

# TOP 5 REASONS to Use a Travel Consultant

By Jean Dyer

**For a busy person (aren't we all?) time is valuable. Using a travel consultant to plan your travels not only gets you more benefits, it also gives you more time.**

Here are five reasons to use a travel consultant in this digital age:

**1. Save time.** A consultant can review multiple airline, hotel and car availabilities simultaneously and quickly zero in on crafting your personalized journey. They'll use their expertise and work alongside you to craft the kind of trip that fits both your budget and your travel goals.

**2. Get more for your money.** You can't VIP yourself but your consultant can. Travel companies book airline seats, cruises, hotels and unique journeys all year long. They work with wholesalers and are members of travel consortiums.

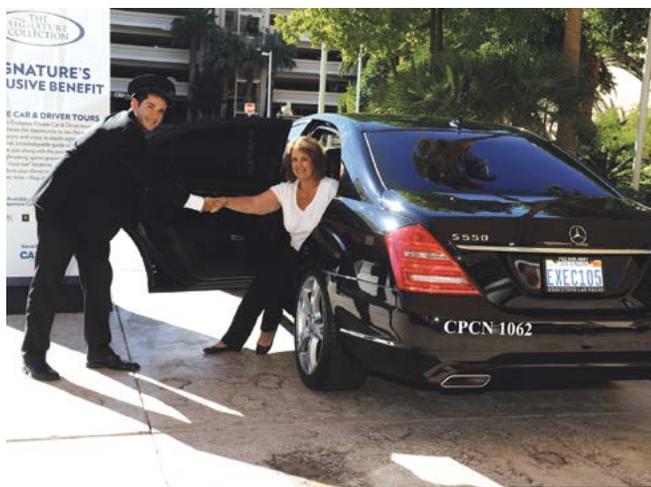
This means they have access to upgrades, extra shipboard credit or other benefits to include in your trip. They will invariably be able to get more for you than you can get for yourself.

**3. Get first-hand knowledge & personal connections.** Good travel consultants have traveled extensively, explored destinations and sampled many cruises plus their clients provide feedback each time they return from a trip. Consultants tap into this consistent flow of first-hand knowledge to give you current, reliable advice and appropriate recommendations for each aspect of your journey.

private car and driver or afternoon tea with the wife of the current Earl at Highclere Castle (aka Downton Abbey). Many of the experiences or benefits simply can't be found on Google.

**4. Get a value interpreter.** By all means, scan the Internet for what interests you. With so much information available, it's easy to become confused and overwhelmed. A good consultant can determine true bargains and what really qualifies as valuable for you. Let them explore, research and recommend options for you—many of which can't be found online.

**5. Avoid problems.** A consultant's services include overseeing all your travel arrangements and resolving issues so you can relax. They will be your advocate before, during and after your trip. They'll help you understand if there is a difference between a Beach View or Beach Front room. They know when you need a visa and can help you get one. They'll monitor your trip and be there for you from the minute you contact them until you are home safe.



Their personal contacts worldwide provide unique benefits for you—access unavailable to the general public--skipped entrance lines, a

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