Hello, I'm Brandon. My work focuses on both the high-level strategy and the surface level details.

Because of that, I have had the good fortune of collaborating with some of the world's most ambitious brands and organisations during my time working in agencies, internal teams and my own design consultancy.

Here's the story of one of my past projects...

This document is unlocked but please keep it private

The following information has been shared in confidence and anything you see here should not be shared beyond the context of your evaluation. If you have any questions or comments, please say **hello@bschmittling.com**





CASE STUDY

Helping travellers fi the good out there





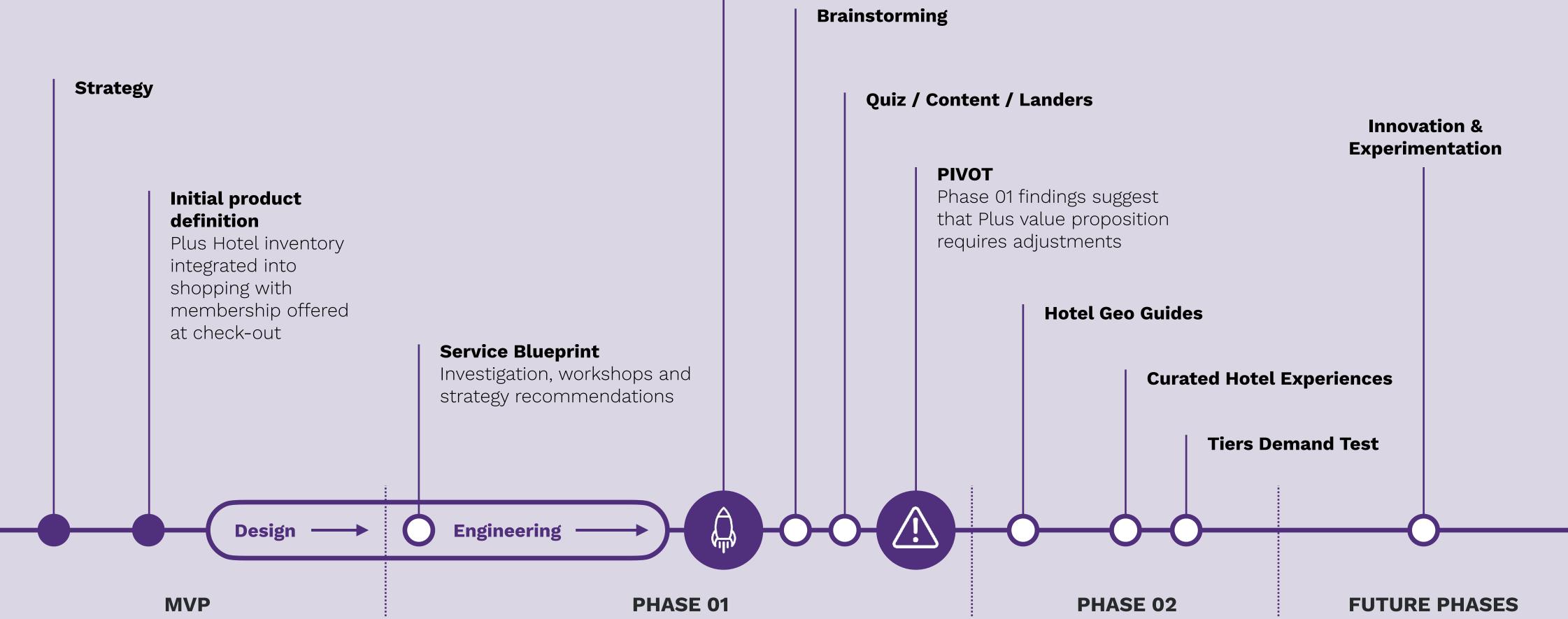
Tripadvisor Plus is a curated subscription travel service for the world's largest travel platform. It offers subscribers special deals on hotels and things to do, with exclusive travel perks, partner benefits and timely advice to enhance travelers' experience.

Tripadvisor Plus was launched quickly to get ahead of competition and test out a new revenue model. This led to <u>gaps in the value proposition and service model</u> that needed immediate addressing.

The Singapore Product Innovation team came in to strengthen the product and fine-tune its value proposition by discovering and focusing on user needs.

We were involved in internal research, educating travelers about the program, improving acquisition, and exploring how Tripadvisor Plus looked and felt across various product surfaces. Revenue for Plus is estimated at \$1B annually.

TIMELINE



Launch

STRATEGY

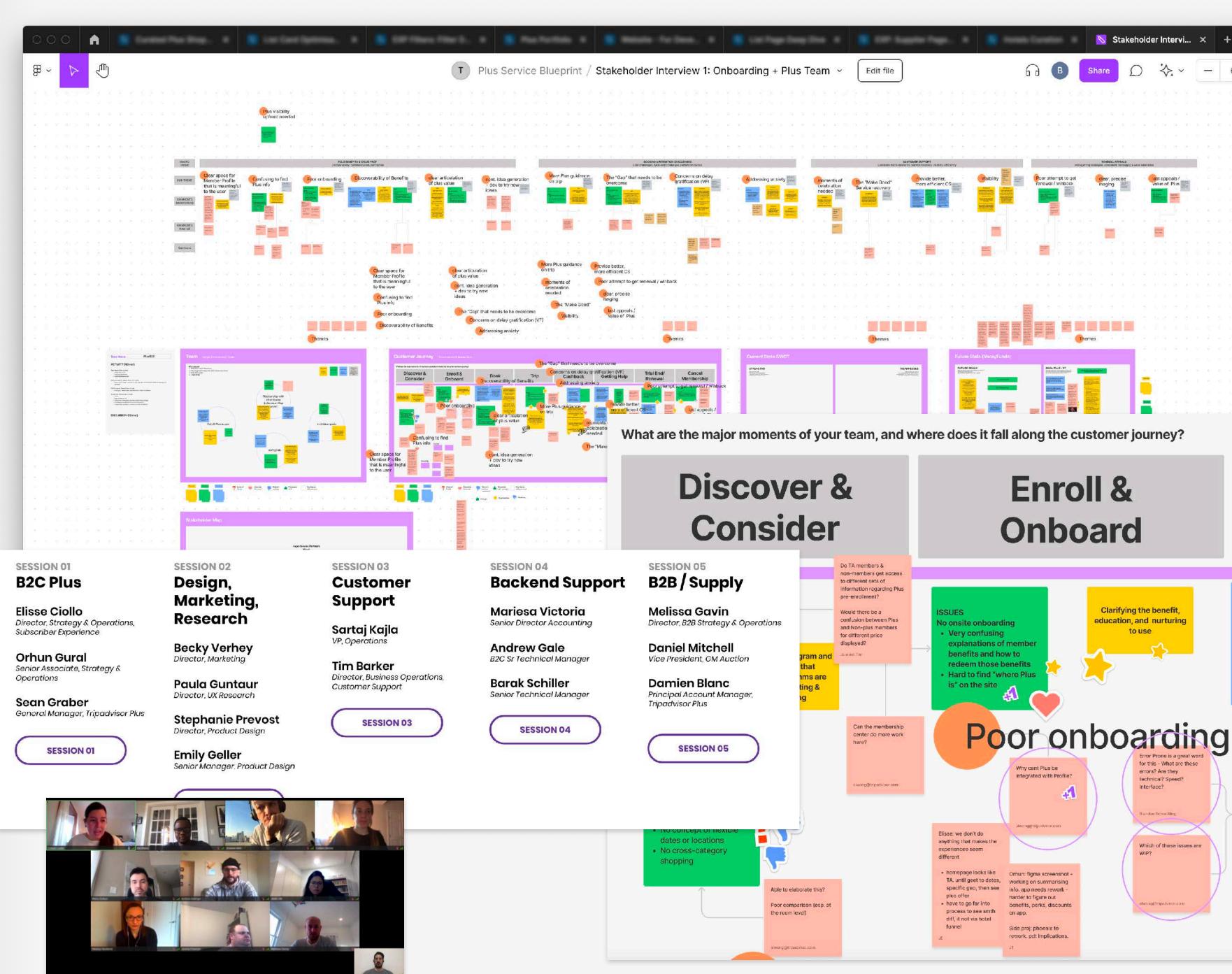
PHASE 01: Service Blueprint An organization-wide reflection on Tripadvisor Plus

Service investigation

Interviews with 15 stakeholders over 5 sessions surfaced learnings about team goals, needs and responsibilities.

These sessions used pre-built FigJam boards, a team of moderators and a tightly run workshop agenda that kept things manageable at a time when pandemic lockdowns were making it difficult to work collaboratively.

Findings from each session were synthesised and shared back to the teams prior to creation of the service blueprint.



			• • •		
6% ~ +					
		-	1 - °		
				I.	
				I.	
	125				
				1	



booking experience

when it comes to

booking experiences vs. hotels

ISSUES

- Extremely error prone
 Poor booking confirmat process (reservations r confirmed until 48 hour many cases)
- Pricing is confusing in r cases (esp. resort fees)
 Breakdown of Plus prici clear
- Plus benefits not explain (or at all) on the checked

Blueprint planning

Two versions of the Service Blueprint were planned and produced:

Overview

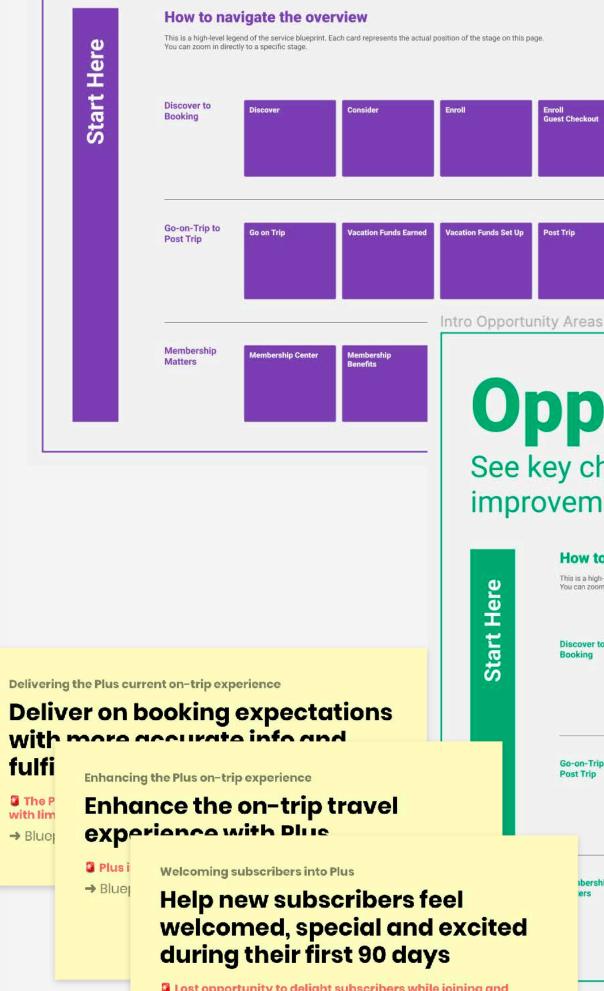
In-depth view across the entire service and all touchpoint.

Opportunity Areas

More strategic look at the service and where key improvements could be made.

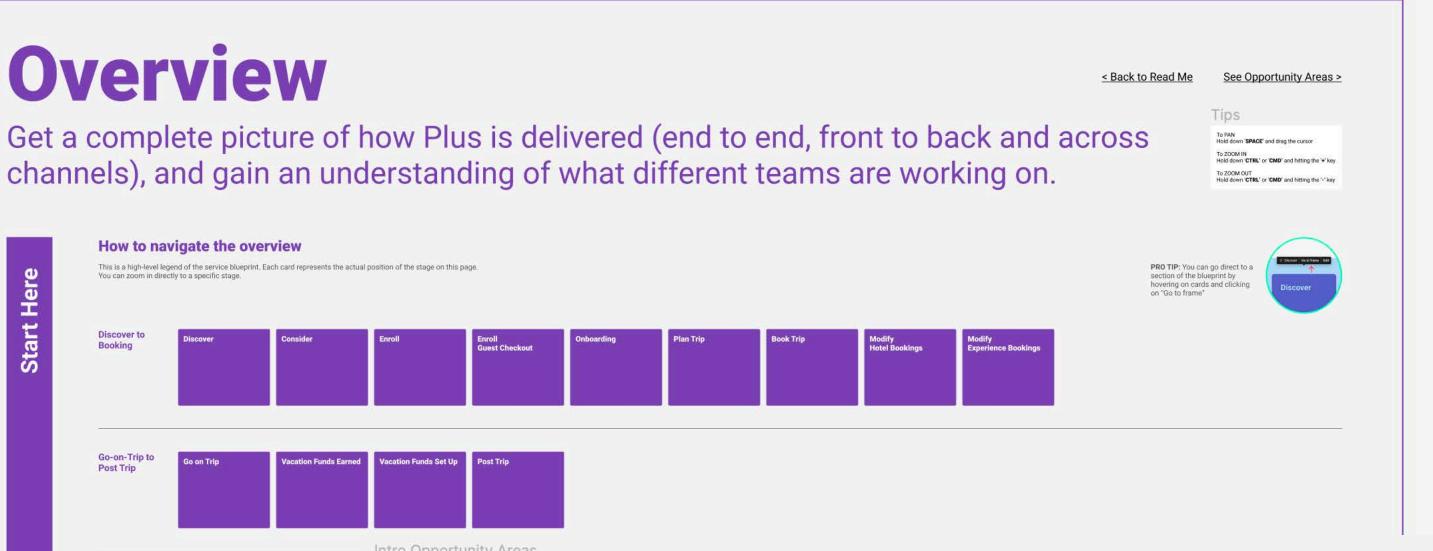
Synthesised strategy recommendations were included but also made into a separate resource for wider circulation.

