Sight Acts, Tribute Artists, Instrumentalists, Mentalists, Hypnotists, Specialty, Acrobatics and Circus Performers

Grayboy

Head Office Address

Gold Coast
Unit 1 11 Hutchinson St.
Burleigh Heads, Qld, 4220 Australia
61-7-5522-1640

VISIT WEBSITE

If interested send your resume with demo link / DVD / CD to:

Scott Ogier | General Manager Cruise & Creative Division

P.O. Box 1918

Potts Point NSW 1335

scott@grayboy.com

Proship Entertainment

Head Office

514-485-8823

Based in Montreal, Canada

Note: Hires for Princess, Cunard, Norwegian, Regent, Seabourn, P&O Cruises, Crystal, Azamara, Royal Caribbean, Carnival

Go to website, click on “Apply Now” select your department and fill out the online application.

VISIT WEBSITE



**Tour Guide | Tour Director | Tour Manager
Positions**

ITMI Job Board

The Tourism Industry’s Largest Travel Careers Job Board hosted by the International Tour Management Institute (ITMI) featuring positions such as Professional Tour Guides, Tour Managers, Tour Leaders, and Tour Directors. Many in-house positions as well as Cruise Ship, Riverboat, Resorts and more are updated weekly. For more than six-decades, ITMI has been committed to not only elevate the Travel Industry but to connect tourism and hospitality career hopefuls with gainful employment and experience.

MORE INFO

WFTGA (World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations)

The WFTGA's main purpose is to promote, market and ensure that tourist guides are recognised as the ambassadors of a region. They are the first and sometimes the only representation of the population a visitor will meet. WFTGA offers services to our members but also communicates to those in search of the services of professional area specific tourist guides and where to hire them. We also actively promote our members' associations and industry partners worldwide.

[MORE INFO](#)

NFTGA (National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations)

NFTGA was formed in 1998 to represent, promote and protect the common interests of tourist guide associations in the United States of America. The organization is composed of 21 member associations from different geographic areas around the United States, and has ties to associations throughout the world through our membership in the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA). Collectively, we represent thousands of tour guides, managers and planners throughout the U.S.

[MORE INFO](#)



Adventure Guide Positions

Cool Works

Cool Works, We feature job opportunities in great places — from national parks to ski resorts, dude ranches to summer camps, and everything in between.

[MORE INFO](#)



Resorts & National Parks

Club Med

Club Med specializes in premium all-inclusive vacations packages for families – with 65 award-winning resorts worldwide; choose between locations that feature tropical island oasis, thrilling ski retreat or exotic adventures. Looking for Hospitality, Culinary, Food & Beverage, Bartenders, Childcare & Activities, Well-Being, Sports / Water Sports and Performance Art.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Sandals

There are 16 Luxury Included® Sandals Resorts located throughout the Caribbean including Jamaica, The Bahamas, Grenada, Barbados, Antigua, Saint Lucia and Curaçao. Each offers stunning beachfront settings, luxurious accommodations and the many features that make the Sandals Luxury Included® experience. Having been named the Caribbean's Leading Hotel Brand at the World Travel Awards for 18 years in a row, Sandals Resorts is the recognized standard of romantic beach vacations. Looking for Hospitality, Culinary, Food & Beverage, Bartenders, Well-Being, Sports / Water Sports and Performance Arts. For Employment at the Resorts: Please note that employment of nonresidents of Caribbean countries requires a work permit which is granted by the relevant government. Work permits are only made available for positions which cannot be filled locally. For positions at the resorts, send resumes to:

Sandals Resorts International

5 Kent Avenue, PO BOX 100 Montego Bay, Jamaica, WI

recruitSRI@grp.sandals.com

Only individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.

[MORE INFO](#)

U.S. National Parks

The National Park Service preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. You can make a difference by bringing your unique experience, background, and perspective to our work. We offer opportunities to work in more than 400 national parks and offices—from Maine to Guam, the Virgin Islands to Alaska, and anyplace in between. We partner with communities across the country to preserve their history and create places for outdoor fun.

VISIT WEBSITE



Travel Writing and Bloggers

Black Travel Alliance

Black Travel Alliance is a professional non-profit organization [501(c)(3)], created in 2020 to encourage, educate, equip and excel black travel professionals in education, media, and corporate positions. Our three pillars of the community are alliance, amplification, and accountability. As travel authors, bloggers, broadcasters, journalists, photographers, podcasters, social media influencers, and vloggers, we unify to amplify. We also aim to provide training and business support to our members, as well as hold destinations and travel brands accountable on the issue of diversity in travel marketing and storytelling.

