



VANESSA BARNETT

COURSE ADVISOR

I've always had a passion for travel, it started when I was a kid. As soon as I had the chance, I headed off on my OE, spending four years living in Dublin and London. But even then, I knew there was still so much more of the world I wanted to see.

That's what led me to enrol at ITC back in 2002, where I completed my Advanced Diploma in Travel and Tourism. Now, after nearly 20 years in the industry, it really feels like I've come full circle.

After graduating, ITC helped me get my foot in the door at Go Holidays, where I discovered the wholesale side of the industry, and I never left it. I went on to spend 11 years with Adventure World, specialising in Africa and South and Central America. That role gave me incredible opportunities to travel, from exploring the Amazon and visiting Machu Picchu to travelling through Africa and Asia. Later, I joined House of Travel, continuing to specialise in adventure and overland travel.

Having been an ITC student myself, I love showing students just how many pathways this industry offers, especially in areas like wholesale that they may not know much about. I'm passionate about sharing my experiences and helping them see what's possible.

For me, the most important qualities in this industry are passion, adaptability, and empathy. It's about remembering that every booking represents someone's dream trip.

My advice? Go for it. The opportunities are endless, you never know where a career in travel could take you.