Overview



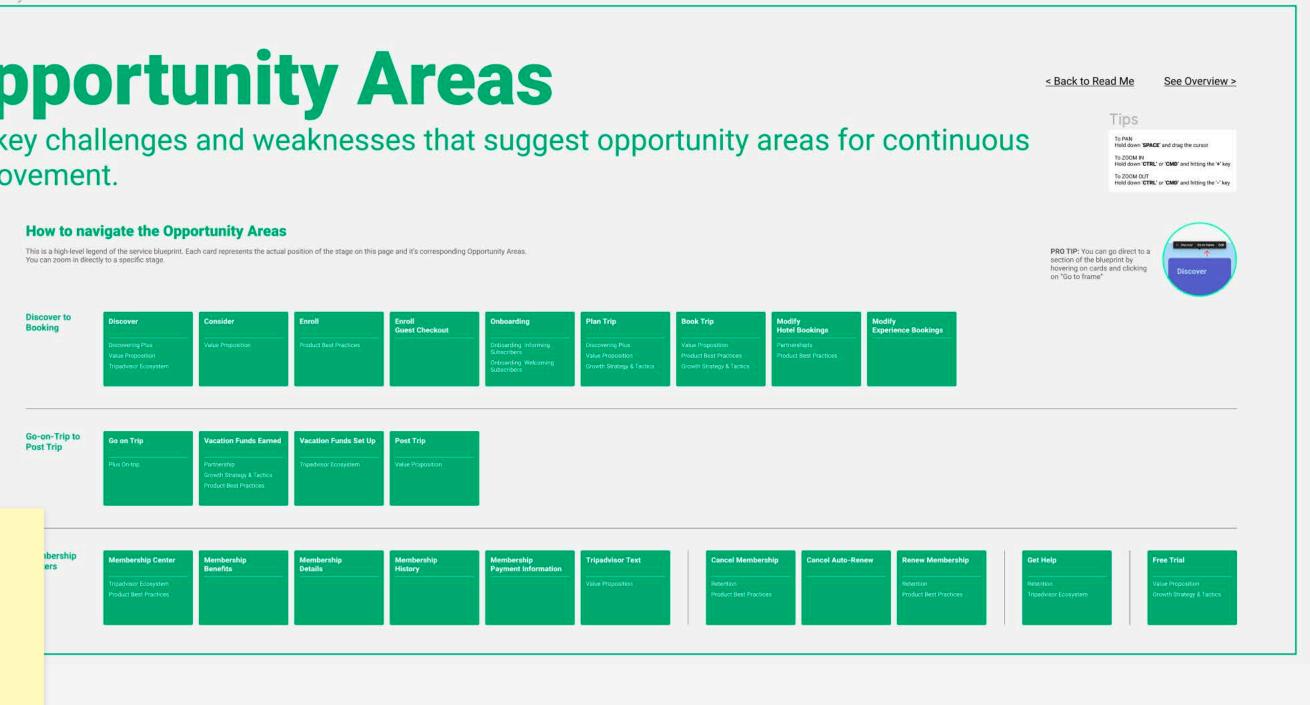
Lost opportunity to delight subscribers while joining and after enrollment

→ Blueprint location: Enrolling, Onboarding, Plan Trip



Opportunity Areas

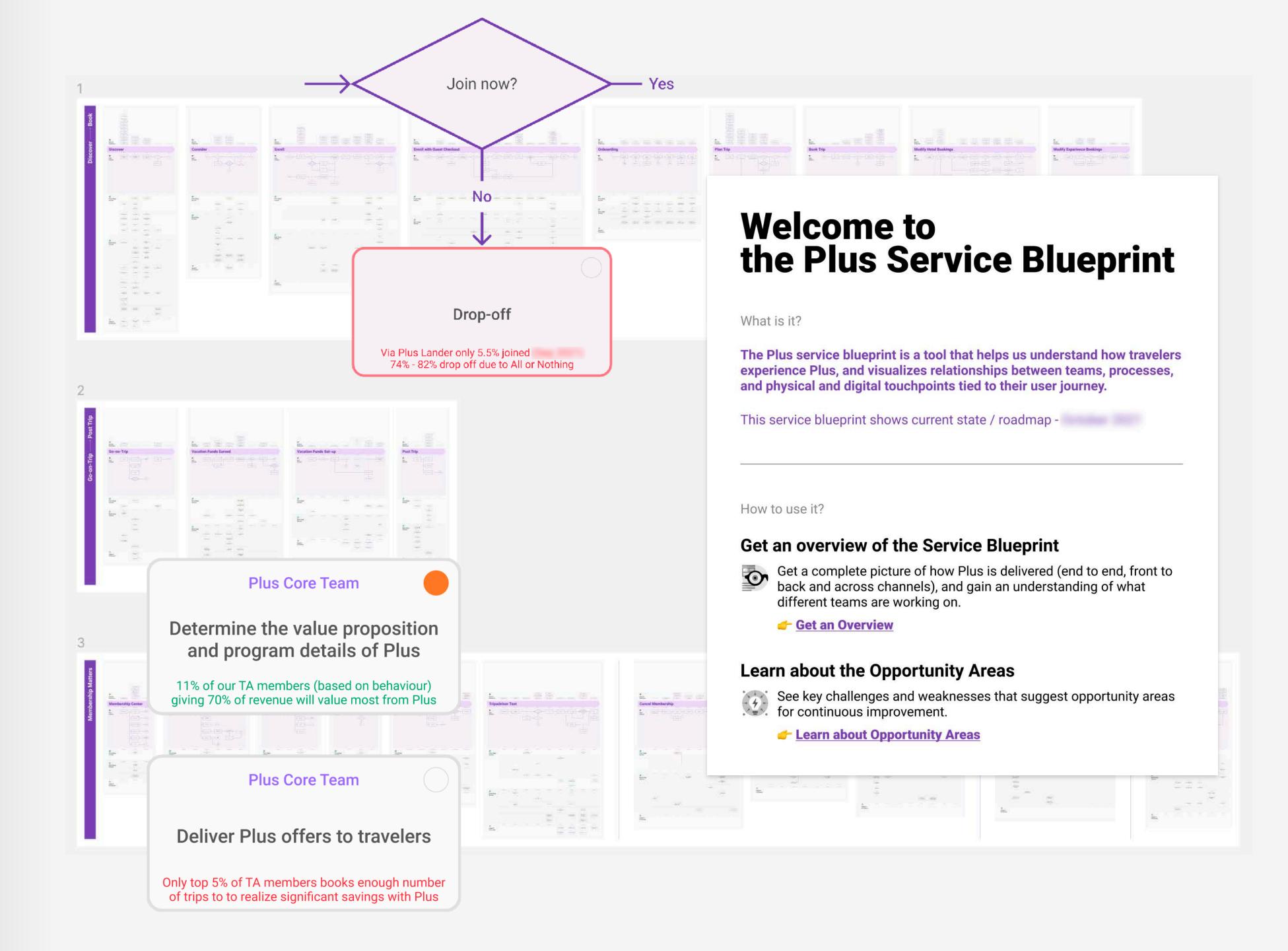
See key challenges and weaknesses that suggest opportunity areas for continuous improvement.



Blueprint production

The final service blueprint covered 19 known stages and 6 newly discovered stages that were detected and added during the investigation:

Discover Consider Enroll Guest Checkout Onboarding Plan Trip Book Trip Modify Hotel Bookings Modify Experience Bookings Go on Trip Vacation Funds Earned Vacation Funds Set Up Post Trip Membership Center Membership Benefits Membership Details Membership History Membership Payment Tripadvisor Text Cancel Membership Cancel Auto-Renew Renew Membership Get Help Free Trial



Example Stage

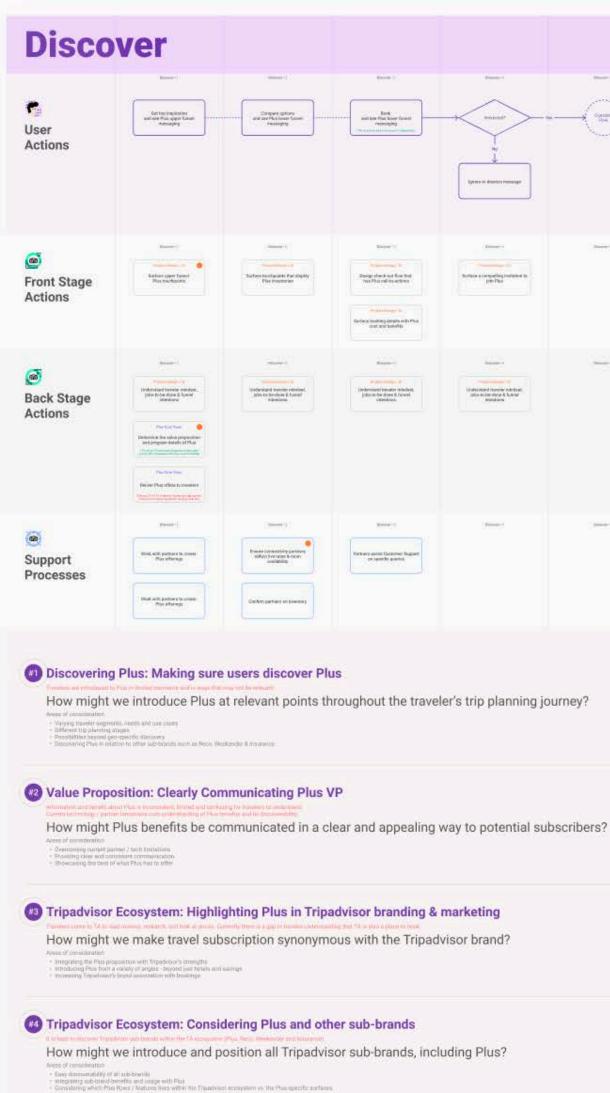
Discovery phase showing various layers of intelligence...

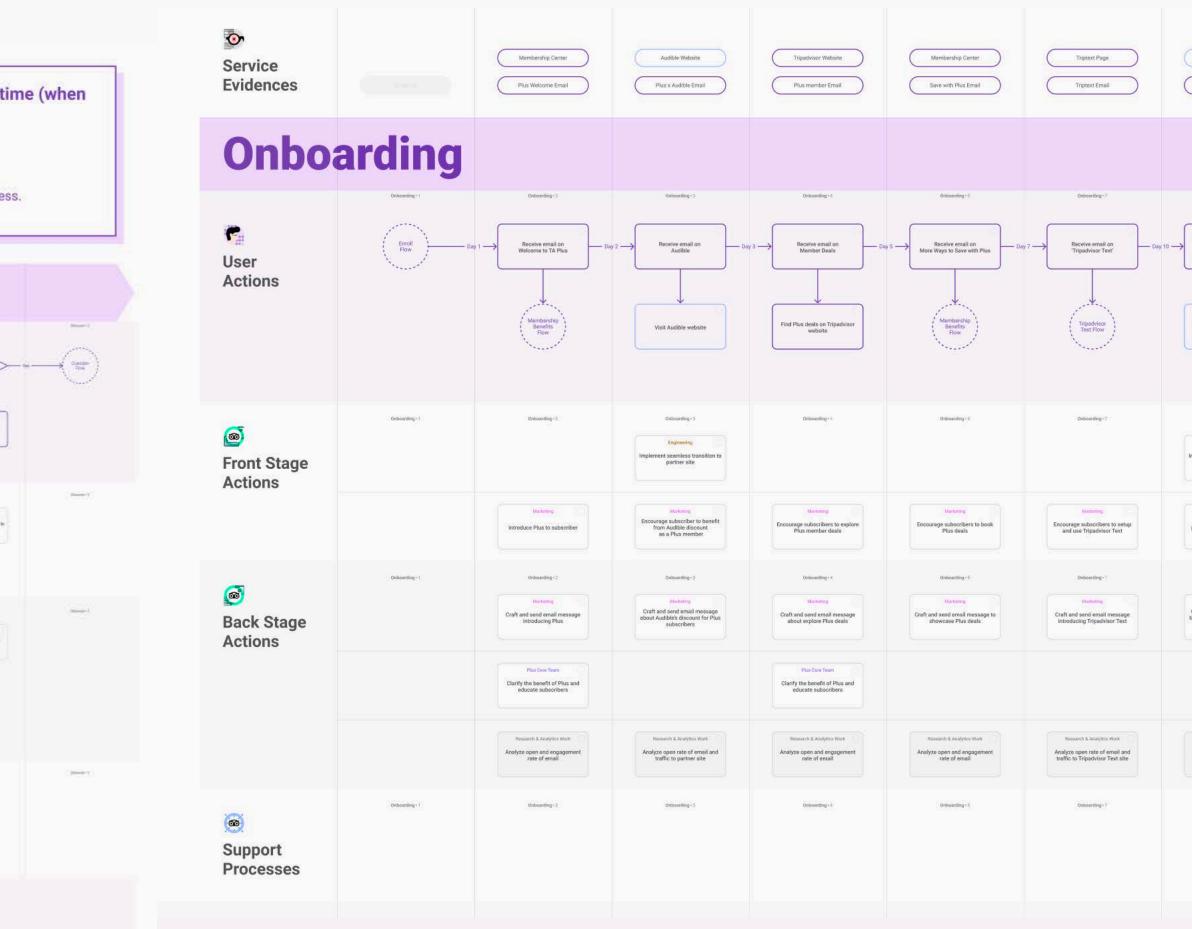
- Current state summary
- Service evidences
- User Actions
- Front Stage actions
- Back Stage actions
- Support Processes
- Opportunity Areas
- "How might we" prompts for future investigation

Here we think about the traveler discovering Plus for the first time (when getting travel inspiration, comparing options and booking).

Currently:

- We are introducing travelers to Plus by mentioning it across multiple surfaces.
- We are orchestrating lots of different marketing channels together.
- We are expecting travelers to learn the most about Plus during the booking process.
- We are relying on Customer Support to resolve a lot of initial queries.





#1 Discovering Plus: Making sure users discover Plus

Travelers are introduced to Plus in limited moments and in ways that may not be relevant.

How might we introduce Plus at relevant points throughout the traveler's trip planning journey

Areas of consideration

- · Varying traveler segments, needs and use cases
- Different trip planning stages
- Possibilities beyond geo-specific discovery
- · Discovering Plus in relation to other sub-brands such as Reco, Weekender & Insurance

#2 Value Proposition: Clearly Communicating Plus VP

Information and benefit about Plus is inconsistent, limited and confusing for travelers to understand. Current technology / partner limitations curb understanding of Plus benefits and its discoverability.