VISIT WEBSITE

Wanderful

Wanderful’s online membership community connects women who love to travel while also providing expert learning for travel creators to build healthy, thriving businesses and change the travel industry for the better. Members receive job postings from companies around the world looking to hire writers and bloggers.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



Meeting and Events Planner Positions

Many Meeting Planner positions are advertised on job search engines like Indeed.com, LinkedIn, HCareers and more. In addition, if you are a member of Hospitality / Tourism Associations such as MPI (Meeting Professionals International), there are additional job boards and career resources open to you.

[INDEED](#)

[LINKEDIN](#)

[HCAREERS](#)

[HSMAI](#)

[MPI](#)



GETTING THE HELP YOU NEED TO SUCCEED IN TRAVEL



We can't wait to be a part of your life's most exciting journey. Call us to learn more about how we can help you be the travel professional you were meant to be.

Make sure you have your answers to the six questions ready and we can help you figure out your next move!

Fill out our no obligation application [here](#)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO FIND YOU YOUR DREAM TRAVEL CAREER!

CONTACT US

travel@itmisf.com

itmitourtraining.com

itmitourtraining.com/itmi-experience/





Travel Industry Associations

At ITMI, we hope you have enjoyed your journey of discovery, and have ignited your interest to learn more about the adventurous world of travel.

The International Tour Management Institute was founded with the belief that travel is the passport for peace in our world. We believe that when we expand our perspectives of people, places, and cultures, we deepen our connection, compassion, and appreciation for all that is around us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

SAFE JOURNEYS!



TRAVEL UNITY

ITMI is a proud partner of Travel Unity. It's goal and mission is to connect community groups and individuals with travel, cultural and educational experiences to promote personal and professional growth. Their work includes working with organizations to broaden their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts worldwide.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



TOURISM CARES

Tourism Cares' mission is to unite the travel industry as a catalyst of positive social, environmental and economic impact for the people and places of travel.

Tourism Cares, a 501c3 US nonprofit, is dedicated to the travel industry's long-term survival by advancing its positive social, environmental and economic impact to help people and places thrive.

Since 2001 ITMI has been supporting Tourism Cares with its scholarship programs, destination recovery / revitalization initiatives and through donations from the ITMI Tour Guide / Tour Director training programs. We too, believe that by doing what's right for travel, we create opportunities, empower communities, amplify culture and protect the environment while fostering diverse perspectives and building inclusivity and understanding.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Tourism Cares

Travel moves people, and we can move travel.

Welcome to Tourism Cares. We are dedicated to the long-term survival of the travel industry. To achieve this, we need to enact lasting change in the way we do business for the people and places we serve.

In order for travel to be a force for good, travel companies need to be equipped with the tools, best practices, connections and resources to make it so. Tourism Cares provides that for our community..

We're on a journey. As leaders of the travel industry, we have the ability to create lasting change and Tourism Cares creates the space for the entire industry to move from competition to collaboration.

For people and places. By inspiring each other to make travel a force for good, we can ensure the future prosperity of the people and places who rely on it. By creating a mutual respect and code of ethics between people and planet, we believe we can change the world through travel.

Exclusive engagements + opportunities

Join us for our signature events, like our Global and North American Meaningful Travel Summits, that pair volunteering with education and purpose in a different destination each year.

Professional development for your team

We make sustainable tourism topics easy through our library of tools, training and resources, webinars, and personalized 1:1 meaningful travel consultation through our "Sustainability Help Desk" appointments.

A community of champions

There is no stronger community than the tourism industry. We are built on relationships, on friendships and on the foundation that we are better together. Through virtual and in-person events, directories and facilitated connections, you have access to like-minded tourism professionals to help build your business.



JOIN US | WWW.TOURISMCARES.ORG | @TourismCares



NATIONAL TOUR ASSOCIATION

For over 5 decades ITMI has been a proud member of NTA, the leading business association for companies and organizations that serve customers traveling to, from and within North America. There are 700 buyer members who are tour operators and travel planners that package travel product domestically and around the world. The seller members serve 500 destinations and 1,100 tour suppliers — represent product in all 50 U.S. states, each Canadian province and more than 40 other countries.

NTA is a gathering place—in person and online—for packaged travel professionals. Members meet at our signature events, Travel Exchange and Contact; convene online for roundtables and webinars; and use online community rooms and directories to pitch or gather itinerary ideas and to get advice and support from fellow members. To complement its partnership with ITMI, NTA recently added a new membership category for tour directors and tour guides so that those professionals can meet and network with the association’s tour directors, tour suppliers, and destination representatives.

“NTA celebrated 70 years of innovation and leadership in the industry in 2021, and during all those decades, the association has changed to best meet the needs of travel professionals,” says NTA President Catherine Prather, CTP. “We appreciate tour directors and guides for the vital role they play in packaged travel.”

