



Why this executive keeps getting his bags searched

Evolution Partners founder Brad Giles likes to be prepared for all work presentation contingencies. He answers our Traveller Q&A.



Brad Giles would like to take his family to Antarctica to experience untouched wilderness.

Life & Leisure

Jan 20, 2020 — 10:50am



Brad Giles is founder of Evolution Partners, a strategic planning and coaching consultancy.

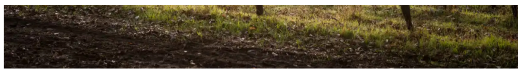
First, business or economy?

Economy. I prefer to put money to better uses, but if it's a longer trip I select premium economy.

Favourite destination

Margaret River in Australia, and Thailand abroad. For both destinations, it's the food, beaches and people.





WA's Margaret River is a favourite destination for the "food, beaches and people". iStock

Favourite airport

Honolulu because you're aware you have landed in the US but you aren't in a big city, you're on a Pacific island with a laid-back, tropical feel.

If I ran my own airline I would ...

Focus on passenger health. Health is definitely a concern for frequent flyers. The opportunity exists to build a healthier airline that offers whole-food meals, the best air quality and a way to exercise or keep active.

Where would you go with an unlimited travel budget?

I'd take the family to Antarctica to see the untouched wilderness. It would be an amazing and life-changing experience for all.

Worst place you've been lost

Arriving exhausted at New York airport when I was much younger, a stranger asked if I wanted a taxi to the city, which I accepted. So, he grabbed my luggage and we walked to his car. As he put the luggage into the boot, I asked why the car wasn't painted as a taxi, and he assured me that he was legal, grabbing a very old piece of paper from the glovebox that I could barely read. Exhausted, I shrugged it off and jumped in. This was before smartphones, and throughout the journey I had no idea where we were. I was getting quite worried, with a nagging sense that we were going the wrong way until I saw the city skyline. On arrival, he definitely overcharged me, but I looked at it as a good lesson for the future.

Best trip ever

A month through Europe with my sons when they were seven and nine. We had a small suitcase each and tried to live like the locals wherever possible.

Most memorable overseas dining

[Aquavit](#), a Scandinavian restaurant in New York City. The attention to detail and food were sensational.

In the suitcase

I very rarely check luggage and I'm always speaking or presenting to groups and need to set up in any room I'm given, so I carry two 10-metre audio-visual cables and adapters, extension power leads and lots of Post-it Notes. About half the time, security staff behind the X-ray machine search my bag and ask me why I'm carrying them. I also always keep toiletries in my suitcase, which makes packing a lot easier.



Superb attention to detail is a hallmark of Aquavit restaurant in New York.

First thing you do in a new city

After checking in, I will visit the venue if I'm speaking, and look for coffee nearby. Then I will look at running routes near the hotel and assess the hotel gym.

How do you make the most of a spare afternoon in a strange city?

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If I have a spare hour or two, I will go to an art gallery. I've been fortunate enough to visit a lot of cities and the art galleries are almost always my favourite part.

Most like to travel with and why

Someone who knows a lot about the destination, like the best places to eat or what to do and not to do, as well as the things I might not even know about.

Cure for jet lag

I recently discovered [Timeshifter](#), a smartphone app I've found really useful. You enter your flight numbers and dates, and it builds an hour-by-hour calendar, showing when you should sleep, nap or be awake; get or avoid light; and drink or avoid coffee. Also, I always exercise, get fresh air and drink plenty of water.

Other travel tips

Carry less and use carry-on luggage wherever possible. Having less to move around makes travel so much easier. Also, avoid eating in the hotel if possible. The adventures are outside the hotel.

Best travel tale

A friend and I were travelling back from the US and had a four-hour stopover in Los Angeles. It was my birthday the following day and I was going to miss it as we were crossing the international date line at just the wrong time. So, on a whim we decided to leave the airport and head to Santa Monica, where we found the best steak restaurant I've ever been to. The staff were passionate about steak and knew more about breeding cows than I could imagine was possible.



Ready for take-off: airline food needs to be healthy - and edible. Getty

Best thing about travelling

Developing a global mindset through seeing things and meeting people you would never see or know if you stayed in your own city. When I started studying in the US, I was fascinated by how the experience made me think on a more global level.

Top travel gripe

Sometimes the food on airlines is disgraceful. Often, I wonder if airline bosses should be made to eat the food they serve. Economy food doesn't need to be fancy; it just needs to be edible (note, the Qantas salad is always good).

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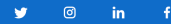
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