**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

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Congratulations to the team on getting through this Sprint. It was a learning experience for us all and we handled it well, hiccups and all. In this review and retrospective, I will be going over several different points regarding the Sprint.

**Applying Roles**: Starting with the Product Owner, Christy, she really helped set the foundation of this Sprint. She gathered the information and compiled User Stories to help us know which direction to work in. When a change was requested by the client, Amanda, Christy clearly communicated what the client wanted to the development team. In addition, in that situation and throughout the whole sprint, Christy was diligent about making sure the backlog was optimized to meet project needs. Next, lets talk about the Development Team. Regardless of any roadblocks in your way or curveballs thrown at you, the team worked through all of it with ease. You were able to comprehend the User Stories given to us by Christy and bring the desired features to life. From coding the features to testing every feature, your role in this process is the most valuable. When we were asked to compile a destination list of health and wellness vacation packages, you handled it with ease. As with every project, troubleshooting is inevitable to which you stayed on top of to ensure the product is what the client envisions it to be. Last, I would like to talk about my role, Scrum Master. Critiquing oneself is never easy and I know I was far from perfect. I tried my absolute best to maintain open, consistent lines of communication. Looking back at my experience with this Sprint I will be able not learn and grow as to be a better Scrum Master in the future.

**User Stories**: Near the beginning of the Sprint Christy held a focus group to get actual user input of desired features so that she could compile user stories for the team. The Scrum-Agile approach helped with breaking up the User Stories into smaller parts, step by step. In addition, giving tasks a priority rating helped guide us on where to start. This proved beneficial especially when optimizing the backlog.

**Handling Interruptions**: If you remember we initially created a list of the top 5 travel destinations but halfway through the Sprint, Christy informed us that the client wanted us to switch gears and create a list with health and wellness destinations. While it was a little worrisome at first, considering how far we were into the process, the team really pulled through and adapted well with changing gears. Development got somewhat tricky with getting the new files to run but in the end it all worked out well.

**Communication**: When it came to communication, I strived to always have some open line of communication. Each team member was given my e-mail address and phone number at the beginning of this project. By doing so I wanted to make sure there was always an opportunity for one-on-one communication/assistance. Daily, I facilitated stand-ups and encouraged the team to voice their honest opinion and (if comfortable) their struggles during these meetings. Another platform I made available to my team was a team Discord server. It’s a platform a lot of us are familiar with and an easy, nonformal way to talk amongst your teammates. My philosophy has always been that if you can build strong foundations with each other, as individuals, then that will help strengthen the team.

**Organizational Tools**: Our team used a pretty good balance of in-person and electronic collaboration. We held meetings daily and sometimes would have more than one a day. Our daily stand-ups were a great tool for gauging our progress and seeing where we needed to pick it up a bit. When it came to electronic communication, e-mails and Discord assisted in keeping everyone up to speed and on the same page. A tool we used throughout this whole process was an Azure Board. This gave the time real time updates, tasks needing to be done, and metrics (among other things). Azure Boards proved to being very helpful in referencing the backlog.

**Evaluating Agile Process**: The Scrum-Agile approach was absolutely the right choice for SNHU Travel. The travel industry is always changing and thus needs a flexible approach to keep up with all the changes. The Scrum-Agile approach also allows for consistent feedback and allows the project to be broken up into smaller segments. Both of those allow the team an opportunity to make changes as needed, rather than waiting until the end to make changes. This approach also does a great job at fostering team collaboration. Having the opportunity to get together as a team more often and break up our tasks into smaller, manageable tasks helped the team build a stronger foundation. Some of the cons that come with this approach are increased costs, delays, team conflict, etc. If too many changes are being asked for it could overwhelm the team and cause them to fall behind. Falling behind could result in extra costs and friction within the team.

In conclusion, I am proud of the work we have accomplished during this Sprint. This team worked well together with minimal hiccups. Each member of the team brought forth their specialties and used them to further the team along within the process. I appreciate the flexibility of everyone involved. The Scrum-Agile approach helped us produce a product that lined up with the user desires or expectations. Be proud of yourself team.