How might Plus benefits be communicated in a clear and appealing way to potential subscribe

Areas of consideration

- Overcoming current partner / tech limitations
- Providing clear and consistent communication
- · Showcasing the best of what Plus has to offer

Rent The Runway Website Plus x Rent The Runway Email	
Onboarding - 8	
Receive email on Rent The Runway	
Visit Rent The Runway website	Vie
Onboarding - 5 Engineering Implement seamless transition to partner site	linglem
Markaing Encourage subscribers to purchase clothes from Rent the Runsway with discount code	Enc
Onboarding - 8	
Maketing Craft and send email about One time 30% of no a designer rental with Rent the runway	Craft ar kit pu
Research & Analytics Work Analyze open rate of email and traffic to partner site	Re Analyz tr
Onhoantling - II	

RESEARCH

PHASE 01: **Co-Design Ideation** Brainstorm sessions inspired by the service blueprint

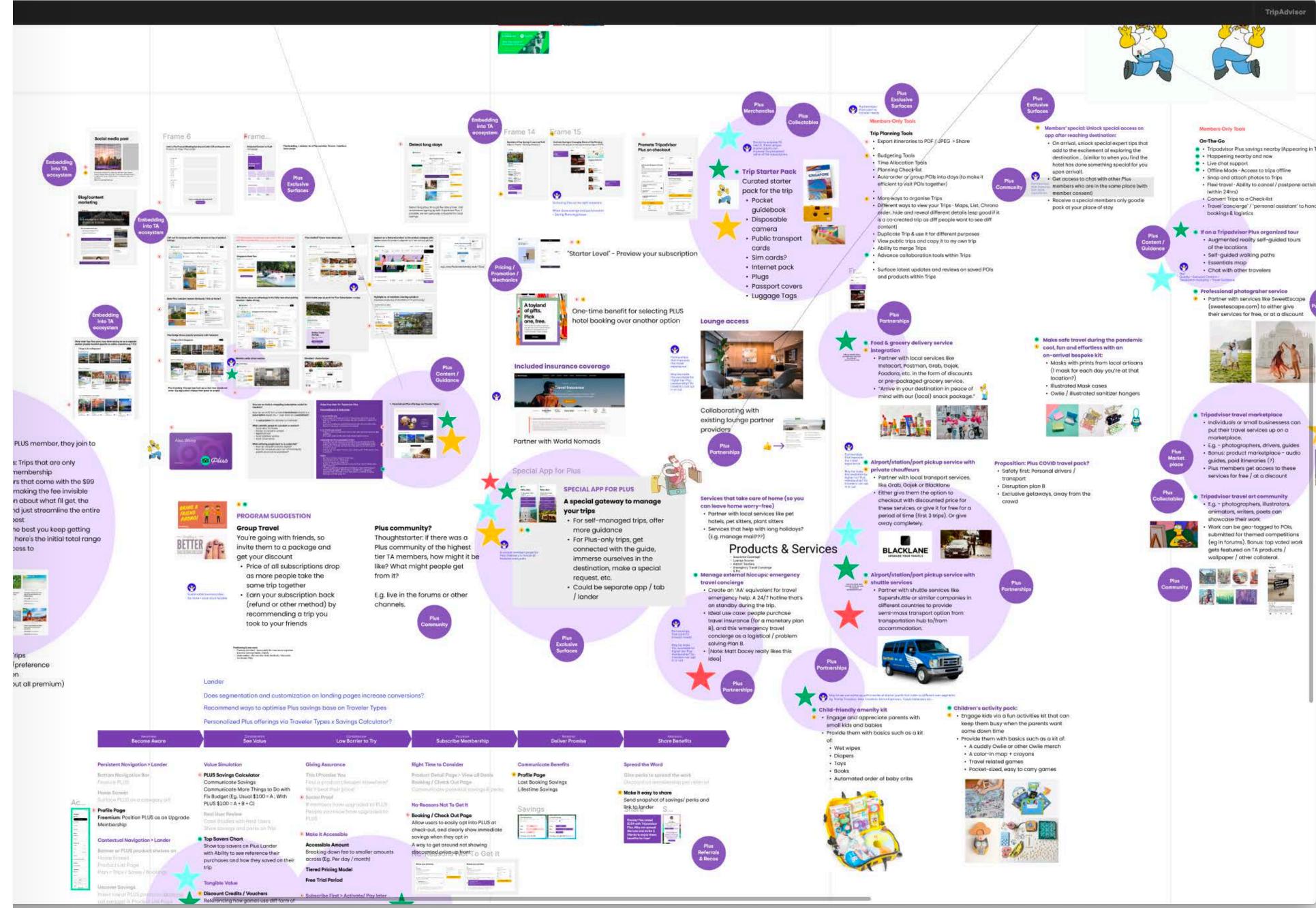


Co-design Ideation

The Service Blueprint enabled all teams to hold their own brainstorming sessions to solve strategic problems with new, existing and improved solutions.

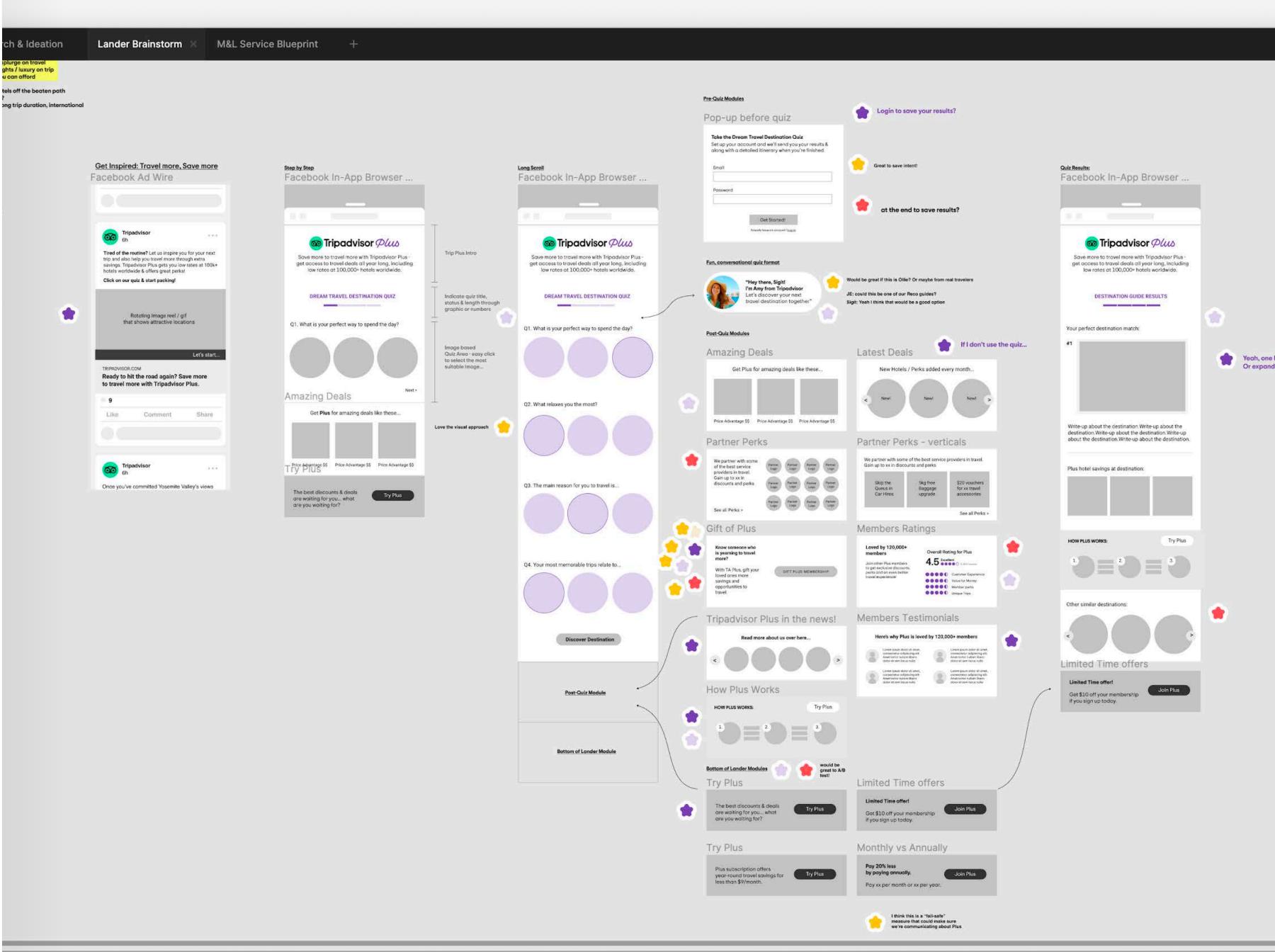
Here, the Innovation team is conducting an energetic brainstorm focused on new user acquisition.

Ideas from this and other workshops were compiled and selected based on level of effort estimates from creative and engineering.



SOLUTION

PHASE 01: Launch Material Quiz / Channel Content / Landers

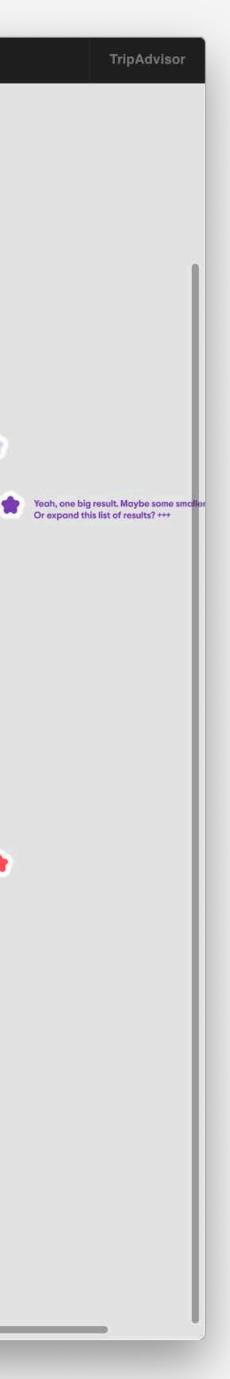


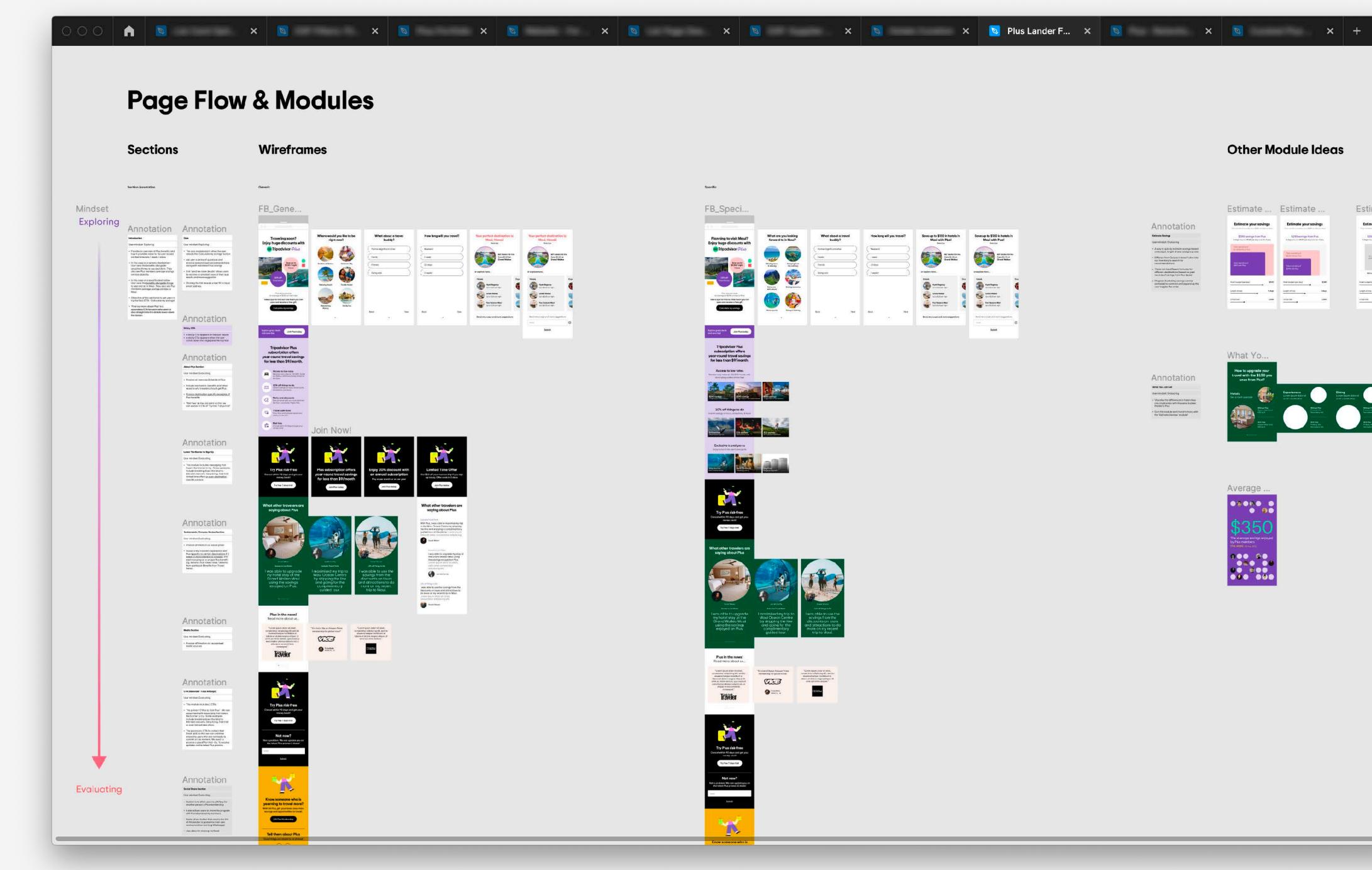
Quiz

New users landing on specially prepared quiz pages answer questions about their style of travel and other preferences, learning about Plus in the process, and are shown their ideal trip with Plus savings already applied.

