Considering going to your first ever Travel Blogging Conference? You're not alone.

My sister Jill and I had many questions last autumn after we kept seeing tweets about this subject on the web.

We participate in an online conversation every Tuesday called **#TTOT** which stands for **Travel Talk on Twitter.**
Since we follow this hashtag, I noticed many travel bloggers mentioning something about a Travel Bloggers Unite conference in Innsbruck.
@TravelDudes
and
@SoloTraveler
amongst many others were tweeting from the conference and I was able to kind of follow what they were doing.

It sounded like a lot of fun, so I sent out a message on Twitter asking anyone if it was worth going to. I got a quick reply from a guy we follow, Paul Corbett **@MyPostCardFrom** and he said it would definitely be worth it.

So besides all the logistics, Jill and I were determined to attend the next event wherever it was to be held. Lucky for us, the upcoming venue was selected to take place in the beautiful region

of Umbria, an area we would like to return to since visiting Assisi back in 1994.

In the meantime, as we were making plans for Christmas 2011, Jill announced she was pregnant with her first child. What glorious news for my family, but it did put a slight snag in our travel plans. Fortunately for Jill, she would only be a few months pregnant in April and would be permitted to travel overseas if she'd like. However, Jill's husband would worry about her the whole time, so we managed to use Airline Points so Nick and my boyfriend Joe could join us. Our cousin Amber, a photographer, wanted to travel with us as well, so by this time, we had a

solid group of five ready to set off to Italy.

We sent a message to the founder of **Travel Bloggers Unite** , Oliver Gradwell, to let him know about our situation and if we could all purchase tickets to attend the conference. He was able to completely walk us through this process, get everyone signed up and we registered early enough to get the primo villas at
Valle Di Assisi
Resort reserved for us. We felt pretty confident heading into this thing, thanks to all the friendly advice from so many people.

Oliver didn't like this picture of himself,
so I kindly blurred him out.

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