

Cultivating Connections
TRAVEL PLANNERS

Custom Planning

GUIDE



Hi, I'm Erin Smith, travel advisor and founder of Cultivating Connections Travel Planners. I am so glad you found me!

THIS IS WHERE OUR JOURNEY BEGINS.

I help travelers re-discover their passions—and dive deeper into what truly lights them up—on custom group and individual journeys. I'll design a trip that's full of stories that bring on the laughter, discoveries that awe you, and shared memories that carry you through a lifetime.

So go ahead, turn your favorite novel, your prized pinot, or the complicated yoga move you just mastered into the inspiration for your next great adventure. Let me show you how!

Ready to dive heart-first into your own passion-fueled journey? Let's start planning!

I look forward to learning more about YOUR passions! Where will they take you?

-Erin

meet ERIN



Shakespeare. Keats. Bronte. Joyce.

Some high schoolers rolled their eyes at having to read “the greats”—but not me! I devoured them all.

So when I got the chance to travel to the birthplace of my literary obsessions on my school’s field trip to Europe when I was a teen, I was thrilled. We toured all over England, Wales, Ireland, and France, visiting the settings of my favorite novels.

I remember walking through the Bronte home in the bleak English moors, the only color around the purple of the heather. The breathtakingly beautiful—and desolate—landscape mirrored Heathcliff’s manor in Emily Bronte’s most famous novel, *Wuthering Heights*. I felt like I was walking right into the pages of the book!

Of course, it was fun to traipse through Europe with all my friends. But what was so cool about this trip was how these books came alive for me in a way I never would have experienced if I stayed within the walls of our classroom back home.

It’s no surprise that this trip sparked my lifelong love of historical fiction ... and, of course, travel!

WHERE PASSION MEETS CONNECTION

I had this trip in mind when I started Cultivating Connections Travel Planners. How often do we get to step outside of our daily routines and really dive into what sets our souls on fire?

That’s where travel comes in. On our vacations, we pause and give ourselves time to explore, and chances to venture outside of our comfort zones. Now, imagine if you spent your vacation on a seamless trip designed to take you deeper. That’s what I’m here for! Through CCTP, I connect you to your passions ... and to the people you most want to share them with.

Whether that’s a magical Christmas Markets river cruise through Europe, a guided journey to Scotland to walk in the footsteps of the historical hunks of *Outlander* (I’m a diehard fan!), or a trip through Tuscany where the warm conversation flows as freely as the wine, I’m here to make sure you’re able to cultivate connections to the passions—and the people—that matter most to you.

so tell me:

What passions do you want to explore?

what does a
travel **ADVISOR**
do?



You may not fully understand what all a travel advisor does.
Here's why my clients like working with me and come back again and again:

first:

I protect their precious vacation dollars and hours. I take the time to get to know my clients as well as possible. So I do a great job at matching them with the right experience. I'd hate to see them wasting money on the wrong vacation even if it is a great deal.

second:

I save them a lot of time and hassle. There is so much information on the internet these days and it's hard to know what's accurate and what's not. Thanks to my expertise and vast resources, I can find options far better than most and I am able to zero in on the best options very quickly. In addition, I'm the one that sits on hold, checks fares, prices, etc., saving them hours and hours of mindless time.

third:

I can get clients special treatment they can't get on their own. Thanks to my relationships with Virtuoso and preferred travel suppliers I can often get amenities, upgrades and other special VIP touches that my clients don't have access to. So even though many "do-it-yourself" vacationers may pat themselves on the back for saving themselves \$100, I often get my clients special amenities worth way more than that.

fourth:

My job doesn't stop when they book their travel. I go the extra mile to find great restaurants I know they will love and book the reservations. I book extra special activities, golf tee times, shore excursions, and I love adding my own surprise touches. I also prepare my clients for travel, so there are no surprises. I check if their passports are current, help them with packing advice, and even tipping guidelines.

finally:

I'm one phone call away. If my clients experience unexpected surprises during their travel like a canceled flight or a missed connection, they know they have just one phone call to make and I will take care of the rest. Just try getting help from one of the online mega-agencies!

package OPTIONS





EFFORTLESS GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL JOURNEYS FOR PASSIONATE TRAVELERS

imagine:

Touching down in the airport and being greeted by your private tour guide at the gate, who grabs your bags and meets you and your travel companions with a smile.

imagine:

Checking into your hotel and feeling like your room was tailor-made to your tastes, from the perfect downtown location to the stylish and quirky décor.

imagine:

Finally putting you and your passions first again.

When you work with Cultivating Connections, you don't have to imagine. My custom itineraries and guided trips are designed with your passions in mind. I use my travel industry connections to get you VIP access, exceptional service, and—always!—the absolute best value for your trip. And since travel can quickly become a logistical nightmare ... I take care of all the logistics for you. Spend the days before your trip packing in peace, instead of pulling your hair out trying to remember if you've booked the right flight, the right hotel, the right transfers—and whether your travel companions have done the same! It's time to experience travel the easy, effortless way.



