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# Neighbours Of LEASIDE & BENNINGTON HEIGHTS

*Meet the Baxter Family:  
"We are so grateful for all the  
blessings that surround us..." Page 4*



## WHY USE A TRAVEL SPECIALIST TO PLAN YOUR NEXT VACATION?

BY SCOTT WALDRON, CTM, FOUNDER & PERSONAL EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST, GRAVITATE TRAVEL

In short: personal service. With Google at your fingertips, travel agents might seem about as relevant as a pager these days. But if you've tried to book flights and vacations online before, you know that the sheer number of options can be exhausting. Working with a travel specialist can save you money, yes, but perhaps more importantly, time and headache too.

Most travel specialists (travel agents who focus on specific types of travel) don't charge you for their services; they are paid through commissions by the suppliers—airlines, resorts, tour operators, hotels and the like. They have honed preferred relationships with these suppliers over many years, so they often have access to exclusive discounts and perks that they can pass along to you. That doesn't mean that you are limited to choosing these suppliers, not at all, but the benefits may be quite appealing and offered at no extra cost.

Travel specialists have another thing the Internet doesn't—personal experience. They have travelled the globe, stayed

at countless hotels and resorts, taken all the tours and excursions, and found hidden gems along the way. They can recommend the best itinerary for a multi-generational family trip for example; and they can warn you off a hotel or resort that they know won't suit your bucket list adventure.

A travel specialist will get to know your personality, your likes and dislikes, and suggest the very best destinations, experiences, hotels, cruises, and flights for you. Plus, in the case of luxury specialists, private transfers, VIP treatment, official access to high-end sporting events, and hard-to-come-by restaurant reservations can also be arranged, leaving you free to travel with comfort and ease.

A travel specialist is also invaluable when it comes to paperwork and planning. They can ensure you have the right Visas and inoculations, arrange travel insurance, and assist with passports ahead of time. —If you are planning a multi-stop trip with layovers and connecting flights, these travel experts may find combinations you don't see online. And, in the case of issues while travelling, such as flight delays, cancellations, or emergencies, your travel specialist is your best friend.

Though no one likes to think about a negative event occurring, booking with a travel specialist in Ontario also means you are protected—they are registered with TICO (Travel Industry Council of Ontario) assuring that you can purchase travel products with peace of mind, knowing that you are protected against fraudulent claims, or in the event that an airline or cruise line goes bankrupt.

A seasoned travel specialist works for you, and wants more than anything to ensure that your dream vacation is as wonderful and memorable as it can be. They take the stress and time out of travel planning—giving you more time with family and friends—and you can feel confident that you are getting the best deals and arrangements to suit your needs. They will keep you informed along the way, and even reach out once you return to check in. Take our advice and add a travel expert to your team of trusted service providers!

### Bio:

*Scott Waldron, CTM, is the founder and Personal Experience Specialist at Gravitare Travel, a Leaside-area custom travel agency specializing in Adventure, Luxury, Family and Corporate Travel. Gravitare clients enjoy personalized service and many exclusive supplier benefits; Scott is always happy to make house calls and meet at your convenience.*

Hand-made in Leaside!

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