

A: Živijo in dobrodošli v Podcastu Turizem. Tokrat je z nami Nickie Harris iz agencije Romantics Travel iz Teksasa. Nickie je v agenciji specializirana za družinska potovanja in romantične oddihe za pare, hkrati pa je letos tudi prvič obiskala poslovno borzo SIW – Slovenian Incoming Workshop, ki se je v začetku maja odvijala v Portorožu.

A: Nickie, hello, welcome and dobrodošla. Thank you so much for spending some time with us.

Nickie, pozdravljeni in dobrodošli. Najlepša hvala, da boste preživeli nekaj časa z nami.

B: Yes, thank you for having me!

Da, hvala, da ste me povabili!

A: A few days ago you came from Slovenia where you were one of the participants of the Slovenian incoming workshop. Have you recovered from jet lag yet?

Pred nekaj dnevi ste prišli iz Slovenije, kjer ste bili ena od udeležencev Slovenske turistične borze. Ste si že opomogli od sprememb časovnega ritma?

B: I'm still trying because as soon as I got home I had to instantly get back into to mom mode and wife mode and work mode so it's been hard but I'm adjusting.

Še vedno se trudim, saj sem se morala takoj, ko sem prišla domov, vrniti v vlogo mame, žene in pričeti z delom, zato je bilo težko, vendar se prilagajam.

A: How many days did you spend in Slovenia?

Koliko dni ste preživeli v Sloveniji?

B: I was there for – should have been for seven nights – it ended up being six nights, because I got stuck in Turkey for one.

Tam sem bila – morala bi biti sedem noči – na koncu je bilo šest noči, ker sem eno noč obtičala v Turčiji.

A: The main reason for your visit to Slovenia was the Texas feels Slovenia tourism workshop in Dallas in early April. Were you impressed by the lively presentation of Slovenia?

Glavni razlog vašega obiska v Sloveniji je bila turistična delavnica Texas feels Slovenia v Dallasu v začetku aprila. Vas je navdušila živahna predstavitev Slovenije?

B: It was truly remarkable and as soon as I saw the videos and the experience and the loving hospitality, I was like I have to go I need to see this myself.

Bilo je resnično izjemno in takoj, ko sem videla posnetke, izkušnje in ljubečo gostoljubnost, sem si rekla, da moram iti, da moram to videti tudi sama.

A: What did you know about Slovenia before?

Kaj ste že prej vedeli o Sloveniji?

B: I'll be honest – absolutely nothing. I know. It's funny, I was actually fairly young when you got your independence but my husband's a little bit older and so he could remember in school learning about Slovenia what it used to be Yugoslavia so he's like educating me on all

things but yeah I honestly knew nothing and was very excited when I saw what I saw in Texas.

Če sem iskrena – popolnoma nič. Vem. Smešno, pravzaprav sem bila še v mlajših letih, ko ste se osamosvojili, ampak moj mož je malo starejši, zato se spomni, da se je v šoli učil o Sloveniji, ki je bila nekoč Jugoslavija, tako da me poučuje o vseh stvareh, ampak ja, po resnici nisem vedela nič in bila sem navdušena, ko sem videla predstavitev v Teksasu.

A: Dallas in Texas is an excellent starting point for promoting Slovenia in the USA. Of course because Luka Dončić has become the most visible ambassador for Slovenia. Is Dončić a strong magnet among your customers?

Dallas v Teksasu je odlično izhodišče za promocijo Slovenije v ZDA. Seveda zato, ker je Luka Dončić postal najvidnejši ambasador Slovenije. Je Dončić močan magnet med vašimi strankami?

B: So, I think he's definitely a great icon and spokesperson and just really brings light to the region it's been really unique now, now that I'm familiar with Slovenia and seeing commercials on TV during the maverick games and in highlights and I'm like oh wait I've been there, so that's kind of fun to see, either that correlation now that connects Slovenia to us here in Texas. Just as you guys are, we're very proud of our sports here in Texas we take a lot of pride in all things Texas so we just think of him as one of us now and here we are.

