

The Insider's TRAVEL BLUEPRINT:

5 HIDDEN RULES FOR BOOKING
WORTHY PREMIUM HOTELS
WITHOUT PAYING RETAIL MARKUPS



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Spend Less,
and GET MORE
For You and Your Family 


EXCLUSIVE
PERKS


VIP
EXPERIENCES


PREMIUM STAYS
FOR LESS


MEMORIES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME

TERRENCE & CAROLINE RAGLAND 



MEET TERRENCE & CAROLINE

WHY WE CREATED THIS BLUEPRINT

We Wanted More Than Vacations. We Wanted Memories.

For us, travel has never been only about finding a hotel room or getting from one place to another. It is about building the kind of family memories we still talk about long after we come home.

We have used the same basic approach in this guide while planning the trips that became part of our family's story - Disney trips to Florida, cruises along the Mexican Riviera, a Perfect Day at CocoCay, resort stays, theme-park days and the little moments in between. The goal was not simply to travel more. It was to learn how to stretch our travel budget farther so we could create **more experiences with the people we love.**

Our travel philosophy

More choices create better decisions. Better decisions can create more room in the budget for the experiences and memories that matter.

Terrence & Caroline Ragland



A Smarter Way to Think About Travel

Most travelers do what we used to do automatically: choose a destination, open a familiar booking site, compare a few prices and assume the best visible rate is the best available option. The biggest lesson we learned was simple: **the first price you see does not have to be the end of the search.**

Travel memberships can add another source of inventory, member pricing, extended-stay options, rewards and other benefits. They are not a guarantee that every trip will be cheaper, and we still believe in comparison shopping. The real advantage is having another tool available when planning the trip.

The Travel Membership method

Check the public price. Check your member options. Compare the total value. Then book the option that works best for your family.

The five rules ahead are the framework we use to think more intentionally about travel.



1

THE FIRST PRICE YOU SEE IS A STARTING POINT - NOT A DECISION

Stop Assuming the Public Price Is the Only Price

A familiar booking site is convenient, but convenience can make us stop comparing too early. Before we commit to a stay, we like to see what the public market is offering and then compare any legitimate member options available to us.

Our three-check routine

1. **Public price:** Check a major public travel site or the property's public website.
2. **Member option:** Search the same destination and dates through the membership.
3. **True value:** Compare the final price, room type, taxes, fees, cancellation rules and included benefits.

Insider move

Compare like-for-like. A refundable room with breakfast is not the same product as a nonrefundable room with no extras.

Zingo's member materials describe access across hotels, resorts, cruises, tours, vacation homes and other travel categories. We view that access as another place to compare - not as a reason to stop shopping intelligently.



2

LONGER FAMILY TRIPS DESERVE A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEARCH

Longer Stays Can Unlock Different Options

Some of our favorite trips involve several days of experiences - especially when we travel to Florida for theme parks. On a longer trip, the room is only one part of the equation. Space, kitchen access, laundry, parking, location and the ability to keep a family comfortable can matter just as much as the nightly rate.

That is why a five-to-seven-night trip should not automatically be shopped like a one-night hotel stay. Weekly stays, condos, villas and vacation homes can become meaningful alternatives.

Member benefit to explore

The Zingo member guide describes Weekly Stays for stays longer than five nights, including resorts, condos and villas, as well as Vacation Homes for travelers who want a more home-like setting.

The family test

Before booking a week in a standard room, compare a weekly stay or vacation home. Then ask: *Which option gives us the best combination of price, space, location and convenience?*



3

THE CHEAPEST ROOM DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY CREATE THE CHEAPEST VACATION

Compare the Total Trip, Not Just One Price

Cruising helped reinforce this lesson for us. A cruise fare is only one part of the vacation decision. Transportation to the port, parking, excursions, dining choices and the experiences we want to have all affect what the trip ultimately costs.

The same principle applies to hotels. Saving a little on the room can disappear quickly if the location creates higher transportation costs or the property adds fees you did not include in the comparison.

CATEGORY	OPTION A	OPTION B
Lodging / cruise fare	\$ _____	\$ _____
Taxes / required fees	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transportation / parking	\$ _____	\$ _____
Activities / excursions	\$ _____	\$ _____
Food / dining difference	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____
ESTIMATED TRIP TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____

Our rule

Compare the vacation you actually want to experience - not just the cheapest headline price.



4

FLEXIBILITY IS ONE OF THE FEW TRAVEL ADVANTAGES YOU CAN CONTROL

Use Flexibility to Create More Choices

Some of the trips that became our favorite memories started with a willingness to compare dates, destinations and different types of vacations. That flexibility helped us build experiences ranging from Mexican Riviera cruising to a Perfect Day at CocoCay.

