

GTP Podcast Episode 68 - Stamped with Mandy Watson

Tracy Collins [00:00:00]:

Welcome to Stamped, our monthly series on the Global Travel planning podcast where one traveler, 10 questions and a world of stories come together. Hi and welcome to the Global Travel Planning Podcast. I'm your host, Tracey Collins, who with my expert guests will take you on a weekly journey to destinations around the globe, providing travel inspiration, itinerary ideas, practical tips and more to help you plan your next travel adventure. Hi, I'm Tracy and welcome to episode 68 of the Global Travel Planner Podcast. Today's episode is part of Stamped, our special monthly series where we invite one traveler to answer 10 questions that reveal the stories, experiences and lessons behind their love of travel. This time I'm joined by Mandy Watson, a returning guest and longtime friend of the podcast. You may recognize her from earlier episodes on both the UK and Global Travel Planner podcasts. She's also the writer behind the fabulous travel blog Spending Kids Inheritance where she shares tales of adventure, midlife travel and making the most of every moment.

Tracy Collins [00:01:08]:

I loved hearing your answers to the Stamped questions from first trips and unforgettable experience to what's still on her bucket list. So let's get started.

Mandy Watson [00:01:17]:

Right. Well, hey, my name is Mandy Watson and my husband Trevor and I have been going gangbusters traveling as much as we can in recent years. I started young like I started when I was 18 or so and then I guess family life gets in the way and you start breeding and being at home with the kids and stuff. But now that we're free, pretty much empty nesters. And it's our goal in life is just to keep traveling, keep finding new places to go and keep spending the kids inheritance because it's not their money yet, it's ours. Hence I did start my own website of traveling just for people to get inspired for spanningkidsinheritance.com that's me. And it's a cracker of a theme and we're doing our very best to live up to it.

Tracy Collins [00:02:06]:

You certainly are. I have to say Mandy, you certainly are. I keep every time I speak to you I say where are you going off to next? Love it. And I know you're going away soon, so tell us where you're heading to next.

Mandy Watson [00:02:16]:

Yes, yes. In just over three weeks we leave. We're going to Alaska and Canada and a bit of the USA. We've got a few friends in the US to catch up with after our little Canada, Alaska. Sujon and my brother and his partner are joining us for the cruise and a bit of a land based tour around Alaska which will be great because he's older than me, and it's the first time, I think, since we were children growing up that I would have spent three weeks with him. And I can't wait. It's going to be fantastic. He's got a worse sense of humor than me.

Tracy Collins [00:02:44]:

Oh, God, I hate to think I'll have to catch up with you afterwards. Honestly, we'll have to have a chat all about that trip. But, yes, I'm so glad you volunteered to come onto Stamped. So this is kind of me interrogating you with 10 questions all about your travel life, because I'm

sure you've got some fantastic stories and memories to tell. So should we dive into the first question?

Mandy Watson [00:03:06]:

Definitely.

Tracy Collins [00:03:07]:

Okay, so let's start at the beginning. Mandy, who lit the spark? Who or what inspired your love of travel?

Mandy Watson [00:03:15]:

Well, it was my softball coach when I was in my teens. He had traversed Africa from Cape Town to Cairo overland in the 1970s, and he even went hunting with the pygmies of the Congo. And his stories were just wild, you know, crazy border crossings and. And he tried climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, but altitude sickness, all the capillaries in his face started to burst, and he was sent down. And from that moment, I thought, bugger that. I'm going to do that. I'm going to climb Kilimanjaro. So it wasn't to my 40th year that I did Kilimanjaro, and I summited, and I took a part of him in my heart, although I don't know where he is anymore and no contact, but I always have thought of him, and I just took him to the top with me, and I thought, I'll look at this view for you.

Mandy Watson [00:04:02]:

So he really lit the spark, and Kilimanjaro just became number one on my bucket list. Back in, you know, 2007, I did that and then just been cracking on ever since.

Tracy Collins [00:04:14]:

It's amazing, isn't it, how those kind of those stories, those early things that spark that kind of inspired our travel? I mean, for me, I used to read all the books by Gerald Dorrell, and so I just wanted to go to Jersey zoo, and I only just did that last year, age 57. So, you know, that spark can be there, but that kind of ultimate destination that kind of lit it, in your case, Kilimanjaro.