Torej, mislim, da je vsekakor izjemna ikona in predstavnik ter da resnično prispeva k prepoznavnosti regije. Zdaj, ko poznam Slovenijo in vidim reklame na televiziji med tekmami Mavericksov in v vrhuncih tekme, je to res edinstveno, saj sem si rekla, o, čakaj, tam sem pa bila, zato je to zabavno videti, bodisi to korelacijo, ki povezuje Slovenijo z nami tukaj v Teksasu. Tako kot vi, smo tudi mi v Teksasu zelo ponosni na naš šport, smo zelo ponosni na vse stvari v Teksasu, tako da ga imamo zdaj za enega od nas in tukaj smo.

A: The people in Texas at the moment really believe that Slovenia is a country with green and sporty heart and a country of champions.

Ljudje v Teksasu trenutno resnično verjamejo, da je Slovenija dežela zelenega in športnega srca ter dežela šampionov.

B: Yeah, I think that was what was most inspiring to me when I met you guys in Texas. Learning not just from basketball players but to cyclists and it was really quite unique to hear of all these names. I mean that sounds awful, but I had no idea they were all from one area, so. You breed them quite well there.

Ja, mislim, da me je prav to najbolj navdihnilo, ko sem vas spoznala v Teksasu. Spoznavanje ne le košarkarjev, ampak tudi kolesarjev, in res je bilo edinstveno slišati vsa ta imena. Mislim, da se sliši grozno, ampak nisem vedela, da so vsi z enega območja, tako da jih kar dobro vzgajate.

A: Nickie, last week you wrote on your Instagram account – it's 4:50 AM and I'm so excited to get to Slovenia. This was your first time in our country. What stands out in Slovenia? What was the most memorable thing?

Nickie, prejšnji teden ste na svojem Instagram profilu zapisali – ura je 4:50 zjutraj in tako zelo se veselim, da bom prišla v Slovenijo. To je bil vaš prvi obisk v naši državi. Kaj izstopa v Sloveniji? Kaj je bilo tisto, kar vam je najbolj ostalo v spominu?

B: It was my very first European experience. I have never been outside of the Caribbean for travel or outside the United States. I've never been to Europe, so for me as a first time European traveler it was, you know, embarking on a brand new region and experience in itself, but once I was there I think what helped most to me is just the people the hospitality. Most of you guys seeing this have probably never been to Texas, but hospitality is what we're known for and our love for people and visitors and it was just like it being at home almost. You know, just with a little bit of a language barrier, but it was like at home, so I loved that.

To je bila moja prva evropska izkušnja. Nikoli nisem potovala dlje od Karibov ali zunaj Združenih držav. Nikoli nisem bila v Evropi, zato je bilo zame kot popotnico, ki je prvič v Evropi to že samo po sebi popolnoma nova regija in izkušnja, ko pa sem bila tam, mislim, da so mi najbolj pomagali ljudje in njihova gostoljubnost. Večina od vas, ki to gledate, verjetno še nikoli ni bila v Teksasu, vendar smo znani po gostoljubnosti in ljubezni do ljudi in obiskovalcev, zato je bilo skoraj tako, kot da bi bila doma. Veste, le z malo jezikovne ovire, ampak bilo je kot doma, zato mi je bilo to všeč.

A: I hardly believe that you are not only first time in Slovenia, OK, I accept that, but first time in Europe too!

Težko verjamem, da ste ne samo prvič v Sloveniji, OK, to sprejemam, ampak tudi prvič v Evropi!

B: For someone like myself who doesn't quite grasp European travel and... Slovenia had everything. It was like I didn't need to go to every country in the region because it was like everything I needed was right there. From activities to wineries to just you know that small town village experience, so it was it was quite unique.

Za nekoga, kot sem jaz, ki ne razume povsem evropskih potovanj in... Slovenija je imela vse. Kot da mi ni bilo treba obiskati vseh držav v regiji, saj je bilo vse, kar sem potrebovala, prav tam. Od aktivnosti do vinarn in izkušenj v majhnih mestnih vaseh, tako da je bilo to precej edinstveno.

A: And the best thing – everything is accessible, everything is in the distance of one hour. **In najboljša stvar – vse je dostopno, vse se lahko doseže v eni uri.**

B: Yeah, I think what was so funny is when I got home and I'm showing my family and the kids and I'm like showing them on the map, I don't think I quite realized that we were from this point to the like I didn't realize how far we had traveled and done so much because it didn't feel that way but when I was looking from where we came into the capital and then go into like Bled and then all the way down to the coastal community all the way. I was just like how did we do all this? But it was good.

