



Why I travel with Women of the Midwest: Simply put... because they are the best at what they do!

I've been asked to share my experiences with them. They are absolutely great! They put such thought and care into each trip to give you the fullest cultural experience possible. Hotels, travel guides, and meals have been carefully planned out for each trip and already experienced by the founder Anne Fuldby. She has excellent taste.

My first trip was Italy with ambassador Barb Wallingford. We walked our tails off on the 7 hills of Rome and saw so many great things: The Roman Forum and Colosseum, Spanish steps which were just steps from our great hotel in the midst of Rome. The cooking class was so much fun! Ravioli and always wine if you wanted. Experiencing wine in the Chianti region and the canals and history of Venice. The colors, sights, sounds, and aromas take you in and inhabit a part of your soul. It was so much fun!

Cape Cod with Lora Black has been my only U.S. trip - but who doesn't want to know about our own national pride and history? I know I do!! The ferry rides to Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Old Boston, The Mayflower, and Plymouth Plantation. All things we learned about and were able to see.

I enjoyed my daughter's company on our trip to Iceland. Ann Bruntz was our group ambassador. An incredibly unique place! Waterfalls, and more waterfalls, lava caves, The Blue Lagoon - a wonderful Scandinavian type of culture. Marvelous food. Growing up in the Midwest and having beef as a mainstay, it was unusual to eat hardly any on these journeys. If you are in these unique places, you must at least try the cuisine. I found all the food fascinating.

I've wanted to see Ireland for a long time, and Ann Bruntz was our ambassador again. Ireland was all it could be with the pubs, universities, stone walls, and The Cliffs of Moher. Seeing sheepdog training and experiencing the hawk walk was truly exciting. And the rolling green hills put a quietness in my heart. We didn't have a rainy day the whole week, but Ireland wept the day we left.

It was London/Paris next with Barb Wallingford again, and we experienced those bustling busy old cities with the modern interspersed. We saw the sights from the height of the London Eye and a trip up the Eiffel Tower, and the tragic state of Notre Dame. From Windsor Castle and the Tower of London and beautiful Tower Bridge, which was right next to our hotel, and Paris Opera House, which was beautiful, to Versailles' Hall of Mirrors and my favorite Claude Monet's Giverny' and his gardens and the wonderful lunch we had at a local restaurant was just the best day ever!!

And finally, I've recently returned from Portugal with Barb again. (She may be tired of me showing up!) I have learned to appreciate what the Portuguese have given the world in its exploration of it, Port wine and wonderful Fado music, which I have never heard before. Such passion!!

I wasn't looking for adventure but needed a change in my life again. I've lived in many places. Adventure found me through Women of the Midwest, and it has given me such new appreciation of the world and wonderful new friends from many places. I am looking forward to more trips and new cultures and friends with Women of the Midwest.

Sincerely,  
Iris Michaud

*Iris has also traveled with Women of the Midwest to New York City this past November.*

