

- (...) Starts with a planning! Joining us this morning to help plan the perfect vacation is Nada Virgili with Nada's Italy.
- She's going to tell us the five most important questions you should ask before you make any reservations, before you start that trip. It's great to see you, Nada.
- It's great to see you too, Colleen.
- The five questions you have to ask and the first one is "what's the purpose of this trip?". That may seem like an obvious question, "what's the purpose of this trip?", but there's a reason to ask that.
- Absolutely. These are very essentials questions you want to ask before you make those reservations, like you said, and I've often seen in the years of being in the travel industry people make some very simple mistakes that can just be avoided with some very simple planning, so "what is the purpose?" should be your number one priority, what do you want out of your vacation? Is it R&R? Do you want to just sit back on a beach and relax? Are you into sightseeing? So perhaps some historical landmark, so, more active? Maybe, you want some outdoor sport, so, you know, you really have to ask yourself and not just yourself, but really anybody who's going to travel with you because everybody may have a different purpose, so you may have people wanting to go to the same location and have completely different purposes.
- Well, that will bring you to your second statement: who's going on the trip with you? Who will you be taking?
- Exactly. This will actually help you zero in on the types of accommodations that will best fit your group, so, are you travelling with family, with kids? Is the purpose to have some fun family time so you need to look at those accommodations that have perhaps family friendly activities, swimming pools and so on? Are you going with a group of elderly folks? So, maybe they have some mobility problems, so, if you're travelling to a historical city, you want to be near the landmark, so they don't have to take as much a public transportation and or walk, you really want to focus on these questions to help you, to guide you find those accommodations later.
- Yes, you really do need to think it through. You kind of touched on this, but, another question you say to ask yourself before planning a vacation: what kinds of activities do you like to take part in? Again you mentioned do you want an active, an outdoorsy trip? You wanna go hiking, you just want to sit there on a beach?
- Exactly. And what type of activities? Once again you ask everybody who's going to be travelling with you so that you can book those activities before your trip and make sure, even if you're travelling on a cruise or with a tour or on your own, that you include those activities that you like to do the most, so, once again, this really helps you to pull everything together, so you don't have stressful misunderstandings later.

- Whenever I go on vacation, it always seems to be just not enough time and cram so much stuff in there so that's one of the questions you've got to ask: how much time do you have?

- "How much time do you have and your budget is" are two questions that really go hand in hand because you could have a whole month off and not enough budget to do what you want to do, so these things really go well together and you touch on a very important point because you know I see travel kind of like dining out of buffet, so there's some people that like to go and just put everything on their plate at all at once and just stuff as much as possible, but then you, sometimes you end up not really tasting everything, you know, either you can put appetizer with your dessert and you're making this big mix and some other travel with-- some travelers like to go to the buffet but, analogy, I get again and again, and just their time and enjoy the different sites, so, but the last thing you want ask is really what is the modality of travel? How would you like to explore? How would you like to experience your vacation? Do you prefer to do everything on you own? Plan everything? Not have a schedule, not have an outlined itinerary? But just kind of go and then you want to plan everything, you know, rent a car, you have to plan your transportation, do your research ahead of time? Other folks prefer to sit back enjoy the ride and let somebody else do the planning, so, perhaps the cruise, perhaps a tour where you get a fixed-price ahead of time, you know what your budget is, you know, this is how much I'm going to be spending, you know what you're going to be seeing and then you just go and not worry about anything else once you get there, so really ask yourself these questions. That may seem so elementary, but, unfortunately, I've seen people make this mistakes.

- Sure, I believe it. If you don't take the time to really plan it through, it can kind of ruin you time off and your vacation and you really just need to think it through. Virgili is a pleasure as always, not as Italy. You're heading off to Italy sometime soon?

- Tomorrow.

- Oh, my gosh! Oh, my goodness! Have a wonderful time.

- I appreciate it.