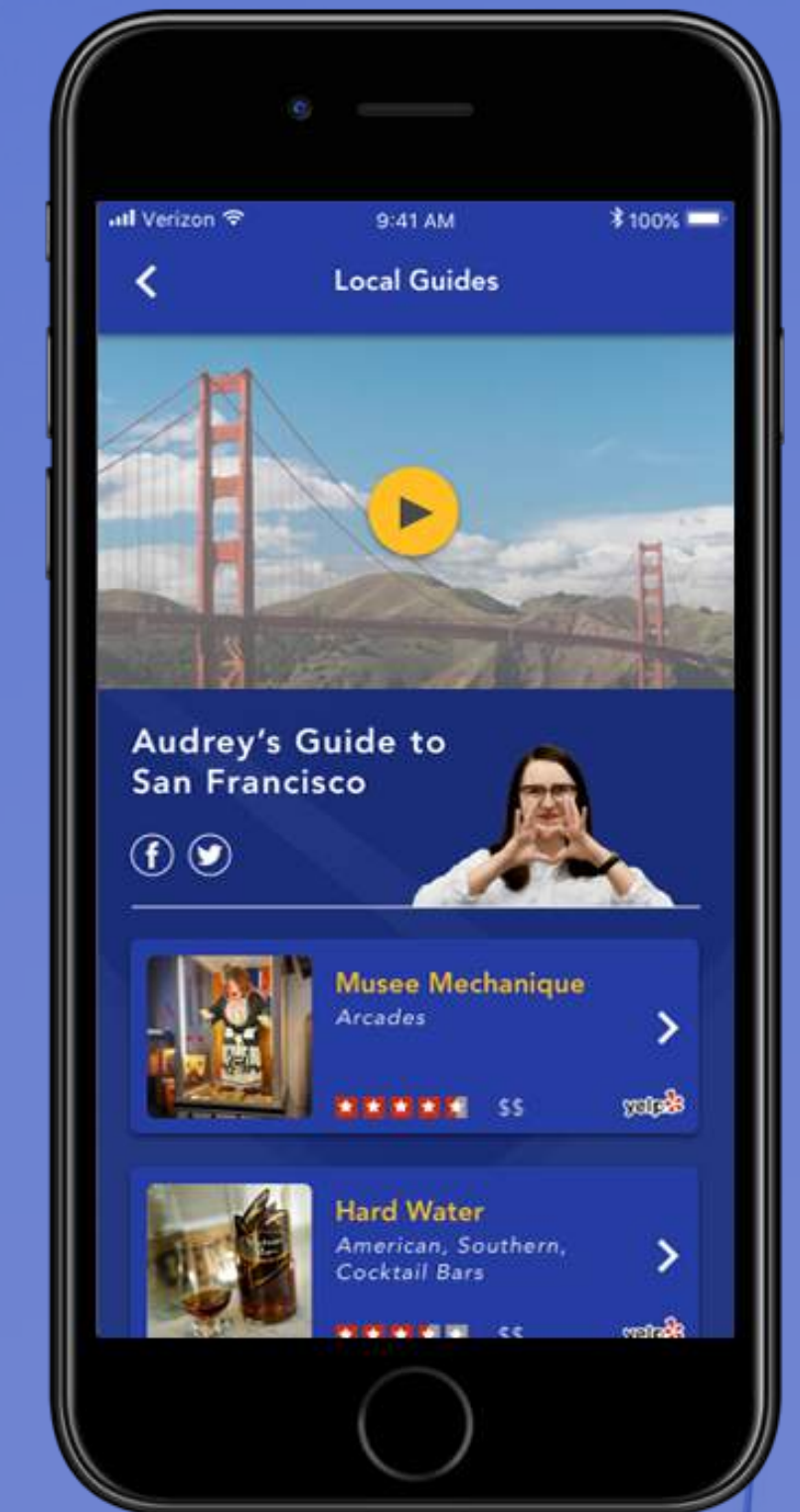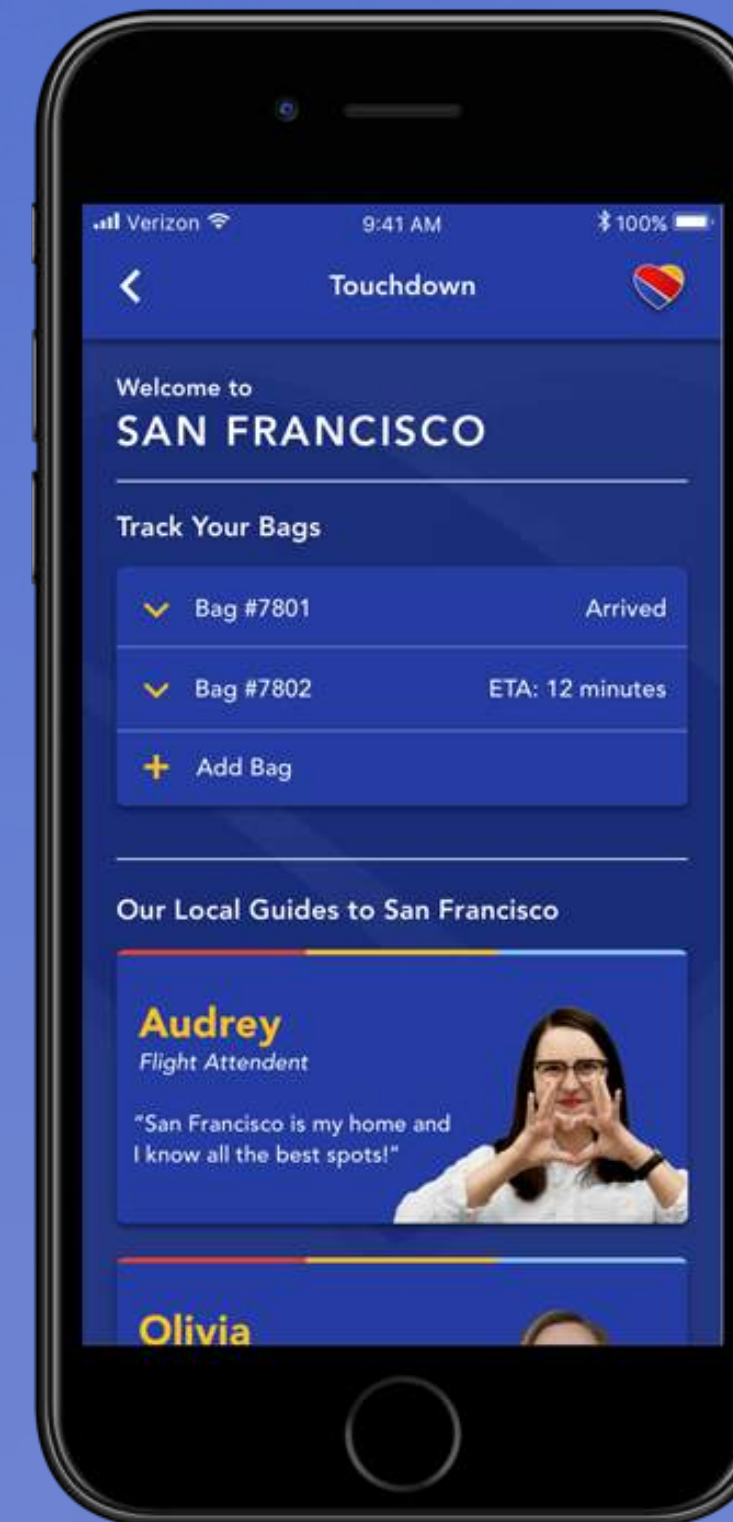Southwest 💙

Proposal

An extension for the Southwest mobile app that provides personable guidance and transparent information from Southwest employees for a helpful post-flight experience

Business Problem

"Southwest has the lowest costs of the biggest four airlines for trips of similar lengths, but it lags in revenue collected for those seats."

1. Competitors are becoming more efficiently run, competitively priced, and customer service conscious.

2. Southwest's advantage is slipping because they don't earn as much revenue per seat per mile flown as competitors.

Fortune, 2015

Business Opportunity

"Southwest's best opportunities for expansion and profits are in long-haul travel now for two reasons:

1. Long-haul is the biggest, fastest growing segment in U.S. air travel.

2. Southwest is relatively small in this area, meaning that there is a lot of market share for them to steal away from the legacy carriers."
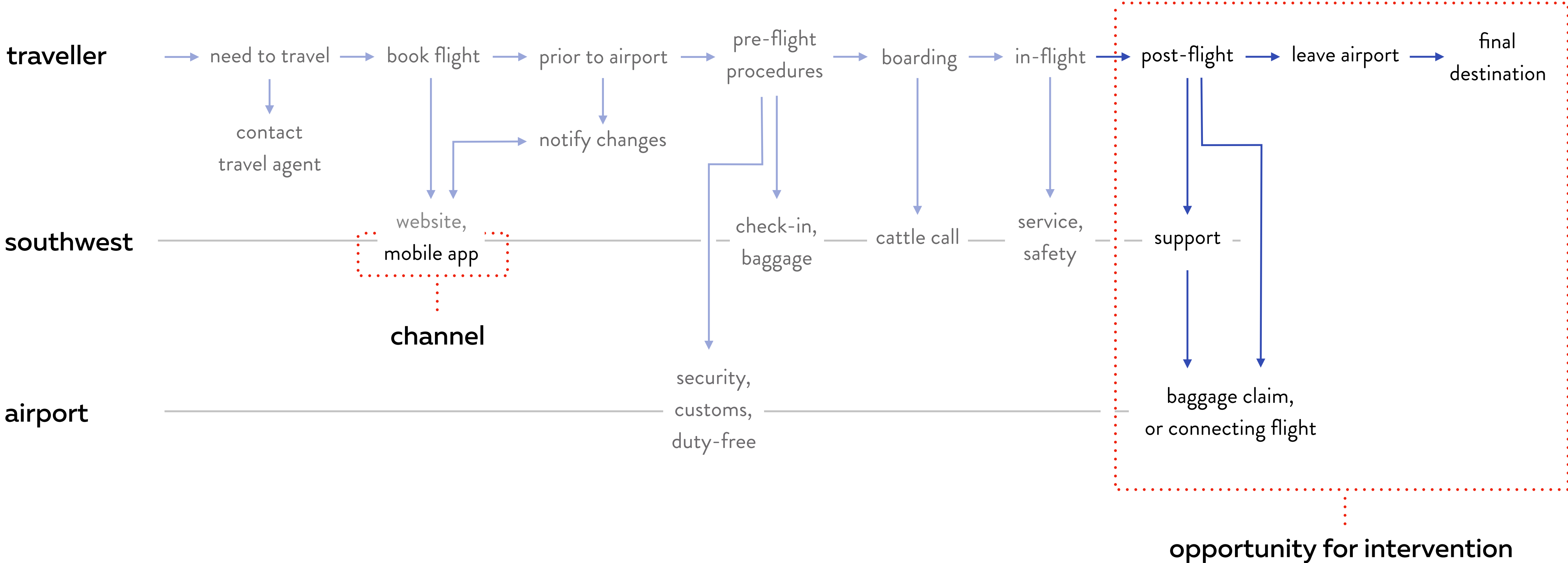
Fortune, 2015

Where To Intervene

"The last interaction in any exchange of value – that leaves the most lasting impression on the customer, the one that they remember and hopefully makes them want to buy again."

Price Waterhouse Cooper, 2015

1. Amongst airline competitors, there is little consideration taken for the after flight portion of a customer journey.

2. From user research we found travellers don't consider a journey over until they reach their home or hotel.

3. There's an opportunity to engage a portion of the customer journey which is otherwise tiring, routine or stressful.

Key Actors Map

traveller

need to travel → book flight → prior to airport → pre-flight procedures → boarding → in-flight → post-flight → leave airport → final destination

contact travel agent

notify changes

southwest

website, mobile app

check-in, baggage

cattle call

service, safety

support

channel

baggage claim, or connecting flight

airport

security, customs, duty-free

opportunity for intervention

Quora

What are your experiences, thoughts and emotions after getting off a flight, collecting baggage, clearing customs, and finding transportation?

Diana Arneson, Lived in France once; now just visits
Answered Oct 23

Invariably, toward the end of an international flight I'm tired and sluggish, dreading having to go through customs and baggage claim and a taxi queue (or buying a train ticket and finding the right train) and just want more than anything to go to bed. But, also invariably, whenever I finally get where I'm going, I promptly get a second wind and want to go out and embrace it all.

68 Views · 2 Upvotes

Claude Boilard, International Aviation Security Oversight
Answered Oct 24

For me, I am not done yet.

On a recent trip overseas, I arrived at the hotel at 09:00 AM. I was jetlagged and tired after being up for 25 hours.

For me, the trip is not done until I am in my hotel room or back home.

37 Views · 1 Upvote · Answer requested by Rocky Shah

User Research

"Dreading having to go through customs and baggage claim"

"I promptly get a second wind and want to go out and embrace it all"

"For me, the trip is not done until I am in my hotel room or back home."

User Group

"Expect passengers to become more mercenary in their airline use at the expense of carrier loyalty and engagement with their loyalty programs."

Harteveldt, *The Future of Airline Distribution 2016-2021*

There is also a opportunity to direct our attention to travellers who have never before flown with Southwest, as Southwest is only just beginning to operate on long-haul routes.

Fickle Flier
FIRST SOUTHWEST EXPERIENCE

"I usually just fly with the cheapest airlines, I've had a pretty similar experience whenever I've flown."

Behaviour

weighs her options and hasn't consistently flown with the same airline

price conscious, but willing to pay for convenience and service

Needs

a trustworthy source of information

to envision potential destinations to inform her travel decisions

to streamline her travel routine

Frustrations

never visited her destination & doesn't know where to start

her trip coincides with peak travel seasons

Goals

exploring her destination city

enjoying a variety of new experiences

mentally refresh while on vacation

Brand Value

"Southwest Airlines is probably the greatest success story in American airline history in terms of **turning intangibles into monetary value**...its secret was building an airline culture that had the properties of fun, entertainment and genuine care at the very core of its soul...**which is something competitors cannot imitate**."

Fast Company, 2012

# CUSTOMER JOURNEY FRAMEWORK

WITHIN THE POST FLIGHT STAGE

	Disembarking aircraft	Navigating to customs	Passing customs	Waiting for baggage	Acquiring Transportation	Travel to final destinations	Rest of trip
ACTIONS	Disembarking aircraft	Navigating to customs	Passing customs	Waiting for baggage	Acquiring Transportation	Travel to final destinations	Rest of trip
THOUGHTS	Can I get internet connection? When will I get to my lodging? Where do I go from here?	How do I get to customs? Do I have all the documents? How long is the wait?	Do I have anything to declare? I hope the border guard is nice	Where is the baggage claim? What number is my carousel? Is my bag safe and when will it come?	What options are available? Do I have enough cash?	What time can I check in? How long will it take me to get there?	What should I do for the rest of the trip? What is a good place to eat?
POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES	Mapping the entire airport Review of flight and crew	Estimated wait times for customs Document checklist		Updated baggage tracker Entertainment during wait time	Ride-hailing integration Public transportation overview	ETA for friends, family, or hotel	City guides Concierge

Project Goals

Support and delight customers during the dull and wearisome moments of their journey

