

# 47 IDEAS TO TRANSFORM

YOUR ACCOMMODATION INTO A WOW EXPERIENCE







CHAPTER 1:

# THE POWER OF THE FIRST IMPRESSION

## PRE-ARRIVAL STRATEGIES

## 11 Tourism's Biggest Missed Opportunity

Ninety percent of small accommodations make the same mistake: once a reservation is confirmed, the guest remains in "radio silence" until the day of arrival.

This communication gap represents a missed opportunity for:

- > Reduce cancellations: since reservations with pre-arrival communication have 40% fewer cancellations
- > Increase upselling: by offering extra services, upgrades, and local experiences
- > Create a positive expectation: which predisposes guests to a superior experience without surprises
- > Gather valuable information: about specific preferences and needs to personalize their stay

## 1.3 The Welcome Video: Your Secret Weapon

**Creating a custom welcome video** may cost very little time and money, but it's sure to have an exponential impact. Key elements:

#### Duration:

between 2 and 3 minutes máx

#### Content:

- Personal greeting from the owner or manager (30 seconds)
- Quick tour of the main facilities (60 seconds)
- Local highlights and recommendations (60 seconds)
- Farewell message with hope for seeing you again (30 seconds)

## 1.2 | The WOW Pre-Arrival Communication System

#### **RESERVATION WEEK:**

Send a personalized welcome email that includes:

- A specific thank you for choosing your property
- A brief history of your property (humanizes the experience)
- Basic practical information (address, phone number, hours)
- A link to a short welcome video from the owner/manager

#### 5-7 DAYS BEFORE ARRIVAL:

Email with the subject line: "Preparing your unique experience at [Accommodation Name]"

- Weather forecast for your stay dates
- Personalized recommendations based on quest type (family, couple, business
- Additional service options available
- Simple preference form (pillow type, room temperature, food restrictions and allergies, etc.)

#### **48 HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL:**

WhatsApp or SMS with:

- Friendly reservation reminde
- Specific arrival instructions
- Direct number for emergencies or inquirie

PRO-TIP: Record seasonal releases to keep content fresh and relevant.



## CHAPTER 2:

# CREATING MAGICAL MOMENTS DURING THE STAY

## 2.1 The Check-In Ritual That Makes the Difference

Check-in is your only opportunity to make a physical first impression.

70% of the perception of service quality is formed in the first 15 minutes.

#### THE WOW CHECK-IN PROTOCOL:

## Before They Arrive:

- Room ready 2 hours before official check-in time
- Personalized Welcome Kit in the room
- Room temperature adjusted according to pre-communicated preferences
- Room fragrance adjusted according to pre-communicated preferences
- Soft background music (local playlist)

## **Upon Arrival**:

- Greet guests by name (use reservation information)
- Offer a welcome drink (this can be homemade flavored water or local natural juices)
- Efficient check-in (maximum 5 minutes)
- Personalized mini-tour focused on what interests them mos

## 2.2 The Details That Don't Cost But Are Worth Millions

#### In the Room:

- Handwritten welcome note from the staf
- Curated local information (no generic brochures)
- Regional snacks (alfaiores, facturas, mate cocido
- Reusable water bottle with the accommodation logo
- Personalized map with highlighted recommendations

## **Unique Local Experiences:**

- Breakfast with local products (wines and oils; goat cheeses; artisanal chocolates)
- Seasonal activities (harvest, whale/birds watching, local carnival, etc.)
- Connections with local artisans for unique workshops

## 2.3 Real-Time Satisfaction Monitoring

DAY 1: WhatsApp message: "Was everything perfect with your check-in? Is the room just as you expected? I'm available for anything you need."

DAY 2: Discreet visit from staff to check that everything is okay and offer assistance.

**LAST DAY:** Personalized check-out with a small farewell gift (a local postcard, regional herbal tea bags, or a small souvenir).





CHAPTER 3:

# THE ART OF POST-CHECKOUT FOLLOW-UP

## 3.1 The First 24 Hours: The Golden Window

Immediate post-departure follow-up is crucial.