Mandy Watson [00:04:39]:

It's just.

Tracy Collins [00:04:39]:

It's such an amazing moment to actually achieve it, isn't it?

Mandy Watson [00:04:42]:

It was like when I got to the top, I just. We were so completely and utterly knackered with Altitude sickness. And one of our girls had collapsed and was raced down the mountain and she nearly died. And it was really full on and I just, I just broke down and sobbed. It was just, it was body wracking sobs of relief and joy and you know, it was, it was incredible. And you could see the curve of the earth up there. It was just remarkable, Amazing.

Tracy Collins [00:05:09]:

Okay, so let's talk about your passport journey. So where did it begin? What was the first country that you ever visited?

Mandy Watson [00:05:17]:

Right, well, first country was as a child I went to New Zealand with my mum because she was a Kiwi and went over to visit family. But back in the 70s she didn't even need a passport to travel between Australia and New Zealand. So that doesn't count as my first passport stamp. So it was more like a family trip. So I think my first major trip comes into the next question.

Tracy Collins [00:05:38]:

I think, ah, okay, okay, so you didn't get a stamp, but we'll count, we'll count New Zealand, we'll count it as your first country that you went to. So the next question and that, that, that segues very neatly into this one. So the first trip that really felt like an adventure.

Mandy Watson [00:05:54]:

Right. Well, I was 18 and this is with my friend that had inspired me with his Africa and Kilimanjaro. He had, it was partnership in a travel agency. Then I decided to do a six month trip halfway around the world at the age of 18. I'd left school, saved up buckets of money and headed off blindly. Got a Circle Pacific airfare that just sort of went round through Asia and then through the United States and home via Hawaii. But I got over to the east coast of America and realized back in those days it was only \$200 to get a cheap flight to London. So I did that, bought a Contiki tour and did a Contiki tour of Great Britain.

Mandy Watson [00:06:38]:

And then all hell broke loose after that because I had a maxed out credit card. I ran out of money something fierce. And I remember my mum once said to me, don't ever forget the Salvation army, dear. And I went, oh, don't be ridiculous. And I'm thinking, oh, I think that's looking pretty good. The old Salvos. I had all my airfares booked and paid for to come home. But I was in London sleeping on the floor of a friend's room, as you did when you're 18.

Mandy Watson [00:07:05]:

And I got kicked out because they found out. And so I'm traveling, walking down to Earl's Cork. That's where I heard all the aussies were at 10 o' clock at night with all my bags. Here I am, 18, didn't know where I was going, no money. I found a hostel and in those days you could use your credit card, you know, the old. You do the swipe across and if it didn't reach their limit, you could do a purchase, right? So I made sure all my purchases were like under \$60. So I sort of went into a bunk bed for the night and then I begged a travel agent to try to get my airfares change to get home. So all they could do was change my airfare from Hawaii down.

Mandy Watson [00:07:43]:

I was flying in on a Saturday morning and I just wanted to stay at the airport and fly straight home. I had nothing left, absolutely nothing. And they said, no, but we can get you on a midnight flight Sunday night. So you got one night to spend in Hawaii. So, okay, I can do this. I had \$25 left and I knew it was \$5 to get into Waikiki. So I'm traveling on the \$5 key and I started talking to a German girl and we ended up sharing a room and both just getting on the local bus and, you know, getting sailors to buy us a drink. And I think at the end of it I actually got back to the airport on, on the Sunday night.

Mandy Watson [00:08:23]:

I had \$1 left, \$1. And the big bloke out the front helped me get my bags in. I mean, I had so much luggage because I bought so much stuff, which is why I ran out of money. And anyway, he carried my bags in as a good porter and then he stood there with his hand out expecting a tip. And us Australians, you know, we were not really into tipping back in those days. And I didn't know. And I had \$1 left and I was in tears, I haven't got any money. And he nearly took it all the way out and this is midnight.

Mandy Watson [00:08:51]:

And I was just so exhausted and he didn't. I thank God. So I've still got that dollar note. I still kept it. Yeah, and we. I made it home, just. Yeah, it was miraculous to get home. And I think now, you know, kids don't move out till they're 30 and look what we do at 18, running around London with my bags at 10 o' clock at night with not a quid to my name, you know, and.