Leave a lasting impression that hopefully extends long after the flight

Increase re-engagement of long-haul flyers with Southwest
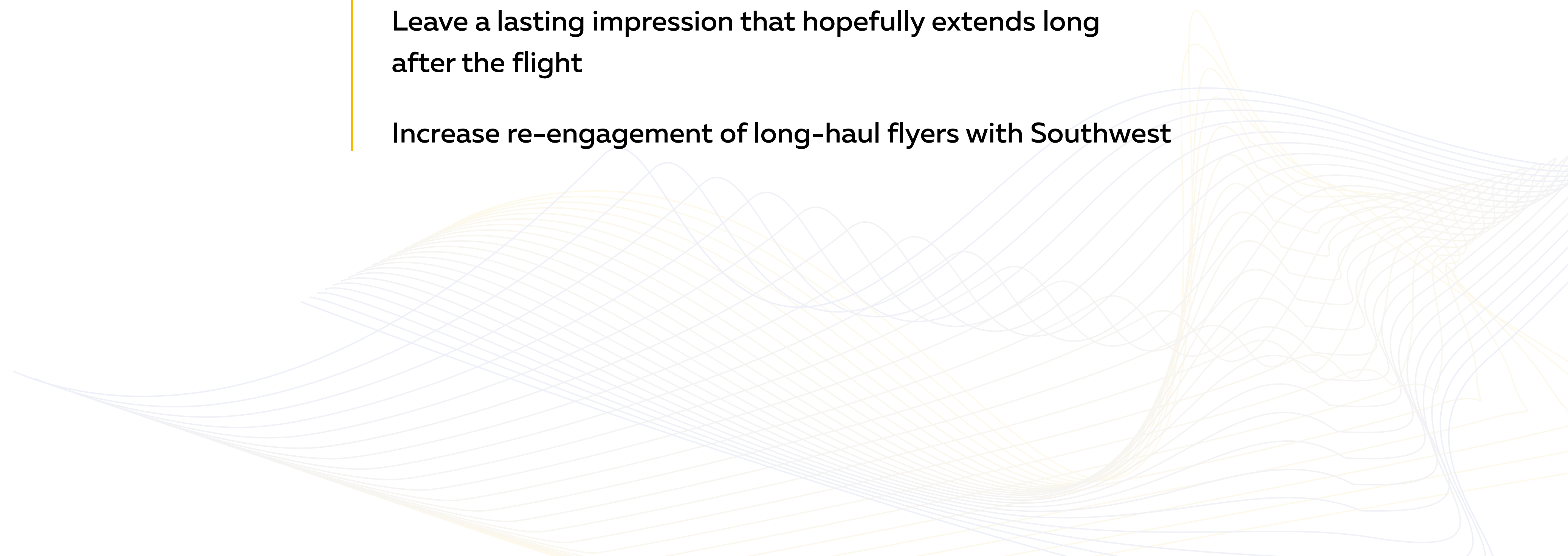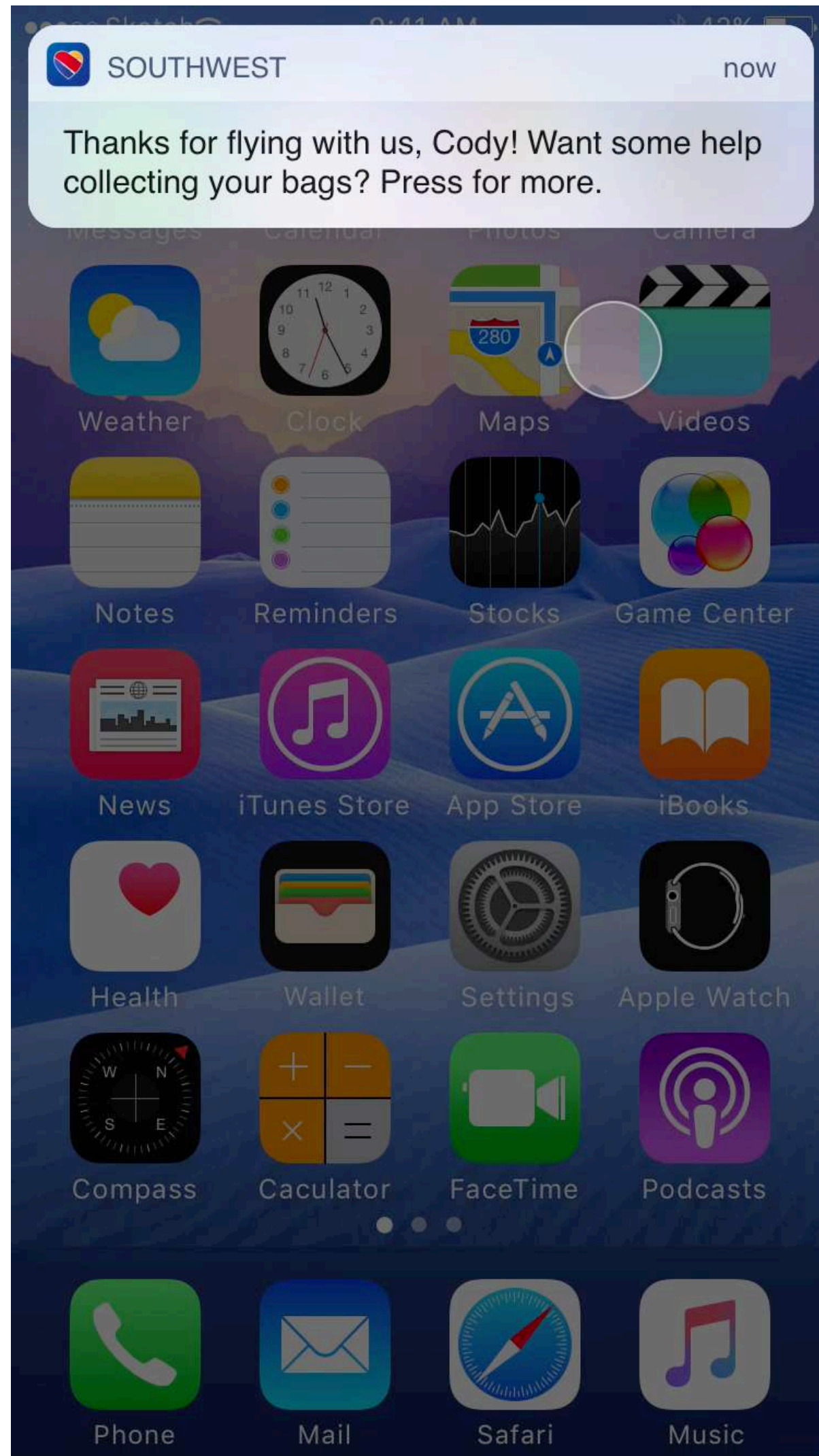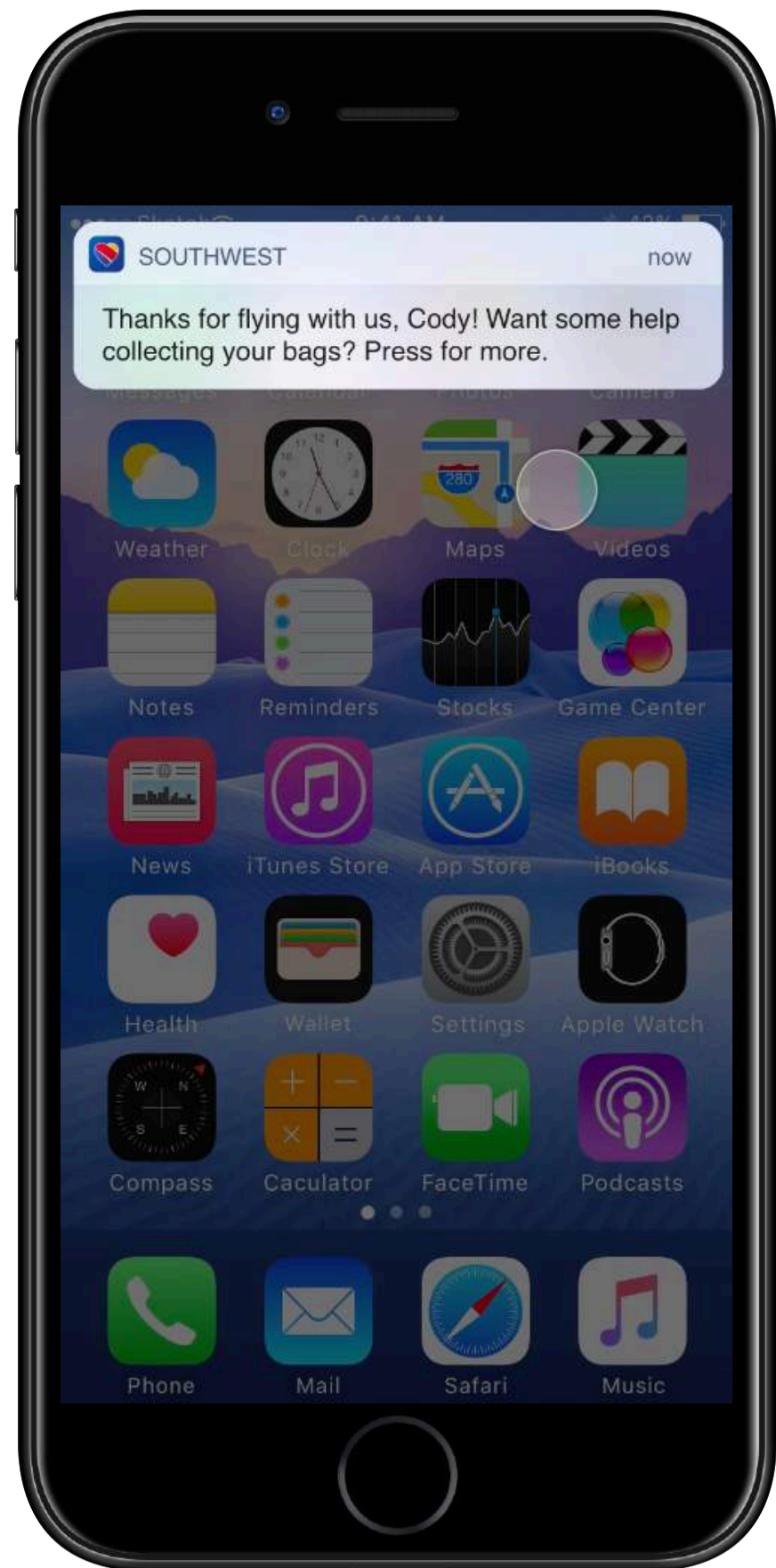
Baggage Tracker

Tracking shows the status of a customer's baggage as it is transported from plane to carousel. The feature estimates how long their bag will take to arrive, indicates which baggage claim their bag will come from and includes a call-to-action if bags are delayed, damaged, or lost.