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



Accessible tourism is also known as access tourism, universal tourism, inclusive tourism, and in some countries such as Japan: barrier-free tourism.

Accessible travel simply means the enabling of people from all walks of life and backgrounds to participate in and enjoy tourism adventures. Access needs, may be related to a physical condition, such as hearing, sight, cognitive and psychosocial disabilities. This sector of the travel industry caters to a full range of consumers who no longer want to be labeled, handicapped or disabled.

The Travelability mission is to inspire and educate the travel industry to provide accessible experiences to help people with disabilities enjoy travel as much as everyone else.

ITMI is proud to support their mission by providing training to tour directors and guides who want to make a difference within this sector of the travel and tourism industry.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION (ABA)

The American Bus Association serves a thriving industry that provides nearly 600 million passenger trips annually on charters, tours, scheduled service and shuttles. Membership in ABA includes motorcoach operators, tour operators, tourism-related organizations, and products and service suppliers.

Founded in 1926, ABA is the oldest, largest and most respected voice in the industry.

65% of all motorcoaches on the highways and roads today are owned and operated by ABA member companies. We represent the largest group of motorcoach decision-makers. Membership in ABA includes approximately 1,000 motorcoach and tour companies in the United States and Canada. Another 2,800 member organizations represent the travel and tourism industry and suppliers of bus products and services.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



INTERNATIONAL MOTORCOACH GROUP (IMG)

IMG is an invitation only organization, to enter IMG, motorcoach companies must have and maintain a proven service record and share in the collective ideals of:

Excellence in operating standards including: maintenance, driver education and safety. Customer service excellence from point of sale to delivery of product and support of the on road IMG network as needed to provide seamless customer product delivery.

IMG companies proudly operate to a Code of Excellence, that sets IMG companies apart:

IMG companies exhibit the highest level of professionalism, quality, safety and service to our customers, travel partners, other IMG member companies and to our industry. IMG companies continue to preserve a long and sustained history of excellence and industry leadership and companies guarantee their willingness and responsibility to assist and support fellow IMG companies. Lastly, IMG companies demonstrate their desire to continually advance IMG as the leading group of motorcoach operators in North America.

All IMG companies must have: Maintenance facilities with a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, on-call mechanic and dispatch contact - offering complete customer assurance and network support, a fleet of vehicles that complies with all state/provincial and federal regulations and licenses. Companies also must maintain the highest Department of Transportation rating of “satisfactory” and comply with all government mandated safety regulations and thresholds. Have \$5 million or more in liability insurance.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



WORLD FOOD TRAVEL ASSOCIATION (WFTA)

The World Food Travel Association was founded in 2003 as a non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO), and today is regarded as the world's leading authority on food and beverage tourism. Every year, the Association serves a community of nearly 200,000 people from 150 countries.

We are experts in culinary placemaking, a powerful tool for economic and community development, as well as in food tourism research, professional certification and the creation of valuable resources for business owners and entrepreneurs. We work with our partners to leverage food and beverage to create a strong sense of place, thereby increasing visitor arrivals; destination brand equity; and export demand for their area's food and beverage products. We provide communities with tools to protect their unique culinary cultures and gastronomic heritage. And we promote our mission regularly to consumers and media all around the world.

Our Mission

To preserve and promote the awareness of culinary cultures through hospitality and tourism.

Our Vision

We strive to serve as the world's leading hub of innovation and excellence in the preservation and promotion of culinary culture through the development of tourism initiatives and products.

Causes We Support

An undercurrent in all our programs are additional causes that we support, namely the promotion of gastrodiploamacy, notably through our Ambassador network, and the reduction of food and beverage packaging waste, as evidenced in our industry partnerships and our messaging.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



STUDENT YOUTH TRAVEL ASSOCIATION



SYTA is a membership organization that represents a committed community of professionals who are passionate about providing the highest quality and safest educational experiences for student and youth travelers.

Our 900+ members serve an estimated 1.5 million youth travelers.