Tracy Collins [00:09:14]:

We didn't have mobile phones, we didn't.

Mandy Watson [00:09:15]:

Have any of the.

Tracy Collins [00:09:16]:

No, my mum never knew where I was, she never knew what continent I was on.

Tracy Collins [00:09:19]:

It was hilarious.

Tracy Collins [00:09:20]:

I'd phone Up. And she said, where are you now? You know. And it really was an adventure, wasn't it?

Mandy Watson [00:09:25]:

It was. Some was fun, some was devastatingly hard, but I think there was a few tears. And I used to write a journal and I had to stop. Stopped because it was just too depressing. But I did make it home and. And I definitely. I was always been an independent kind of person, but that really put the big girl pants on me. And from there I knew I could do anything.

Mandy Watson [00:09:49]:

Traveling alone, never be a problem, just. Just go, so. And then you do. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:09:54]:

Yeah, you do.

Mandy Watson [00:09:55]:

So Trevor and I, we met at. When I was 21, so. And then we were off to America within a year or so traveling. So he loves it as well. So I've met my kindred spirit.

Tracy Collins [00:10:04]:

Ah. And that's perfect. You've been together a long time as well, so. We have, yeah. You know, so. So in. In those many decades, I'm not going to say how many you've been together.

Mandy Watson [00:10:14]:

Seven years we've been together.

Tracy Collins [00:10:15]:

Wow. I mean that's. That is amazing. So congratulations on that. Doug And I are 20 something I think now. So you've been lots and lots and lots and lots of amazing places in the world, but can you describe one place or moment? And I know this is a really hard question, but something that just completely blew you away.

Mandy Watson [00:10:34]:

Yes. This is something that I told you about and you wrote it down. You went, I'm going to do this was the great migration of the wildebeest on the Masai Mara. So we did that in 2019. So we got that trip in prior to Covid, which was good and it was just incredible. We did a fly in, fly out camp where when you land in this little tiny 20 seater plane, they shoo away the animals on the dirt landing strip just so you can land. And it was just incredible. And the August, September is just the best time because that's when they migrate up from Tanzania.

Mandy Watson [00:11:12]:

And we were in a jeep one day, you know, in your 4x4, just waiting for a crossing for a couple of days. You would, you know, you're following the herd, they go to the river and there's like BBC national geo cameras that are set up in various spots because they know where they cross, they film it all the time and you know, you get a couple of false starts. And so about on the second day of this one, our guide said they're going to cross, they're thirsty, they need, they need a drink and they're going to cross. And it was just so Exciting because you get there and park and wait and they'll all come down. They're coming down with thousands of, I mean wildebeest, but thousands of zebras as well. And but in the water you've got hippos, you've got crocodiles, you've got lions on point and then you've got the marabou stork and the vultures. It's just amazing. And then they'll turn around and go back and go, oh, they haven't done it, they just spook and they all run away.

Mandy Watson [00:12:06]:

So we were just paused up, you know, probably about a kilometer away from the river and then we saw this big plume of dust and dust and our driver just said, they're going to cross, they're crossing. So we hightailed it across the plain and we got onto the dirt track at the same time we marry up to where they were running in a stampede and we come up the side because we had to be on the road and they are on the side next to us and we've got an open top jeep. So I'm standing up filming it and we were in the cloud of dust. We had their snorting and their hoof prints, you know, just the thundering hooves and we were in the stampede for a minute and then we sort of veered off around the corner to get to our spot by the river and then watch them all come down and sort of put on the brakes and then they crossed and we saw, we saw zebra get taken by crocodiles. As much as it breaks my heart because I'm a horse owner, it's the circle of life, you know, a month later they'd cross and the crocodiles wouldn't even touch them because they've got a full belly. But out of. We watched

probably just about 2,000 cross at that time and three were taken. So, you know, it's a good chance of making it across.

Mandy Watson [00:13:14]:

So that was exciting. That was just, just a wow moment, Just an Attenborough moment. And I love those things. We just love nature over humans.

Tracy Collins [00:13:24]:

And I know when you talked to me about this last time, I had the same reaction. I get goosebumps because this is something that is so high on my want to do list and I hope to do it last year and didn't get a chance and I'm not sure about next year, what we're doing, August, September, but as soon as I can, it's absolutely one that I desperately want to do.