Value for Customer

Information is provided at a glance to lower cognitive overhead

Provides certainty and reassurance to a hidden process

Findable assistance for when things go wrong
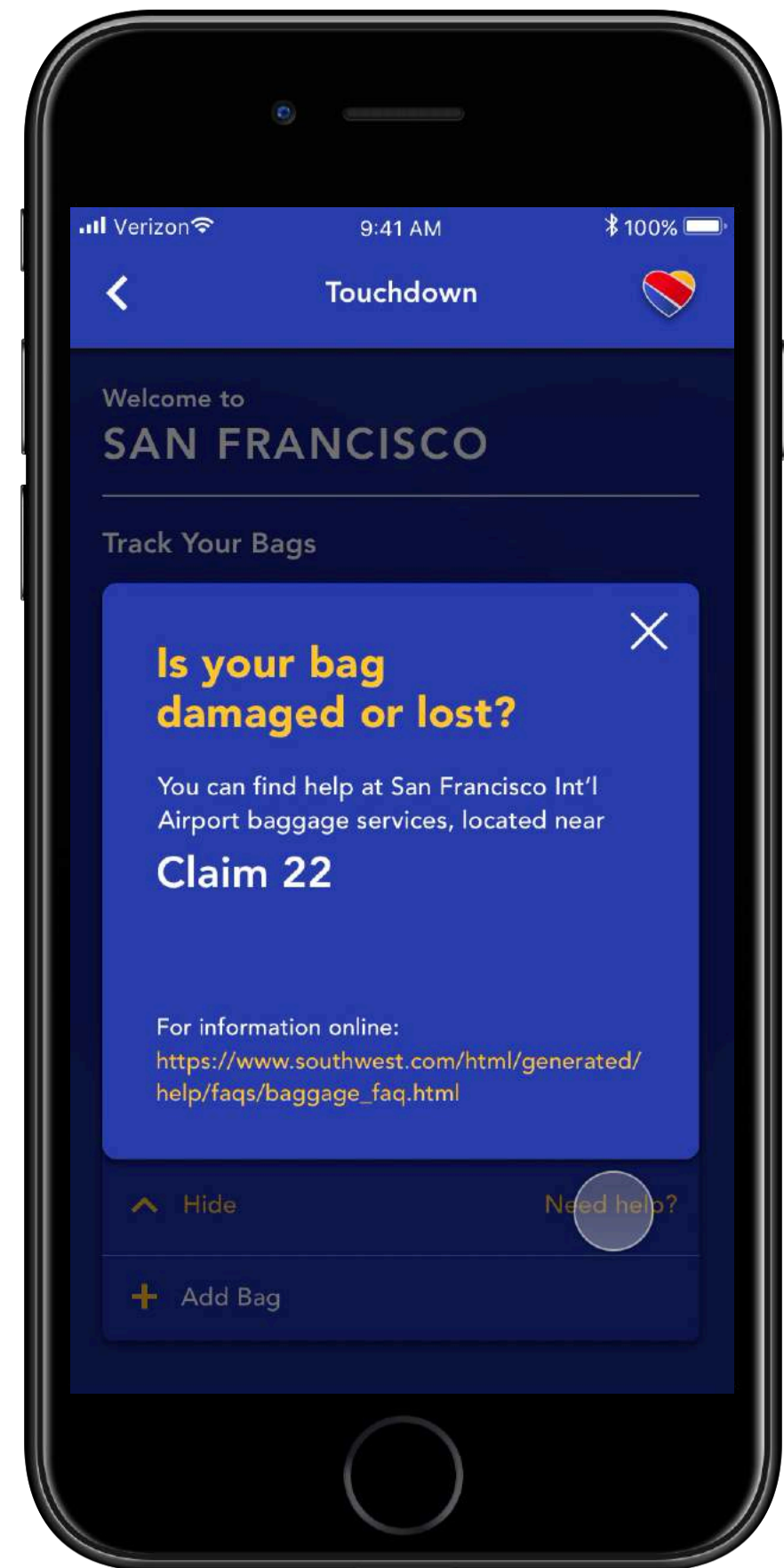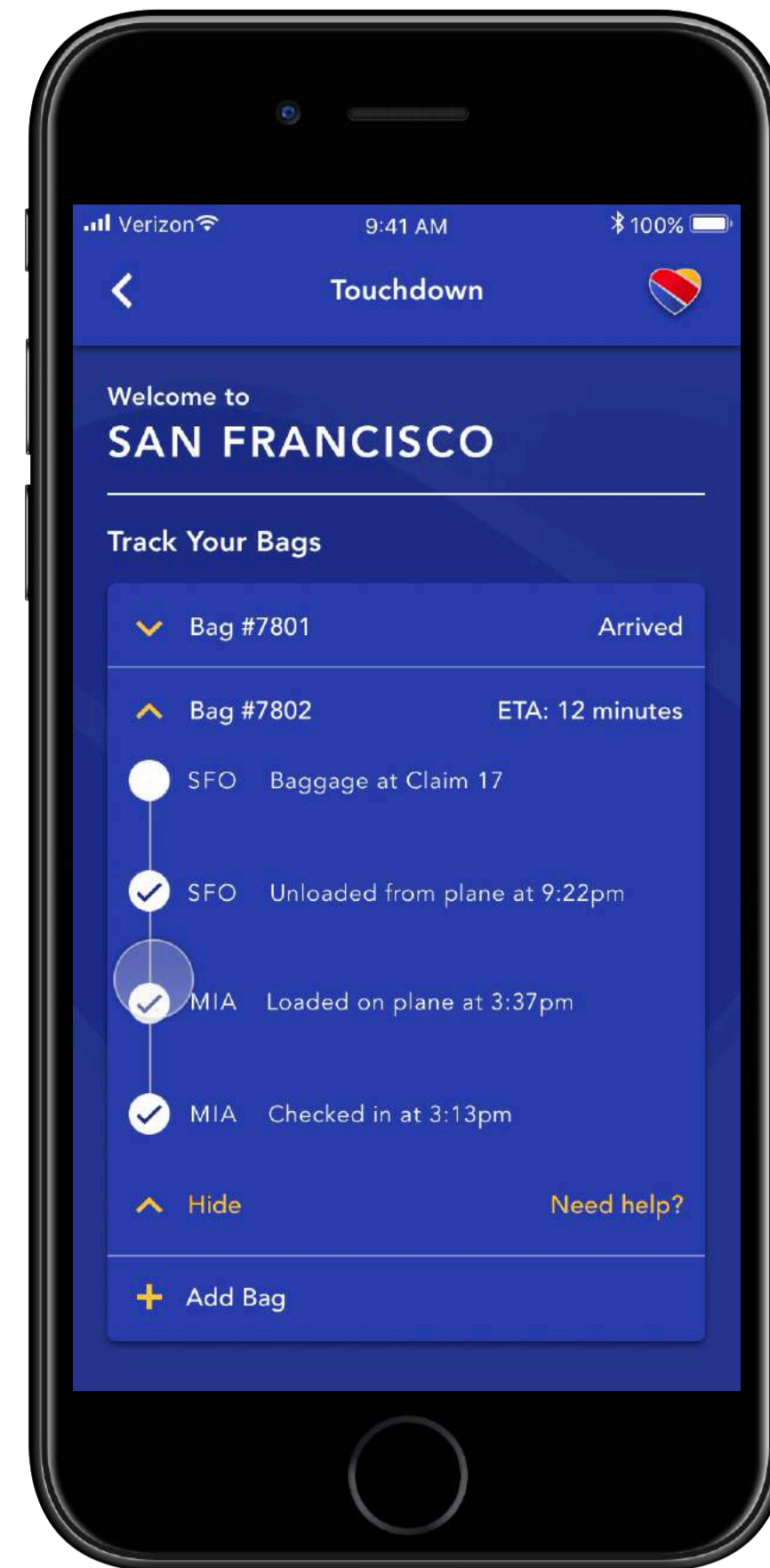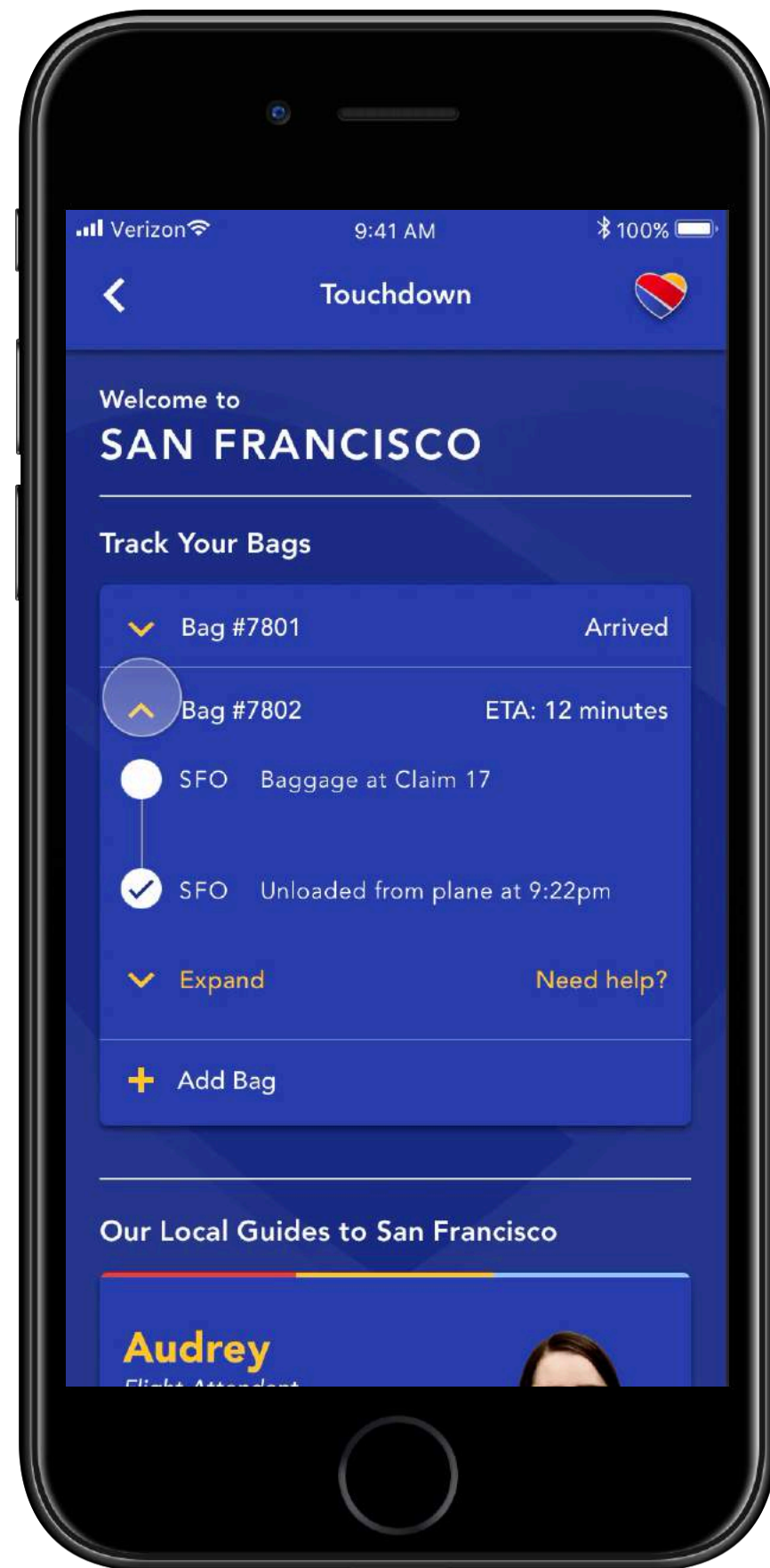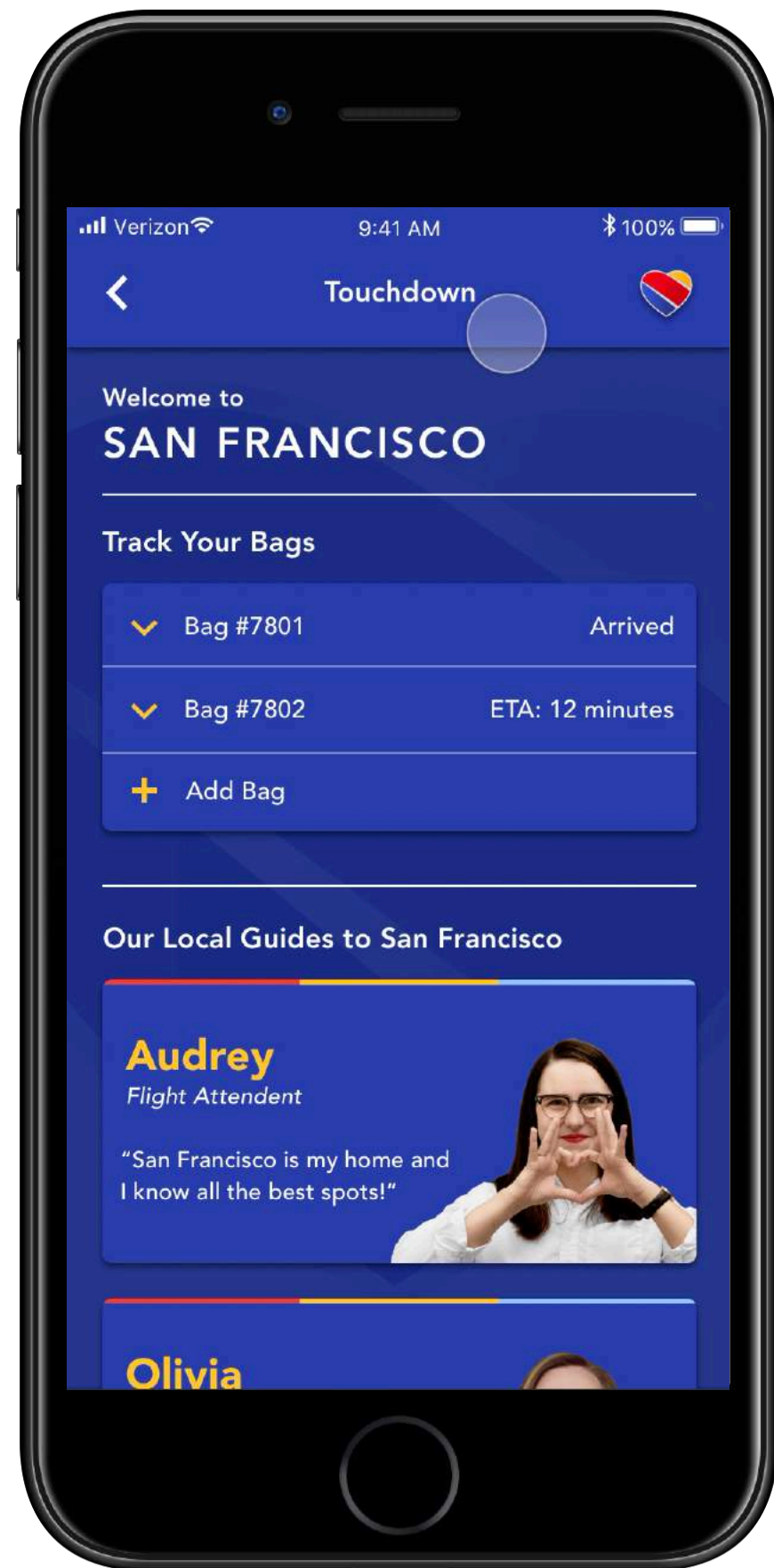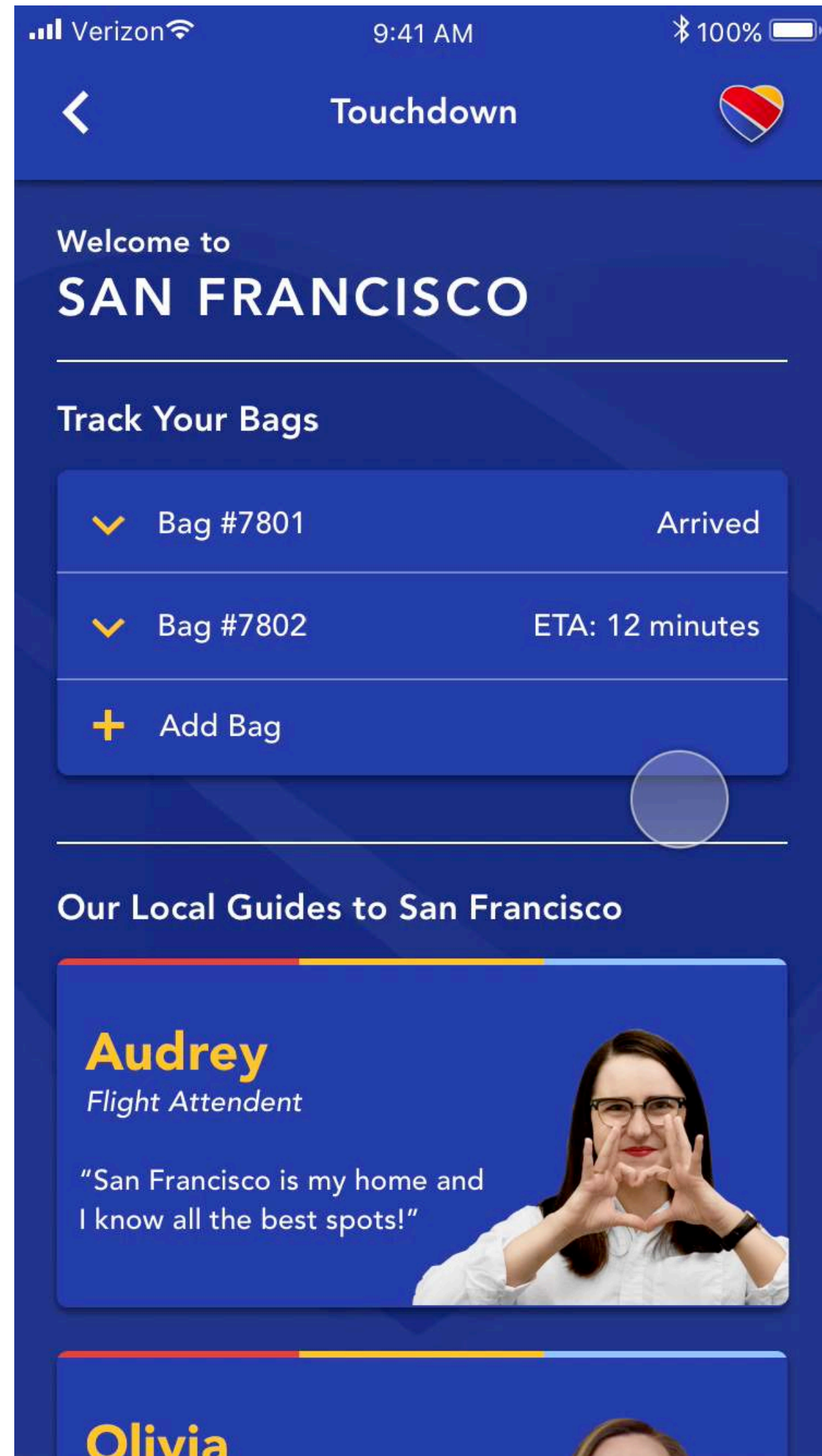
Southwest Recommends