You cannot control demand or provider pricing, but you can control how broadly you search. Try comparing nearby dates, different stay types, neighboring areas and both public and member booking channels.

Try the 4-way search

Dates: Search nearby dates when your schedule allows.

Stay type: Compare hotels, resorts, weekly stays and vacation homes.

Location: Consider nearby areas that still fit the itinerary.

Booking channel: Compare equivalent public and member options.

Important

Availability and pricing change. Member benefits can be subject to provider rules, lead times, minimum stays and cancellation policies. Flexibility creates options; it does not guarantee a particular price.



5

THE VALUE OF A MEMBERSHIP DEPENDS ON HOW YOU ACTUALLY TRAVEL

Think Like a Member - Not Just a Shopper

For our family, the purpose of a travel tool is not to collect another subscription. It has to help us do something we genuinely value: create more opportunities to get away, experience new places and build memories together.

That is the lens we recommend using. A travel membership should earn its place in your travel toolkit. If you travel regularly, book hotels or resorts, enjoy cruises, take longer family trips or simply value another source to compare, membership access may be worth exploring. If you rarely travel or will not use the benefits, it may not be.

The question to ask

Will I use this membership enough - and compare intelligently enough - for it to add real value to the way my household travels?

Our goal is not to convince you that every trip has to be booked through one platform. It is to help you become a more intentional traveler with more choices.

The Memories Are the Point



The photos on this page are not stock images. They are pieces of our own travel story. They remind us why we care about planning smarter in the first place.

We want the family vacation. The theme-park laughter. The cruise ship pulling into port. The tropical water. The dressed-up evenings. The spontaneous selfie that becomes one of your favorite pictures. Saving money is useful because of what it can help make possible - **more life together.**

Travel more. Build memories. Bring the people you love.

BONUS

The 10-Minute Smart Booking Routine

Before your next hotel, resort or vacation booking, run through this list.

1. Write down the exact property, room type and dates you want.
2. Record the public direct-booking price.
3. Check at least one reputable public comparison source.
4. If you have membership access, search the identical dates and property.
5. Compare the final price after taxes and mandatory fees.
6. Confirm whether each rate is refundable or nonrefundable.
7. Compare room type, occupancy and included benefits.
8. For longer stays, compare weekly stays, condos or vacation homes.
9. Estimate transportation, parking and activity costs.
10. Book the option that provides the best overall value for your priorities.

Remember

The goal is not to prove that one website always wins. The goal is to make a better-informed booking decision.



READY TO SEE HOW IT WORKS?

Meet The Travel Membership

If this Blueprint changed the way you think about booking travel, the next step is simply to see what membership access includes and decide whether it fits the way you and your family travel.

HOTELS & RESORTS	Compare member travel options for stays around the world.
WEEKLY STAYS & VACATION HOMES	Explore longer-stay options, condos, villas and home-style accommodations.
CRUISES	Explore cruise itineraries and participating cruise lines.
TOURS & ACTIVITIES	Consider experiences and excursions as part of the trip.
REWARD FEATURES	The Zingo member guide describes Reward Credits on eligible spending and other reward-related features.
MEMBER SUPPORT	Member materials describe online access and member service channels.

Your next step

Return to The Travel Membership page where you received this guide, watch the short overview, review the current membership details and decide whether it belongs in your travel toolkit.

Travel More. Spend Less. Make More Memories.

Terrence & Caroline Ragland | The Travel Membership

[SEE HOW THE TRAVEL MEMBERSHIP WORKS >](#)

Important Disclosures

Educational purpose. This Blueprint is for general educational and informational purposes. It does not guarantee savings, availability, upgrades, travel experiences or financial results.

Personal travel narrative. References to our family trips describe our personal travel experiences and planning philosophy. They should not be interpreted as a claim that Zingo Travel or a travel membership paid for, discounted or was used to book every trip or experience pictured unless specifically stated.

Compare before booking. Travel prices and availability change. Member benefits may be subject to provider rules, booking lead times, minimum stays, cancellation policies and space availability. Review the terms shown for your specific reservation before purchasing.

Membership references. Membership-feature descriptions are based on the Zingo Travel Member Guide provided for this project and Zingo Travel's published operating rules. Programs, inventory and benefits can change; current enrollment materials and booking terms control.

Independent marketing disclosure. The Travel Membership is an independently operated marketing brand. Terrence & Caroline Ragland may receive compensation in connection with qualifying membership enrollments or other offers presented through their marketing channels.

Source basis

Zingo Travel Member Guide (Rev. 9/21/23), supplied for this project. Zingo Travel Operating Rules and Regulations (Rev. 9/6/23), official Zingo Travel publication.

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