Mandy Watson [00:13:42]:

And as long as you get there in August, you will see it and if you're going to go to Africa, go at that time, if you can, and see that. If you go down to South Africa, you're not going to see it. You got to get up to Kenya. It's just incredible.

Tracy Collins [00:13:56]:

Exactly. Well, high, high, high on my list to do. I guess the next question is a bit of. It's kind of the opposite. Is. Is rather the. Is there any place that you visited once but you haven't felt the need to return to?

Mandy Watson [00:14:09]:

You know, we're very glass, not even half full. We're full, overflowing. We love everything. But there'll be some times where things can be a little bit difficult. So in 2017, we took our kids who were 21 and 18 to China, and that was an experience. It was great to go there. It was great to see the Wall and, you know, the usual places that they take you there, because there's only usual places you're allowed to go there. But the thing was that we had to sleep at the airport because of delayed flights and canceled flights on the way over and on the way back.

Mandy Watson [00:14:43]:

You know, the moment there's a drop away, they just cancel everything. And it was just a nightmare. The airports were crap and the sleeping. Our kids were just had to sleep international at an airport for the first time. It was their first big, big trip. It's like it was my. I'd never done that. I've never had to sleep at an airport before.

Mandy Watson [00:15:00]:

And it was just hard work. And as much as we really enjoyed it and we really enjoyed the people over there, it was. It was fascinating country. We've done it, and there's plenty more to see. You know, people could say the same about Russia, but Russia was fascinating and I'd love to go back and one day. I'm glad we got to see Russia, but that's not like, oh, I wouldn't go back there. I would spend whole three days in the Hermitage Museum. Just incredible.

Mandy Watson [00:15:27]:

Absolutely incredible. But China, I think we touched on it and that's probably just enough for us. And it's not like a place that you can just go backpacking. You can't even get on Google. You can't even. There's no social media. You can't Google anything. It's just so still behind an Iron curtain, in a way.

Mandy Watson [00:15:44]:

But I'm glad we did it and I'm glad our kids saw it and. But that's probably. That's the only one. Everywhere else has just been fantastic.

Tracy Collins [00:15:53]:

I think. Yeah, you're right. You go with the Same. You go with that kind of attitude of, you know, let's embrace what we come across. Because you don't know what you're going to find, do you?

Mandy Watson [00:16:01]:

When you go, it's always funny experiences. I remember when we were in Peru, we were in the main square, we had a little tour to go quad biking in Cusco, and we had to get to the. The office to pick up the little minivan to take us up there. So this guy in his little taxi had to get us to this office and his clutch broke and so we couldn't go anywhere. So he go up, up, opens the bonnet of his car, gets a piece of string, ties it to something, threads it through to his hands and he could start in second gear. But when he pushed the clutch and he had to pull the string and change the gears with a string, and we're screaming in the back going, yay. Every time he got it. And we got stuck in traffic, oh, no, they're going to hate us because we had to start in second gear.

Mandy Watson [00:16:49]:

And it was fantastic. And we gave him a tip just to buy some more string at the end of it, gave him some money, said, you know, you don't need a jack in the car, you just need a bottle, you know, a bale of twine. It was just adorable. It was really cute. You know, you couldn't have done that if you had a, you know, a nice Uber or something. But that's, you know, crazy roads and crazy drivers. It was hilarious.

Tracy Collins [00:17:12]:

Well, I'll be getting to. I have not as yet been to South America, so I can. I'm very much looking forward to that later on in the year. Now, I know you. You like going to lots. There's so many places in the world we can visit. We know that. And it's.

Tracy Collins [00:17:26]:

And I'm a bit of the mind at the moment of wanting to go to new places as much as I can. But is there a destination that you would return to again and again or have returned to again and again?

Mandy Watson [00:17:38]:

Mandy, there's one that we want to go back and even just live for six months or a few seasons, and that's Italy. But there's so many other places that are just begging our attention before that. I always say that there's a new favourite just around the corner. We're never ones. Oh, let's just go back to that hotel in Bali and just sit by the pool and do the same thing. And. No, no, just. We want new things all the time.