Below the baggage tracker are guides delivered by Southwest employees who live in the customer's destination city. When tapped into, each guide showcases a video of the employee as they provide recommendations for the destination. We adapted concepts of a recommendation from a close friend, and being informed of hidden gems in a city.

Value for Customer

Acknowledges that the post flight experience may extend past the airport

Recommendations from a personal source rather than sifting through Google reviews

Stimulating content that may leave a lasting impression for Southwest customers
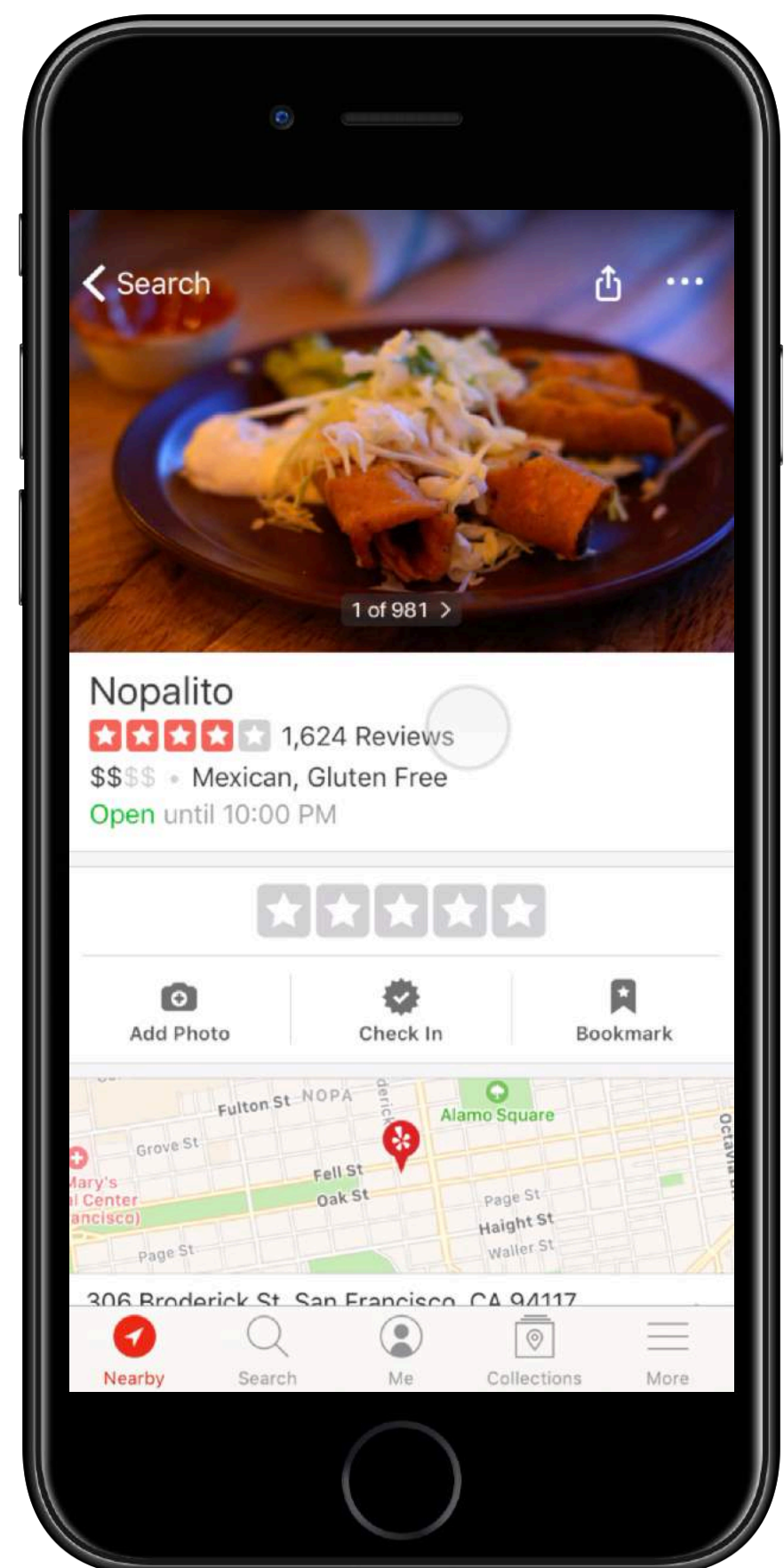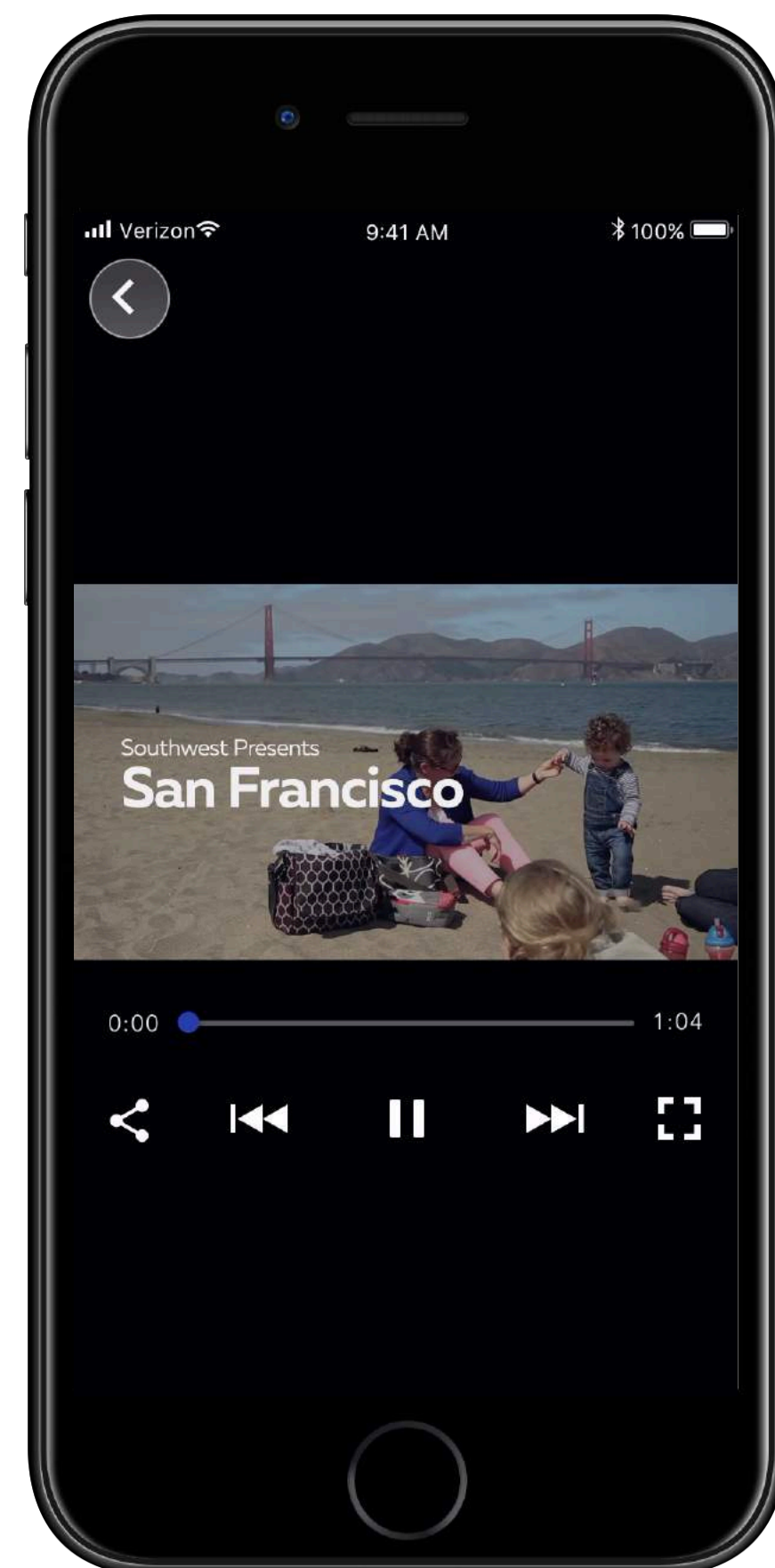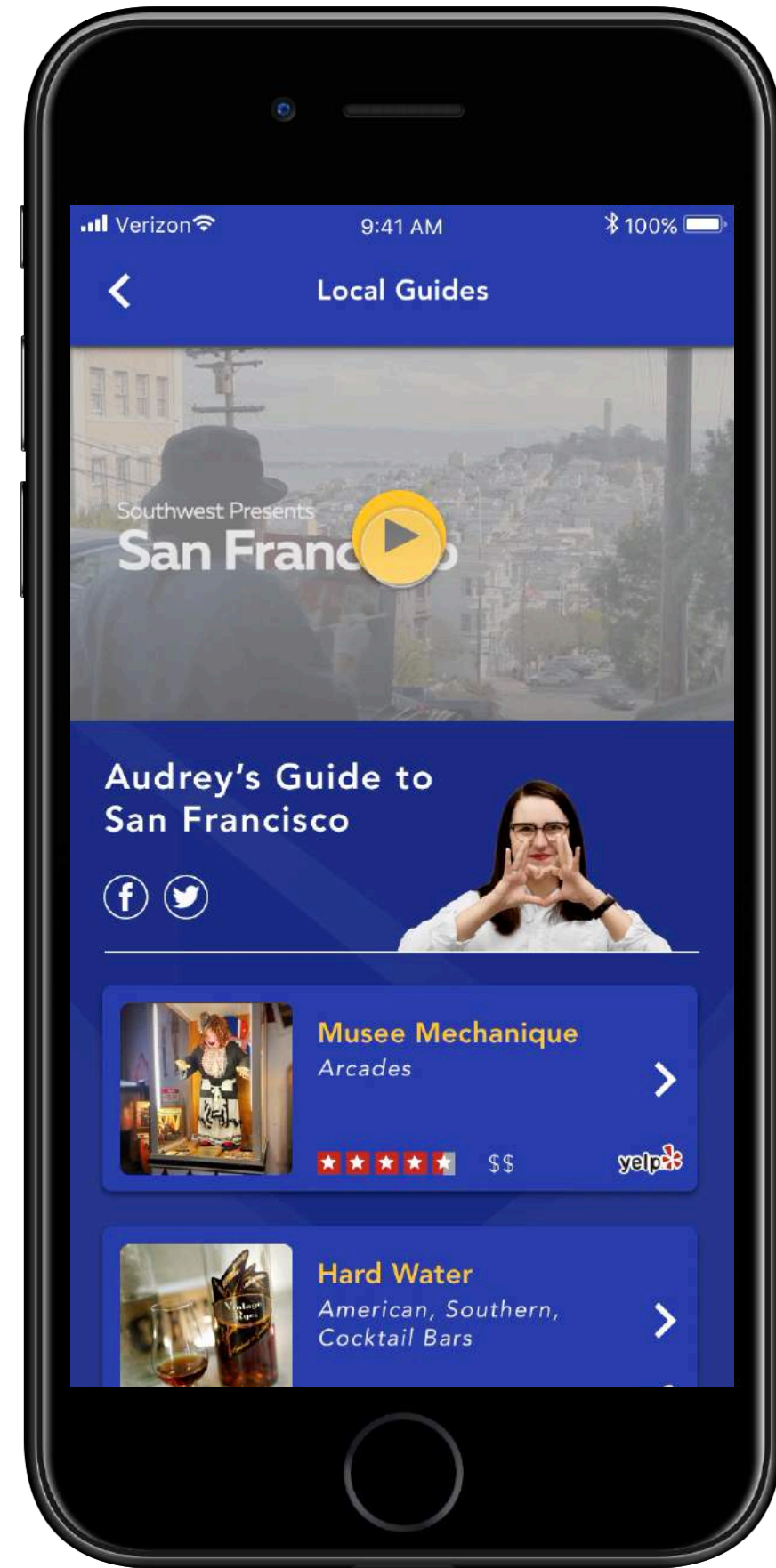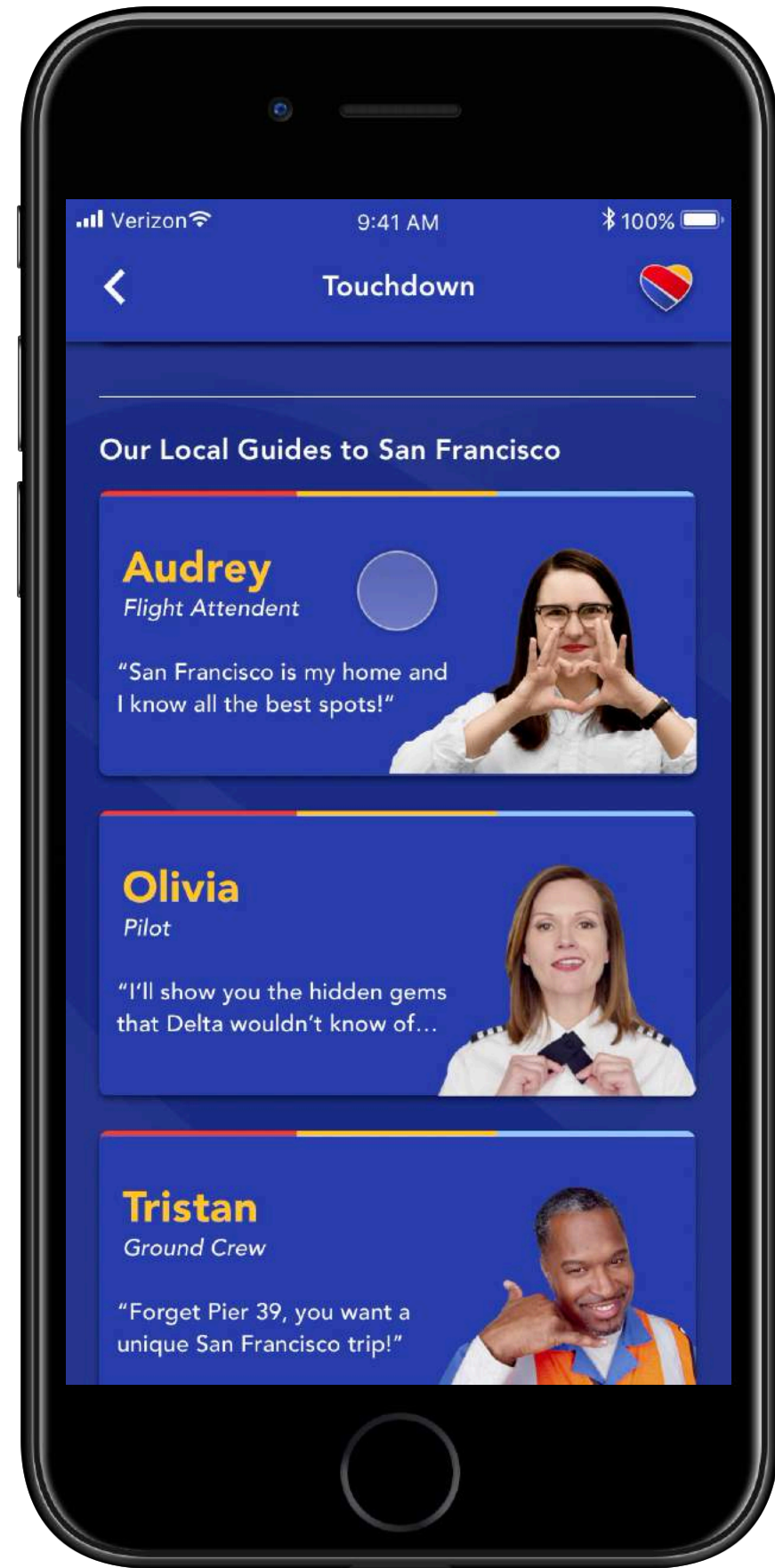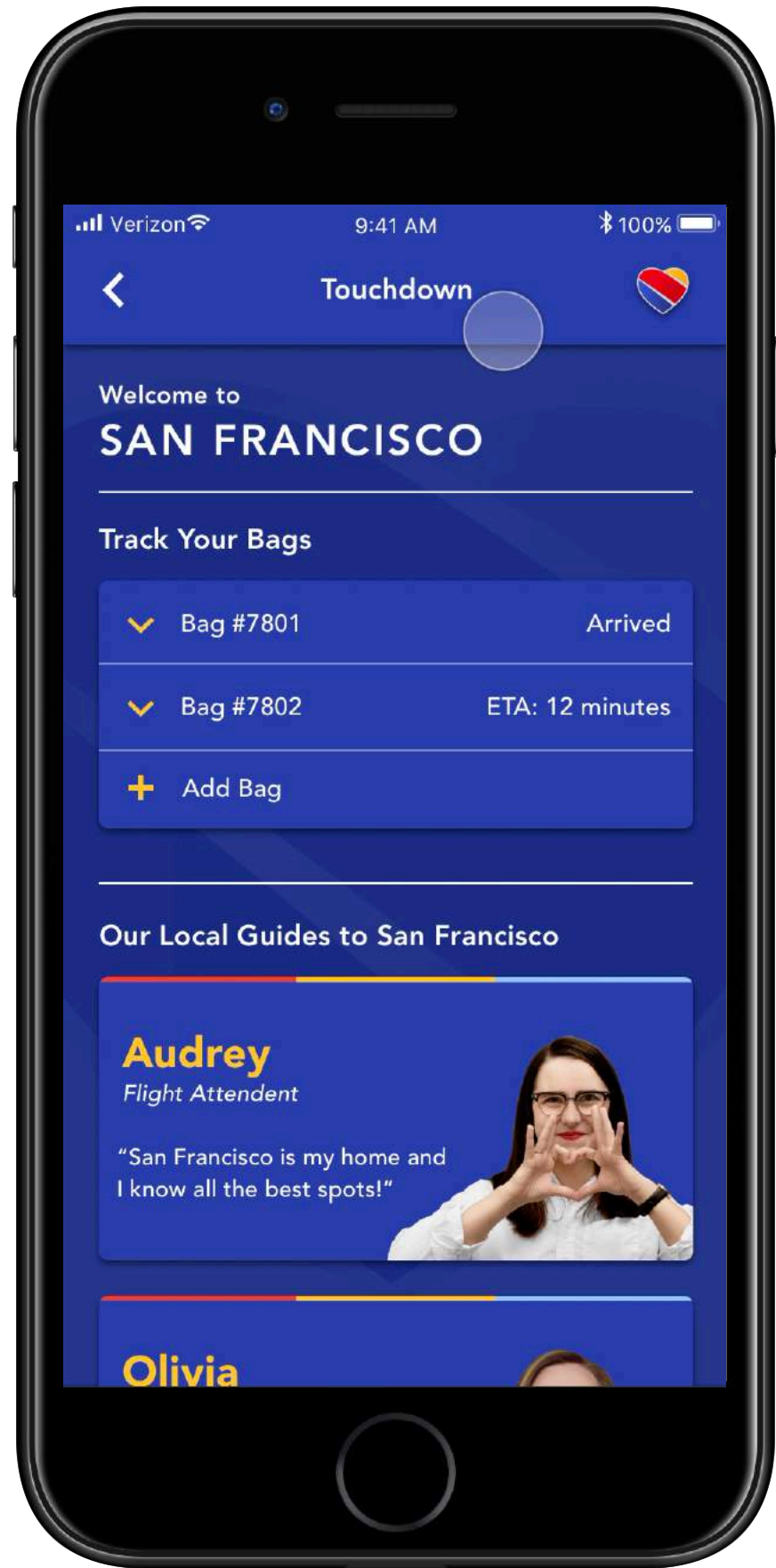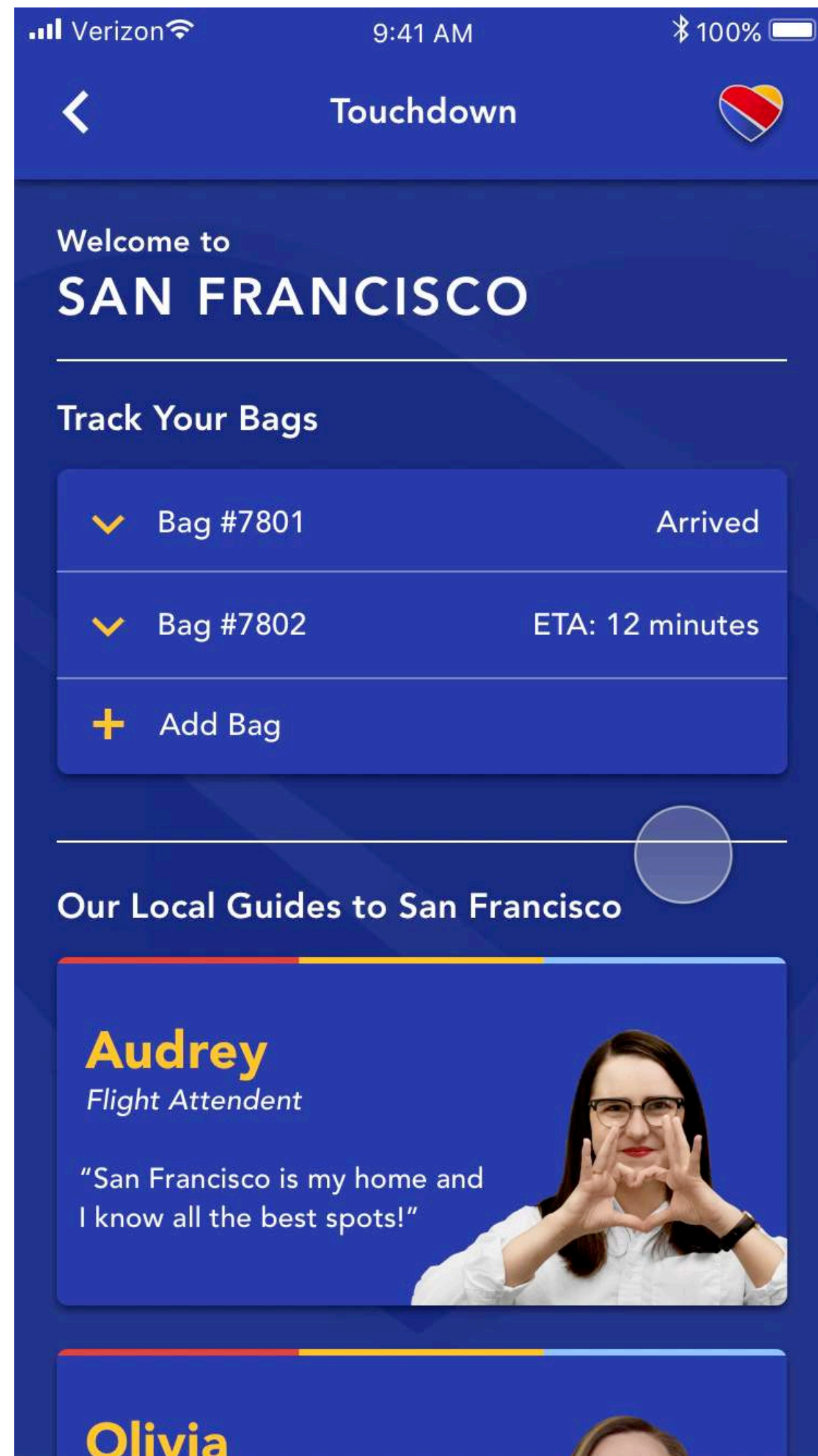
Explore Other Destinations

This feature aims to eventually reconnect to the pre-flight experience and hint that it should be with Southwest yet again. It harnesses the explorative state the customer may already be in, after browsing through city guides. It is seamlessly integrated into the existing mobile app by linking directly to the booking page.
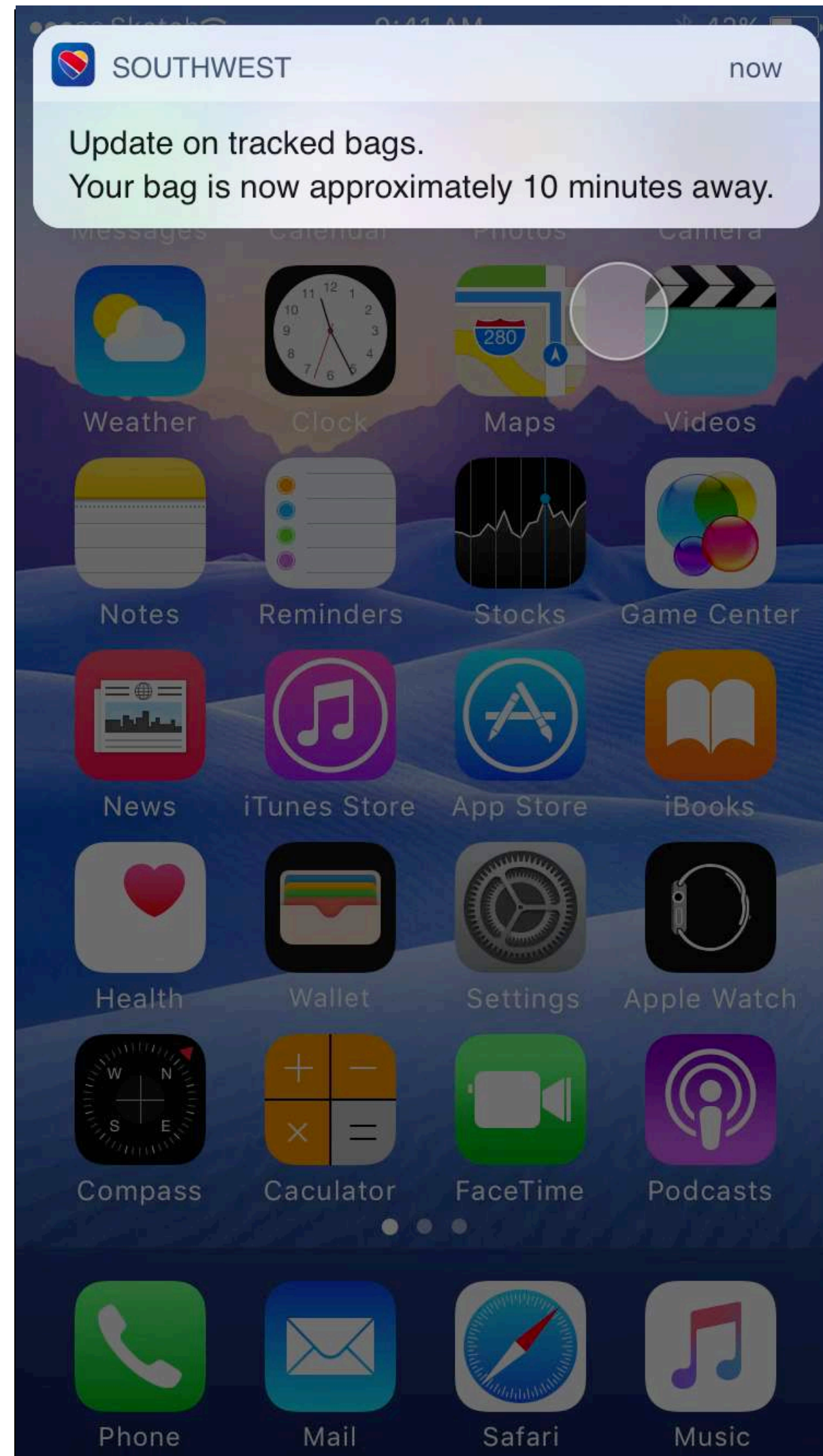
Value for Southwest

