

BBT Online's Bucket list – Dominique Jansen (49) – Radisson Blu & Park Inn by Radisson Antwerp

Working in the hotel industry, I met some pretty awesome people (and they are not all famous) and I have been given the opportunity to go to wonderful cities I would probably not choose for personal travel. I probably need at least another 40 years to do everything I still want to do, but here goes the bucket list.



1. Take a photography course

I love photography and do make the occasional nice picture, but that is more of a coincidence than knowing what I am doing. Being able to catch that one particular expression on someone's face that shows exactly how they feel or making mouth-watering pictures of food is an incredible talent I would love to have.

2. Learn to sing

I have a thing with voices. I can literally fall in love with someone because of their voice, their timbre and the way they control it. Talented singers have both. I often sing (and occasionally get caught dancing) when I am in the car. But as you can probably guess, there is a reason I only do that when alone in the car. Hopefully singing classes would help to remedy that. The teacher would have to be very, very patient though.

3. Travel to Argentina and Alaska (not trying to cover the world map in alphabetical order)

Ultimately, there are more countries in South America I would like to go to, but Argentina is definitely on top of the list. The variety in landscapes, the food, the wine, the vastness of the country stretching from Central America to the extreme south of the continent – it must be absolutely stunning. Alaska is the other extremity of the continent. Someone I met once told me about a cruise from Vancouver to Alaska. He was so passionate about it that he made me curious.

4. Learn to speech like Barack Obama

I absolutely admire people who can talk in public like Barack Obama. He always seems so natural, so completely at ease in front of a crowd or a camera, inspiring millions of people. Apparently, it is something you can learn. Luckily, I don't have stage fright.

5. Give back (more)

Sometimes, we forget how lucky we are and how much we have to be grateful for. Giving back to the community is so easy and can be done with small gestures. We have so many driven people in the Belgian events & hospitality industry with a warm heart, great organisational skills and a talent to make people happy. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could dedicate one or two days per year to charity work or to volunteering? We could achieve so much together.

On a personal level, I volunteer for Antwerp Diner, a charity event that raises funds for the prevention and cure of aids and HIV. One of the organisations we support is Tomorrow for Isibani (T4I) in Winterton, South Africa. One of the founders, a Belgian lady, moved to South Africa years ago and dedicates a great deal of her time to T4I. When we first met, she moved me to tears talking about the project. I have been wanting to go and volunteer in Winterton ever since, always finding a reason not to go. But I am determined to go. Next year. Let that be my most important New Year's resolution. I wish I could do more though.