**Guests are at their "emotional peak" regarding their experience**, and this is when they are most likely to:

- Leave nositive reviews
- Recommend to family and friends
- Plan a next visi

## IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP EMAIL (within 4 hours):

- Subject: "Thank you for allowing us to be part of your trip!"
- Genuine and specific thanks
- Direct but friendly request for a review on Google and TripAdvisor
- Direct links to review platforms
- Exclusive offer for your next visit (15% discount for direct booking)

## 3.2 The 12-Month Nutrition Sequence

2 WEEKS: Email with photos of your stay (if authorized) and a review reminder

MONTHLY: Newsletter with property updates and special offers

QUARTERLY: Updates on local events that may interest you

BIRTHDAY: Personalized greeting with a special offer

ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR VISIT: Emotional reminder with an invitation to return

## 3.3 Turn Guests into Ambassadors

#### REFERRAL PROGRAM:

For each referral you bring, you both receive:

- 20% discount on your next direct booking
- Free room upgrade (subject to availability)
- Premium Welcome Kit





## CHAPTER 4:

# STRATEGIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWS MANAGEMENT

## 4.1 The Proactive Collection System

**Don't wait for problems to escalate.** Implement a continuous feedback system:

#### **DURING THE STAY:**

- Informal daily check-in (this could be housekeeping asking if they need anything)
- QR code in the room leading to a quick satisfaction form
- WhatsApp available 24/7 for immediate inquiries

## **POST-STAY:**

- Detailed satisfaction survey sent within 48 hours
- Telephone follow-up for stays of more than 3 nights
- Invitation to private Facebook/WhatsApp groups for VIP guests

## 4.3 Online Review Optimization

#### FOR GOOGLE MY BUSINESS:

- Respond to ALL reviews within 24 hours
- For positive reviews: Thank you and invite a return visit
- For negative reviews: Public apology + invitation to private contact

#### FOR TRIPADVISOR:

- Keep your profile updated with recent photos

## 4.2 | Crisis Management: Turning Problems into Opportunities

#### THE SERVICE RECOVERY PROTOCOL:

#### **STEP 1 - ACTIVE LISTENING:**

- Never justify or defend yourself initially
- Allow the guest to fully express their frustration

#### **STEP 2 - ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- Take responsibility without blaming others
- Explain what steps you will take to resolve the issues

#### STEP 3 - IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- Resolve the issue within 2 hours if possible

## STEP 4 - FOLLOW-UP:



## CHAPTER 5:

# ATTRACTING NEW GUESTS WITHOUT RELYING ON OTAS

## 5.1 The Power of Local Direct Marketing

## REGIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

- Local restaurants: exchange recommendations
- Adventure tourism agencies: combined packages
- Local producers: unique gastronomic experiences
- Event centers: accommodations for wedding/conference guests

#### PRACTICAL FXAMPLE - MENDO7A:

## Partnership with a local family winery:

- Hotel guests receive a 20% discount on winery tours
- Winery visitors receive a 15% discount at the hotel
- Combined package: 2 nights + wine tasting tour + pairing dinner = unique premium experience

## 5.2 | Content Marketing That Generates Bookings

## **STRATEGIC BLOG:** Monthly content focused on:

- "Complete guide to visiting [your region] in [season]
- "The 5 best-kept secrets of [your city]"
- "Unique experiences you can only have in [your area]"
- Stories from guests and their local adventures

#### LOCAL SEO:

- Optimization for searches such as "boutique hotel [your city]" or "cabins with breakfast [your city]"
- Fully optimized Google My Business
- Presence in local and provincial tourism directories

## 5.3 The Off-Season Strategy

#### **CREATIVE PACKAGES:**

- "Winter Getaway": spa day + comfort food + game nights
- "Book Month": curated library + reading nooks + unlimited mate
- "Digital Detox": TV-free rooms + offline activities + meditation





CHAPTER 6:

# INSTAGRAM-WORTHY DESIGN WITHOUT A BIG INVESTMENT

## 6.1 The 5 Visual Elements That Generate Shares

#### 1 STRATEGIC PHOTOGRAPHIC POINTS:

- Reading corner with perfect natural lighting
- Plant wall or local mural as a backdrop
- Photo-friendly breakfast setup
- Accessible panoramic view with a natural setting

