

Live Travel's Quarterly  
Newsletter

"We travel not to escape  
life, but for life not to  
escape us."



MERRY CHRISTMAS



SANDALS BARBADOS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# WINTER NEWS



## The Holidays and Winter Days

I hope your celebrations of Christmas was warm and your New Year dazzling with delights! December brought me a trip to Barbados with Sandals and then home in time to prepare for a few gatherings with family and friends for the holidays. I counted my blessings- and I still do everyday. My warm wishes to everyone for an abundance of love, wealth, health and inner peace with joy today and for the entire year of 2018.

As we check off resolutions completed in 2017, I hope travel will be at the top of your new list for 2018.

## Updates...

- Attendance to CCRA Travel Commerce Network's PowerSolutions LIVE last November was a success. I met with a specific few vendors for solutions on questions my clients have for me. The in-person meetings furthered our relationships in a way that will work to maintain the quality and enhance travel experience for my clients.
- For all flights with Etihad Airways, there is Preclear US Immigration at Abu Dhabi airport. This is a process where all immigration, customs and agriculture inspections at Abu Dhabi International Airport uses the Middle East's only US Customs and Border facility. For guests from the US, Canada and those using the Visa Waiver Program, there are self-service Automated Passport Control kiosks. The benefit is shorter onward connections arriving in the US as a domestic passenger with all your entry formalities completed. US destinations include: Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington DC. For more information, please visit [etihad.com/uspreclearance](http://etihad.com/uspreclearance).
- As a Certified Sandals Specialist, I visited the 22-acres resort in Barbados last month to learn details of the ground and the grand opening of Sandals Royal Barbados next door. Barbados's close proximity to other Caribbean islands particularly St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda gives a common misconception that Barbados itself is also in the hurricane belt. Fortunately, it is not. The last hurricane to visit Barbados was in 1955.
- Sandals is the world's only 5-star luxury all-inclusive resorts. Every Sandals resort in the Caribbean sits directly on a stunning beach. Sandals in Barbados offer a combined 16 restaurants, 11 bars, 5 pools and 2 spas. For an escape like no other—experience the Caribbean's first rooftop pool and restaurant and complimentary airport transfers in a chauffeured Rolls-Royce, step from the bedroom to an infinity-edge plunge pool for a swim or float away in the largest river pool in the Caribbean. Did I mention bowling? The first bowling lane at any all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean features a modern and colorful design with a scintillating cocktail lounge.

1. Christmas time 2. Sandals Barbados 3. Sandals lobby 4. St. Lucy 5. Rhinna's childhood home



- Are you thinking of having a wedding at a Sandals resort? This is a beautiful and popular choice for couples of all ages. Sandals South Coast in Jamaica boasts an over-the-water chapel. As guests sit on the two sides, the bride must be careful walking down the aisle with eyes focused on what is in front of her. The azure water beneath the glass floor is too beautiful not to notice. What is the best part for the newlyweds? Their honeymoon at the resort will be complimentary when their wedding is hosted at the same Sandals.
- Indulgences at the resort spoiled me but I ventured outside for a local flair. Skating boarding for the first time ever on street of St Lawrence Gap, hopping between local shops and venturing as far as to the northernmost tip of Barbados— St Lucy— were among a few of my favorite things. Not to miss a stop at Rhinna’s Drive and her iconic childhood home as well. There was something about visiting Barbados during Christmas time and staying at Sandals that made the whole experience unforgettable.
- I brought along a toy as part of my contribution for the toy-drive for the Barbados village children during Christmas time. At home, I participated in the 18th Annual Village People’s Happiness Holiday Party and FUNdraiser in the city of Westlake Village. Live Travel became one of the sponsors to give away a raffle prize of \$200. 100% of the money raised will go toward to buy Christmas toys for the kids of Shriners Children’s Hospital. This year, they collaborated with a non-profit called Mending Kids to sponsor a child from a third world country for a life-saving heart surgery.

## In the News!

- Starting Jan 22, 2018, TSA will enforce the Federally mandated REAL ID requirements on all domestic travel. For US states that have not been granted an extension, travelers 18 and over are required to present a passport, or other REAL ID compliant forms of identification before boarding a federally regulated commercial aircraft. The ID that is issued in the state and not of the state or country traveling to.
- TSA however confirmed on December 28, 2017 that the requirements above have now been postponed until October 11, 2018. Driver License or ID issued by the following nine states will remain valid for air travel until next fall: Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington.
- For more information, please visit
  - [Accepted Alternate Documents](#)
  - [REAL ID Act FAQs](#)
- There have been questions in the differences between TSA Precheck and Global Entry.
  - [TSA Precheck](#)
    - A government-sponsored program that allows approved passengers on domestic and some international flights access to expedited screening for flights departing from U.S. airports.
    - At a cost of \$85 membership for 5 years, wait time in line for security can be less than five minutes. PreCheck passengers don’t need to remove your shoes, laptops, liquids,

belts and light jackets.

- Global Entry
  - A U.S. Customs and Border Protection program that provides TSA PreCheck benefit plus expedited custom clearance to pre-approved travelers when entering the United States.
  - Performance on similar background checks and in-person interview as with TSA Precheck. The cost is \$100 non-refundable fee for a five year membership.
- TSA is considering merging PreCheck and Global Entry programs in an effort to have better integration and a possibility for security enhancement with facial recognition. The two trusted traveler programs have similar costs, benefits and application procedures that could be confusing for travelers. The single program would eliminate frustration and duplication of effort at the airport.
- Is there a faster way to go through custom clearing if you don't have Global Entry? Yes! It is an app called Mobile Passport Control that is downloadable on smart phones. Passport information is completed and saved within the app including your own password for secured access. In place of an immigration paper that must be filled prior to custom clearing, you can now do it electronically. A QR scan will be sent to your phone within a few minutes of completing the form. Present this information on the phone along with your passport to the Immigration officer. Passengers having Mobile Passport Control will be in the same line with Global Entry, Military and Diplomats. The app currently only works for within the US and Canada.
- Any positive news with airlines? Yes! One of the changes airlines are making to have travel more affordable to the public is first-class airfare. Domestic First Class fare with Delta could be as little as \$50 more than a coach ticket or \$29 more on American Airlines. The values are in priority check-in, complimentary checked baggage, priority boarding, a more comfortable seat and lunch included! Online Travel Agents (OTAs) such as Kayak, Orbitz or Expedia does not have option to see difference in cost for the upgrade. You would have to check for it manually or work with a travel agent.
- On a different note, Department of Transportation announced last month that US airlines and ticketing agencies are no longer required to disclose baggage fees. Information about optional service fees such as checked bags is required to be available to the public on the website but not when passengers are buying tickets online, in person or over the phone. Be sure to check before you go to avoid any surprises in fees.

**“Travel is a love affair with life.” Debbie Pham**

Before everything else steals your attention, I hope you can make a travel plan for the year- that place your heart has ached to see. The experiences to thrill your mind and delight your soul. I invite you to visit Live Travel and browse the website at your leisure. Perhaps you already have a destination in mind or have an idea of where to go next . The brochure rack and vacation offers on the website provide limitless possibilities. Want to talk to a person? I am only a phone call away: 626-733-7874.

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