Next pages...

Wireframing and prototyping enabled design and engineering to work in parallel as fidelity increased.





What about a travel buddy?

(reedu

What are you looking forward to in Naui?

 Arty are stringent
 Halling matching

 Using a stringent
 Using a stringent

 Using a stringent
 Using a stringent

How long will you trave

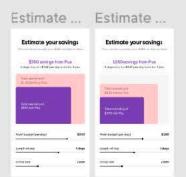
(Westand

(tweeker

Not Beck

Other Module Ideas





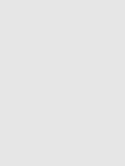


What Yo ...

Annotation					
4	vince you yon wet				
4	kermindset: E-akua ing				
1	Visualise the differences in Instel class one could entry with the same budget thanks to Plus				
	Con this module work band-in-hand with the "Estimate Savings" module?				







Streup to \$120 in hotels in May with Plat Ma

 Weith Texastory
 Draw Sectory
 South Texastory
 South Texastory
 South Texastory

 Weith Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 South Texastory

 Weith Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory

 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory

 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory
 Image: South Texastory

Submit

Break mice using and more suggestions







Specific

FB_Speci...

📾 Tripadvisor Plus

car a qua to tha ar now reach you save and receive a free gift Care table by soviets

are great docts

Tripodvisor Plus subscription effers ear-round travel savings for less than \$9/month.

1

×.

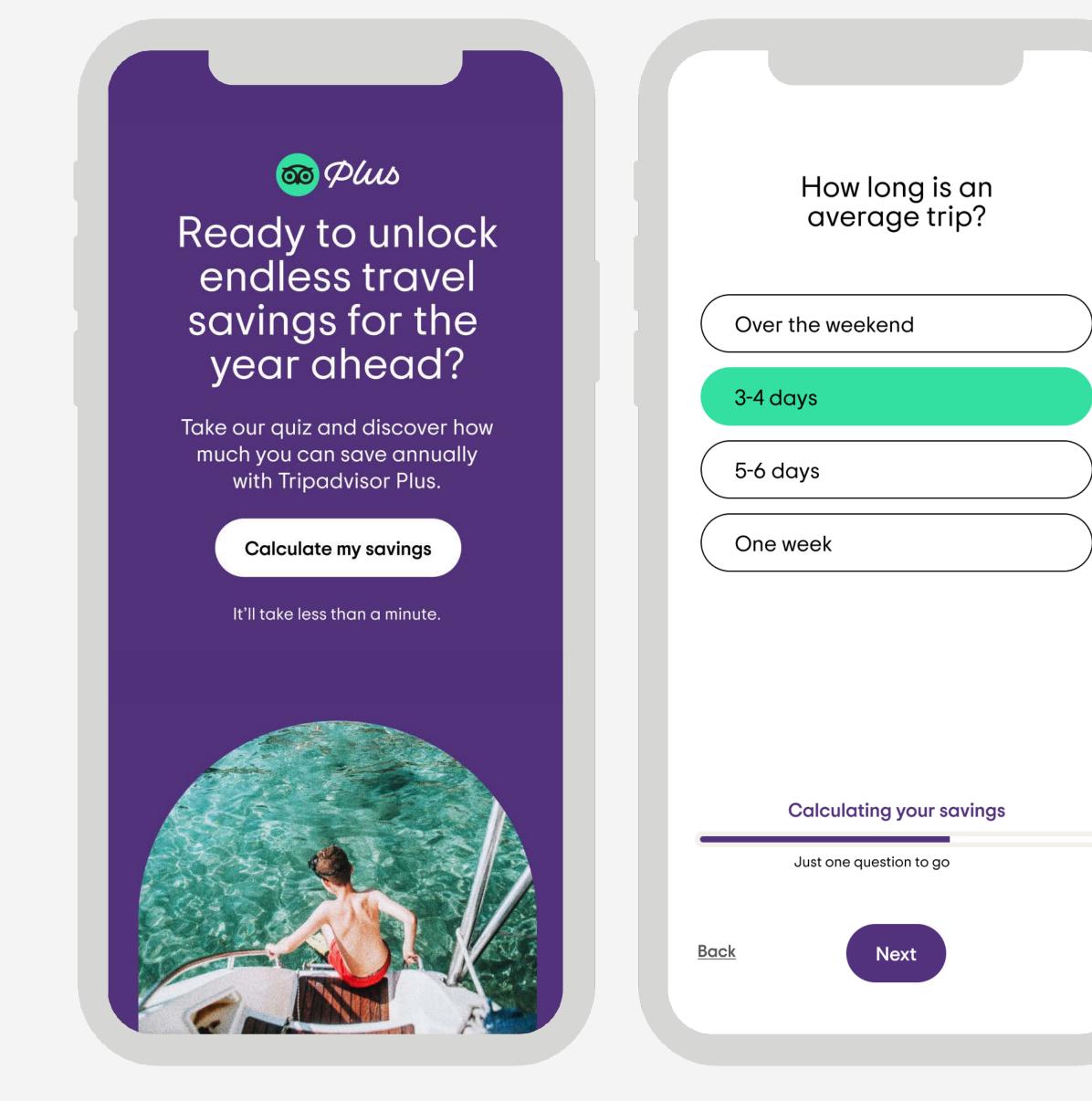














We're working out your savings...

...from member-only deals across 100,000+ hotels and experiences. Only with Tripadvisor Plus.



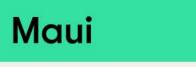
Plus members with similar trips have saved an average of

\$2,500 in just one year.

Start saving

<u>Retake quiz</u>

Top picks for you



Hotels



Hyatt Regency Save up to \$80 per night



Four Seasons Maui Save up to \$80 per night



Andaz Maui At Wailea Resort



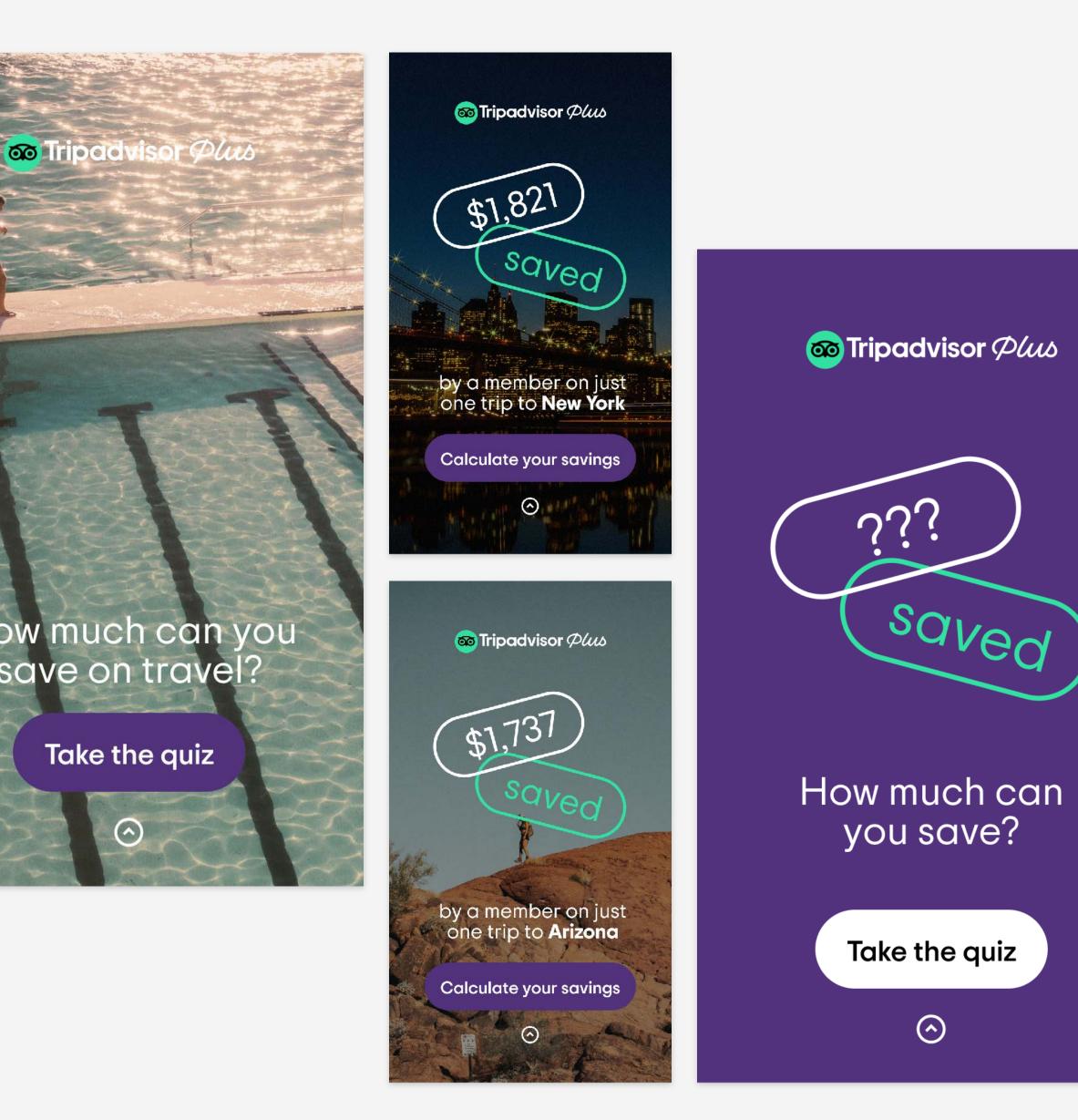
Channel Content

Instagram stories that show Plus savings across trending destinations with link to take the quiz.





 \bigcirc



Channel Content

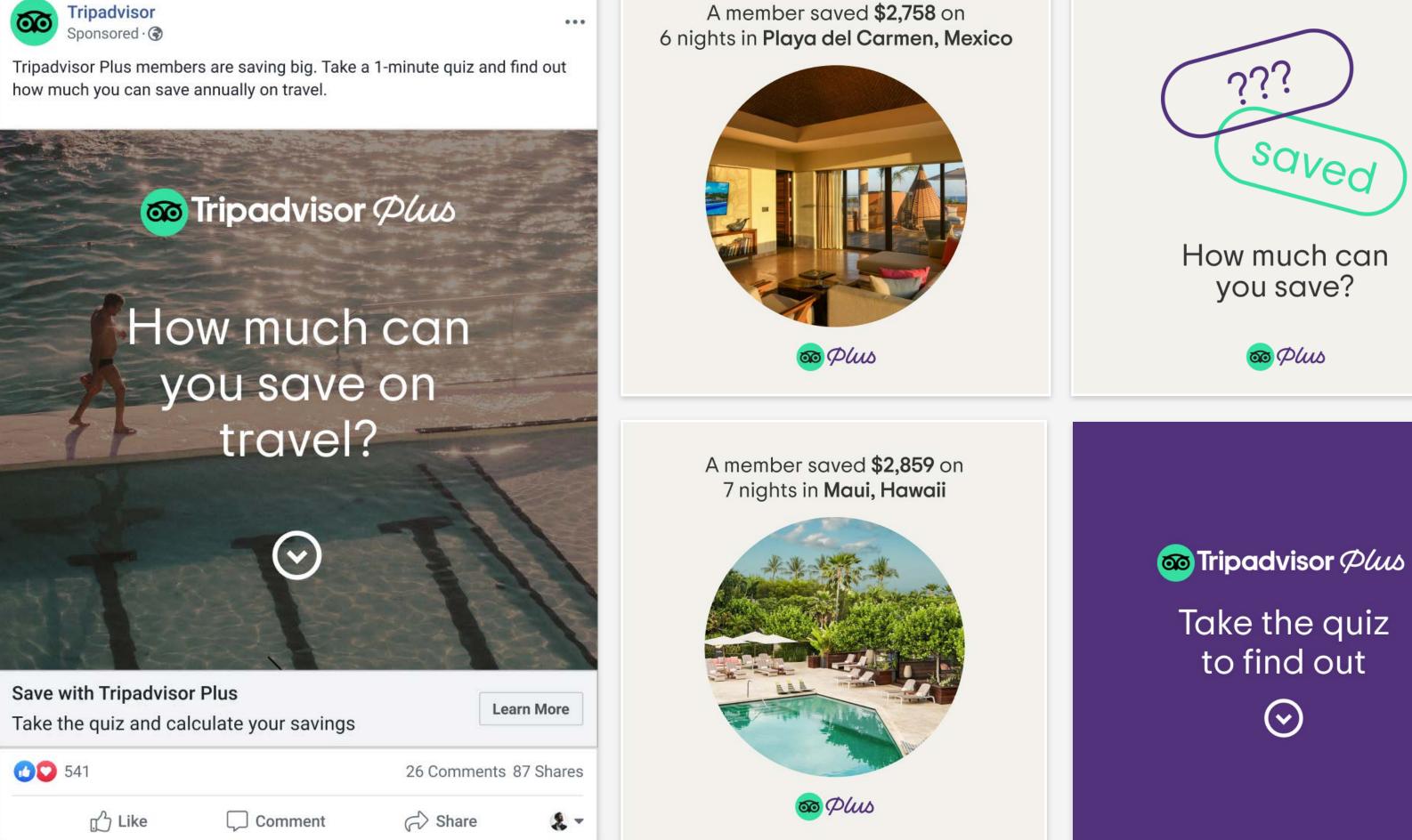
Facebook ads, animated banners and video clips urge travellers to learn how much they can save.

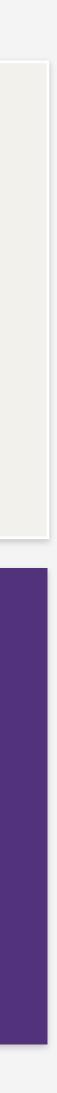
Next page...

When a new feature called "Vacation Funds" launched, specific ads were created that retargeted Active Planner travellers.