#### 2. PHOTOGENIC PROPERTIES:

- Colorful local textiles (regional blankets and fabrics)
- Low-maintenance native plants
- Warm lighting with LED garlands or candles
- Natural wood or local stone elements

#### 3. SHAREABLE EXPERIENCES:

- Breakfast served on wooden trays with local flowers
- Mate/tea setup with a panoramic view
- Local musical instrument corne
- Curated library with books by regional authors

## 6.2 Creating Your Visual Style Guide

## **COLOR PALETTE:**

## Based on the natural colors of its region:

- Hills: earth, vineyard green, gol
- Desert Shore: glacier blue, stone gray, forest green
- Desert Valley: terracotta, corn yellow, quebracho green
- Coast: sea blue, sand white, sky blue

#### **CONSISTENT GRAPHIC ELEMENTS:**

- Simple and memorable logo
- Mobile-readable typography
- Iconography that reflects local culture
- Frames and filters with their own identity





## CHAPTER 7:

# WORD OF MOUTH MARKETING - SYSTEMATIZED -

## 7.1 Creating Stories Worth Telling

## Guests don't share ordinary experiences.

They share extraordinary experiences

Elements that generate viral word-of-mouth (organic)

## **GENUINE SURPRISES:**

- Appearance of the owner with a guitar for a guest's birthday
- Surprise breakfast in the garden, weather permitting
- Connection with a local artisan for a private pottery class
- Personalized evening tour to places only locals know about

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCES THAT CANNOT BE REPLICATED:

- Access to exclusive local events
- Family connections (dinner at a local family home
- Unique seasonal experiences (olive harvest, sheep shearing

## 7.2 The Gamified Referral System

#### AMBASSADOR LEVELS:

- Bronze (1 referral): 10% discount on your next booking
- Silver (3 referrals): Free upgrade + premium welcome kit
- Gold (5 referrals): Free night + local VIP experience
- Platinum (10+ referrals): Free full weekend stay

## FOLLOW-UP AND RECOGNITION:

- Physical "[Property Name] Ambassador" certificate
- Social media recognition
- Invitation to special property events
- Priority access to new experiences or renewals



## CHAPTER 8:

# PERSONALIZING THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

## 8.1 The Guest Intelligence System

#### DATA COLLECTION:

- Discreet and useful pre-arrival form
- Observation during the stay (schedule preferences, meals, activities
- Post-stay feedback for future visits
- Monitoring of social media interactions

#### **GUEST CATEGORIZATION:**

- > Adventurous: Seeking unique experiences, outdoor activities, and local authenticity
- > Relaxed: Prioritizing comfort, spa services, tranquility, and good food
- > Cultural: Interested in local history, art, traditions, and cultural events
- > Family: Needing convenience, children's activities, security, and space

## 8.3 Simple Technology for Complex Personalization

#### **RECOMMENDED TOOLS:**

- > Basic PMS (Property Management System) for tracking preferences
- > Simple CRM (can be Google Sheets initially) for guest history
- > WhatsApp Business for direct, personal communication
- > Calendly or similar for booking personalized experiences

## 8.2 | Scalable Personalization

## BASIC LEVEL (no additional cost):

- Greeting by name at check-in
- Remembered pillow preferences
- Recommendations based on identified profile
- Flexible breakfast hours based on observed habits

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (minimal investment):

- Personalized Welcome Kit based on interests
- Personalized printed itineraries
- Specific connections with local suppliers
- Automatic upgrade for returning guests

## PREMIUM LEVEL (unique experiences):

- Experiences designed specifically for the guest
- Access to private or exclusive events
- Personalized concierge servic
- Creation of unique packages not publicly availabl



## CHAPTER 9:

# VISUAL IDENTITY THAT SELLS

## 9.1 Why Your Logo Is Your Best Salesperson

Your visual identity isn't just about decoration. It's about strategic communication that

- > Justifies premium prices (perception of professional quality)
- → Generates immediate trust (professionalism = reliability)
- > Facilitates recognition (more effective marketing)
- > Creates experiential consistency (from online to amenities)

