During our time spent making the travel application, we utilized agile methodologies and practices. Different team members played different roles within the project’s development lifecycle. These roles are a vital component to the agile methodology as they all contribute to the success of the project and influence the desired outcome. Not only are these roles diverse, but they’re each very well-rounded and very technologically skilled roles.

The Product Owner facilitated user meetings sessions and used their input to create User Stories centric to the product’s features and requirements. During the meetings, users shared their recommendations such as displaying hot deals on their feed as well as personalized trip recommendations. This was communicated to the team through meetings and set as requirements through the creation of User Stories. These sets of tasks were ordered in a hierarchical way, listed from most to least important, as well as the tasks workload size. This is critical to the product’s successful launch, as we know which tasks to prioritize. Once we knew the user and business requirements, we had to create Test Cases and list the steps necessary to accurately test our application as well as ensure we have the right choice for certain features and additions to our application.

The Scrum Master also played an extremely critical role in the product development process. I have suggested several ideas on how to improve team collaboration as well as the team’s trust and transparency. One suggestion I had made was to create a workshop-type of team collaboration activity. I had suggested that all team members contribute to a collective collage as a visual representation of the way they perceive the project and its requirements. This could include everyone drawing their idea for the project, and then combining all the drawings at the end, creating one collective collage of everyone’s thoughts and ideas in an extremely creative way. This exercise would reinforce everyone’s understanding of the project, as well as strengthening the team’s chemistry with one another, thus improving the team’s efficiency and confidence.

We also took the time to review project impediments, or in other words, the project roadblocks, and obstacles. Properly mapping these out and identifying them helps the team conceptualize the severity of the roadblock, as well as give them an actual visual representation of them and the area of the project in which they reside, such as technical issues or time restraints.

The development team obviously specializes in the more technical aspects of things. During the project, there were certain technical requirements that were to be met, such as designing the UI in an extremely user-centric way. This included adding features like personalized recommendations and hot deals and recommendations to appear in the user’s home feed. However, there were more technical requirements and changes later down the line due to our utilization of agile methodologies. For example, the users wanted to change the formatting of the application to more of a slideshow. Code infrastructure had to be altered to cater to the new technical requirements of the application. The developers effectively created, maintained, and improved the code to accommodate to the requirements and maintain system performance.

The scrum-agile approach to this project was critical for completion in many aspects of the project and its development cycles. Components of this methodology helped us lay out all of the requirements for the project, ranking all of the tasks in order of criticality. This provided the team with an incredible amount of flexibility, allowing for major changes in the project and interchangeable parts of the project. This was directly shown when the customers had specific requirements that they wanted for the project. With everything outlined and laid out, we were able to make sudden changes, such as the visual aspect of the project. Converting to a slideshow format was done with easy as we already had a solid foundation, outlines, and extensive documentation on project requirements.

Using the scrum-agile approach also allowed interaction between the stakeholders in numerous ways. For example, during the meetings the team reinforced project requirements by heavily incorporating communication into the project. Emails were exchanged during phases of the cycle where changes were starting to occur. Meetings were scheduled quickly and promptly with ease to review different requirements and assess the challenges associated with these sudden changes within the project. Communication was key in the successful development and completion of the application.

User meetings and stories were invaluable techniques during the planning and design phase of the application. They laid out the requirements easily to the team and their requirements were easily able to be broken down into smaller and more manageable tasks. When the tasks are all laid out, it creates a layer of transparency within the project. This then creates a sense of trust within the team. This is extremely important in the project, camaraderie in your team and the chemistry that stems from that are extremely important. Members need to work in hive minds and together as a team. This is when true innovation and progress is made, allowing the project to leap to even higher bounds and become extraordinarily successful.

Agile methodologies integrated seamlessly within any change of the project. When changes were to be made, they were made so quickly and easily. Whatever features needed to be implemented had been incorporated seamlessly into the workflow. With everything properly outlined and broken down, everything was much more flexible. Responsiveness to change allowed us to change directions when needed. This was effectively taken care of by holding discussions, meetings, and other collaboration activities when necessary. Planning accordingly allowed us to stay nimble during the customer’s evolving needs. When faced with interruptions we were still able to stay on track and stay focused with the flexibility that was ensured by utilizing these key components of the agile format.

Communication is about much more than just attending meetings and responding to emails. Communication fosters trust and collaboration within the team. This is formalized by holding scrum style meetings like daily standups. This promotes real-time collaboration and practical and applicable problem-solving techniques during the development process. This makes other team members feel safe, almost like witnessing the team members leave themselves vulnerable by receiving constructive and collaborative criticism. When everyone works together in this way people won’t feel judged or personally offended by different ideas and point of views. By embracing the culture of a judgement-free zone it will encourage creativity and foster innovation and success.

Scrum tools such as Jira can promote collaboration through task tracking and other comprehensive and unique features. You can physically track and see your progress toward your project goals. One of the most important features of this tool is its seamless integration with other project management tools and services. This further enhances efficiency in the project and its development. Another example of an effective project management tool is Trello. It is a card-based system that allows you to organize tasks. This tool is extremely flexible and effective. The reason why it is a card-based system is because it simplifies the process of creating and updating tasks.

There are other principles that are involved in the agile process like timeboxing. This is extremely like sprints. Time periods are allotted for tasks to be sure that all time is utilized in a resourceful and efficient way. Inspection is another important principle in the team’s approach to decision-making. It is a pretty straightforward concept that provides opportunities for inspection during collaboration activities like stand-ups and sprint reviews. Utilizing these tools helps lead the project towards a successful execution.

Overall, agile methodologies help foster a responsive, flexible, and collaborative project development culture. By incorporating flexibility, you can quickly respond to changes in the dynamic landscape that is software development and the development life cycle in general.

Agile promotes regular collaboration in forms like meetings and workshops. Regular stakeholder involvement promotes trust between all parties and ensures all goals are aligned with the product’s vision. Stakeholders can apply each of their individual skills and expertise on the project and help achieve the project’s successful execution. Agile methodologies are extremely responsive to change. The iterative nature of agile helps the project adapt to change. When new requirements arise, the team can quickly respond and correct the changes necessary. While there may be challenges converting to agile, the benefits far outweigh the risks.

In conclusion, with the proper training and time, you can become a successful team that thrives in an agile environment through the utilization of different agile tools, methods, principles, and frameworks. The team’s dedication to these agile practices led the travel application to success and achieve its goals.