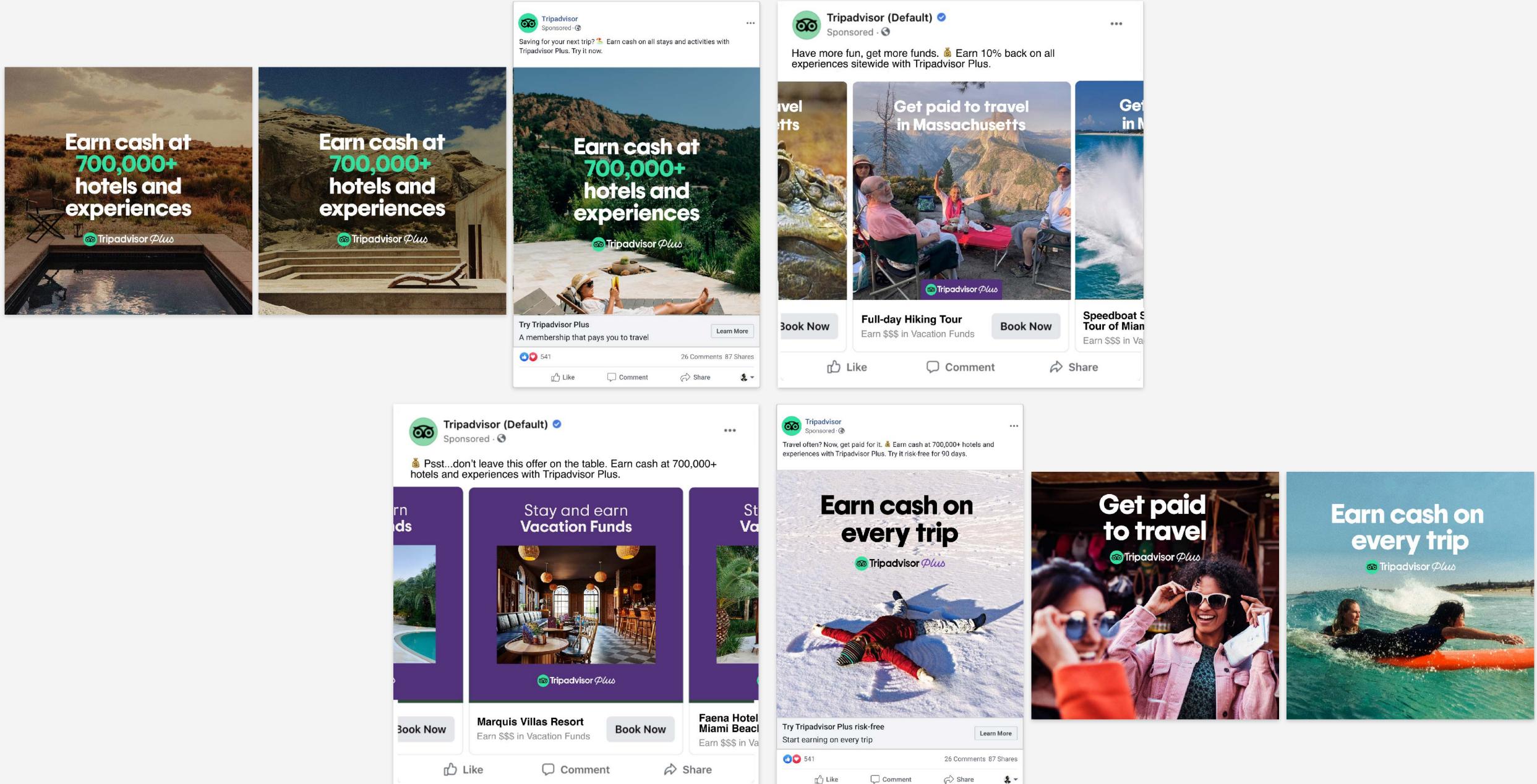


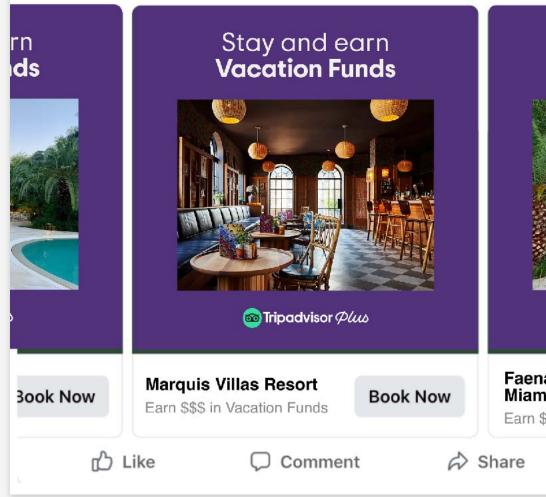
travel?





 \odot





Landers

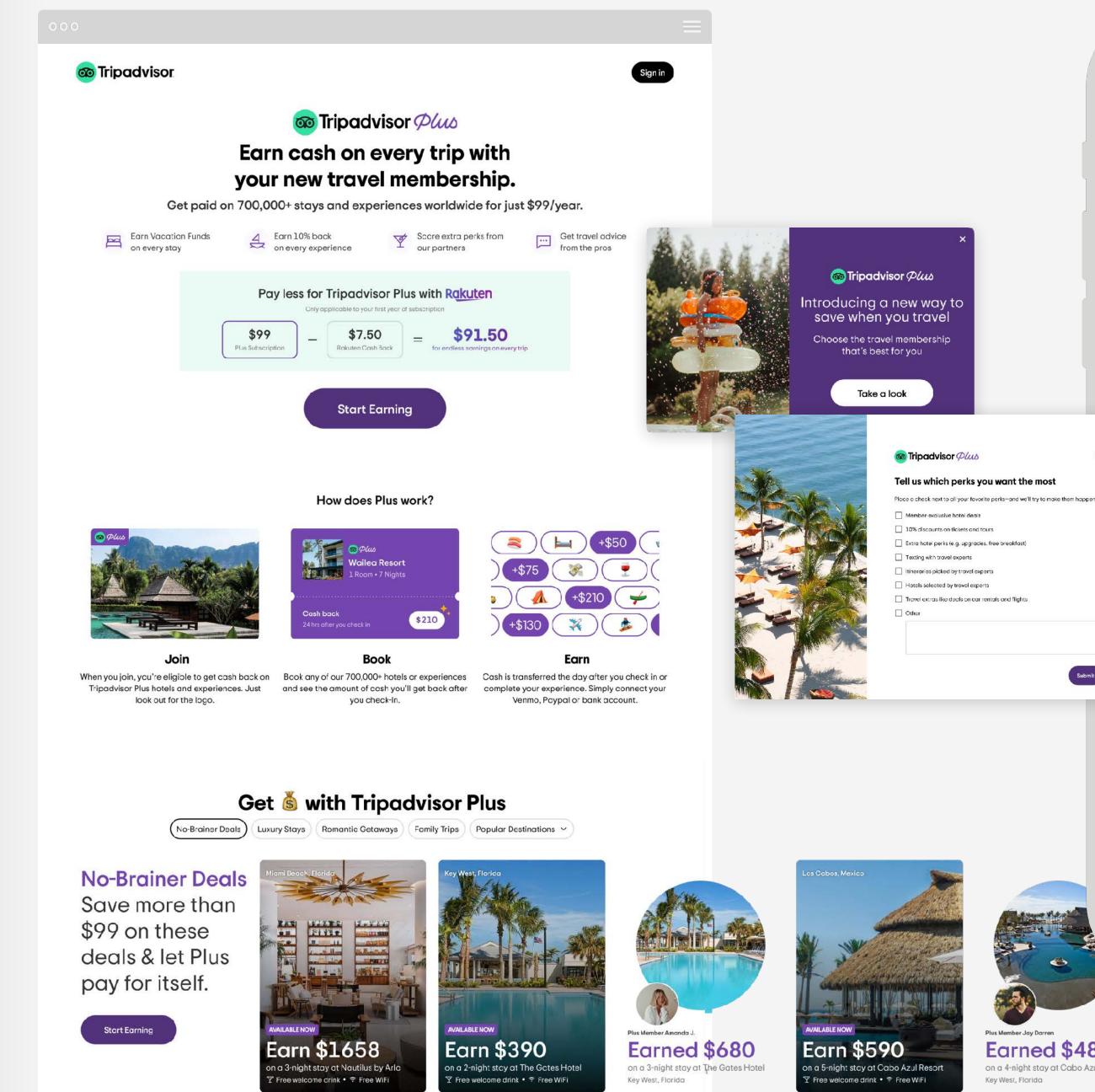
Specific landing pages for different acquisition use cases were designed, launched and tested to determine relevancy and effectiveness.

Co-branded partner landers were rolled out which were used for campaign purposes.

Learnings from the Tiers Lander helped to steer future messaging and program perks.

Next page...

Interstitials drove traffic to landers from Geography, Hotels and Things To Do pages.





Submit

Earned \$480 on a 4-night stay at Cabo Azul Re: Key West, Florida

Tripadvisor Plus

How to save on your next trip

Whether you're traveling all the time or just once a year, we've created three membership tiers to fit your needs. Choose the plan that's best for you.



Lite

Start saving with experiences discounts

\$49/year



- 10% off 400,000+ tours, tickets, and experiences around the world
- Access to personalized travel advice from pros via Tripadvisor Text







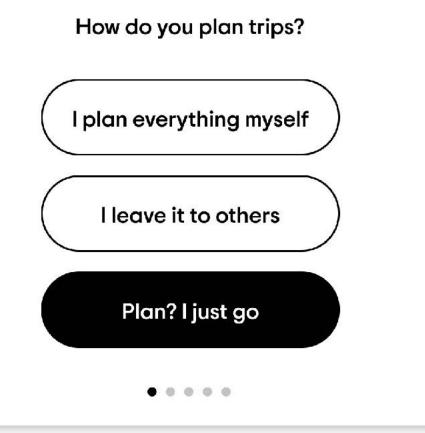
What kind of traveler are you?

There's something for every traveler with Tripadvisor Plus. Find out what's in it for you, and score **\$XX off** your membership **§**

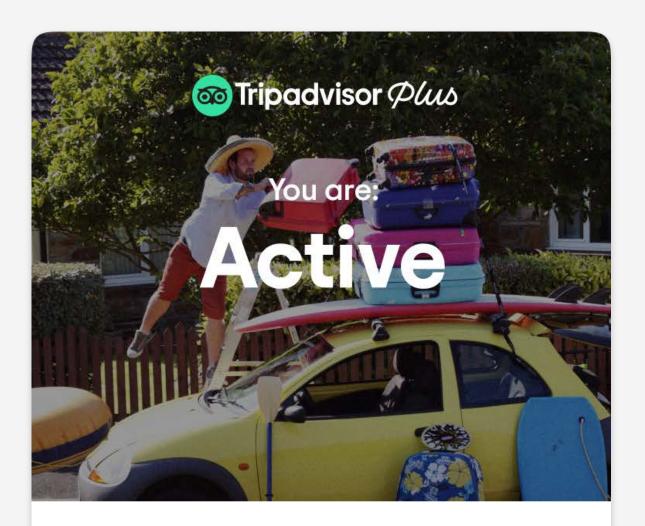


Learn more about Tripadvisor Plus





×



lf you love novelty, you'll love Tripadvisor Plus

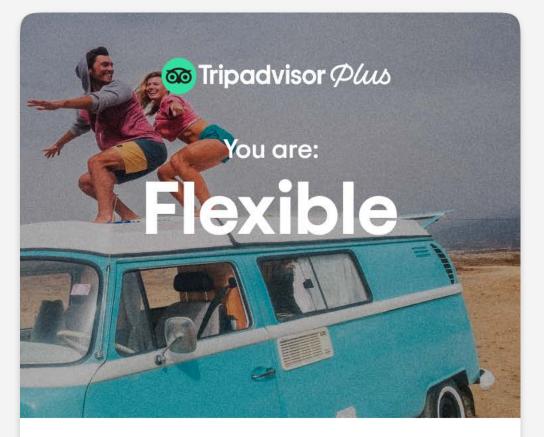
Unlike other loyalty programs, you can earn cash on thousands of brands

> T Choose from 700,000+ hotels and experiences worldwide

Subscribe now to get \$XX off your membership

Claim offer

Remind me later



lf you love novelty, you'll love Tripadvisor Plus

Unlike other loyalty programs, you can earn cash on thousands of brands

T Choose from 700,000+ hotels and experiences worldwide

Subscribe now to get \$XX off your membership

Claim offer

Remind me later

Outcome: Landers

Travellers reported...

- The Landers have a clean design that is "inviting".
- Users get an idea about what this program offers right from the lander.
- Premium plan spans multiple categories, from dining to rentals, and "makes sense for a frequent traveler".
- Customer testimonials help there should be more especially given that this is a relatively new program.
- More information would be valuable to understand program and potential savings details.

New Objectives

There is an opportunity to introduce Plus "tiers" to acquire more subscribers.

- Experiment with bundles of Plus benefits and perks at different price points.
- Early research (2021) suggests that travellers may be willing to pay more if they get more.
- Better market positioning relative to growing competition (e.g. using tablet devices, incorporating TravelZoo subscriptions).
- Partner with big brands and hotel chains.

Outcome: Plus Program

The original Plus shopping experience was suboptimal for travelers as well as for the business. Travelers were overwhelmed by the noise on Tripadvisor's hotel shopping pages, and as a result they were not able to easily search for and book Plus offers – nor were they able to comprehend the full value of the Plus subscription offering.

Furthermore, the interrelated logic for how and when Plus and meta offers were shown in the shopping experience caused an alarming 12% revenue cannibalisation rate of hotel revenue.

These issues required a fundamental rethink of the Plus shopping experience for the benefit of travelers and the overall health of Tripadvisor.

