







Dear Women of the Midwest,

When Mary Kay and I travel, we like adventure. We want to go and do and hike and climb and walk. We like putting our feet on the ground and feeling the place from the soles (and soul) up.

In Iceland, the land of fire and ice, we did just that. We summoned up our courage (both of us being just a wee bit claustrophobic) and hiked into the glacier, where we stood under 35 meters of gorgeous glacial blue ice. We climbed behind a waterfall, walked into a lava cave created from a volcanic eruption eons ago, and danced at midnight under the glorious Northern Lights. We were grateful for boots, ice clamps, warm socks and layers of tights and long underwear and insulated coats and hats, just what you need to experience Iceland from the ancient rock that grounds its soil.

In the Cotswolds, the sights were not as dramatic, but the Fairy Tale villages are up close and personal, as are the fields, farms, forests, and meadows where we walked every day. We shared those walks with the sheep and cattle whose homes we visited, trying not to disturb them. There's something about placing your feet on the ground, step by step, as you experience the land and the life it supports – the plants, the critters, the humans.

The wonder of traveling this way with Women of the Midwest is living these adventures with a small group of lively women eager to learn, engage, and get to know a new place. It's marveling at experiences that are planned with women in mind, like digging up the pot of rye bread that's just baked for 24 hours in the hot sands of a geothermal pool and sampling that treat right on the spot. And it's knowing that while we're traveling, with extraordinary local guides and our own Nebraska host, the watchful eye of Executive Travel is keeping a lookout on our flights and travel, ready to intervene if there's a delay or a mishap. Travel just doesn't get any better ...

Joyfully,

Marilyn Moore (Iceland & The Cotswolds)