Mandy Watson [00:18:03]:

And as much as Italy is just begging for us to come back. It just has to wait. It just has to wait. What, a few more things to tick off, a few more wild adventures first. But we do want to go back there and just stay in an Airbnb or rent something for a few months and then just use it as a base and just head off to the different regions. I want to go all over from top to bottom. You know, Sardinia and Sicily and Puglia and all the way up to the Doloma. The Dolomites, is it?

Tracy Collins [00:18:32]:

Yeah, yeah.

Mandy Watson [00:18:33]:

And the lakes. And I just love it. Just love it.

Tracy Collins [00:18:38]:

I might join you on that one as well because I have to say that I'd like to spend a reasonable amount of time in. In Italy. I think it. There's just so much to do and see. And the food, oh my God. I've just had to. I'd have to be doing a little bit more exercise than I do at the minute if I lived there, I have to tell you.

Mandy Watson [00:18:53]:

And you had a restaurant and the Nonna would just fill up your glass of wine to the absolute brim. Oh, bless. And then when I remember we were in Pisa and we had like a little bit of a education in a restaurant about different foods and wines and they came along and poured a wine, said, this is the wine we drink before lunch. And I looked at my husband, it was like, mic drop. I went, trev, this is my kind of country. This is the drink that we had before lunch. Oh, love it. I did this five o' clock in the afternoon business.

Mandy Watson [00:19:23]:

Not in Italy. That's great. Love it.

Tracy Collins [00:19:26]:

That's a great attitude. I love that as well. Now, what about. Because you've been up, you've been to a lot of places that other people necessarily haven't been to. You do go to some lesser kind of lesser known places. Where is somewhere that you would say is a lesser known, maybe a bit off the radar that you would recommend people consider visiting?

Mandy Watson [00:19:47]:

I had a good think about that because I started thinking about things that they can't miss. You know, everyone needs to see Antarctica in their lifetime, I hope. But that's not a. That's not a remote. It is remote, but it's not a weird sort of place. So I would say like an off the. Off the beaten path one. I went to Mozambique last year and I did a horse riding safari for eight days on the beaches.

Mandy Watson [00:20:13]:

And that was incredible. And it was. A friend of mine just had asked me a few years ago, can you come horse riding with me? And I went, sure. And then it Came up, you know, very

close to another holiday. Oh, sorry, Trev, I'm racking off. So I took Trev over to Africa and we did Kruger first together. And then my friend and I went to Mozambique and Trevor went up to Normandy and did his World War II exploration while I was cantering along the beaches. And it was beautiful and it's cheap, but we didn't really get involved with Mozambique per se.

Mandy Watson [00:20:43]:

You know, you're not out there with the locals. We were sort of in a nice little hut, little house, and taken care of by this family that had rescued these horses from Zimbabwe in the whole, you know, when they had to relocate everything, all the farms and that. And they saved 104 horses and brought them up to Mozambique. So they've started a riding school and a riding holiday place. So that was sensational. And that was the most incredible sunrises on the ocean and the tides would go out and you're just galloping along the hard sand. It was incredible. It was a pinch me moment.

Mandy Watson [00:21:19]:

And we went snorkeling on these beautiful white, white sandy beaches. It was. Yeah, it was lovely. So I would definitely. And then other parts of Mozambique, they have the whale sharks as well. So you go swimming with whale sharks. So worth an explore and worth the. The effort to get there, I think.

Mandy Watson [00:21:35]:

And then it's. It's only just next door to South Africa. It's easy peasy.

Tracy Collins [00:21:41]:

I just say, I think the only other people that I know that have been to Mozambique, actually friends of mine who live in South Africa who will go, because the beaches are nice, that they go up to Mozambique, but otherwise. Yeah, that's an interesting one you brought up because, you know, even though I lived in southern Africa for quite a few years, I've never. I've never been to Mozambique.

Mandy Watson [00:21:58]:

Yeah, well, we're going again next year, too. Yeah, we're doing a cruise from Cape Town all the way around Africa and up to Mozambique, up to Mumbai and then across down to Singapore. So it's a massive trip. But we do call into Maputu, which is like. Well, it's not exactly beaches, but it's still. Trevor gets to land his foot in another country. And so we can be even Steven, with the amount of countries that we've been to.

Tracy Collins [00:22:22]:

Now, can I ask you what the.