CUSTOM GROUP GETAWAYS

Perfect for passion-driven groups like:

- Wine clubs and locally owned wineries
- Book clubs
- Historical societies
- Yoga and fitness studios
- Cooking clubs
- Golfing groups
- Cigar enthusiast clubs

... and more!

Take your passions out of the classroom, the work space, the coffee shop—and into the big, wide world they sprang from! I work with group leaders and business owners to craft group journeys that bring their followers together on a passion-driven deep dive. Let me design a trip that turns your group members into thick-as-thieves friends, or your clients into your biggest fans.

coming soon



CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS SIGNATURE TOURS

Join me on a guided trip to destinations that light up your imagination—all you have to do is pack your bags! CC Signature Tours are built around a specific theme—like wine and food, yoga, literature, or even iconic films—so you can explore what you really care about. Most importantly, you'll get to connect with other like-minded travelers who geek out over the same stuff you do! Your most treasured souvenir from a CC trip? Strong bonds with new friends who really “get it.”

On the next pages, explore some experiences to come.

a preview of
signature TOURS





CULINARY/FOOD LOVER TRAVEL

Cultivate Connections with a Hands-on Culinary Trip! The kinds of culinary-inspired trips and itineraries you're able to experience could go on forever. Nearly every country in this world has its own culturally inspired dishes they take great pleasure in. Find out more regarding culinary trips and how you can better cultivate your connection with a nation through food and adventure. I would love to hear from you and to tell you of all the amazing ways you can indulge in another culture and partake in their traditions through food.



WINE-THEMED TRAVEL

Roll past rows of vines hanging heavy with ripe fruit on a wine-themed trip with your favorite oenophiles...Immerse yourself in the many flavors of a unique wine vacation, which lets you add a unique, epicurean dimension to an itinerary. Cruise itineraries available - guests have an opportunity to join tours that highlight the famous sights in each port of call. These special itineraries, however, offer guests a perfect blend of wine-related experiences and excursions in grand capitals and charming towns. Uncork the traditions of the local culture and learn about the region you're visiting.



RIVER CRUISING

Most commonly thought of in Europe, on the Rhine, Danube, Seine, Douro, and Po rivers, River Cruising is also extending itself to Russia, China, Vietnam & Cambodia, Africa, the Amazon, and the Nile. Many of the voyages are "themed", for special interests such as wine immersion, golf, Tulip Time, Jewish Heritage, a popular beer tasting cruise along the Rhine, and the ever-popular Christmas Markets cruises during the time of Advent, in the months of November-December. Wellness classes and bicycles are often available as well.



OCEAN CRUISING

Ocean Cruises offer amazing value for your holiday dollar because the fares include nearly everything you'll need for a fantastic trip: food, accommodations, daytime and evening entertainment and transportation between destinations. Only unpack one time! There are activities for voyagers of every age if you select the appropriate cruise line. Experience a variety of places, cultures, and cuisines by visiting various islands, cities, and entire countries in a week or two at sea. Exploring ports of call and taking in new cultural experiences will leave you with a lifetime of memories!



ACTIVE TRAVEL

Get your cycling club together for the adventure of a lifetime! Maybe your yoga studio patrons are just itching to practice in a truly enlightening location? A world-class travel experience that includes activities that get your body moving! Popular itineraries include the option for guests to participate in a daily leader-led yoga class. Sessions are designed to support each trip's unique activities with specific stretches to prepare for hours of bicycling or loosening up after a day of hiking, for example. Experience exploring actively—on a Biking, Walking/Hiking or Multi-Adventure!



GOLF ENTHUSIASTS TRAVEL

A match made in heaven—luxury cruising and golf! Imagine golfing at world-class courses in different countries all on one trip. Imagine not having to organize tee times, transportation, club cleaning and so on. Imagine having your favorite luxury hotel follow you wherever you go with everything you need for the perfect vacation. Exceptional golf can be found almost everywhere with striking choices from Spain and Sweden to Scotland, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, New Zealand/Australia, the Baltics, the Mediterranean, the Arabian Gulf, Argentina, and the British Isles.



LITERARY TRAVEL

Loved the book (or movie or series)? Go there! Literature has long inspired travel. The Harry Potter and Outlander books have inspired many a tour, as have the Downton Abbey and Game of Thrones television series. The works of Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Hemingway... All responsible for travel to faraway places! All you need is the inspiration, and we can get a pilgrimage-like literature-inspired getaway booked for you!



DISTILLERY & BREWERY TRAVEL

Glenlivet. Macallan. Jameson. Bacardi, Guinness. Many of the world's most prized tipples and brews. Theme your tour through Ireland, Scotland, and beyond by focusing on tastings at award-winning breweries and distilleries. The Caribbean is home to numerous rum distilleries available for tours as well, including Cuba and Puerto Rico. The Guinness Storehouse is a must-stop in Dublin for all lovers of the creamy stout. Serious whisky aficionados, meanwhile, might be up for the journey to Scotland or even JAPAN! Nikka and Hakushu are top Japanese whiskeys made in the Scottish tradition.