Ja, mislim, smešno mi je bilo, ko sem prišla domov in sem kazala svoji družini in otrokom in sem jim kazala na zemljevidu. Mislim, da se nisem povsem zavedala, da smo bili od te točke do druge, nisem se zavedala, kako daleč smo potovali in naredili toliko, ker se mi ni zdelo tako, ampak ko sem gledala od mesta, kjer smo prišli v prestolnico in potem šli na

Bled in nato vse do obalne regije vse do konca. Sem si rekla, kako smo vse to uspeli narediti? Ampak bilo je dobro.

A: How efficient was your visit to Slovenian incoming workshop? Did you get any useful connections? Have you done some good business?

Kako učinkovit je bil vaš obisk Slovenske turistične borze? Ali ste pridobili kakšne koristne nove stike? Ali ste sklenili kakšen dober posel?

B: I do, you know, I think as we talked about the relationships that you can build and the welcoming of all your tour operators and resorts and them just hosting us in that self you know to think that entire regions not that they were shutting down but they were just opening their doors to welcome us was quite special so that was really great. We definitely made some great contacts with many and some little cute boutique hotels that I don't know if they ever would have got the recognition they deserved without this type of thing but I tend to – I work a lot with clients who prefer a more boutique intimate experience and so now I have several contacts that I can reach out directly to you and do that.

Sem in mislim, da ko smo govorili o odnosih, ki jih lahko zgradite, in o dobrodošlici vseh vaših organizatorjev potovanj in letovišč ter o tem, da so gostili samo nas. Vsi so odprli svoja vrata in nas sprejeli, to je bilo nekaj posebnega, zato je bilo to res odlično. Vsekakor smo navezali nekaj odličnih stikov z mnogimi in tudi z malimi simpatičnimi butičnimi hoteli, za katere ne vem, ali bi kdaj dobili priznanje, ki si ga zaslužijo brez tovrstnih dogodkov, vendar – veliko delam s strankami, ki imajo raje bolj butične intimne izkušnje, zato imam zdaj več stikov, s katerimi lahko stopim v stik neposredno z vami in to storim.

A: Nickie, you're part of a boutique luxury travel agency Romantic Travels based in Texas and you're specialized in creating programs for busy families and couples. What kind of trips are you designing?

Nickie, ste del butične luksuzne potovalne agencije Romantic Travels s sedežem v Teksasu in ste specializirani za ustvarjanje programov za družine in pare. Kakšne vrste potovanj ustvarjate?

B: So we work a lot on romantic travel as well so we do focus on a lot of destination weddings and honeymoons but I also specialize with families and just creating an experience that is so unique to their family, so we really strive on never creating the same vacation twice, because no two vacations are alike. Your family interest to my family interests will be different so we want to make sure that we really cater to you specifically and your wish list and so that's something we really pride ourselves in.

Veliko se ukvarjamo tudi z romantičnimi potovanji, zato se osredotočamo na veliko destinacijskih porok in medenih tednov, vendar sem specializirana tudi za družine in ustvarjanje edinstvene izkušnje za njihovo družino, tako da si resnično prizadevamo, da nikoli ne ustvarimo enakih počitnic dvakrat, saj si dve potovanji ne moreta biti podobni. Vaši družinski interesi se recimo razlikujejo od interesov moje družine, zato se želimo prepričati, da bomo res poskrbeli posebej za vas in vaš seznam želja, kar je nekaj, na kar smo res ponosni.

A: And so Slovenia will be a springboard for Europe maybe for your clients?

Slovenija bo torej morda za vaše stranke odskočna deska za Evropo?

B: Yeah, you know, I think not only just the springboard, but I think it would be a great one-stop destination. We were talking about that last night with a friend of mine and I said you know a lot of people just kind of tax Slovenia into their other itineraries and that's great, I'm glad they're coming, but it's not really necessary. I personally love to unpack, so European travel is a little difficult, because I feel like you're constantly one or two nights here and then the next hotel, the next hotel and for me I love the thought that I could go to Slovenia for 10 to 14 days and stay three or four nights in each region and not feel so stressed when I got home. You know like the constant moving and going. I don't have to do that, so I like that a lot.