Mandy Watson [00:22:24]:

Number is by the end of next year? We'll be into the 70s. So we've got three big trips next year and 26 countries and 13 of them are new, which is pretty cool. So it's very easy to do you know, different places but still the same country. So yeah, we're taking off. We're doing the five stands and we're doing turkey and yeah, we're doing some just massive cruises too. It's going to be exciting.

Tracy Collins [00:22:53]:

Well, I might see you in. Hoping to get over to the five stands next. That's August actually next year, so.

Mandy Watson [00:22:58]:
Well, we're going in August.

Tracy Collins [00:22:59]:
I know. We might see each other.

Mandy Watson [00:23:01]:
That'll be funny.

Tracy Collins [00:23:04]:
Shut the game. Now, is there anywhere that you have been in all the time when you've been traveling where you felt more like a local than a tourist?

Mandy Watson [00:23:13]:
You'll love this England.

Tracy Collins [00:23:15]:
Yeah, I knew you were going to say that.

Mandy Watson [00:23:18]:
Really? Yeah, definitely. When you're a Commonwealth nation, it's, it's just, it's so familiar and so homely and we love the Brits. Trevor and I always pick up new friends, new British friends for our family. I call them my travel family tree. And they're just the best. They got the great sense of humor. And my husband just loves the Sunday roast. He loves Devonshire teas.

Mandy Watson [00:23:39]:
He loves food that he can just eat with a fork, you know, or he likes mushy food, eat with a spoon. He's a fish. And chips and mushy peas.

Tracy Collins [00:23:48]:
Mushy peasy pudding.

Mandy Watson [00:23:51]:
Just puts the hand under one cheek and then just eats with the fork and that'd be great. He loves. And we love it. We do love England and we love the countryside and it always fascinates me how small England is. Of course, you know when you're in Australia, you drive for three days in Western Australia, you're still in the same state and over there there's still so much space. It always amazes me that places that are so heavily populated still have so much beautiful countryside. And if you don't mind the narrow roads and you've got a bit of clout with your driving. I wouldn't necessarily.

Mandy Watson [00:24:23]:
Having a 28 foot motorhome down the Cornish roads. Oh no, that would become a one way road, wouldn't it? You get stuck between the stone walls. But we loved it. I could, I could

easily live there and safely live there and beautiful. And I even love, you know, this. I love London. I love the cities too as well as the countryside. And then of course my, my maiden name is Crawford, so I've got Scottish blood.

Tracy Collins [00:24:50]:

Yeah, I was gonna say, I was about, I was literally about to say you have red hair so you know your heritage is way back. Yeah, absolutely.

Mandy Watson [00:24:59]:

I found the ruins of Crawford Castle while we were There it was very, very poignant moment. And old. And old gravestones too. It was really cool. It was cool. That's the kind of stuff I like. I love going through cemeteries. Old, old cemeteries.

Tracy Collins [00:25:13]:

No. Are they interesting? There's plenty of them in the UK as well to go and explore, that's for sure. Now, what about one destination that you haven't yet made it to? And I know you've got a lot of plans next year, so I'm guessing one of the destinations may feature next year. But what is the one place like for me, it's Churchill in Canada. I really want to go Churchill in Canada and see the polar bears. So that's kind of my kind of elusive wall that I want to go to. What about you?

Mandy Watson [00:25:40]:

My elusive thing is the northern lights. I'd have to say that's my elusive. So I'm really hoping because we're going to be up there in Alaska in late September. I'm hoping just with what happens. It's just nature. Northern lights happen all year round. It's just whether it's dark enough to see it. But I follow this aurora watch and I get pings all the time and I go, bugger off.

Mandy Watson [00:26:02]:

I can't see it. I'm in Australia. I'm in northern Australia. But I really pray to the weather gods that I want to see the northern lights. That would be. So that could be anywhere. We didn't see them in Svalbard. We didn't see them in Iceland.

Mandy Watson [00:26:18]:

So we're hoping Alaska. Yeah, but. Yeah, that's my goal.

Tracy Collins [00:26:23]:

That's the last thing.

Mandy Watson [00:26:24]:

Sorry. I had number. I had five things when I wrote down Kilimanjaro as number one. So this was nearly 20 years ago that I. Kilimanjaro was number one. Machu Picchu was number two. So I did Machu Picchu for my 40th. No, did Machu Picchu for my 50th.

