



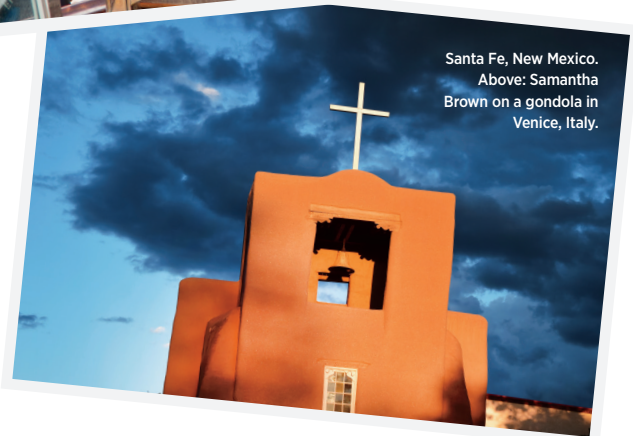
Samantha Brown

THE HOST OF PBS'S NEW SERIES *PLACES TO LOVE* OPENS UP ABOUT EXPLORING MORE THAN 260 CITIES IN 62 COUNTRIES AND SHARES HER ADVICE.

BY HANNAH DOYLE



Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Above: Samantha Brown on a gondola in Venice, Italy.



What role should travel play in the world? When traveling, the tendency is to tune out and not think about personal problems, but every day for 10 or 15 minutes we should consider the problems that aren't going away. Because when you are in a new place, your mind is more open, and maybe a different solution will make its way through. That newness, that discovery—it changes you.

What's your number one travel tip? Go for a walk! While on assignment in Taipei, I noticed on my way back to my hotel that there was a 7-Eleven on every other block. I asked my crew about it and got an education in the importance of 7-Eleven to the Taiwanese. They do everything from drop off laundry to have packages delivered there. It's a community center. When you wander, you pick up on little things that commemorate your trip.

What was your most recent vacation? My husband, two daughters and I visited my dad and stepmom in Marco Island, Florida. A child psychologist I worked with said that the memory of traveling for a child is stronger than important dates, even birthdays. It doesn't have to be expensive trips—it could be day trips or quick overnight trips—but travel reinforces family bonds that carry you through life.

What destination do you find yourself returning to time and again? Santa Fe, New Mexico. It has a wonderful Native American history. I always visit the same trail every time I go: the Aspen Trail. It's a magical place.

How do you get to know others in a destination? Create a ritual. If you're at a place for more than three days, do one thing at the same spot every day. For me, it's usually the coffee shop around the corner from my hotel. If you're in a coffee shop, ask the person next to you where you should go to lunch. Sometimes it's hard: You're a wallflower or self-conscious because you're not from here. But by creating a ritual, you naturally start to get more courage and regulars recognize you.

With PBS's *Places to Love*, what are you looking forward to? Being with the Travel Channel for 15 years was wonderful, but I've formed my own production company, so *Places to Love* is truly my show, that I own. This time around, I had a particular view of travel I wanted to express: Every destination has a soul, and there's an effort that goes into cultivating that soul. So when travelers talk about doing what the locals do, what we're actually saying is that we want to connect in a way that makes us feel like we belong to this world. 



Discover more tips from Samantha in the *Endless Vacation* magazine app. See page 2 for details!