Capitalizes on the post-flight experience to create a repeat customer

Reconnects the post-flight stage to the pre-flight stage of the customer journey

Vivid imagery inspires customers and aims to continue providing a lasting impression
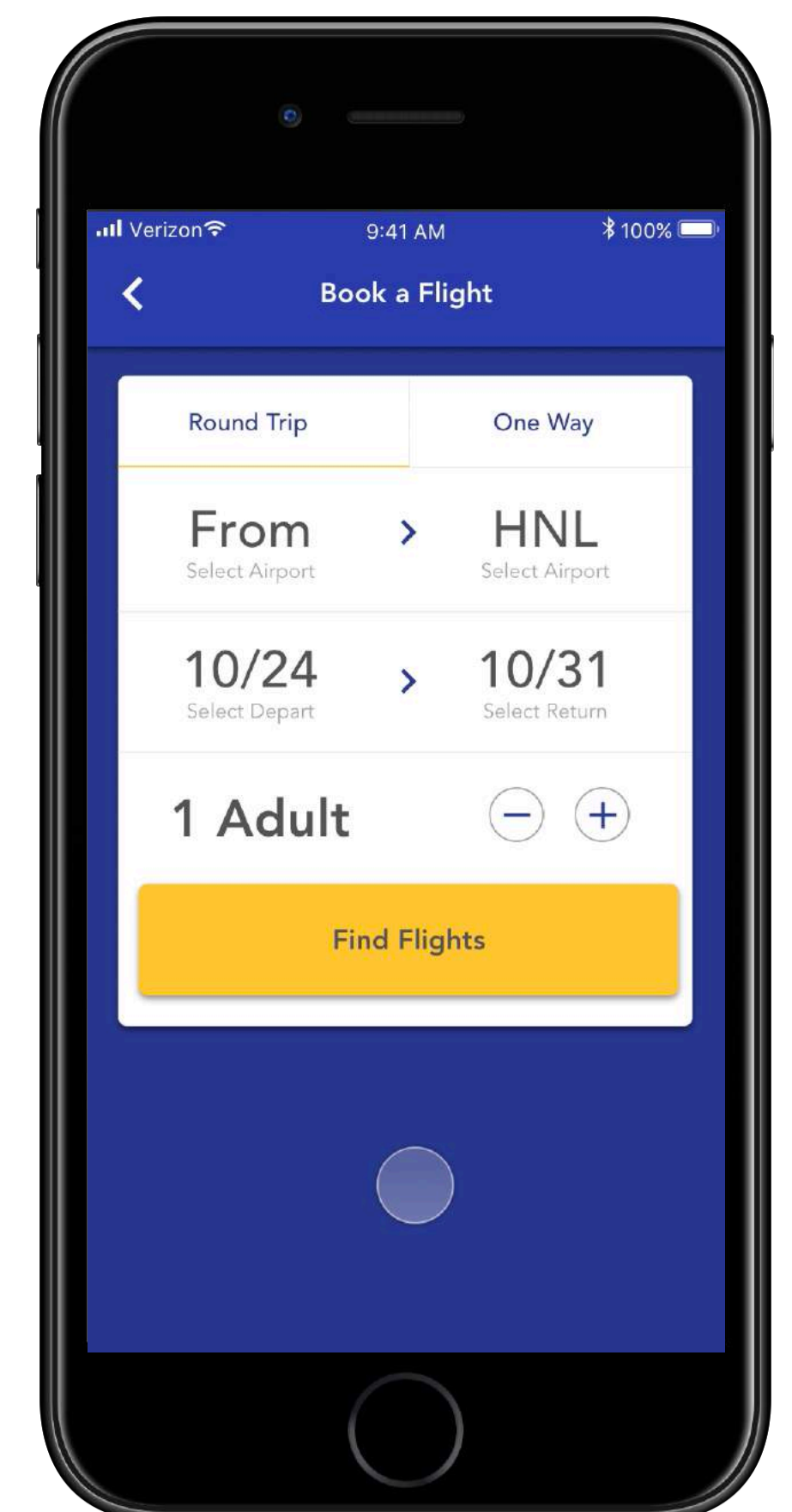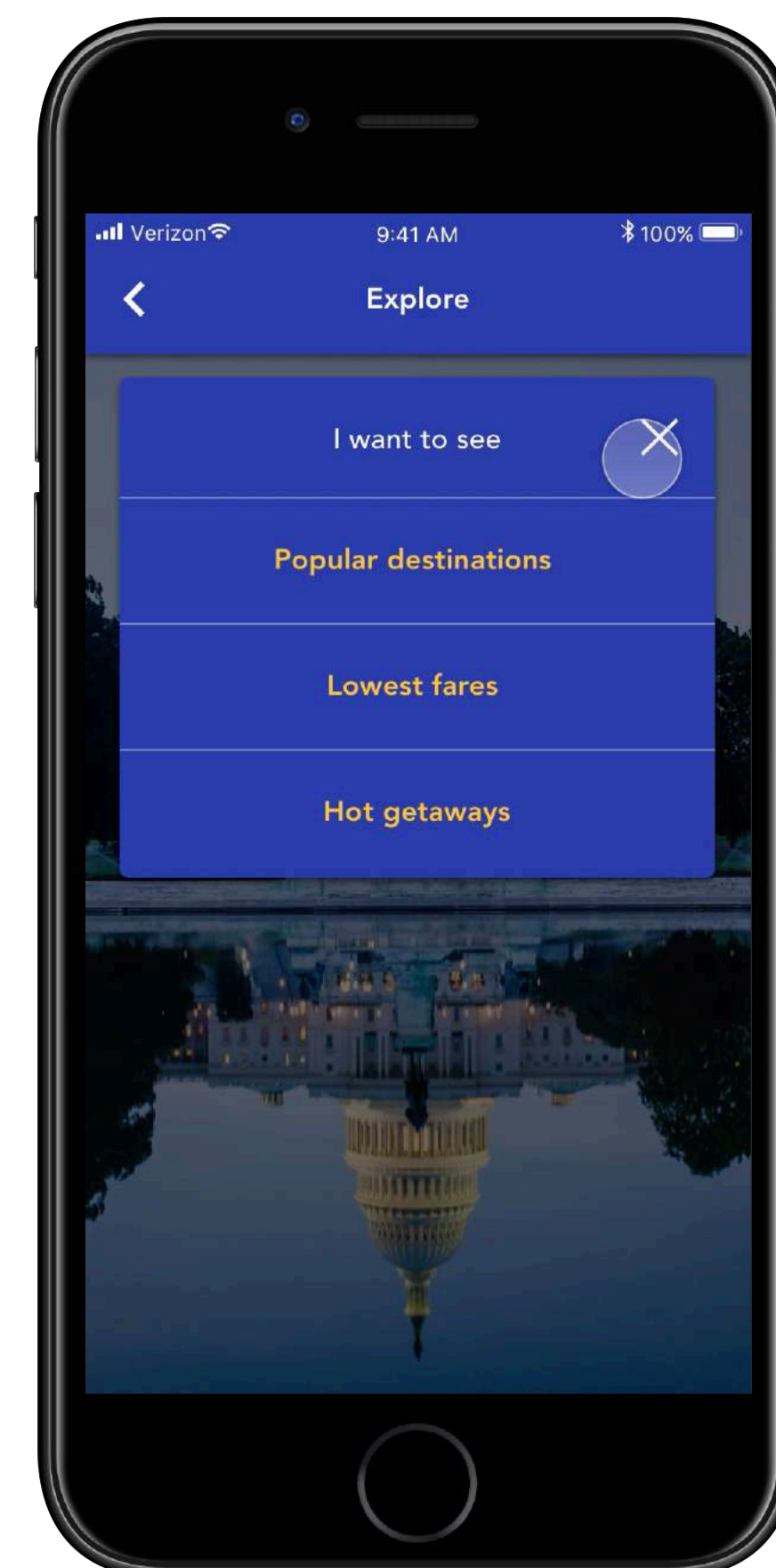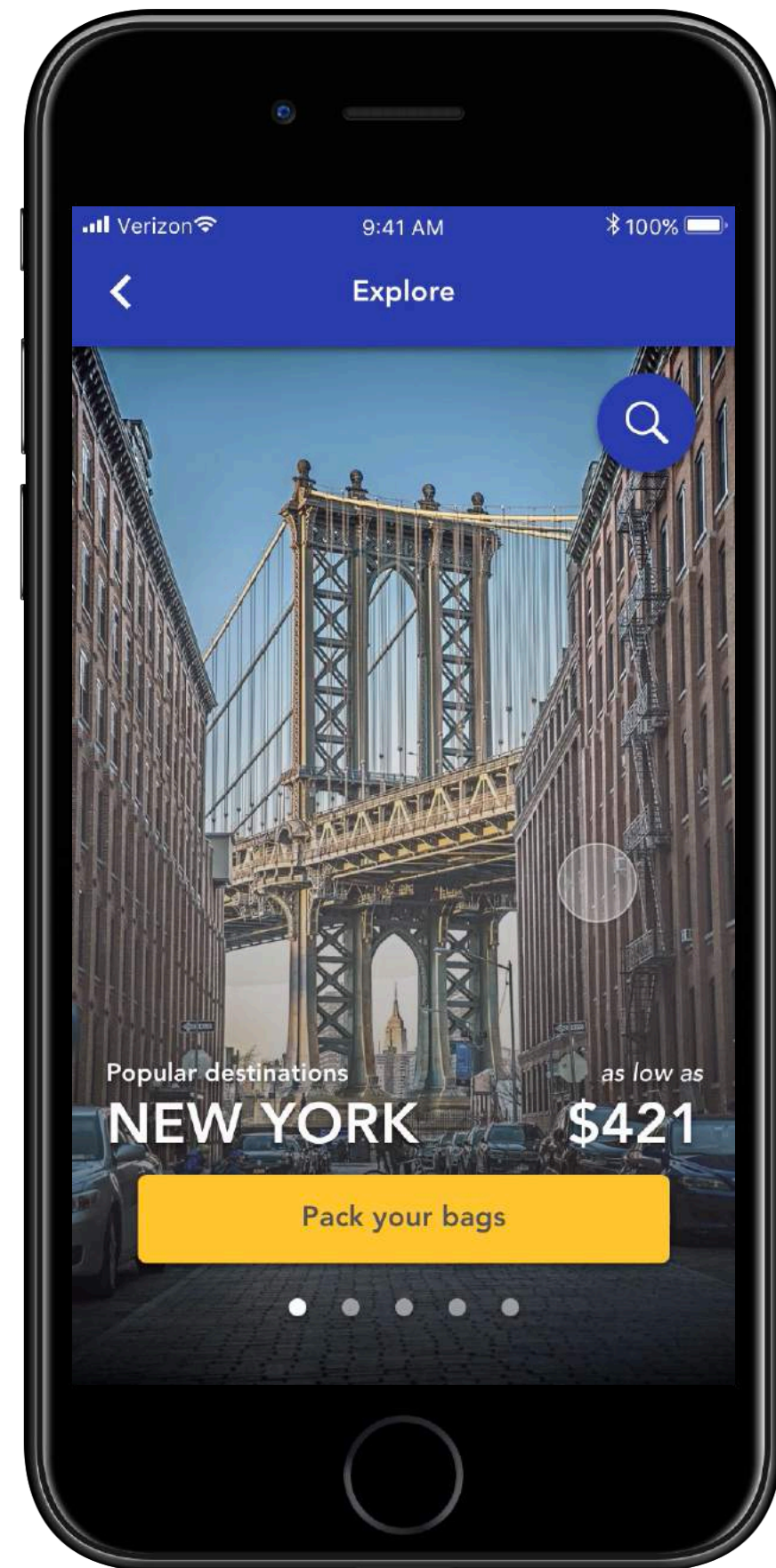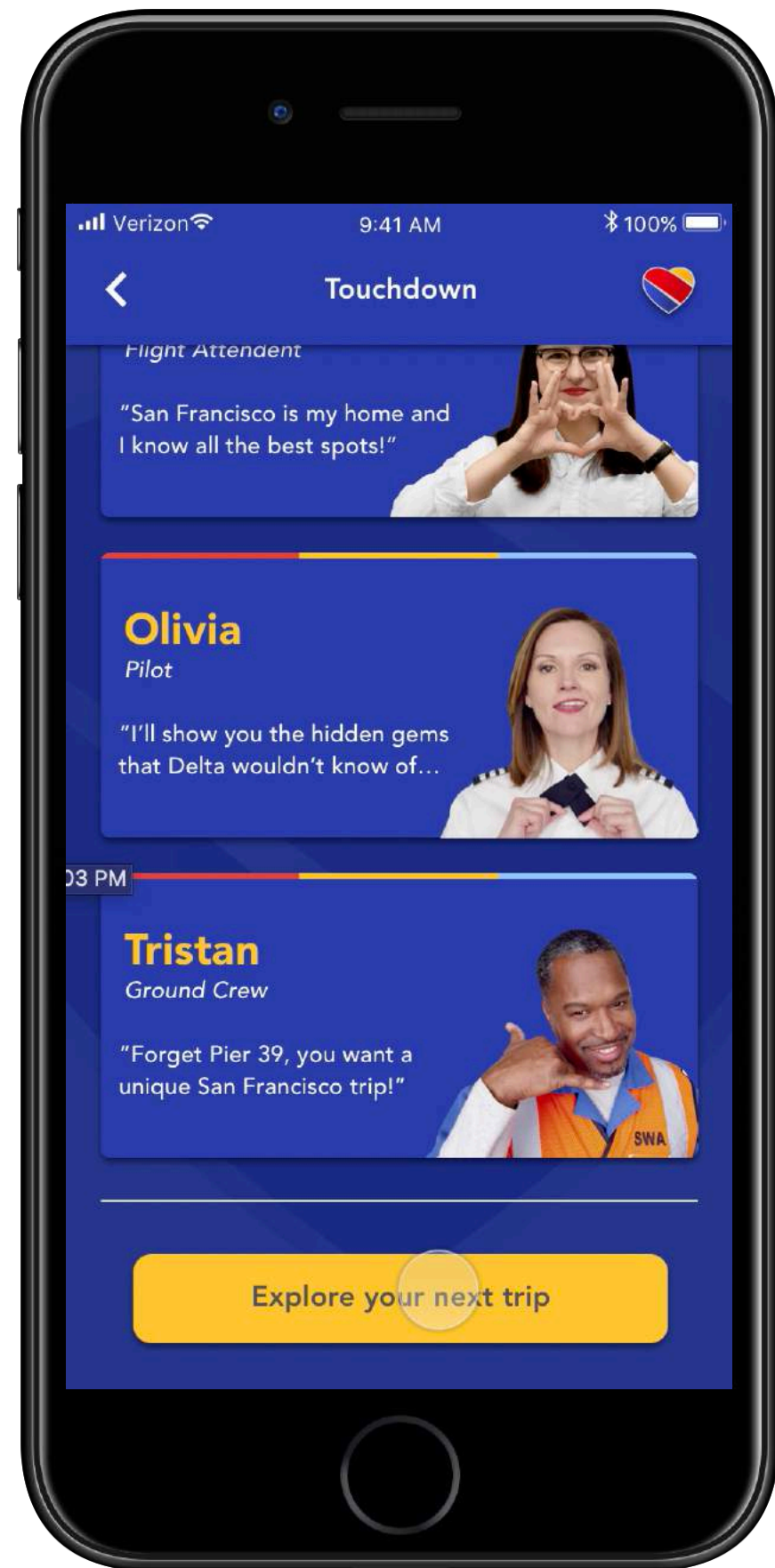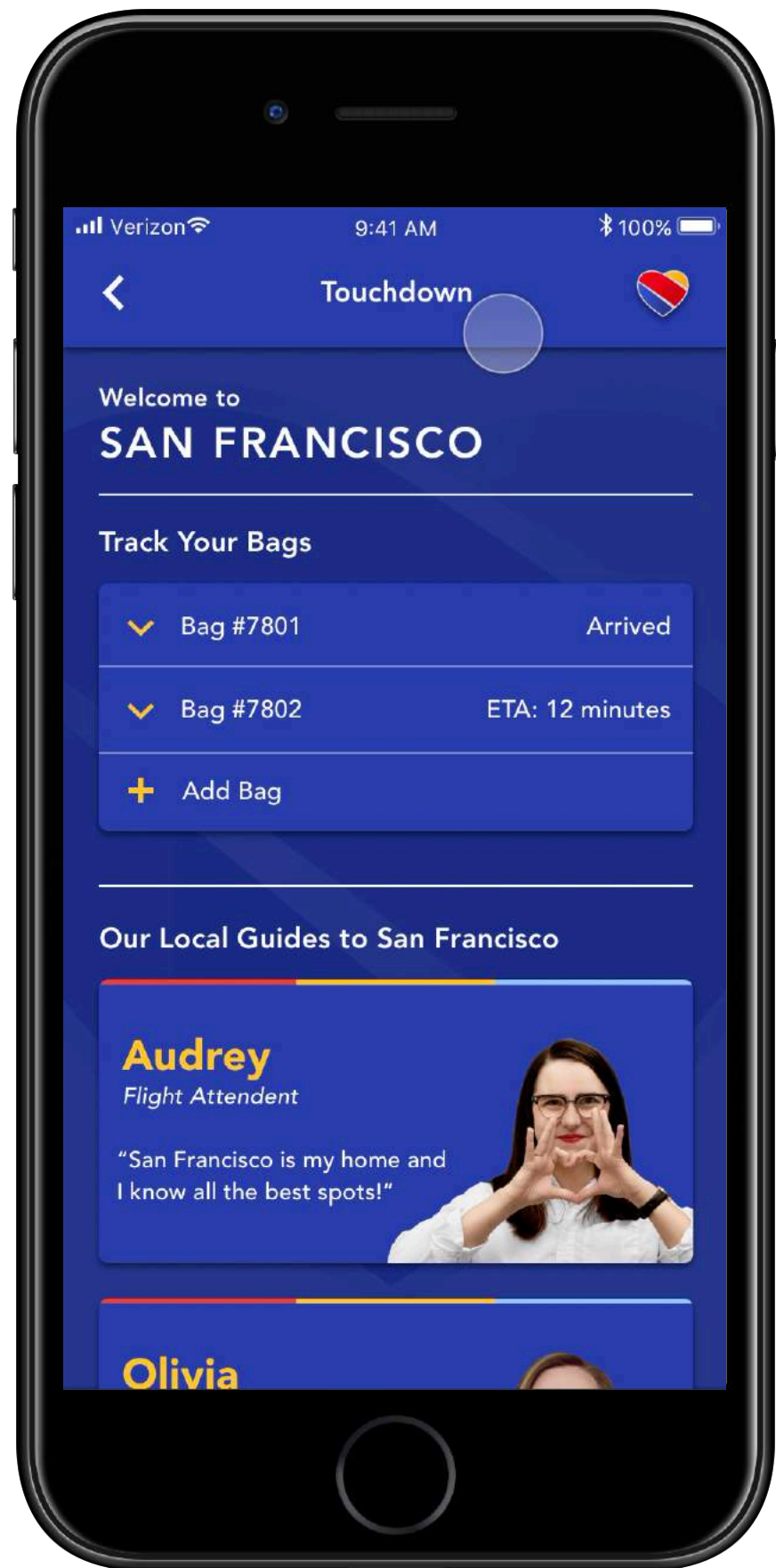
Heart of Travel