Ja, mislim, da ni le odskočna deska, ampak da bi bila odlična destinacija z enim samim ciljem. Sinoči sva se o tem pogovarjali s prijateljico in rekla sem, da veliko ljudi Slovenijo preprosto vključi v svoje druge itinerarje, kar je super, vesela sem, da pridejo, vendar to ni potrebno. Osebno vedno rada razpakiram svoje stvari, zato so evropska potovanja težka, ker se mi zdi, da si nenehno eno ali dve noči tukaj in potem naslednji hotel, naslednji hotel, in meni je vseč misel, da bi lahko šla v Slovenijo za 10 do 14 dni in v vsaki regiji ostala tri ali štiri noči in se ne bi počutila tako stresno, ko bi prišla domov. Saj veste, nenehno premikanje in odhajanje. Tega mi ni treba početi, zato mi je to zelo všeč.

A: I totally agree with you. What's the profile of your customers and why is Slovenia interesting for your business?

Popolnoma se strinjam z vami. Kakšen je profil vaših strank in zakaj je Slovenija zanimiva za vaše podjetje?

B: What makes us all better is continuing to learn and expand what we can offer people and I feel like to some degree I've done an injustice to my clients because we do have clients asking for Europe and for me personally I don't feel super confident or comfortable selling a region that I've never been to or understand myself, so having the opportunity to come and see it and actually – you know it's tangible now, I can I can explain how easy it was to go from point A to point B and explain the food and you know those different things so and the wine we had a lot of wine.

Vse nas dela boljše to, da se še naprej učimo in širimo, kaj lahko ponudimo ljudem, in zdi se mi, da sem do neke mere storila krivico svojim strankam, saj nas stranke sprašujejo po Evropi, jaz osebno pa se ne počutim zelo samozavestno ali udobno pri prodaji regije, v kateri še nikoli nisem bila ali je sama ne razumem, zato sem imela priložnost priti in jo videti ter dejansko – zdaj je otipljiva, lahko pojasnim, kako enostavno je bilo iti od točke A do točke B in opisati hrano in te različne stvari, pa tudi vino – spili smo veliko vina.

A: Probably you have fallen in love with our wines.

Verjetno ste se zaljubili v naša vina.

B: Yes, it was quite... yeah, and I'm not a big wine drinker, so it was great. I really enjoyed it. **Ja, bilo je zelo... ja, in ker nisem velika ljubiteljica vina, je bilo odlično. Res sem uživala.**

A: Nickie, are romantic getaways offered by your agency the current hit in the tourism? Hit among your clients also?

Nickie, ali so romantični oddihi, ki jih ponuja vaša agencija, trenutni turistični hit? Tudi med vašimi strankami?

B: Yeah, so romance travel is a huge market or niche to be empty when it comes to travel. And again everyone I guess now with the instant world that we live in from Instagram to social media everybody wants something that's not like everyone else. They want an instagrammable moment you know that very unique experience and kind of like bragging rights if you will, so again offering a new region to my clients to say oh like no one's really doing this yet this can be this can be your thing so that's kind of exciting.

Romantična potovanja so velik trg ali niša, katere potencial je treba še izpolniti, ko gre za potovanja. In še enkrat, mislim, da si zdaj, ko živimo v instantnem svetu, od Instagrama do družbenih medijev, vsakdo želi nekaj, kar ni enako kot vsi drugi. Želijo trenutek, ki ga lahko objavijo na Instagramu, ki je zelo edinstvena izkušnja in nekakšne pravice za hvalisanje, če hočete. Zato ponujam nove regije svojim strankam, tako da rečem, da tega še nihče ne počne, to je lahko vaša stvar, tako da je to nekako razburljivo.

A: Is this the trend of recent years?

Je to trend zadnjih let?

B: The most fortunate thing that came from the pandemic is that we just learned that life is short and to put things off or plan for you know years out it it's not realistic to us. We all learned very quickly how our entire lives can be taken away from us and most people we used to have travel about a year out in advance and now people sometimes with less than six months are like we're ready to go, let's go. Where am I going? I'm like oh, OK. Let's do it, so it's been quite different when it comes to the planning process. Everything is a very instant world now.