New Objectives

Pivot to ideas from Blueprint: Membership Area

- Improve the overall Plus shopping experience so that users understand how to find and book Plus stays, and more clearly see the full scope of benefits that the Plus program offers
- Solve the hotel cannibalisation issue.
- Test user response to a geo-curated and hotel-curated model via qualitative user research, and use that feedback to inform an approach to launching a series of demand tests for the "curated Plus shopping" space.
- Accumulate the learnings from research and demand tests to inform how/what we build on plus.tripadvisor.com for a standalone Plus shopping experience.

SOLUTION

PHASE 02: Hotel Geo Guides First step towards a member shopping experience



Geo Guides

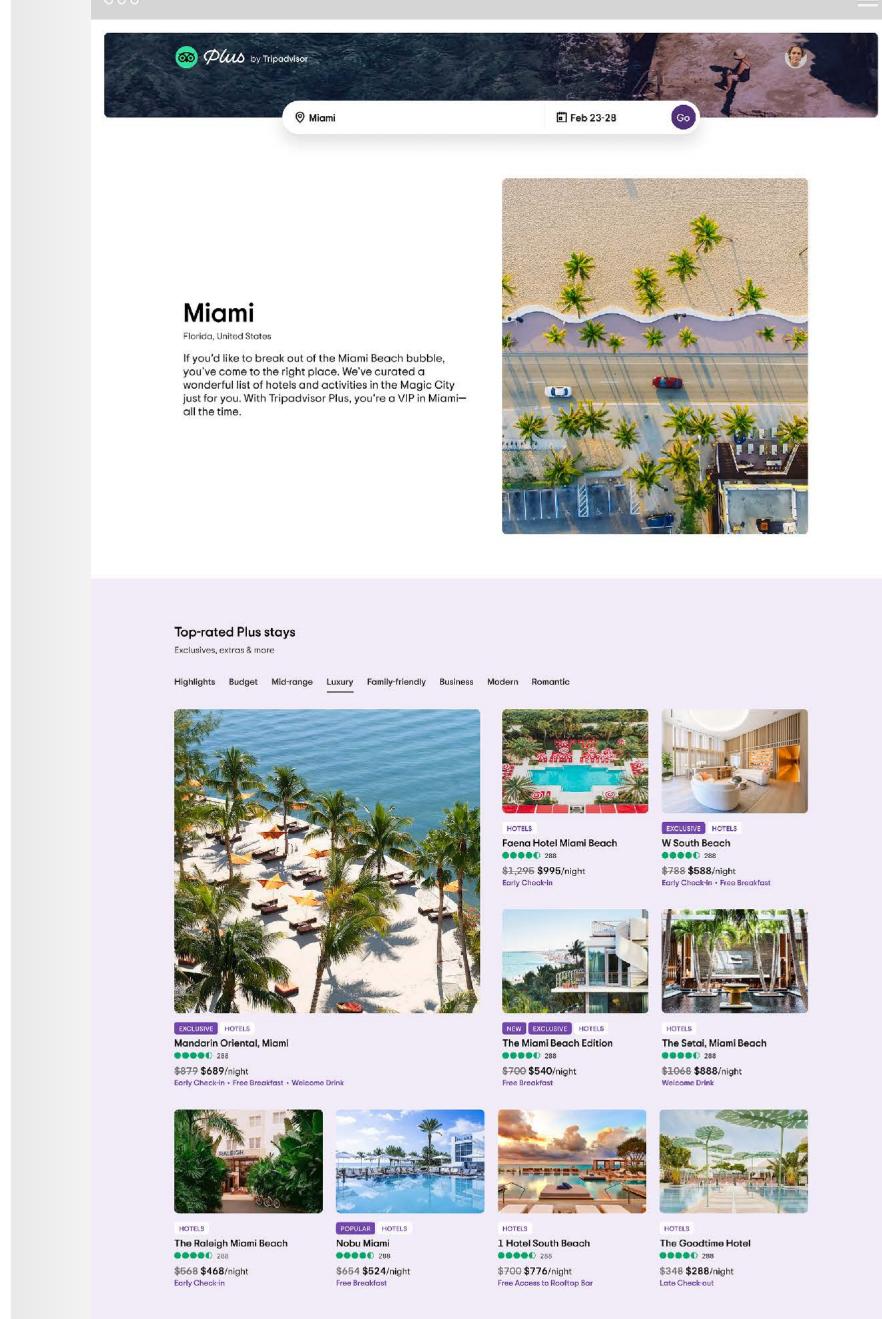
Miami was chosen as the first location for the Geo Guide concept.

To kick-off Phase 2 new Plus Member pages were designed to test out 3 potential directions for the Plus program: Deals, Geo Guides, and Curation.

UX research findings were used to test winning concept via demand tests.

Next page...

A variety of content modules were put in place to enable flexible testing. Emails were also created to drive traffic to these new Plus product surfaces.



Best hotel deals Only for Tripadvisor Plus members

See more



Faena Hotel Miami Beach 00000 288 \$1,295 \$995/night Save \$300



NEW HOTELS

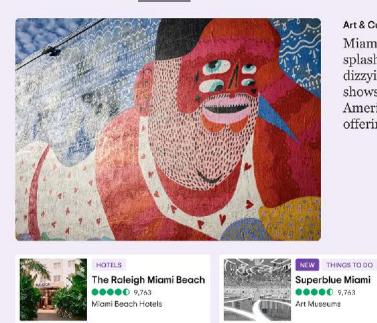
Mandarin Oriental, Miami 00000 288 \$879 \$689/night Save \$190

The Miami Beach Edition **0000** 288 \$700 \$540/night Save \$160

Essential Miami

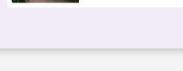
Ways to explore the city

Beach & Sports Nightlife Art & Culture Design & Architecture Family-friendly Outdoors



Art & Culture

Miami's art and culture scene is much more than its splashy art fairs. Pick your eye-candy from a dizzying list of museums, street art, and stage shows. The city is also known as the Capital of Latin America, so be sure to dive into her cultural offerings, from neighborhood jaunts to food tours.

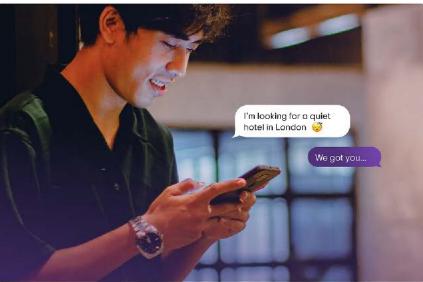


Art Museums



Wynwood Walls ints of Interest & Landmark

More Tripadvisor Plus benefits Make the most of every trip



Get guidance from travel experts Find the answers to all your questions with our Trip Insiders



Extra perks for members Get discounts on Hertz rental cars, Rent the Runway outfits, and Dollar Flight Club flight bookings

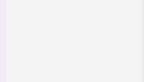








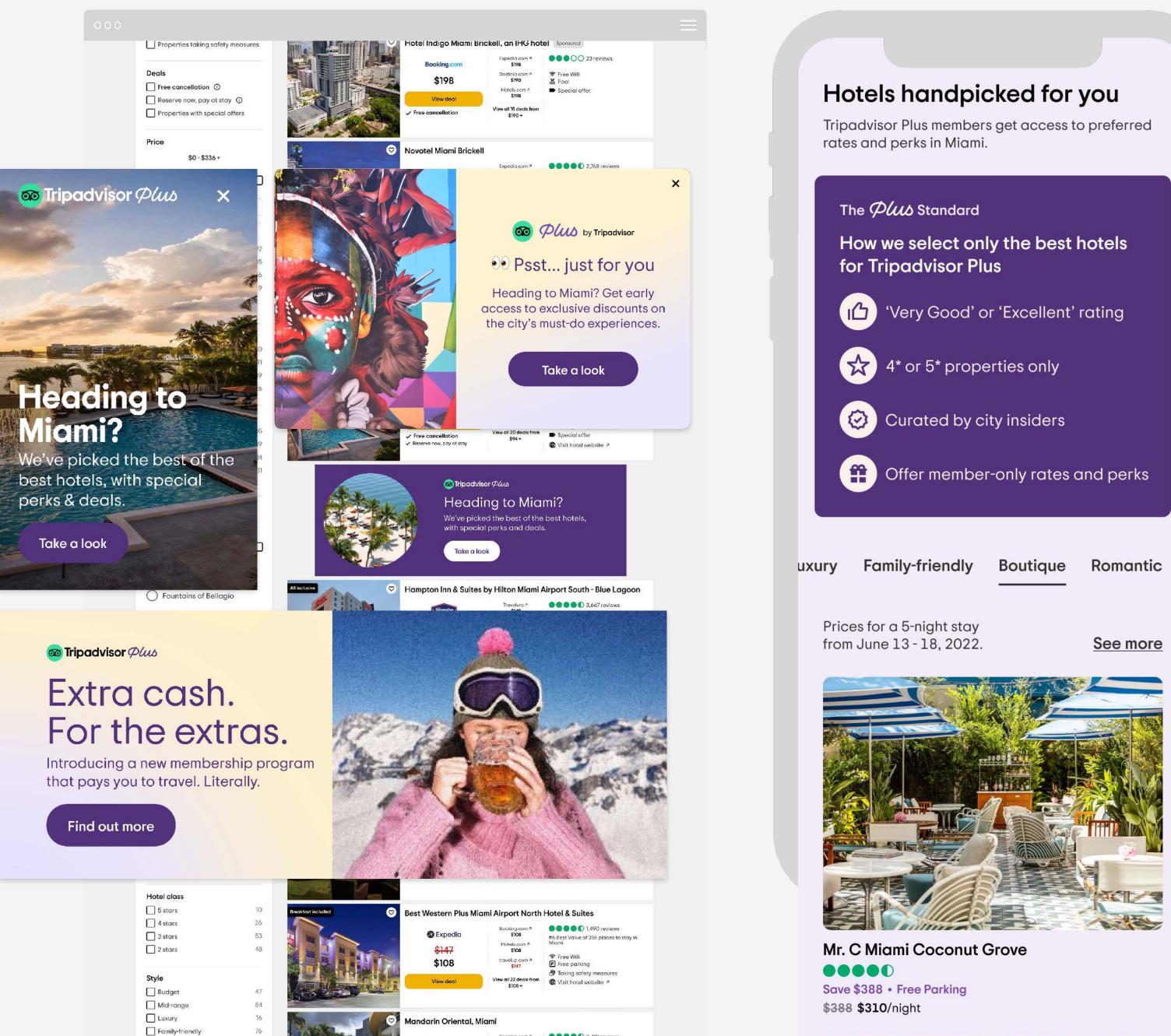












ooking.com ≈ \$540

Show more 🗸

000 3,410 reviews

#7 Best Value of 355 places to st





≈ <NAME>, here's a sneak preview for you

Tripadvisor To: etiberio@tripadvisor.com

A new way to travel better in Miami



Wave hello to endless sun, sea, and savings



We've worked with local insiders to curate Miami's best hotels and experiences. And-we're launching an awesome new way to save on them all.

Take a look

OO Tripadvisor

Please do not reply directly to this email. This was sent from an address that cannot accept responses. For questions or assistance, visit our Help Center.

See Tripadvisor Plus Subscription Terms & Conditions for more details.

Tripadvisor LLC, 400 1st Ave., Needham, MA 02494, USA

© 2021 Tripadvisor LLC. All rights reserved. Tripadvisor, the Tripadvisor logo, the owl logo, Travelers' Choice and the Travelers' Choice logo are trademarks of Tripadvisor

SOLUTION

PHASE 02: **Curated Hotel Experiences** Iterating and improving member shopping

Curated Hotel Experiences

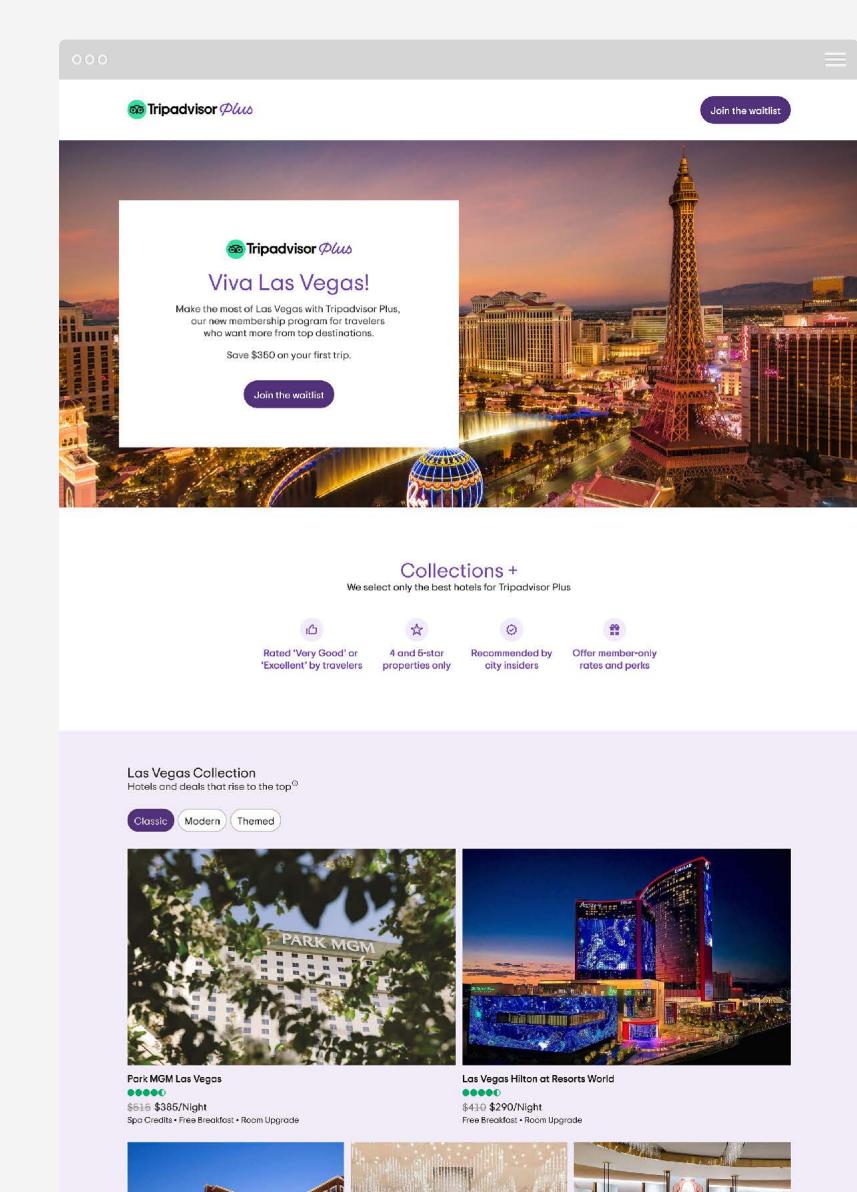
Vegas was chosen as the location for this concept and these were shared with and shaped by feedback with hotel partners.