Building off of Southwest's brand pillar of "a personal touch", this feature leverages the existing Heart of Travel artwork program offered by Southwest. After taking a picture of their baggage tag and customers receive a parting gift that represents their accumulated flights with Southwest.
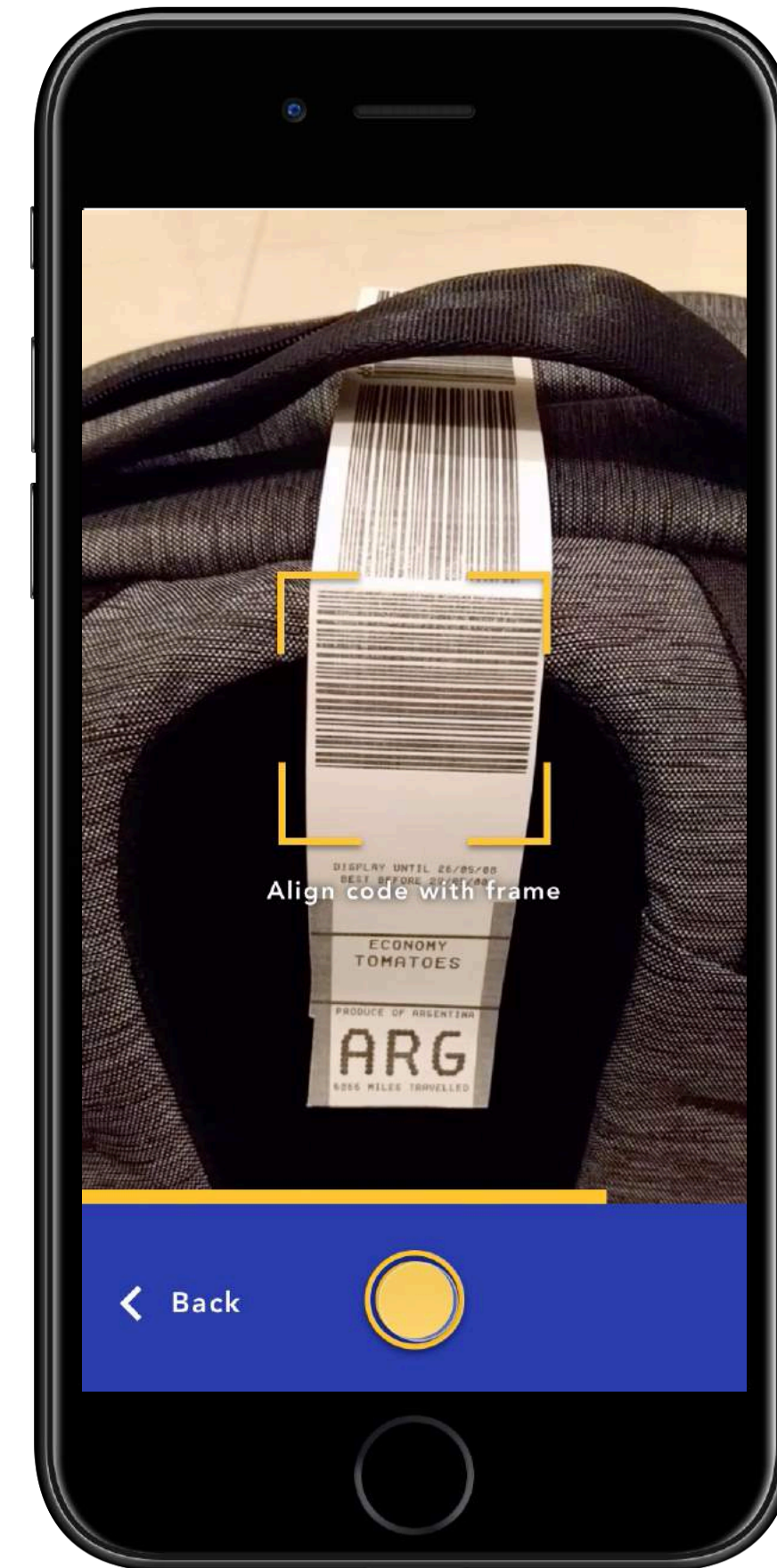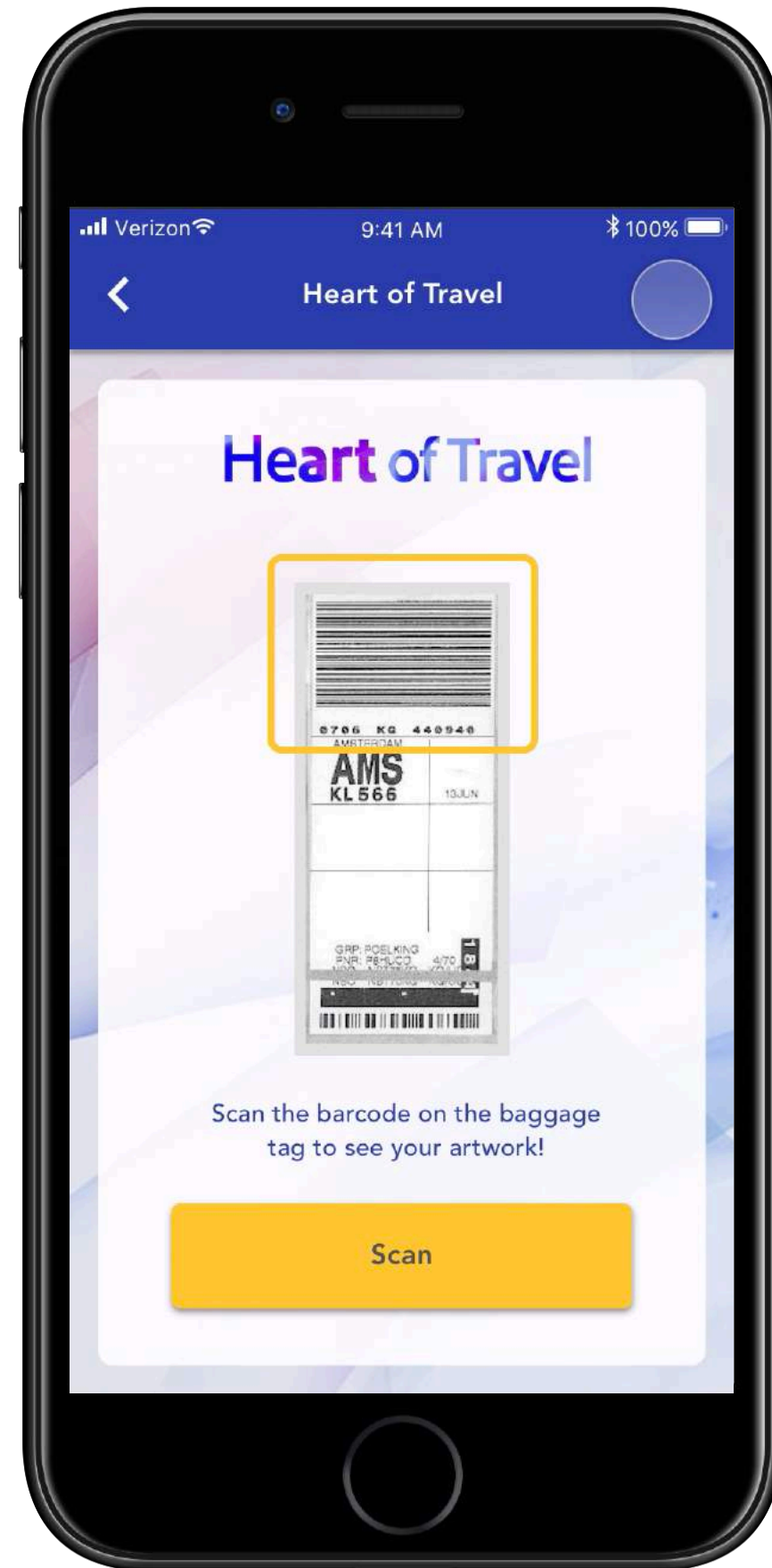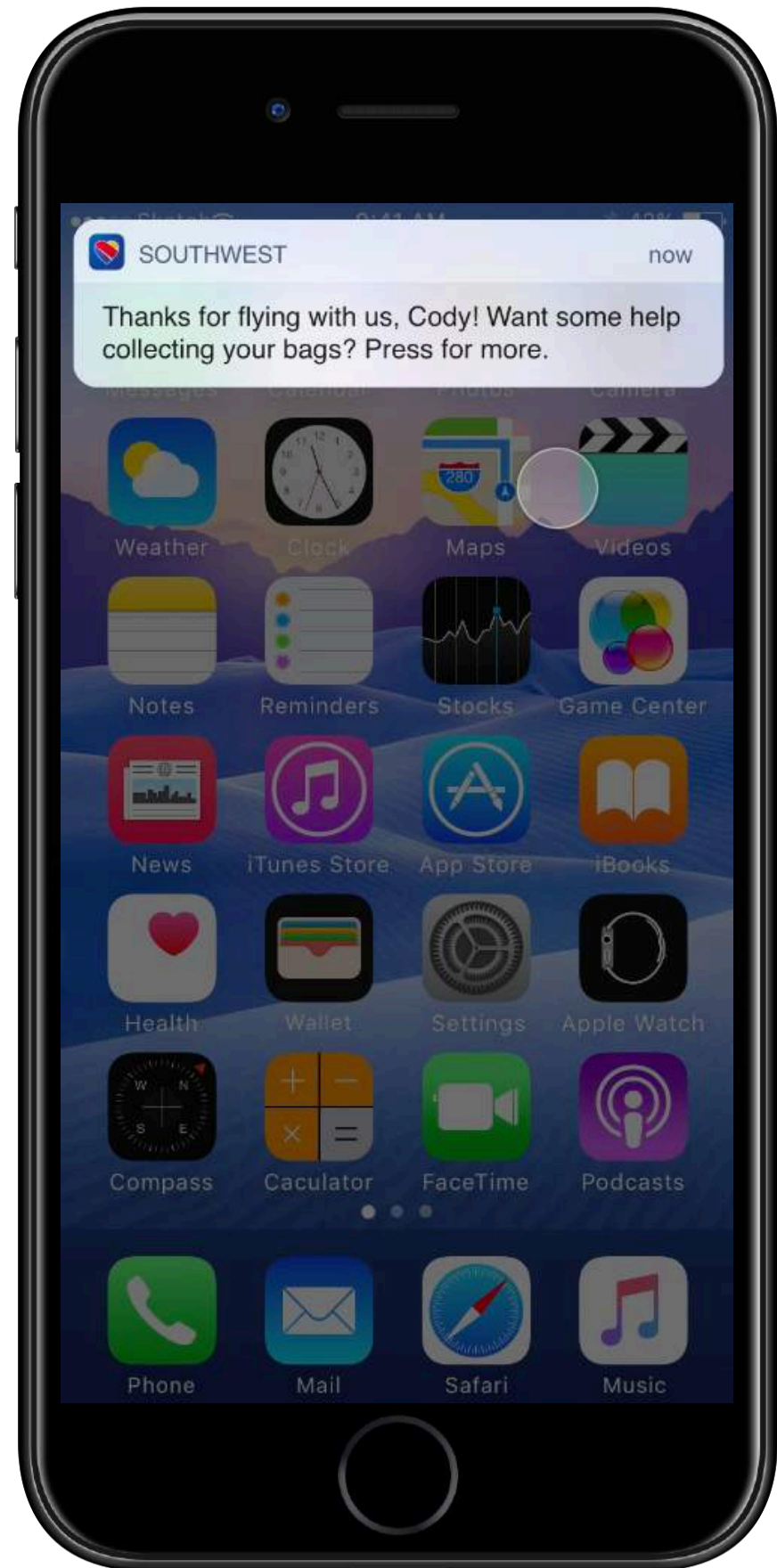
Value for Customer