CIGAR-LOVERS TRAVEL

Cuba is known as a welcoming destination that has a rich history and culture. These trips showcase tobacco, Cuba's prized national product, will have you returning home with a better appreciation for the Cuban Cigar. Experience tobacco fields as well as factories where all cigars are made and rolled by hand. Highlights: Revolution Square, Meals with local paladars, American antique car ride, Cigar factory visits, Hemingway Museum, Cigar bars, Visit a tobacco farm.

planning **FEES**



retainer fee:

My retainer fee starts at \$350 per person or \$500 per household for a family of up to four, and then you only pay the costs of the trip.

groups:

Every group is different in size and scope, and your group's retainer fee will be determined after our complimentary consultation. Fees can be per person or per group, depending on the nature of the trip, number of nights and destinations, and planning time involved.

additional fees:

Additional fees may include:

- Air ticketing (domestic) - \$50/person
- Air ticketing (international) - \$100/person
- Consultation ONLY - \$150/hour
- Hotel-only booking fee - \$50
- Cancellation of travel fee - 15% or \$250 (does not include any supplier-required cancellation fees)

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

planning **PROCESS**



CONNECT

We will **uncover your vision** for the perfect trip!

- › Complete Plan Your Trip Form
- › Schedule Consult Call/Meeting
- › Receive Planning Guide



Sign Agreement

Pay Retainer Fee



CREATE

We will work hand-in-hand to develop an itinerary perfectly tailored for YOU!

- Proposal
- Refine
- Perfection!
Itinerary Approval

- › Receive Welcome Guide
- › Secure Spot on Calendar



PREPARE

Your reservations are finalized, but **I will remain engaged with you** and our travel partners.

- › Deposit Paid
- › Elements of Journey Booked
- › Travel Insurance Quote
- › Final Payment

Travel Documents
Delivered
Available for any
Questions or Concerns!



EXPERIENCE

Bon Voyage! Discover the CCTP difference while traveling!

- › Direct Access to Me
- › During Your Trip
- › Share With Our
Community



FOLLOW UP

Welcome Home! We will relive the magic of your journey together through a post-trip

- › Virtuoso Review
- › Testimonial
- › Let's Start Talking About
Your Next Adventure!

My role is to become your trusted advisor for your most treasured resource - *your time away!*

Cultivating Connections
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Expectations

COMMUNICATION

The best way to reach me? **EMAIL!**

erin@cultivatingconnectionstravelplanners.com

Expect to hear from me a LOT during the planning process and when we are fine-tuning your itinerary.

I will send a reminder if a payment is due.

Expect that I will deliver your travel documents in person or via "snail" mail if out of my immediate area approximately two weeks prior to travel.

Upon your return, I will reach out once more to review your experience.

WHEN MIGHT I GO QUIET?

I will be less likely to contact you during Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Easter to spend time with my family, however if you are traveling, I will absolutely make myself available. When I am traveling, I will let you know ahead of time what the arrangements will be.

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www.CultivatingConnectionsTravelPlanners.com



insider tip:

I ALWAYS tap into my extensive global network for perks and extra amenities to make sure that you get the best possible value for your investment. I'll research the best options for flights, accommodations, activities, tours, etc. I'm not affiliated with any hotels, cruise or tour companies. Everything I propose is because I think you'll love it.





COMPLETELY CUSTOMIZED

Boutique hotel or luxe cruise cabin? Laid-back beach or bustling city? We'll build your trip from the ground up, so we can incorporate your preferred travel style, must-visit destinations, and budget.



DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

Watch stories leap from the page on a book-themed tour through Scotland. Roll out your yoga mat on the deck of a luxury cruise ship. Shave fresh truffles over al dente pasta after a trip to the local market. Let's design a custom adventure around your unique interests—this is how hobbies become lifelong passions!



STRESS-FREE & SEAMLESS

The more people you add to your itinerary, the more complicated your trip gets ... if you don't have a travel pro you can count on, that is! I'll juggle all your flights, transfers, hotel bookings, and tours, so you can focus on the fun, together.



GROUP PERKS, PASSED ON TO YOU

More perks, bigger discounts—when you travel together, the deals get sweeter. I'll work with properties to get you more inclusions and VIP service, like a private cocktail reception or a free room or cruise cabin, if you meet the group minimum (subject to availability).

client **EXPERIENCES**



"ERIN WORKED WITH US TO PLAN OUR PERFECT TRIP!"

Erin worked with us to plan our perfect trip to Japan. It was our first international trip, so naturally we had a lot of questions. Erin was so patient and kind with us throughout the process. She really took the time to listen to our requests and she planned our trip accordingly.

AMELIA - NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

"IT WAS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT AND MAGICAL."

Erin planned my 50th birthday for my friends and I in Las Vegas. Everything was planned perfectly from the shows, to photos planned for us and also a limousine ride on the last night. It was absolutely perfect and magical.

LISA - NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

"I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME & WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING!"

It was an awesome trip! Erin is the best travel agent! She is very organized and thoughtful. She printed out color books with our itineraries for every day and had all the tickets we needed ahead of time. She thought of everything, down to printing out the luggage tags for the cruise and putting them in the holders for me! I had a wonderful time and wouldn't change a thing!

LAUREN - PAULS VALLEY, OKLAHOMA



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