







Greetings, fellow travelers!

"Never say "No" to adventures. Always say "Yes." Otherwise, you'll lead a very dull life." - Ian Fleming

I don't think my adventures are quite as exciting as Fleming's 007, but I try to keep life from being dull. Women of the Midwest has provided plenty of adventures, and for that, I'm grateful.

Flexibility, Organization, Spontaneity, Options and Fulfilling Dreams are just a few reasons I love traveling with this group.

My first trip was not long after Women of the Midwest began when I traveled with a long-time friend to the Grand Canyon. Barb Wallingford (also a long-time friend) was our ambassador, and if Barb is the ambassador, you know you're going to have a great time and not have to worry about a thing! It was a very small group, but since they were just beginning, we went anyway. Since there were so few of us, we joined a larger group when we got to Arizona. There was fabulous scenery, pink jeeps, and we had a fantastic time. Appreciated that they had the flexibility to change things up so we could still go, even though it was a small group.

The second trip was to Boston and the surrounding areas with Ann Bruntz. Fabulous and knowledgeable guides, great scenery, food, and history filled our days. The fall foliage hadn't changed colors yet, but there were so many other things to see and do that we didn't care. I was in awe of the opulence in the homes we saw, seeing places we studied in history and where our country began. The tour was very organized, and we packed a lot in each day.

The Rose Parade and LA area were the destinations for last New Year with 11 friends and their friends. So fun! Liset Garcia was our ambassador. If you ever need to get through an airport quickly, you want to be with Liset! Besides that, she's a lot of fun. Curt, our tour guide, knew every nook and cranny of the area and took us to several places that weren't on the schedule - floating on a gondola, high tea, and so much more. The spontaneity of those spots that weren't on the schedule added to the thrill of this trip.

NYC in November and the Historic South in March are booked. So many options - both domestic and international. Something for everyone. The trips are so well planned, and the office staff takes care of getting us all registered and ready to go ...and seeing to all of our quirky needs.

Women of the Midwest has been a godsend to me. My husband and I traveled throughout our married life and had lots of adventures. We planned to travel the US after we retired. Well, those plans don't always come to fruition. My husband passed away after being retired only a few months. I'm so thankful that Women of the Midwest has given me the opportunity to fulfill our dream, and traveling with other like-minded women has made it so enjoyable and fulfilling. Thank you, Women of the Midwest!

"I'm in love with cities I've never seen and people I've never met." - John Green

## Best regards,

Judy Bailey (Grand Canyon, New England, Rose Parade)