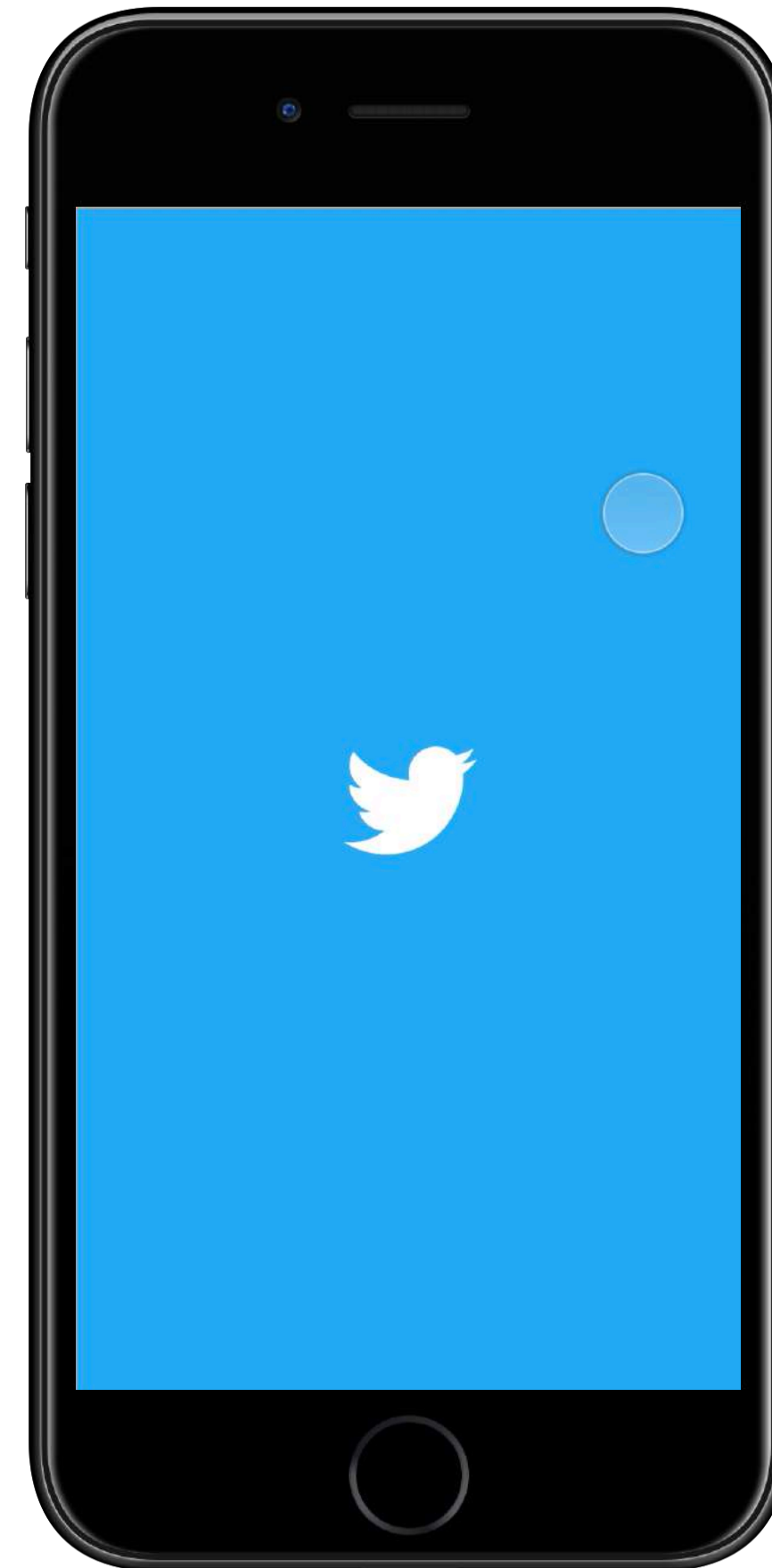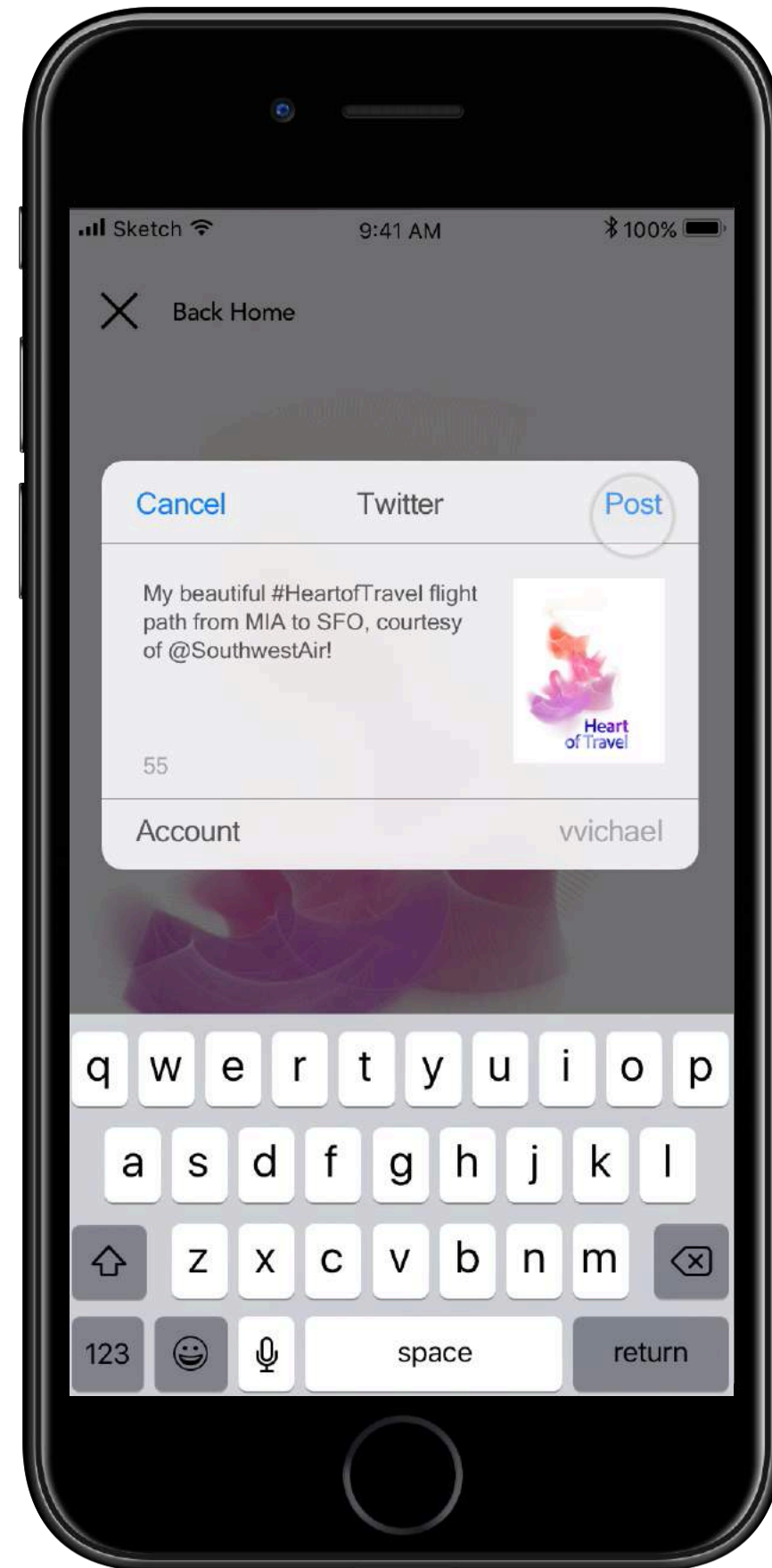Creates a free personalized piece of memorable digital content
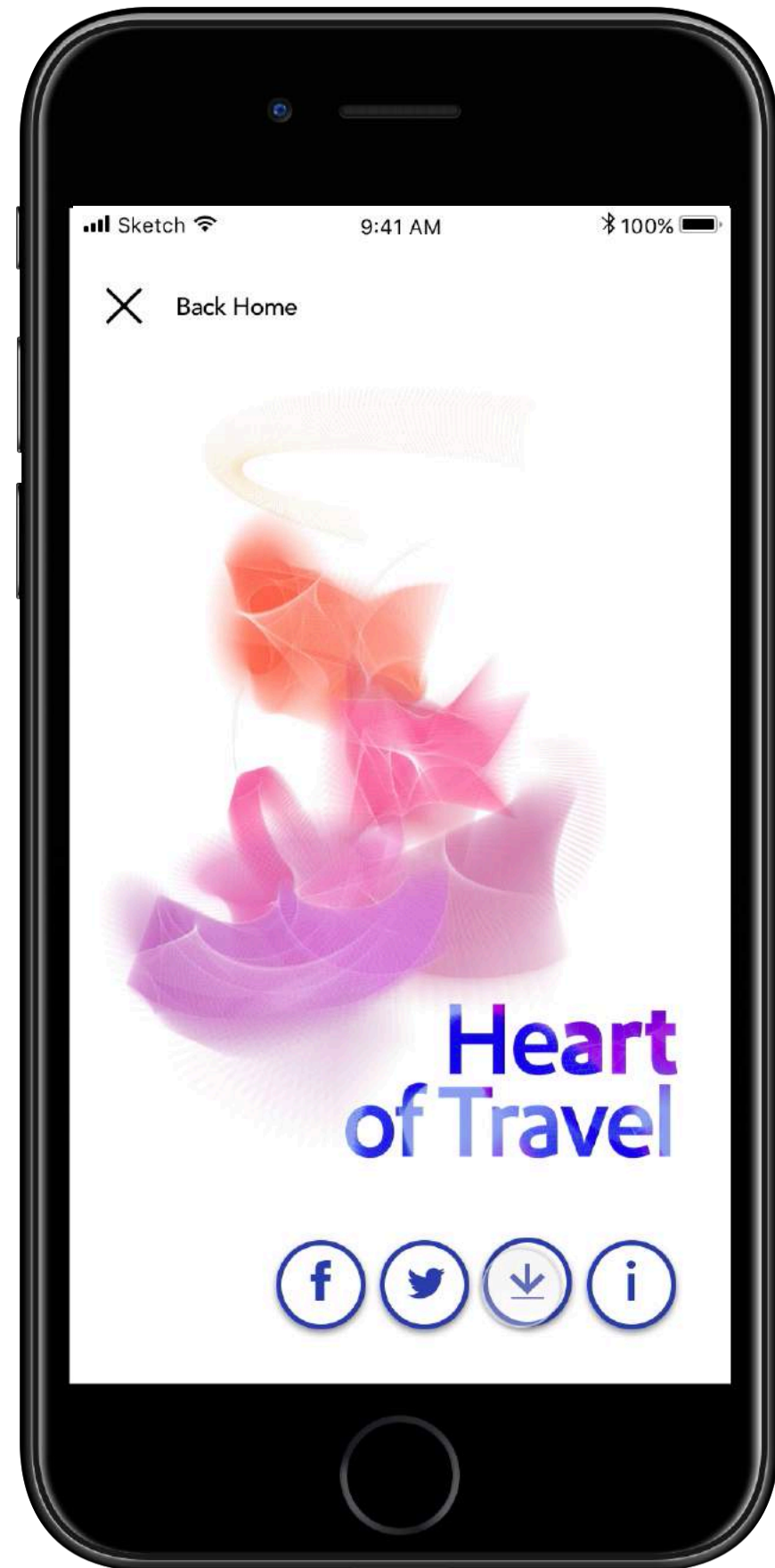
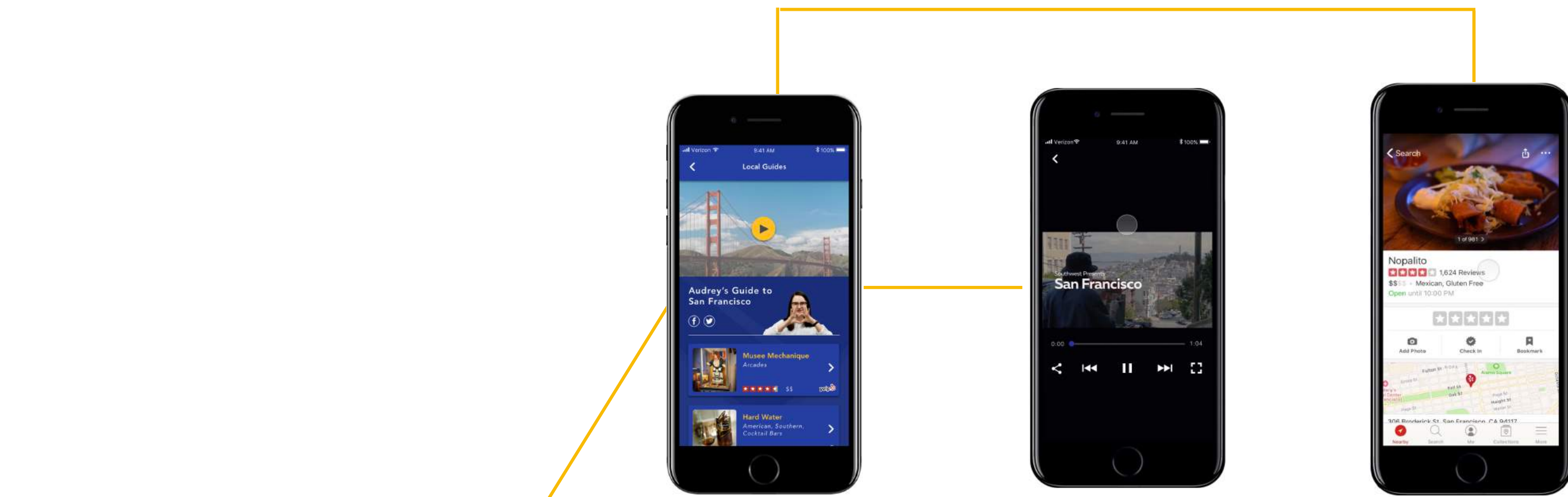Adds a final surprise when they pick up their bags - a normally routine task

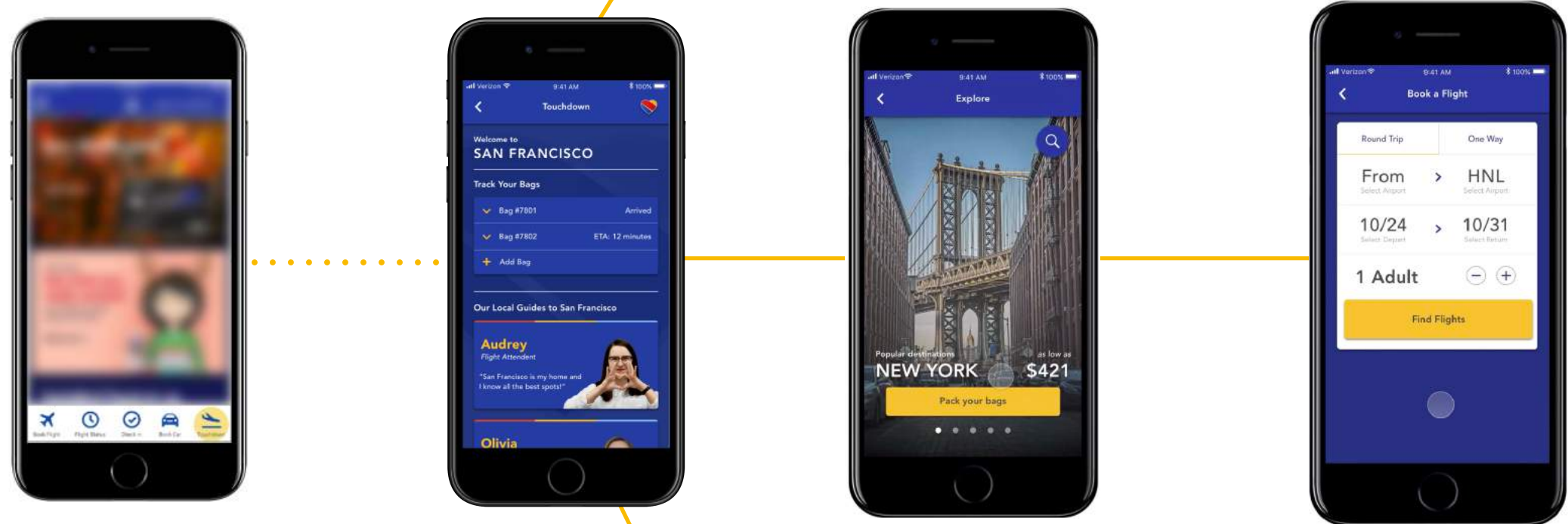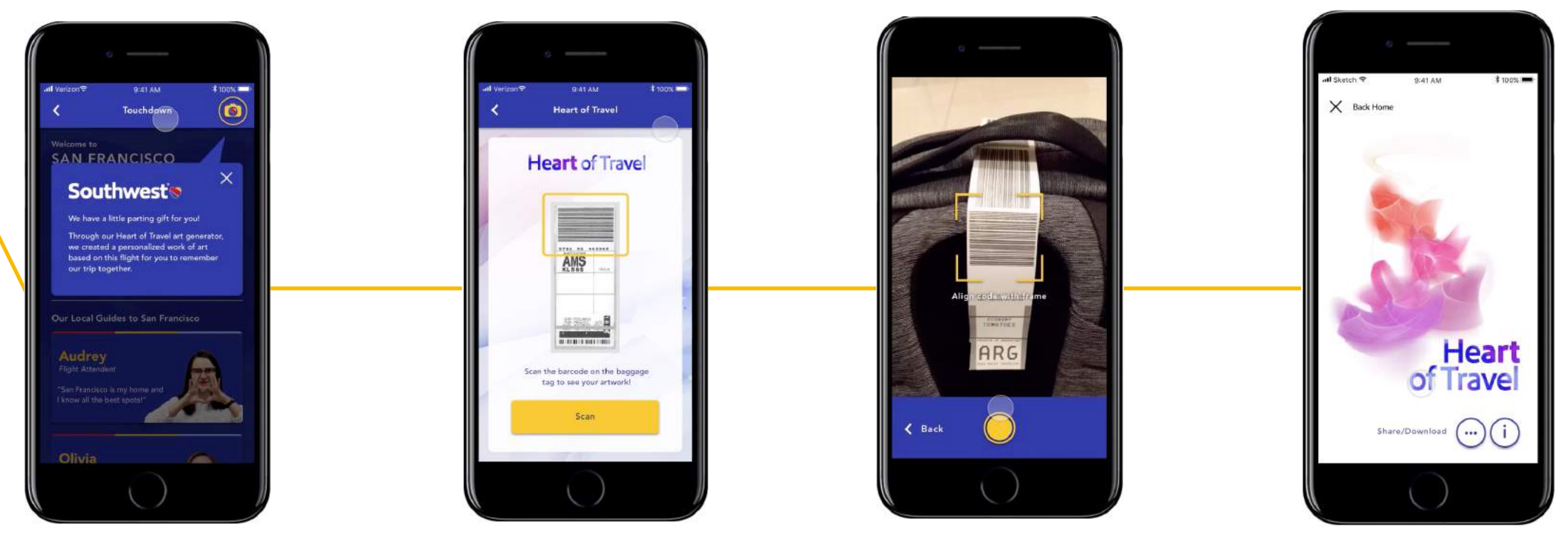Non-intrusive, no pressure means of adding potential delight

Pt.1

Pt.2

Southwest Recommends

Explore Other Destinations

Heart of Travel

Touchpoint Analysis
VALUE BREAKDOWN

|	enter	engage	explore			share
Touchpoints	Receive notification	Update baggage status	Browse employee recommendations	Explore other destinations	Discover Heart of Travel	Save or share to social media
Value for customer	Relevant information at appropriate time	Certainty; lower cognitive overhead	Personal connection; credible & relevant information	Build excitement and anticipation	Personalized surprise & delightful experience	Unique way to connect experience with others
Value for Southwest	Measure customer engagement	Infrastructure to decrease lost bags & cost of compensation	Differentiate from competition & potential ancillary revenue	Encourage customer re-engagement	Increase findability of existing content	Opportunity for brand advocacy

PROCESS

and next steps
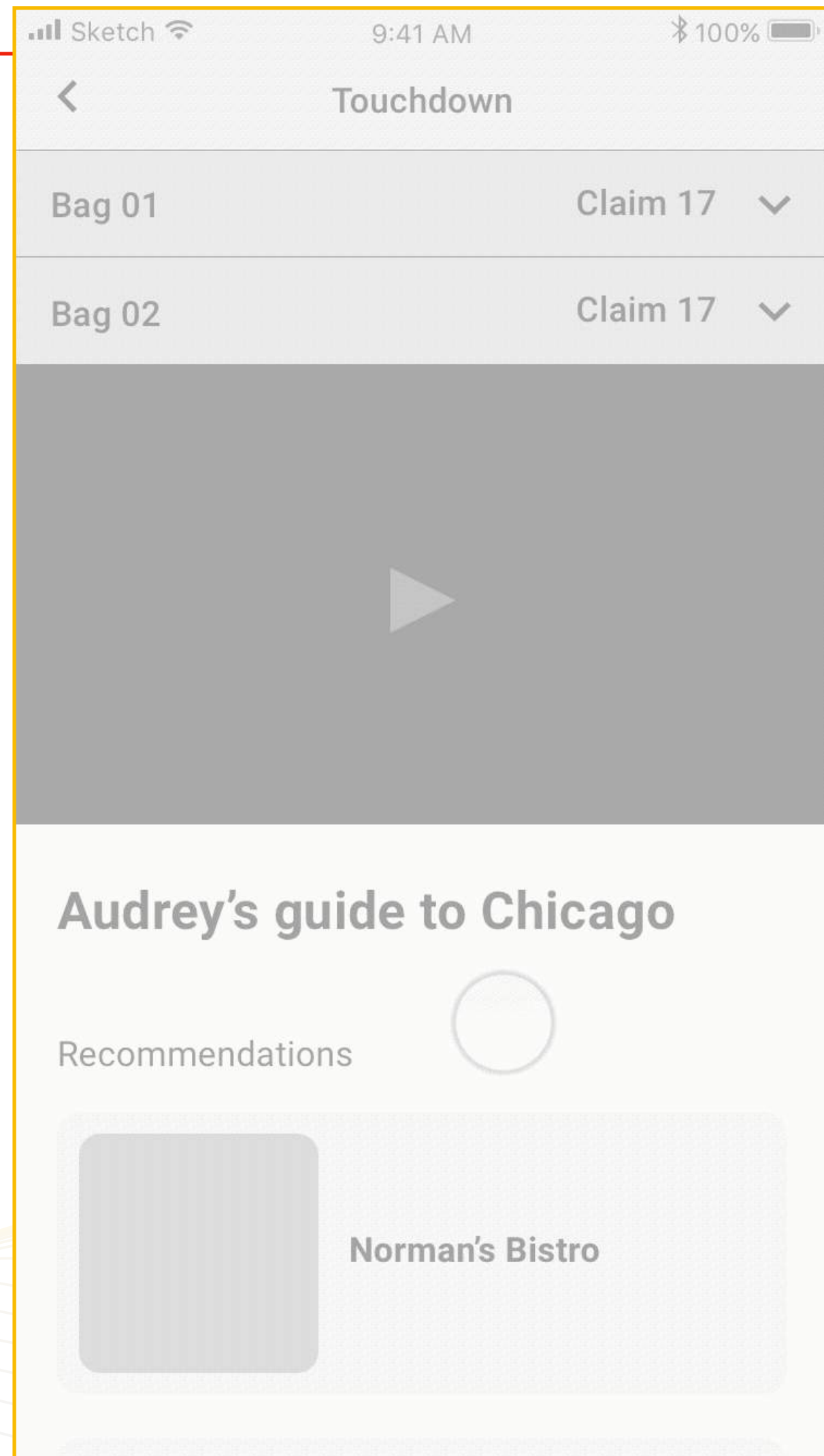
Low-Fi Prototype

Feedback

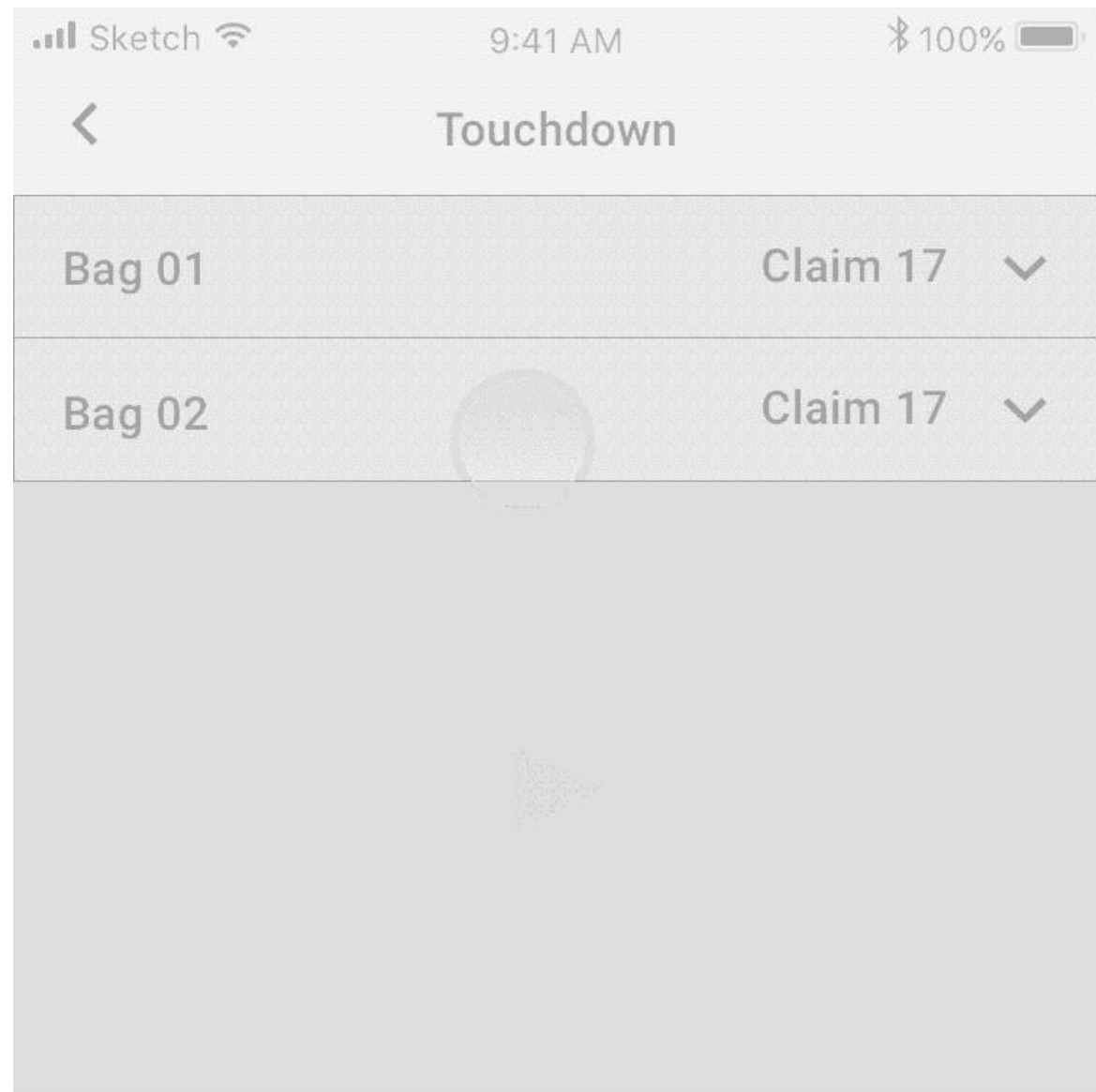Better communicate where Southwest employee's destination insights come from