## 9.3 High ROI Practical Applications

#### SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING:

- Professional yet warm arrival directory
- Aesthetically consistent room signage
- Visually appealing service information
- Emergency signs that complement the visual harmony

## STATIONERY AND AMENITIES:

- Welcome letter with subtle yet present branding
- Service information cards
- Labels for homemade amenities (soaps, bath salts
- Reusable cloth bags with logo for local purchases

#### CONSISTENT DIGITAL PRESENCE:

- Responsive website that reflects offline identity
- Consistent social media templates
- Professional email signatures for all staf
- Templates for email marketing campaigns

## 9.2 High Impact Visual Identity Elements

#### LOGO AND BRANDING:

- Memorable design that works in small (social media) and large (signage) applications
- Adaptable versions: horizontal, vertical, single symbol, single ink
- Inspiration from local elements without falling into obvious clichés
- Testing in different contexts before finalization

#### STRATEGIC COLOR PALETTE:

- Primary color: Reflects brand personality
- Secondary color: Complements and provides versatility
- Accent color: For calls to action and highlights
- Neutrals: Base for text and backgrounds

#### CONSISTENT TYPOGRAPHY:

- Main typography: For titles and branding
- Secondary typography: For long text and information
- Ensure legibility on mobile devices
- Free availability or purchase of appropriate licens





## CHAPTER 10:

## REVENUE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## 10.1 Rate Optimization Without Expensive Software

## MANUAL COMPETITION ANALYSIS:

- Weekly monitoring of 5 direct competitors
- Tracking their promotions and special packages
- Identification of gaps in their offerings
- Strategic rate adjustment based on observed demand

#### **GUEST SEGMENTATION:**

- > First-timers: Reservations made more than 30 days in advance (15% discount)
- > Last-minute: Reservations within 48 hours (10% premium for urgency)
- > Returning guests: Permanent special rate (10% discount)
- > Seasonal packages: Themed packages with added value

## 10.2 Natural Upselling Strategies

## **DURING YOUR BOOKING:**

- Room upgrade for a minimal difference
- Premium breakfast with local products
- Pre-packaged local experience package
- Branded transfer service

#### **DURING YOUR STAY:**

- Complimentary late check-out as a gesture, premium as a service
- Room service with local products
- Express laundry service
- Stay extension with preferential rate

## 10.3 Creating High-Value Packages: REGIONAL EXAMPLES:

## WINEYARD - "SECRET VINEYARD" PACKAGE:

2 nights in a superior room

Private tour of a boutique winery

Pairing dinner with a local sommelier

Transfer included

Welcome kit with regional wine

Hotel cost: \$150 USD | Retail price: \$450 USD

#### SNOW - "CHOCOLATE AND LAKE" PACKAGE:

3 nights in a cabin overlooking the lake

Artisanal chocolate workshop

Half-day kayak rental

Premium breakfast with Patagonian products

Outdoor survival kit

Hotel cost: \$200 USD | Retail price: \$600 USD



## CHAPTER 11:

# ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS

## 11.1 Technology Stack for Small Hotels

#### **RESERVATION MANAGEMENT:**

- > Hostelworld for Business (free up to a certain volume)
- → Booking.com Connectivity (direct, no intermediaries)
- → Basic channel manager like SiteMinder Lite

#### **GUEST COMMUNICATION:**

- WhatsApp Business (free, professional version)
- > Mailchimp (email marketing, up to 2,000 contacts free)
- > Google My Business (essential and free)

## ANALYTICS AND TRACKING:

- → Google Analytics (free web analytics)
- → Google Search Console (free SEO performance tracking)
- > Basic Hotjar (heatmaps and recordings, free plan available)

## 11.2 Automatizaciones que Ahorran Tiempo

## **AUTOMATED EMAIL SEQUENCE:**

- Booking confirmation with helpful information
- Pre-arrival reminder with instructions
- Post-arrival welcome with recommendations
- Post-departure follow-up with request for a review
- Monthly newsletter with updates

#### SIMPLE CHATBOTS:

- Answers to frequently asked questions 24/7
- Information about services and opening hours
- Initial complaint handling proces
- Referral to WhatsApp for more complex issue