Mandy Watson [00:26:38]:

I did Kilimanjaro for my 40th. So I'm doing Everest Base Camp for my 60th. So that's in two years. So. So my list was Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu, the northern lights, swimming with a

great white shark. And I think it was Everest Base Camp. So I've just a couple more to go. A couple more to go.

Tracy Collins [00:27:01]:

Oh, well, you're getting there. You're doing really well on that, I have to say. Now, I know we chatted briefly before we started recording, and you're kind of famous for your many, many tips that you can provide for travelers. But what would be the number one tip that you would share, and I know this is really hard, but is there you have. Well done.

Mandy Watson [00:27:23]:

I have, and we use it all the time, is take a photo of your hotel outside of your hotel and take a photo of the document so you can show a taxi driver where to get back to. So, and even if you take a photo of your documents, they might not be able to read English, you know, especially if you're in Asia, the languages are so different, but they'll recognize the outside of the building. So when we were in Japan last year, we were staying in a building that's famous because it's got a huge Godzilla on the side of the building. So I didn't even bother taking the photo because I just said to the cab driver, godzilla. He goes, yeah, yeah, Godzilla, Godzilla. And we missed the rapport that goes back and forth. I'm not just not taking the mickey out of him. It was just Godzilla building.

Mandy Watson [00:28:13]:

Yes, yes, got it. Take a photo of that. That's easy. Even if it's next to your hotel, you can get back. And likewise, on a cruise ship, take a photo of the name of the port. Take a photo of your ship at the port. So if you're taking a public bus, you can get directions to get back. So I think that's a really powerful tip.

Mandy Watson [00:28:34]:

Always screenshots, always photos on your phone.

Tracy Collins [00:28:38]:

Yeah, I love that. I don't do that and I will be doing that from now on. That's the problem. Thank you, Mandy. There you go. Thank you so much for joining me for this episode. I always love talking travel. We can talk travel till the cows come home, can't we? Yes, we can have a numerous cups of tea.

Mandy Watson [00:28:53]:

Oh, yeah, my cup of tea's gone cold. It was more important talking to you, Trace.

Tracy Collins [00:28:57]:

So's mom. But we can go. We can always go make another one. But yeah, we will put a link into your website because there's still. I know you've got lots to write up.

Mandy Watson [00:29:06]:

I know I've got to write Greece, I've got to write Switzerland, Prague, Kruger, Mozambique. And then we've got the next ones coming up. I'm going to be behind. But, you know, I gave my brain a rest at the end of last year and I had to have surgery, so I had to catch up on a few things. Yeah, but these things.

Tracy Collins [00:29:23]:

Well, we'll put the link into your website anyway because you've got loads of information anyway from all the amazing places you've already visited.

Mandy Watson [00:29:31]:

So still, lots and lots to read there.

Tracy Collins [00:29:33]:

Yeah, absolutely. But yeah, thanks so much, Mandy for coming on. It's always, it's always so great to chat to you anyway, all the time.

Mandy Watson [00:29:40]:

Thanks, Tracey. It's been a joy. Thank you very much.

Tracy Collins [00:29:44]:

And that's a wrap for this episode of Stamped. A huge thank you to Mandy for sharing her travel stories and for reminding us all that adventure doesn't have an age limit. Be sure to check out her blog as spendingkidsinherittance.com for more inspiration and real life travel stories. If you enjoyed this episode, please leave us a review or leave us a message at Speakpipe just to say hello. Or, you know, if you'd like to be in a future episode of Stamped, get in touch. We love to hear from you. You'll find the show notes and links to Mandy's previous episodes over at globaltravelplanning.com Episode 68 but that's it for this week. Until next time, Happy Global Travel Planning.

Tracy Collins [00:30:25]:

Thank you for joining us on this episode of the Global Travel Planning Podcast. For more details and links to everything we discussed today, check out the show notes@globaltravelplanet.com Remember, if you enjoyed the show, please consider leaving us a review on your favorite podcast app because your feedback helps us reach more travel enthusiasts just like you.

Tracy Collins [00:30:44]:

Anyway, that leaves me to say, as.

Tracy Collins [00:30:46]:

Always, Happy Global Travel Planning.