
September 2026

Travel Thoughtfully...Experience Joy The Getaway With Joy Insider

Every month brings a new reason to explore.
Let's see where joy is calling us now.

A Note From Your Experience Designer

Dear Fellow Travelers,

There's a difference between planning a trip and designing an experience. A trip gets you from one place to another. An experience is thoughtfully shaped around the moments you hope will stay with you long after you return home. That distinction has been on my mind as I prepare for this edition's Traveler Spotlight—a very special journey celebrating a traveler's 65th birthday aboard Virgin Voyages.

Her celebration reminded me of something I believe deeply: milestones deserve to be experienced, not simply acknowledged. Yes, there was a beautiful destination. Yes, there was a thoughtfully planned itinerary. But the real magic was in the details—the people gathered together, the anticipation leading up to the journey, the moments of celebration, and the feeling of being fully present for a milestone worth honoring. That is the heart of what I do as an Experience Designer.

I think about more than where you are going. I think about why you're going, how you want to feel, who you're sharing it with, and which moments you may still be talking about years from now. Sometimes that means creating a special celebration. Sometimes it means knowing when to leave room in the itinerary to simply breathe and enjoy the destination. Sometimes it means finding the right balance between discovery and restoration. And sometimes, it means helping you finally say yes to a journey you've been thinking about for years.

As I prepare to host our December journey through Egypt and the Nile, and continue developing the experiences ahead, I'm reminded that every journey begins with a vision—and my role is to turn that vision into something you can actually feel.

Because the details matter.

But the feeling is what stays.

With Joy and Intention,

Karen
Founder & Experience Designer



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TRAVELER'S SPOTLIGHT

65 IS NOTHING BUT A NUMBER: LA TONYA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT SEA



Some birthdays mark a milestone. Others become memories you carry with you.

For La Tonya, turning 65 was an opportunity to gather the people she loves, celebrate life, and create a moment she would never forget. A Virgin Voyages cruise departing from the Los Angeles area offered a convenient, adults only setting for the celebration she envisioned.

Before boarding, La Tonya was looking forward to a momentous celebration surrounded by family and friends. And the journey delivered a birthday experience filled with laughter, togetherness, and plenty of joy.

A Birthday in Green

The moment La Tonya felt most celebrated came during her amazing birthday dinner on May 2nd. The evening had a special touch: green was the designated color of the night in honor of La Tonya's birthstone. Surrounded by family and friends, they ate, drank, took photos together, and continued celebrating well into the evening. But the celebration didn't stop there.

One of La Tonya's favorite memories came when everyone gathered on the ship's deck wearing their matching "birthday squad" t-shirts. What started as a celebration among family and friends became something even bigger—the other guests on the ship joined in the fun, and one of the cruise hosts even sang Happy Birthday to her. It was one of those unexpected moments that makes a celebration feel truly special.

A Journey Filled With Beauty

From Cabo San Lucas to Puerto Vallarta, La Tonya remembers the entire journey as beautiful, with the beach excursion in Mazatlán standing out as a particular highlight. But beyond the destinations, it was the feeling of being surrounded by the people she loved that made the journey meaningful.

And as she stepped into her 65th year, La Tonya came away with a simple but powerful reminder: "65 is nothing but a number."

The Getaway With Joy Difference

For La Tonya, having her birthday experience curated by Getaway With Joy made the journey incredibly easy.

From the moment she decided to take the cruise for her birthday, Getaway With Joy handled the details right up until it was time to cruise—allowing her to focus on the celebration rather than the logistics.

And the care didn't stop once she boarded.

As La Tonya shared: "Once we were on the ship, Getaway With Joy continued to be an incredible host, making sure my 65th birthday experience was truly one to remember." That's what celebrating with Getaway With Joy is all about.

Not simply getting you to your destination but creating the space for you to be present in the moment—to celebrate, connect, laugh, and enjoy the people and experiences that matter most.

La Tonya, thank you for allowing Getaway With Joy to be part of such a meaningful milestone.

Here's to 65—and to all the adventures still ahead.

A JOURNEY OF WONDERS

EGYPT & THE NILE - DECEMBER 27, 2026-JANUARY 5, 2027

Some destinations leave an impression. Others leave you wanting to return.

This December, I'll be returning to Egypt for my third journey—and this time, I'll have the privilege of experiencing it alongside a group of Getaway With Joy travelers.

I've experienced Egypt before, but that's the beauty of returning to a destination that has captured your imagination. You see familiar places differently. You notice new details. You create new memories.

And this journey will be especially meaningful because I won't be experiencing Egypt simply as a traveler. I'll be there as the host and Experience Designer, sharing the journey with the travelers who have entrusted Getaway With Joy to help bring this experience to life.

From the timeless wonders of ancient Egypt to the beauty and rhythm of the Nile, this journey is an opportunity to slow down, take it all in, and experience a destination that continues to inspire wonder.

Why I'm Returning?

You might wonder: If you've already been to Egypt twice, why go back? Because some places are worth experiencing more than once. Every journey has its own energy. Different people. Different moments. Different perspectives. And when you're an Experience Designer, returning also gives you the opportunity to see a destination through fresh eyes—to refine the experience, anticipate the details, and create something meaningful for the travelers joining you.

This isn't simply my third trip to Egypt.

It's a new journey, with a new group of travelers, and new memories waiting to be created.

The Journey Ahead

December 27, 2026 – January 5, 2027

A thoughtfully curated journey through Egypt and the Nile, hosted by Getaway With Joy. Because sometimes, the best way to experience a place again...is to experience it together.

CLOSING MESSAGE

As I reflect on this edition, I'm reminded that the best journeys are about more than the places we visit. They're about the people we share them with, the moments we create, and how those moments make us feel.

La Tonya's 65th birthday is a beautiful example of that. And as I prepare to return to Egypt for my third journey, I'm reminded that even familiar places can create entirely new memories.

That's what I hope every Getaway With Joy experience offers you: a journey thoughtfully designed, moments worth remembering, and joy you can carry home.

Because the details shape the journey—but the moments become the memories.

Until next month, keep choosing joy, connection and the journeys that become a part of your story.