Največja sreča pandemije je, da smo se naučili, da je življenje kratko in da je odlaganje stvari ali načrtovanje za več let vnaprej nerealno. Vsi smo zelo hitro spoznali, kako nam lahko vzamejo celotno življenje, in večina ljudi je včasih rezervirala potovanja za približno leto dni vnaprej, zdaj pa ljudje želijo potovati v roku šestih mesecev. Kar pridejo in – pripravljeni smo na pot, gremo, kam gremo? Jaz sem pa – ok, v redu. Torej je bilo pri načrtovanju precej drugače. Zdaj je vse zelo instantno.

A: What do you consider most important in the travel business? Price, product or communication?

Kaj se vam zdi najpomembnejše v potovalni dejavnosti? Cena, izdelek ali komunikacija?

B: It's really quite the combination of all I think people too again, the best thing for tourism that has happened post pandemic is people understand that for good value and good product there's a price to that and because they want the instant gratification, they want the vacations now. Price hasn't really been an issue for most of our clients. Unfortunately flight prices have been astronomical for our industry and we really, like we're challenged at first, how are we going to present to these clients. The flight prices – they're paying it, like they're not even blinking an eye, they're just like OK, let's go, I'm ready and so that's great and then again communication, not just from when they're in destination but with us and what we're preparing them for for their trip is key, I think and then again having those in destination contacts is something we really pride ourselves on at Romantics. We work very

hard with every region that we sell and ensuring that the relationship I have with the contact there, God forbid something happens – I know I can call, I have a number of names and Slovenia I could call now without issues.

Mislím, da je to res kombinacija vsega, kar se je po pandemiji zgodilo za turizem, saj ljudje razumejo, da je za dobro vrednost in dober izdelek treba plačati, in ker želijo takojšnje zadovoljstvo, želijo počitnice takoj. Za večino naših strank cena ni bila problem. Na žalost so bile cene letov za našo panogo astronomske in sprva smo se res soočili z izzivom, kako bomo to predstavili strankam. Cene letov – plačajo jih, brez odlašanja, ampak rečejo: OK, gremo, pripravljeni smo in to je super. Potem pa je komunikacija, ne samo ko so na destinaciji, ampak tudi z nami in kaj jim pripravljamo na njihovem potovanju, ključnega pomena. Potem imamo še stike na destinaciji, na kar smo v podjetju Romantics res ponosni. Zelo trdo delamo z vsako regijo, ki jo prodajamo, in zagotavljamo, da je odnos, ki ga imam s tamkajšnjim kontaktom, dober. Bog ne daj, da bi se kaj zgodilo – vem, da lahko pokličem, imam številna imena in za Slovenijo ravno tako, saj lahko zdaj brez težav pokličem.

A: Super! Which places in Slovenia do you visit as a part of the study tours of the Slovenian tourist board?

Super! Katere kraje v Sloveniji obiskujete v okviru študijskih tur Slovenske turistične organizacije?

B: When I say I got a true Slovenia experience I think I did. The tour I think was just amazing and the expectation of that I was not expecting how blown away I would be from one little small town and I'll be honest – I'm a beach girl, like I love the beach, but just going there, I just instantly, like I could just breathe, like I just felt so free from everything. One of the evenings afterwards several of us went out and again I'm not a big drinker, but I had several glasses of wine, but you know what was so funny is the next day I felt fine. It is just that clean fresh wine and it was really unique to be able to get up the next day and be like alright, let's do this, I'm good to go.

Ko pravim, da sem doživela pravo slovensko izkušnjo, mislim, da sem jo res. Mislim, da je bila študijska tura naravnost neverjetna in pričakovanje – nisem pričakovala, kako me bo eno majhno mestece navdušilo, in bom iskrena – sem dekle s plaže, rada imam plaže, ampak ko sem šla tja, takoj imela sem občutek, kot da sem lahko zadihala, kot da sem se počutila tako svobodno od vsega. Nekega večera smo šli ven in ponavljam – ne pijem veliko, a sem spila nekaj kozarcev vina. Kar je bilo tako smešno, je bilo to, da sem se naslednji dan počutila dobro. To čisto sveže vino je bilo res edinstveno, ko sem lahko naslednji dan vstala in si rekla – dobro, gremo, pripravljena sem.

