

BBT Online's Bucket list – Elke Van Zaelen (39), Managing Director, Fame Travel Designers

When BBT Online's Karin asked me if I wanted to share my bucket list for one of her most read columns, I sincerely thought: "better not me". Because oh my god, I didn't really have one.

I am one of those people trying to live without one. I'm trying to enjoy life as much as I can without challenges, deadlines, must-see's and must-do's. Because I need peace of mind, because I want to relax when not I'm not working.

But who are we kidding? We all have one, right? That list, that thing we want to do, that challenge, that longing for. I just don't want to call it a bucket list, probably because I don't want to feel the pressure of needing to do it all.



So here I go with the things that are important to be, my priorities, my challenges, my bucket list.

1. Running the 20 km of Brussels

This year I absolutely wanted to run the 20 km of Brussels. So yes, I registered already and it is going to be a big challenge for me. But I am really excited and absolutely want to do it. It's just that I need to start training for it, so please give me my second thing on my bucket list.

2. Time

I would love to have more time. More time to dress up in the morning, more time for my kids, more time in the office, less time on a plane, more time for me, less time doing things I really don't like (administration in the office), more time for a good talk, less time being in traffic jams, et cetera.

3. Friends & Family

So very cliché, but my bucket list today it is all about my friends & family. I have realized more than ever that they give me the best energy of all. So I try to stay focused to not lose myself in my work and really put it as a must to occasionally drink a glass of champagne with my girlfriends, to say yes to a nice dinner with friends, to go to the sauna with my eldest daughter, to watch a dragon movie with my youngest & to enjoy that Sunday walk with my hubby. It's those little things that are very high on my list.

4. Charity

I don't know what I want to do yet, but it is definitely something I think about a lot. It's high time to start doing something for those who are less fortunate than us. I have been thinking about taking my kids on a working camp in Africa, building a house for someone. Or helping a family in Belgium, as we have lots of poor people here as well, or people not enjoying the same opportunities as most of us do. Or going on a trip to help clean the ocean. Something, Some day.

5. Travel

According to my “been” app I have only seen 24% of the world. Crazy for someone in tourism, organizing incentive travel all over the globe. Finally my kids are getting older and we can focus on long distance destinations again, which I really missed. Enjoying a trip Asia with my family instead of only talking to clients there. This is heaven!

There is so much I still want to see and so many countries I want to return to. So there isn't really a specific destination on my bucket list, just that exciting travel feeling of going where no one has gone before. Not really of course, but let me dream a little.