## CHAPTER 12:

# RESULTS MEASUREMENT AND KEY KPIS

## 12.1 Metrics that Really Matter

## **REVENUE METRICS:**

- > RevPAR (Revenue Per Available Room): Revenue per available room
- > ADR (Average Daily Rate): Average daily rate
- > Direct booking percentage: Percentage of direct bookings vs. OTAs
- > Repeat guest ratio: Percentage of returning guests

#### **GUEST SATISFACTION METRICS:**

- > Net Promoter Score (NPS): Likelihood of recommendation
- > Online review average: Average online rating
- > Response rate to feedback requests: Percentage of completed surveys
- > Social media engagement rate: Engagement on social media posts

#### **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY:**

- > Average check-in time: Average check-in time
- > Issue resolution time: Time to resolve issues
- > Staff productivity metrics: Number of rooms serviced per employee/hour
- > Cost per acquisition: Cost of acquiring a new customer

## 12.2 Free Measurement Tools

#### PERSONALIZATION WITH GOOGLE ANALYTICS:

- Goal setup for booking conversions
- UTM tracking for specific campaigns
- Audience segments for different types of visitors
- Conversion funnel analysis

## **REVIEW MONITORING:**

- Google Alerts for brand mentions
- TripAdvisor Management Center
- Booking.com Partner Hub analytics
- Social media native analytics

## 12.3 Actionable Monthly Reports

#### MONTHLY REPORT TEMPLATE:

- Revenue performance vs. targets
- Occupancy trends and seasonality patterns
- Guest satisfaction scores and feedback topics
- Marketing channel performance
- Operational issues identified and resolved
- Action items for the following month



## CHAPTER 13:

## 90-DAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## 13.1 The First 30 Days - Fundamentals

## **WEEK 1: COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT**

- Analysis of current situation (occupancy, ADR, reviews, competition)
- Full guest journey mapping
- Identification of high-impact, quick-win opportunities
- Definition of SMART objectives for the next 90 days

## **WEEK 2: BRAND IDENTITY AND MARKETING**

- Defining the brand personality
- Design/redesign of logo and core branding elements
- Creation of color palette and typography
- Initial application to key marketing materials

## **WEEK 3: TECHNOLOGY SETUP**

- Optimization of Google My Business profile
- Basic email marketing setup
- Creation of communication templates
- Implementation of WhatsApp Business

## **WEEK 4: BASIC GUEST EXPERIENCE**

- Defining the welcome experience
- Creation of curated local information
- Basic staff training on new protocols
- Testing of new processes with real guests

## 13.2 Days 31-60 - Optimization

## MONTH 2 FOCUS: MARKETING AND ACQUISITION

- Launch of email marketing campaigns
- Creation of social media content
- Partnerships with local businesse
- Website optimization for conversions
- Implementation of a feedback system

## 13.3 Days 61-90 - Escalation

## MONTH 3 FOCUS: REFINEMENT AND GROWTH

- Analysis of results and necessary adjustments
- Implementation of advanced personalization strategies
- Launch of premium packages and experiences
- Planning of long-term strategies
- Celebrating successes and learning from challenges



## CHAPTER 14:

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND JUSTIFICATION

## 14.1 Calculating Return on Investment

## TYPICAL INITIAL INVESTMENT:

- Visual identity and branding: \$800-1,500 USE
- Technology setup and tools: \$100-300 USD/month
- Initial marketing materials: \$300-600 USD
- Staff training: Equivalent to \$200-400 USE
- TOTAL INITIAL INVESTMENT: \$1,400-2,800 USD

#### **EXPECTED RETURNS IN 12 MONTHS:**

- Increase in direct bookings: 35-50% (savings on OTA commissions
- Increase in ADR: 20-40% due to improved perceived value
- Increase in occupancy: 15-30% due to improved reputation and marketing
- Reduction in acquisition costs: 25-45%

## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE:

- 20-room hotel, current ADR \$100 USD, occupancy 60%:
- Current annual revenue: \$438,000 USD
- With WOW improvements (ADR +30%, occupancy +20%): \$681,720 USD
- ROI: 8,600% in the first year