Perhaps increase credibility of recommendations by weaving in information from Yelp, etc

Iterations

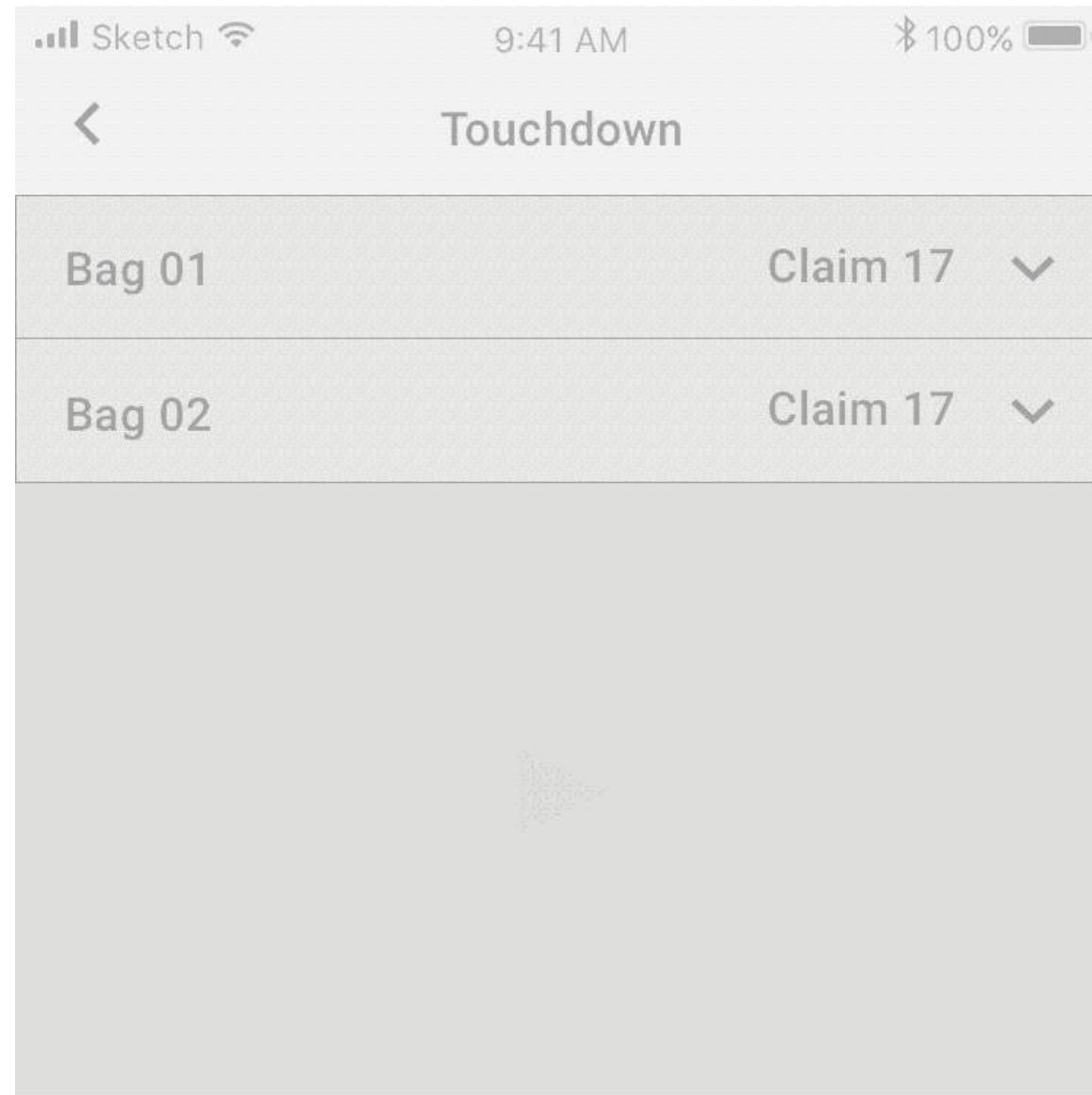Recommendations from well-known local influencers

Customers rating the recommendations or a comment system

Presenting information of employee's background & travel history

< Touchdown

Bag 01	Claim 17 ⌄
Bag 02	Claim 17 ⌄

Audrey's guide to Chicago

Recommendations

Norman's Bistro

< Touchdown

Bag 01	Claim 17 ⌄
Bag 02	Claim 17 ⌄

Audrey's guide to Chicago

Recommendations

Norman's Bistro

< Touchdown

Bag 01	Claim 17 ⌄
Bag 02	Claim 17 ⌄

✓ — ✓ — ✓ — ✓ — 📷

Estimate time:
12 minutes

HELP

▶
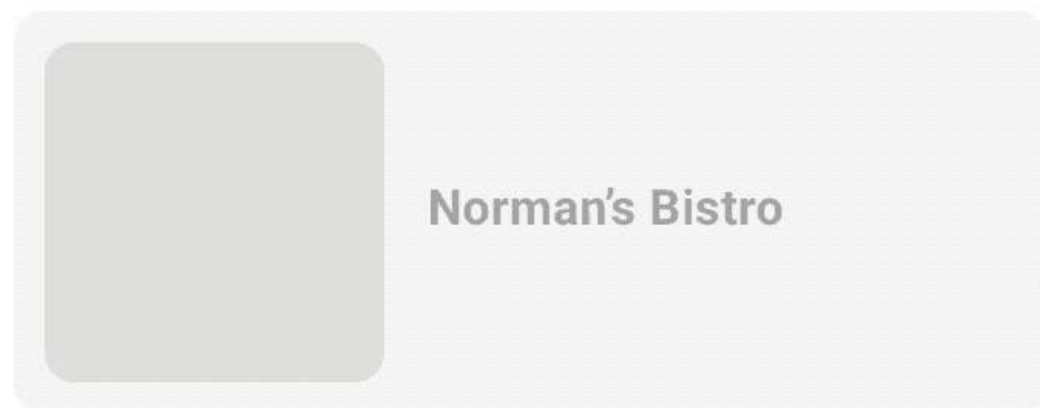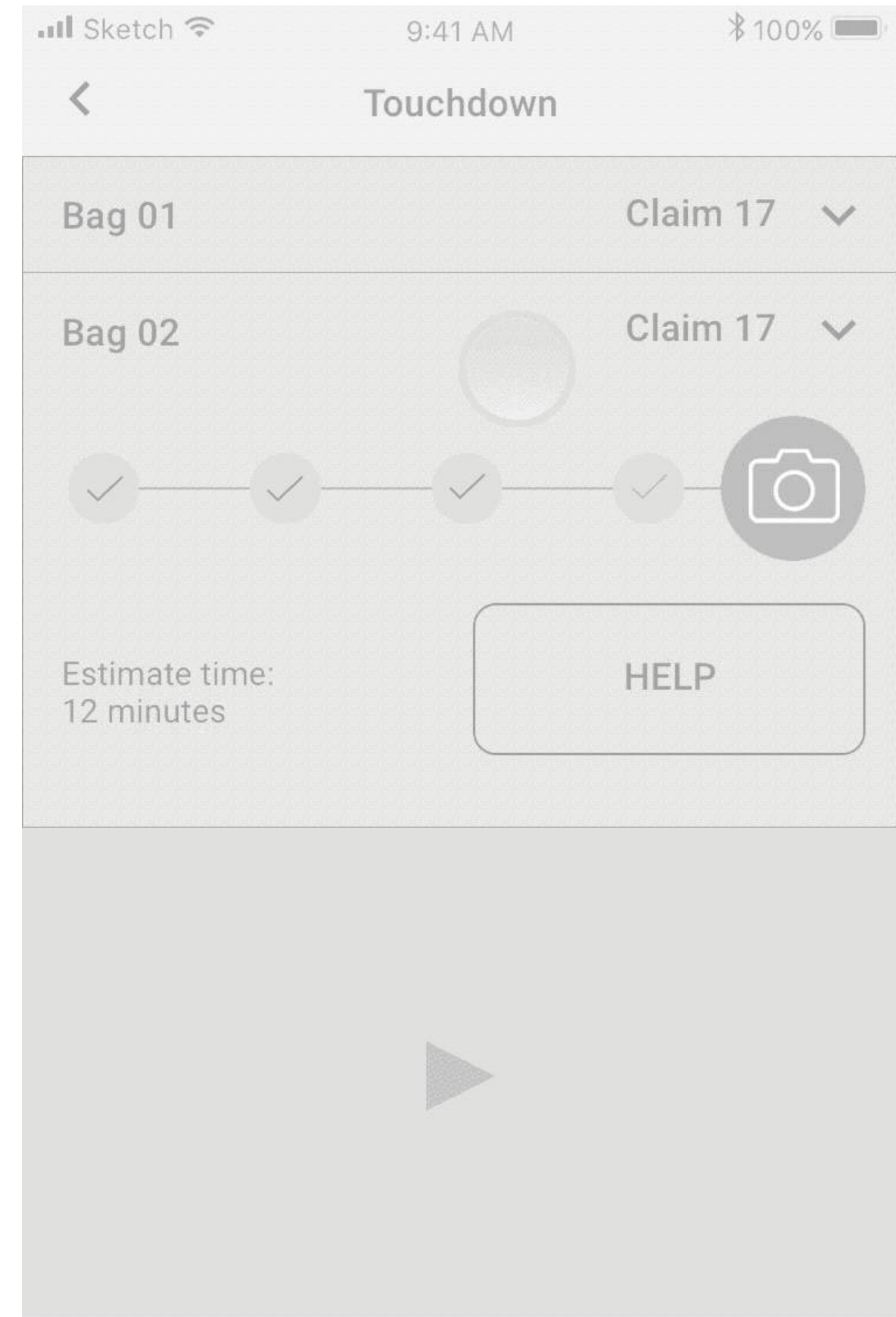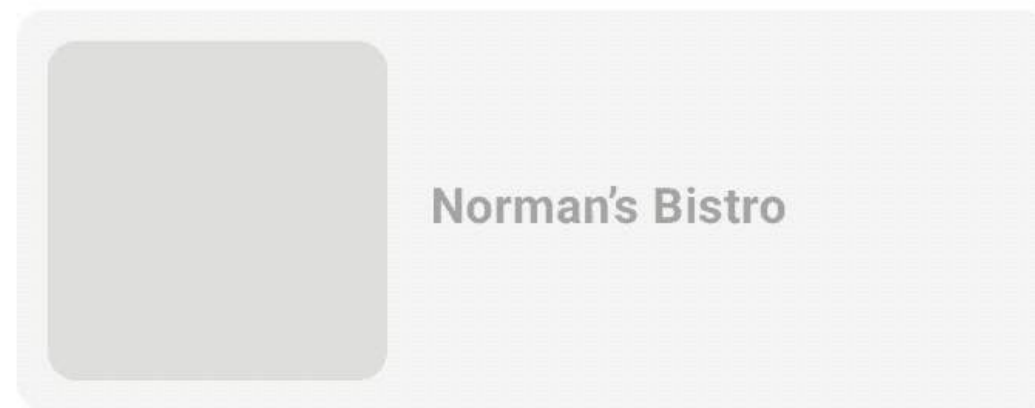
Audrey's guide to Chicago

Recommendations
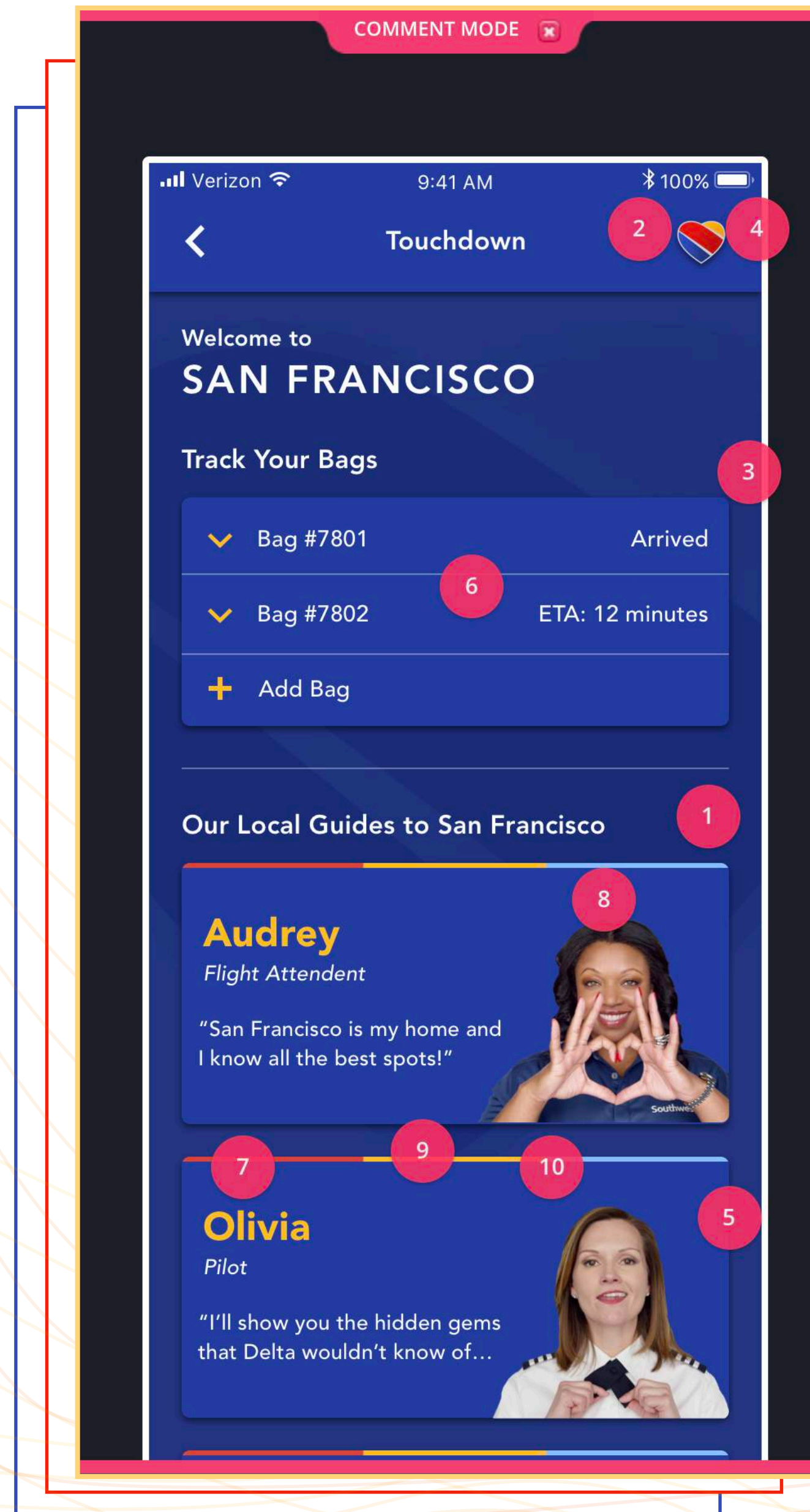
User Testing

Feedback

ETA is more important than showing where baggage is currently located

Push notification when bag(s) have arrived? Live chat for help/support?

Can there be an update if bag(s) are lost?

Overall, not necessarily appealing enough to use [Heart of Travel] after a flight. Maybe need "one more thing" to provide value and drive concept home

Iterations

Keep baggage checkpoint for different contexts and needs, but explore hierarchy and IA

Implement banner notifications for important updates on baggage ETA

Explore potential addition of a feedback section to strengthen the brand value of employee-customer connection

Next Steps
FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Lyft Integration

Provide a seamless connection for travelling customers to use Lyft once they leave the airport at their destination city.

Returning Back Home

What would touchdown look like in the context of customers travelling back home? What kind of personalized content could we for SW customers? Consider the state change and end-to-end experience for this particular scenario.

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