A: Okay, besides Slovenian wines your favorite experience in Slovenia that you will share with your clients?

Okej, poleg slovenskih vin – kaj je vaša najljubša izkušnja v Sloveniji, ki jo boste delili s svojimi strankami?

B: We got to have dinner down in the coal mine. Like who would in a million years...? I would have never said – I'm gonna have dinner in a coal mine or I want to have dinner in a coal mine. It sounds weird but the walls that you know people for hundreds of years have worked to provide, I mean it's a very humbling experience and then we got pampered with

food, so it was great. I think that one was the most memorable just because it was such a special experience, but again every little town we went to there was just something that I took away from it.

Večerjali smo v rudniku premoga. Kdo bi v milijon letih...? Nikoli ne bi rekla – večerjala bom v rudniku premoga ali želim večerjati v rudniku premoga. Sliši se čudno, ampak stene, za katere so se ljudje več sto let trudili, da bi jih zagotovili, so zelo ponižna izkušnja, potem pa so nas razvajali še s hrano, tako da je bilo super. Mislim, da mi je ta izkušnja ostala najbolj v spominu, ker je bila tako posebna, vendar sem od vsakega mesta, v katerega smo šli, odnesla nekaj.

A: According to the profile of your clients, which destination and tourism products of Slovenia would you offer to them? What could be the hottest destination in Slovenia for your guests?

Katere destinacije in turistične produkte Slovenije bi glede na profil vaših strank ponudili? Katera bi lahko bila najbolj vroča destinacija v Sloveniji za vaše goste?

B: I think Bled. It's just, it's amazing, because it's that iconic – If you Google Slovenia, the first thing they're going to see is the castle in the middle of the lake. As society like I said who likes tangible and they're instantly seeing things I think many of them will want to visit and I loved it, but I don't know if that was the only you know the only highlight. Again I think just being able to visit so many areas in such a short amount of time I think that's what makes the destination the most appealing to me and to present to my clients that they are able to start and say like Bled and then go to Ptuj and Maribor, I mean it's just, it's really unique.

Mislim, da Bled. Je preprosto neverjeten, ker je tako ikoničen – če v Googlu poiščete Slovenijo, bo prva stvar, ki jo boste videli, otoček sredi jezera. Kot družba, kot sem rekla, ki ima rada oprijemljivo in takoj vidi stvari, mislim, da jih bo to destinacijo veliko želelo obiskati in všeč mi je bilo, vendar ne vem, ali je bil to edini, saj veste, edini vrhunec.

Mislim, da je to, da lahko obiščete toliko območij v tako kratkem času, tisto, zaradi česar je destinacija zame najbolj privlačna in da jo lahko predstavim svojim strankam, da lahko začnejo na primer na Bledu in nato gredo na Ptuj in v Maribor, mislim, da je to res edinstveno.

A: I wonder, is it difficult to sell such a small country as Slovenia? It's challenging to sell programs in Slovenia.

Sprašujem se, ali je težko ponujati potovanja v tako majhno državo, kot je Slovenija? V Sloveniji je težko prodajati programe.

B: Unfortunately for many of us in the US and especially where you reside in the US it is a little bit more difficult for us to get to the region not just Slovenia but Europe as a whole, so with that when people are committing to go to Europe they're trying to achieve as much as they can but with that I feel like it's kind of odd to me that Slovenia has been kind of bypassed. And now having seen it I feel like it's right up there with some of the most iconic places, you know like Italy, you know I want to go to Italy, but it's like why are we not even throwing that in there, you know Prague is a very popular destination in the US but again it's so tangible to just go right down to Slovenia and experience that, so I think for us here in the US especially travel advisors, we really have our jobs cut out and educating people as to what's available and why we should not be putting this destination off and visiting Slovenia.

Žal je za mnoge od nas v ZDA in še posebej odvisno od mesta, kjer živite v ZDA, nekoliko težje priti v regijo, ne samo v Slovenijo, ampak v Evropo kot celoto, zato ljudje, ki se odločajo za pot v Evropo, skušajo doseči čim več, vendar se mi zdi čudno, da je bila Slovenija nekako spregledana. Zdaj, ko sem si jo ogledala, se mi zdi, da je v samem vrhu nekaterih najbolj ikoničnih krajev, kot je Italija. Saj veste, »želim iti v Italijo«, ampak se mi zdi, zakaj tega sploh ne vključimo, Praga je recimo zelo priljubljena destinacija v ZDA, ampak spet je tako oprijemljivo potem iti naravnost dol v Slovenijo in to doživeti, zato mislim, da imamo mi tukaj v ZDA, zlasti svetovalci za potovanja, res veliko dela z izobraževanjem ljudi o tem, kaj je na voljo in zakaj ne smemo odlagati te destinacije in obiskati Slovenijo.