## 14.2 High-Value Intangible Benefits

## **BRAND EQUITY:**

- Reconocimiento de marca que permite pricing premium
- Lealtad de clientes que reduce dependencia de intermediario
- Posicionamiento que atrae mejor talento y socios estratégico

## **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY:**

- Procesos estandarizados que reducen errores y retrabajos
- Personal más motivado v con menor rotación
- Sistemas que escalan sin incremento proporcional de costos

## MARKET POSITIONING:

- Diferenciación clara de competencia commodifizada
- Autoridad en nicho específico que genera premium pricino
- Base sólida para expansión tutura



# CONCLUSION: YOUR NEXT STEP TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION

## The Cost of Not Acting

Every day that passes without implementing a differentiated quest experience strategy, your property

- Loses potential guests to more proactive competitors
- Leaves money on the table with online travel agencies (OTAs) that could be direct bookings
- Maintains an expensive cycle of dependence on paid marketing
- Limits its growth and profitability potential

## Its Unique Competitive Advantage

As a small accommodation, you have advantages that large chains cannot replicate:

- > Flexibility: You can implement changes immediately
- > Personalization: You get to know each guest personally
- > Authenticity: You offer genuine, local experiences
- > Agility: You can quickly adapt to feedback and new opportunities

## The Way Forward

Transforming customer experiences into truly memorable ones doesn't require a huge budget.

## It requires:

- > A clear vision of what you want to achieve
- > A consistent strategy that connects all customer touchpoints
- > The consistent implementation of small, meaningful changes
- > Continuous measurement to optimize what works

## The Time is Now

The tourism market is undergoing a transformation.

Post-pandemic travelers are seeking authentic experiences, genuine connections, and accommodations that offer more than just a place to sleep.

This shift presents a perfect opportunity for small-scale accommodation providers who are willing to:

- Invest in memorable experience
- Differentiate themselves through local authenticity
- Build genuine relationships with guests
- Implement professional yet personalized systems



## IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE:

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Immediate Implementation Checklist	Templates to implement today
THIS WEEK:	EMAIL TEMPLATES:
Optimize your Google My Business page with current photos and complete information	☐ Value-added booking confirmation
Create a welcome email to send after a booking	☐ Pre-arrival email sequence (3 emails)
☐ Identify 3 unique features of your property that your competitors don't offer	Post-stay follow-up
☐ Implement WhatsApp Business for direct communication	☐ Basic monthly newsletter
	Standardized responses for reviews
THIS MONTH:	
☐ Design a basic welcome kit with local products	SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATES:
Partner with at least one complementary local business	Posts highlighting property features
☐ Implement a guest feedback system during their stay	☐ Story templates for daily experiences
☐ Start a monthly newsletter for your guest database	☐ Monthly content calendar
	☐ Hashtag strategy (general and regional)
NEXT 3 MONTHS:	
Develop a consistent visual brand identity	OPERATIONAL TEMPLATES:
☐ Create unique seasonal packages	☐ Guest feedback form
☐ Implement a referral program	☐ Staff training checklist
Optimize your website for direct bookings	☐ Basic partnership agreement
	■ Emergency contact procedures

# WOWGuests offers you The First Step



## Free Personalized Analysis

Digital Presence Audit (website, social media, reviews, etc.)

Competitive Analysis of your specific market

Guest Journey Assessment identifying missed opportunities

Personalized Action Plan with priorities and implementation phases

Projected Return on Investment toilored to your property

and how to improve it step by step, TOGETHER.







# Turning your Guests into your Ambassadors ©

## Branding and Identity

(re)Brand design Visual Identity manual Institutional stationery Signage Posters

## Positioning

Differentiation strategy Competitor analysis Unique Value Proposition Online Presence Implementation plan

## Guest Experience Design

Personalized Welcome Kit
Loyalty Programs
Pre-During-Post Strategies
Event material
Feedback/review templates

## Printed Design

Brochures, Posters
Menus
Gift Cards and Vouchers
Personalization of amenities
Presentations

## Communication

Guest Journey
Email Marketing
Seasonal Campaigns
Content Calendar
Communication and Press

# Online Presence

Web Design
Banners
Social Media Posts
Online Promos
Newsletters

Make every guest feel so valued they'll recommend you before they even check out!