Curating the Plus member shopping experience by offering the best hotels, and explaining why they've been selected for the inclusion.

Educating users on the breadth of Plus and showing them how to make the most of their benefits.

Next page...

Offering similarly exclusive experiences that only Plus members can access.





*	0	*
4 and 5-star properties only	Recommended by city insiders	Offer member-only rates and perks



d - TI Hotel & Casino, a Radisson Crockfords Las Vegas. LXR Hotels & Resorts at Conrad Las Vegas at Resorts Wo





Viva Las Vegas!

Make the most of Las Vegas with Tripadvisor Plus, our new membership program for travelers who want more from top destinations.

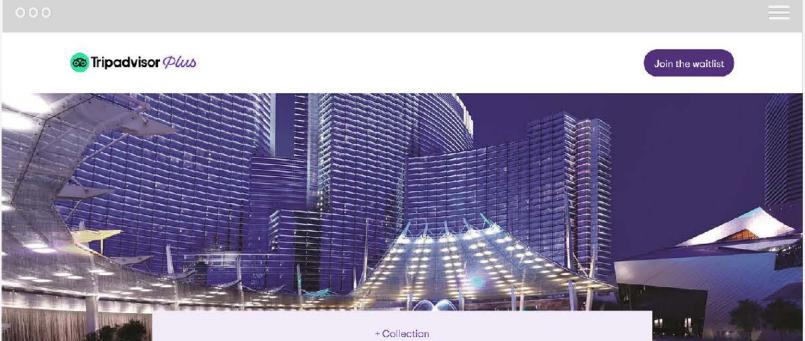
Save \$350 on your first trip.

Join the waitlist

Collections +

We select only the best hotels for **Tripadvisor** Plus





ARIA Resort & Casino

0000 \$515 \$385 /Night

Early check-in • Free breakfast • Free room upgrade

About the hotel

#7 of 18 resorts in Las Vegas 🔹 🐵 2021 Travellers' Choice Best of the Best

Discover a world of illuminating experiences at AAA Five Diamond ARIA Resort & Casino, where world-class dining and five-star service converge with in-room technologies and award-winning rooms and suites.

ARIA's unsurpassed amenities include technologically-advanced rooms and suites, renowned restaurants, unique pools and cabanas, 5-star spa facilities, innovative fitness center, integrated shopping, buzzing nightlife, and a world-class casino.



World class amenities



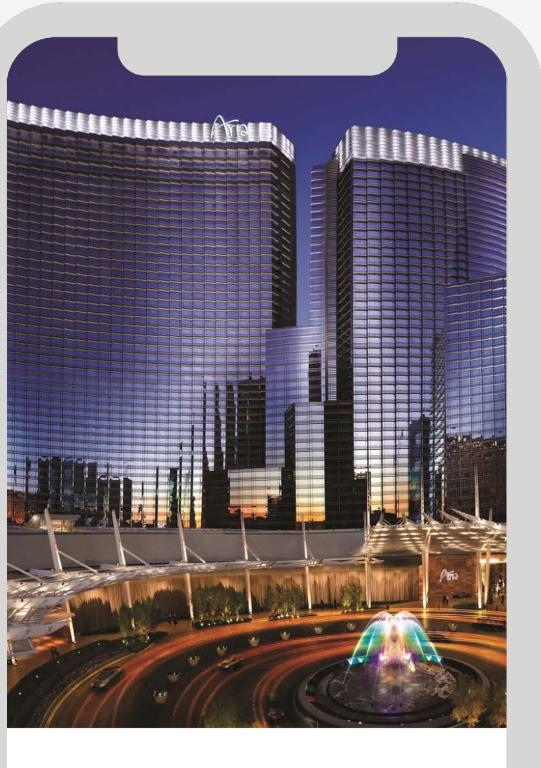
Why we selected this hotel



Award-winning Hotel

Entertainment Choices

World-class Dining





ARIA Resort & Casino

\$515 \$385 /Night

Early check-in • Free breakfast • Free room upgrade

About the hotel

The hotel's unsurpassed amenities include technologically-advanced rooms and suites, renowned restaurants, unique pools and



\$515 \$385 /Adult

About the tour

This Grand Canyon helicopter tour whisks guests from Las Vegas to the secluded grandeur of the Arizona desert in a fast and fabulous manner.

Very terms less size with a sine terms and

RESULTS

Outcomes

All signs point to a positive change in direction...

- 20% of 7,500 total visitors joined the waiting list which is a strong signal of interest in Plus
- 3.1% CTR on desktop interstitial (vs benchmark of 1.5%)
- 0.3% CTR on ads (vs. benchmark of 0.17)
- 7K visitors made it to a Plus shopping lander
- Of those visitors, 20.3% clicked through on the "Waitlist" CTA

Travellers have communicated their interest in the following premium benefits...

- Hotel trip cancellation insurance
- 20% off your bill at select restaurants
- 15% discount on Vacation Rentals
- Premium welcome gift package
- 5 free-days on rental cars
- Fee-free restaurant delivery
- Pre-reserved tickets on experiences

New Objectives

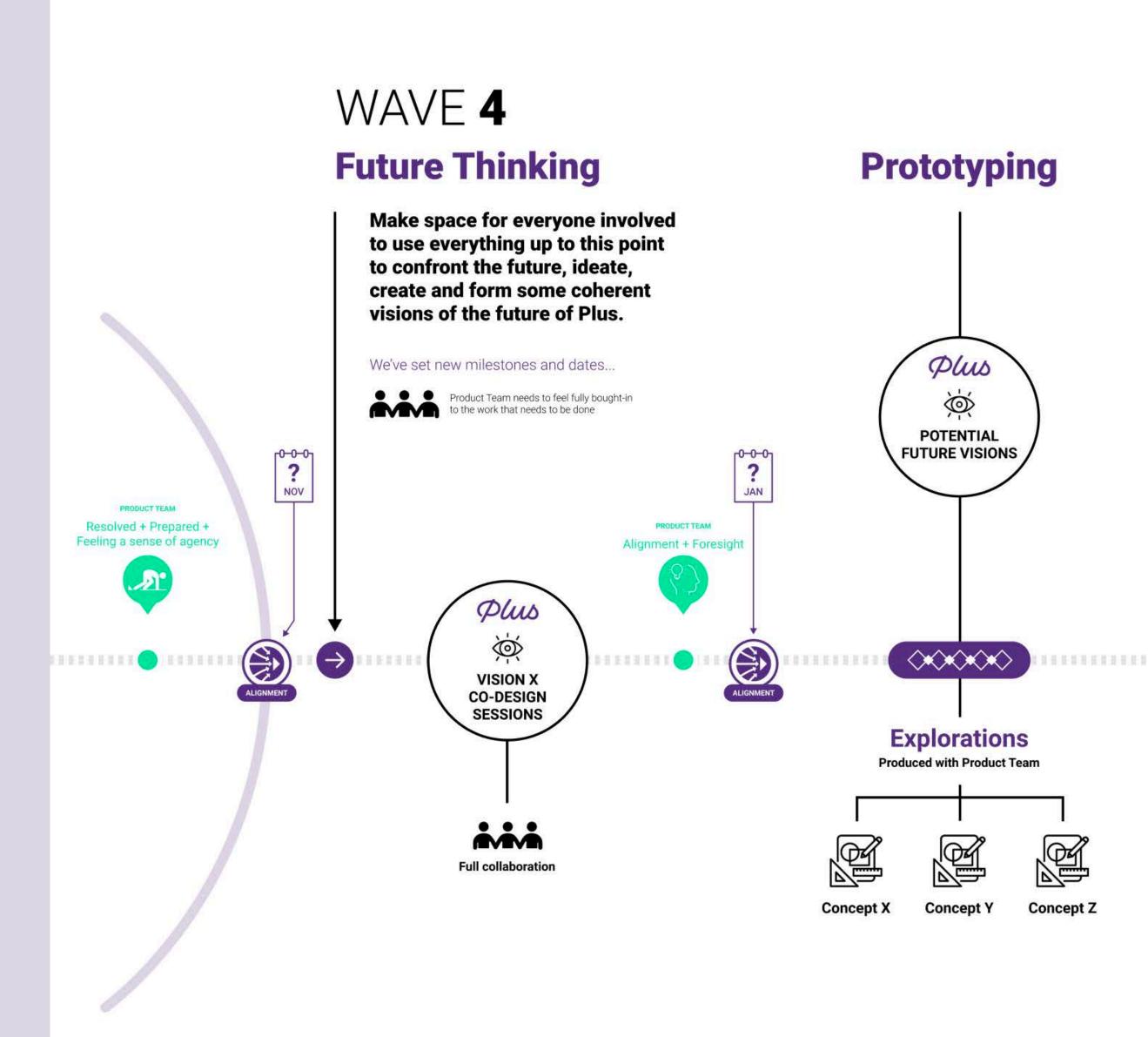
Build on this success as Plus finds market fit

- Continue to pursue the path of 1) Curation and 2) a Standalone shopping experience for Plus.
- Determine the most attractive bundles and price points that customers may be willing to pay for.
- "Phase 3" testing is actively being scoped and new design is proceeding.

With demand tests proceeding, some effort has been spent imagining how Plus may look in the not too distant future.

Examples of future use cases...

- On-trip wearable
- App Clip program trial



INNOVATION

FUTURE PHASE: On-Trip Wearable Integrating Plus into the traveller's daily habits

On-Trip Wearable

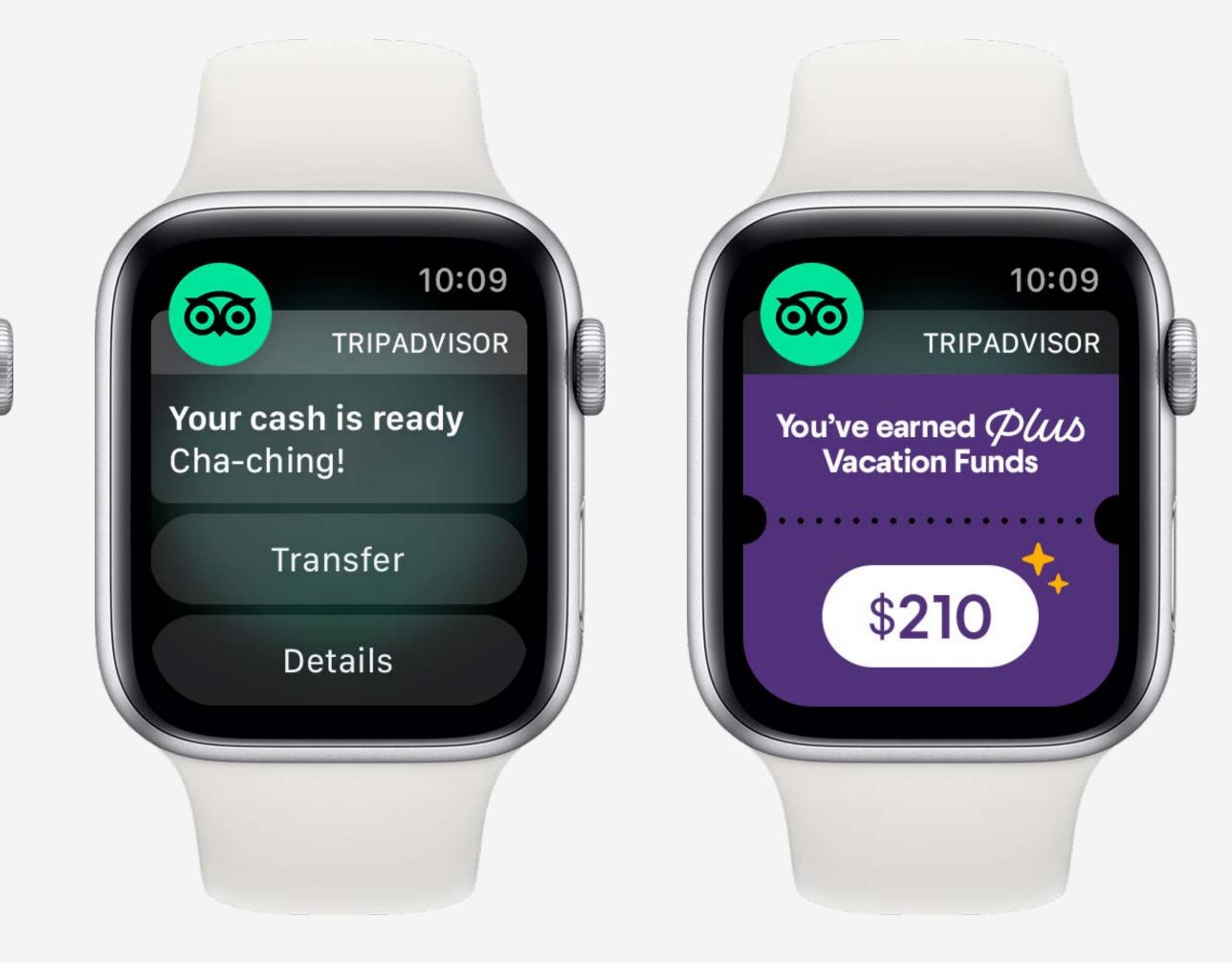
After hotel check-in, Plus members receive their Plus Vacation Funds which can be used on-trip.

Currently, this service interaction happens over email – but if the traveller had a wearable, such as an Apple Watch, the traveller might experience this moment in real time and be able to take action more easily.