A: What are stereotypes about Slovenia through American eyes?

Kakšni so stereotipi o Sloveniji skozi ameriške oči?

B: People all say it. They're like – where is that? And I'm like – do you know where Croatia is? And they're like – yes and I'm like OK well it's by that. You know, it's not a country that just rolls off our tongues and conversation often and again it's been a real injustice because we've dropped the ball and not sharing or knowing more about that area.

To pravijo vsi ljudje. Pravijo – Kje pa je to? Jaz pa – Ali veste, kje je Hrvaška? In pravijo – Da, jaz pa – v redu, Slovenija pa je takoj zraven. Veste, to ni država, ki bi nam pogosto padla z jezika in v pogovor, in spet je to prava krivica, ker smo dvignili roke in nismo delili ali vedeli več o tem območju.

A: What has changed after the pandemic in terms of travel habits of Americans?

Kako so se po pandemiji spremenile potovalne navade Američanov?

B: I think that for sure is everyone is ready to go now, there is no more planning, it's – let's go, let's go. Every state had its own experience with that, in Texas we were very blessed because we had some great destinations we could get to within our own state without so many restrictions and stuff but they do want safe comfortable travel and again I think Slovenia offered that as well.

Mislim, da so zdaj vsi pripravljeni na odhod na potovanja, ni več načrtovanja, je le še – gremo, gremo. Vsaka zvezna država ima s tem svoje izkušnje, v Teksasu smo bili zelo blagoslovljeni, saj smo imeli nekaj odličnih destinacij, do katerih smo lahko prišli znotraj naše zvezne države brez številnih omejitev in podobno, vendar si vsi želijo varnega in udobnega potovanja in mislim, da je tudi Slovenija to ponudila.

A: Slovenia is perfect for travelers who love food, wine and nature and outdoor activities so I think it's the perfect place for your next vacation given that you're constantly looking for new and undiscovered places. Nickie, thank you so much for your time. It was a pleasure, of course I hope to see you soon again in Slovenia.

Slovenija je kot nalašč za popotnike, ki obožujejo hrano, vino, naravo in aktivnosti na prostem, zato menim, da je popoln kraj za vaše naslednje počitnice, če nenehno iščete nove in neodkrite kraje. Nickie, najlepša hvala za vaš čas. V veselje mi je bilo, seveda pa upam, da se kmalu spet vidimo v Sloveniji.

B: I'm already like looking at dates with my family to take the kids back so definitely. I know my son – I have to renew his passport – so he keeps asking when can I go, when can I go. He wants to, he keeps wanting to see the Dragons he thinks there's real Dragons, because you know all the promotion with the dragon and I'm like we'll just have to go see the Dragons in the caves.

Z družino se že dogovarjamo o možnih datumih, ko bi vzeli s sabo tudi otroke, tako da vsekakor. Vem, da si potovanja zelo želi moj sin – najprej pa mu moram podaljšati potni list – zato me vedno znova sprašuje, kdaj lahko grem, kdaj lahko grem. Ves čas govori o tem, da želi videti zmaje. Misli namreč, da so tu pravi zmaji. Saj poznate vse promocije z zmajem, in jaz pravim, da bomo morali iti pogledat zmaje v jame.

A: Nickie, yeah you are more than welcome!
Nickie, seveda, ste več kot dobrodošli!

B: Yes, come see us in Texas, we'll see you guys soon!
Da, obiščite nas v Teksasu, kmalu se vidimo!

A: Z nami je bila Nicky Harris, iz agencije Romantics Travel iz Teksasa in to je bil Podcast Turizem, ki je namenjen vsem, ki turizem delate, živite in ustvarjate. Vabimo vas k deljenju epizode in tudi k poslušanju prihodnjega podcasta.

Srečno.