

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Actor sets low bar for trip's first day

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency

Marissa Chanel Hampton said that filming on location can help actors get more in depth with the roles they're playing.

"It's always fun to have the opportunity to get to experience somewhere new while working, especially if the location is a central part of the story," said Hampton, who splits her time between homes in Atlanta and Southern California.

"On 'It's Not Like That,' we filmed it in Atlanta, my second (real-life) home. Working on location is great."

This interview with Hampton has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What can you share about your latest role?

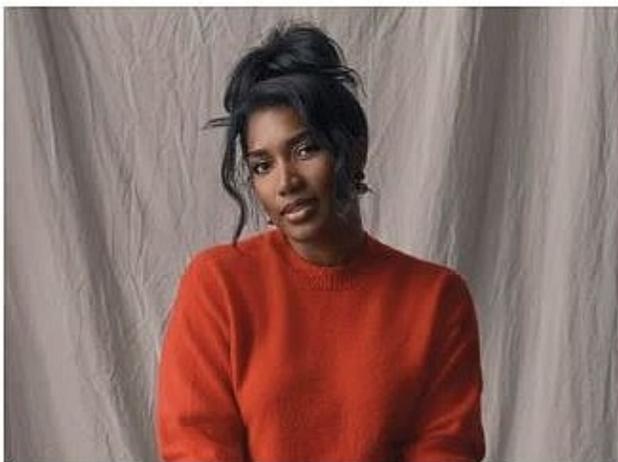
A: Most recently, I had the pleasure of playing Gail on the upcoming show "It's Not Like That" (on Prime Video). I love fun, feisty characters who speak their mind. In this heartfelt family drama and romance, Gail is exactly that.

Q: If you could pick a location to film a project, where would it be?

A: Florence. I have been several times, and it would be a dream to film something there that would hopefully center the city as a main character. It's beautiful. Also, the Uffizi Museum is a favorite of mine due to their extensive Botticelli collection.

Q: As someone who travels extensively, what can you suggest to make trips less chaotic?

A: Whenever I take a big



Actor Marissa Chanel Hampton says New Zealand offers an adventurous vacation. **STORM SANTOS**

trip, I always say that day one is always the worst. Not because it's terrible, but because I let the bar be low for that first day. So often, we are rushing to jam it all in, desperately trying to hit the ground running. It sets you up for an emotional roller coaster when things don't go exactly as planned. I always assume on day one, you are just getting your feet underneath you ... so go with the flow. Something's bound to go wonky. But if you expect that, you can sort it out while you roll with the punches.

Q: What untapped destination should people know about?

A: I don't know that I would call it untapped, but one location that I've recently added to my travel bucket list because I hadn't considered it yet is Oman. The gorgeous mountains, historic Nizwa Souq and Wadi Shab are all on my dream itinerary when I visit there.

Q: What trip you took as a child that stands out?

A: We went to China when I was a young adult. It was such a great adventure. I'd been very lucky to have gone to Europe quite a bit by then, but hadn't gone to China yet. We visited Shanghai, then made our way to Hong Kong, Lantau Island and Macau.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: New Zealand. I recently

went for a friend's wedding, and it was one of the best trips I've ever had. Stunning views and relaxation on Waiheke Island in addition to some wonderful vineyards and an excellent gin and vodka distillery with great desserts. I never had a bad cup of coffee my entire trip. If you're an outdoors person like I am, Queenstown is absolutely worth exploring. Fly fishing, jet boating, rafting ... it's an adventurer's paradise. Take a helicopter tour and make your way to Milford Sound, get a massage and soak in a hot tub overlooking the Shotover River. ... I could go on and on. New Zealand is high on my list for a repeat visit!

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Portugal, Scotland, Zanzibar and Japan. The list is neverending. I'm always adding a new place to the dream travel list.

Q: If you could only pick one place to eat, would you prefer a food truck or fine dining?

A: Food truck! Don't get me wrong, I love fine dining, but I also love the adventure of food trucks. You never know if you're going to find a hidden gem. I have had some incredible once-in-a-lifetime dining experiences at food trucks in the most random places.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

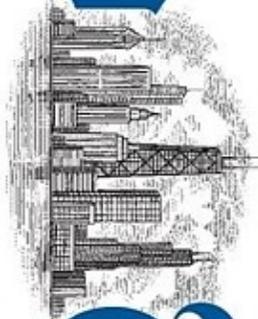


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