00

Your cash is waiting! TRIPADVISOR

Notification The cashback moment has arrived



Options

Start a transfer right away or see details

Details

Branded moment to emphasise notification

On-Trip Wearable

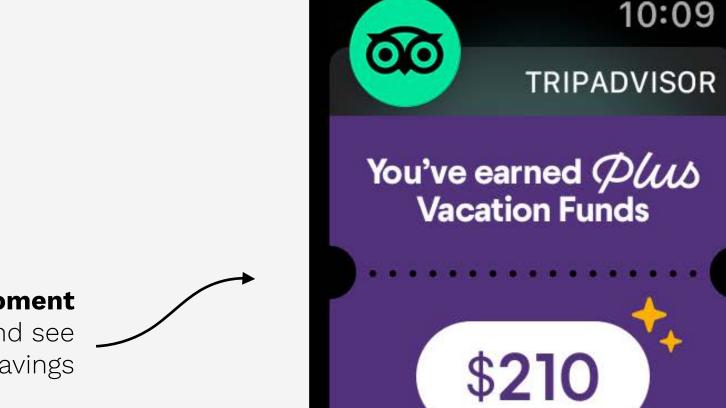
Scrolling or swiping down reveals additional details about the Vacation Funds event.

Big Plus Moment Celebrate and see

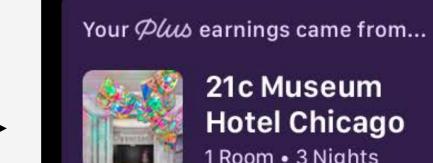
your savings

Booking Easy access and attribution

Transfer your money now while you're thinking about it



Transfer



21c Museum **Hotel Chicago** 1 Room • 3 Nights

10:09

View your booking

Your cash is ready What do you want to do next?

Transfer

Details

Set reminder



On-Trip Wearable

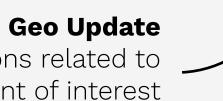
Plus is a service that can improve the traveller's on-trip experience in any number of ways.

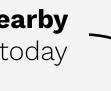
In this example, a welltimed Geo Update about a nearby point of interest (the zoo) surfaces a an exclusive ticketing deal for Plus members.

Suggestions related to nearest point of interest

Plus presence Special items for members

> Now nearby Bookable today







Lincoln Park Here's what's going on nearby...

For Plus members...



1-For-1 Animal Feeding Lincoln Park Zoo **••••** 536 53 \$17.00

Happening now



Lincoln Park Zoo **•••• 5**36

Croat for kide



10:09 00 TRIPADVISOR

Lincoln Park Here's what's going on nearby...



INNOVATION

FUTURE PHASE: **App Clip Plus Trial** Experience Plus at the moment it's mentioned

App Clip

Plus Preview App

Travelers can download a limited version of Plus, browse deals as a member, and learn the value of a full Plus membership

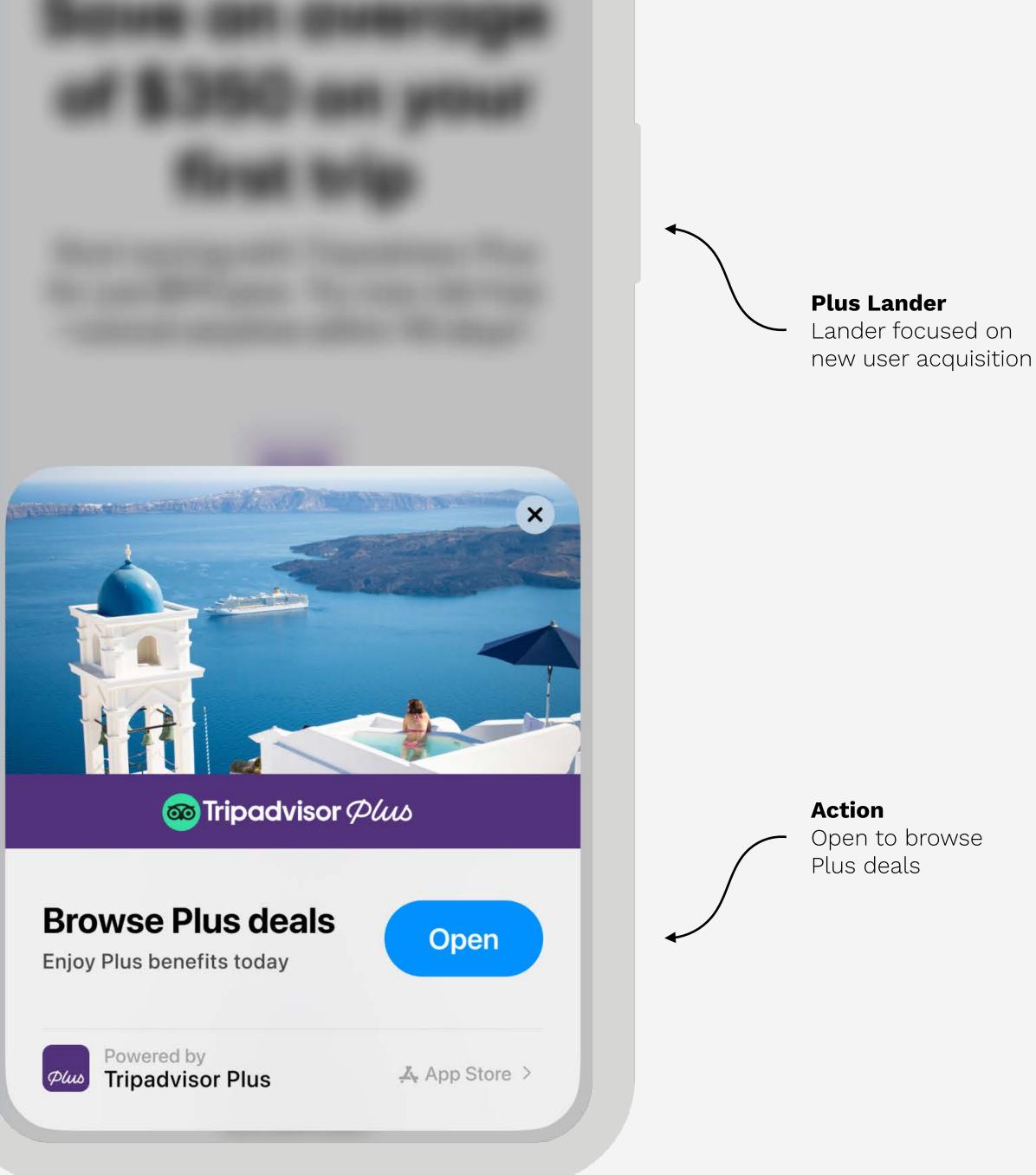
Plus enrolment Travelers who can "try out" a full membership are more likely to enrol

Plus booking Make Plus bookings right after joining

Lead generation Users of the Plus Preview app have signalled their interest via gated trial



App Clip Preview image with Plus branding





EPILOGUE

Feedback Notes from the wider Tripadvisor organization

Setting the strategy for Plus...

"The Plus Tiers concepts back in Q1 was a completely new prototype created for testing purposes. In the initial phases of scoping, although we had a vague idea of how we wanted to test the concept on the live site, the [Innovation] team came up with numerous excellent prototypes that really shaped our thinking of the new Plus product. The initial test results were very promising."

Eamonn Taylor Associate Director of Product Management





Pointing the way for PMs...

"One thing that I really appreciate is how the [Innovation Team] team went above and beyond on every task they took on and came up with alternative ways to think about them, which pushes me to diversify my thinking as a Product Manager."

Orhun Gural Product Manager II





"Think of Tripadvisor as serving 1 billion travelers a year. And if it's only 10 million that sign up – still less than 1 percent of our annual traffic – times \$100, and the math works nicely in a recurring subscription revenue."

Steve Kaufer *Former CEO of Tripadvisor*



"Despite being in beta stage, confined to certain areas of the U.S., and without a full basket of direct supply, Tripavisor Plus is still something to get excited about."

Richard Clarke MD of AB Bernstein

EPILOGUE

Next steps What happens to Plus from here...

Continuity

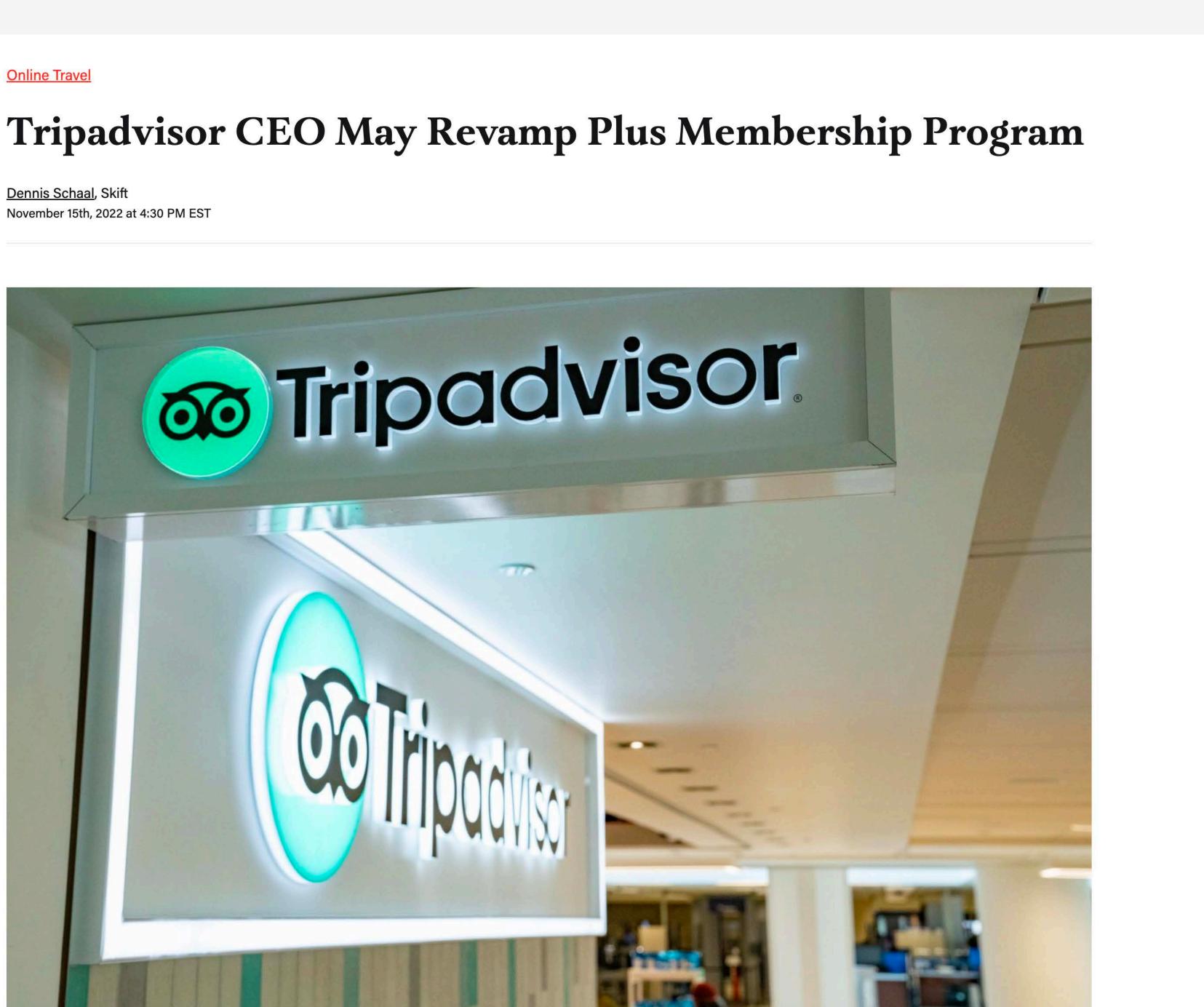
Incoming CEO, Matt Goldberg, has announced continued support for Plus.

Recognition as a key innovation effort

In a recent strategy engagement with McKinsey, Plus was selected from among several innovation efforts as a priority growth area for 2023.



Matt Goldberg Tripadvisor CEO



CASE STUDY

Bon voyage.

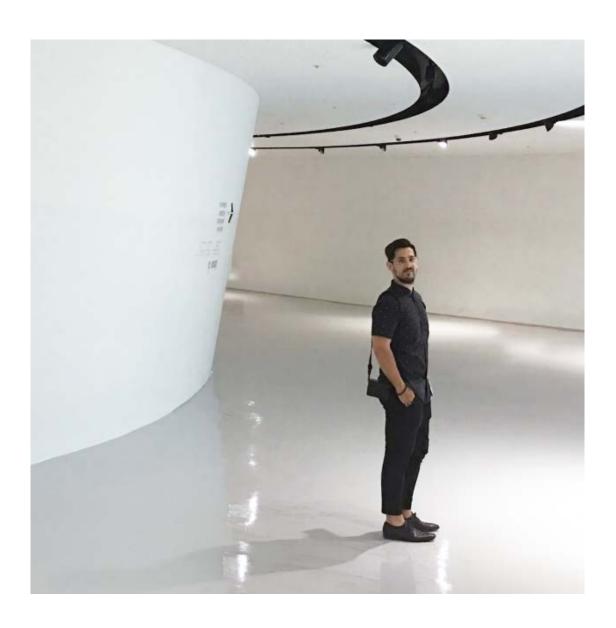




ABOUT

Nice to meet you. I'm a hands-on pixel producer, product innovator and data-driven design leader. I lead design and research teams and together we create, build and scale user-centered and datadriven products and experiences for people all over the world.

To get in touch with me just say hello@bschmittling.com



Thank you for your time. I'm currently leading the User Experience team at Taoti Creative in Washington, D.C.

As Director of UX Design I'm looking after (and growing) an innovative, lean and effective team that delivers value to our clients. Get in touch with me to discuss speaking engagements and other professional opportunities.

> My full work history is available on LinkedIn at <u>btiny.link/linkedin</u> <u>hello@bschmittling.com</u>

+1 571 412 7432