- Tour Operators | Group Travel Planners | Travel Agents | International Senders | Receptive Operators
- Destination Marketing Organizations | Convention & Visitors Bureaus | International Tourism Boards
- Hotels | Attractions | Restaurants | Transportation Companies | Insurance Providers

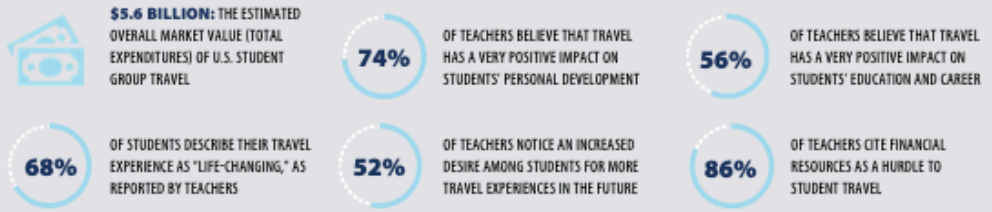
SYTA Provides:

- Access to **student travel buyers & sellers**
- Virtual & Live Education Programs** including the 2022 SYTA Annual Conference in Washington DC, August 26 - 30, 2022.
- Safety & Risk Management Resources**
- Certification**
- Teachers & Educator Resources**



SYTA's Landmark Global Research Study

The Student & Youth Travel Digest sheds light on the tremendous opportunity to enhance learning in young people through student travel, while creating economic opportunities for cities, attractions and small businesses. Collectively, the research represents the patterns and preferences of over 1 million students who have traveled within the U.S. and overseas.



2776 S Arlington Mill Drive, #564, Arlington VA 22206 | P: (703) 610-1263 | F: (703) 610-0270 | syta.org

VISIT WEBSITE





Thousands of deserving students have been granted access to valuable educational travel experiences because of SYF, SYTA members and its partners.

THE IMPACT OF SYF

SYF HAS AWARDED MORE THAN
\$1.5 MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS.

OVER \$174,000
WAS AWARDED throughout 2019-20
to MORE THAN 700 STUDENTS in NEED.

7,300+
STUDENTS IMPACTED by SYF

Impacting the lives of students through the following scholarships & programs:

- » Road Scholarships
- » "World is a Classroom" Essay Contest
- » Students on Broadway
- » DC Rite of Passage
- » Next Generation
- » Silver Lining



SYTA STRATEGIC PARTNERS



2776 S Arlington Mill Drive, #564, Arlington VA 22206 | P: (703) 610-1263 | F: (703) 610-0270 | sytayouthfoundation.org

VISIT WEBSITE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

ITMI began including human trafficking awareness in our training programs in 2012 in collaboration with Airline Ambassadors.

In 2013, ITMI became the first educational institution to sign ECPAT's The Code. By signing The Code, ITMI commits to educate our graduates in the classroom as well as partners at our annual industry events about human trafficking, awareness, how to spot and stop it.

To further ITMI's commitment to human trafficking awareness and prevention, in 2019 ITMI launched an online course so that anyone around the world could learn insights, statistics, tools and techniques to stop the further spread of trafficking.

ITMI has been honored numerous times by ECPAT and The Code as Top Code Members and Tourism Heroes for multiple cases of ITMI graduates who have stopped 9 children and counting from being trafficked.

PROMO CODE

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

[ITMITRAVELAWARENESS](#)



END CHILDHOOD PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING (ECPAT)

About ECPAT-USA

Nearly 30 years ago, ECPAT-USA became the first U.S.-based nonprofit to work on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children. ECPAT-USA started with sex tourism, helping to get legislation passed that ensured that Americans who traveled

abroad to buy sex with minors could be prosecuted in the US for sexually exploiting children in other countries.

As the leading policy organization in the United States seeking to end the commercial, sexual exploitation of children, ECPAT-USA focuses on awareness, advocacy, policy, and legislation. ECPAT-USA is a member of ECPAT International, a network of organizations in over 100 countries working together toward one common mission: to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children.

What we do

To protect every child's human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking, ECPAT-USA:

- Advocates for federal and state policy and legislation that prevent exploitation, protects children, and guarantees that any child who is subjected to sex trafficking or exploitation will not be prosecuted in the courts for prostitution.
- Promotes corporate responsibility among private companies with a strong focus on the tourism sector.
- Educates first responders and ordinary citizens about this issue so that they can identify victims and join us in the fight to better protect children.
- Empowers youth to take the lead against human trafficking by equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to help them become activists against this terrible trade.

Our mission

To protect every child's right to grow up free from sexual exploitation and trafficking through legislative advocacy, education, and partnerships.

Our vision

A world in which no child is bought, sold, or used for sex.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



We protect
children in
travel and
tourism

THE CODE

The Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (The Code) is the world's first and only voluntary set of business principles travel and tour companies can implement to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. The Code provides awareness, tools, and support to the travel and hospitality industry. The Code is a joint venture between the tourism private sector and ECPAT. See a full list of members here, and click below to learn more about joining The Code.

Companies that endorse The Code are supported by ECPAT-USA to:

- Establish a policy and procedures against sexual exploitation of children.
- Train employees in children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases.
- Include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children.
- Provide information to travelers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and how to report suspected cases.
- Support, collaborate and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
- Report annually on their implementation of Code related activities.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

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