

Barbara Dawson Bio

My love of travel started in college when I juggled classes at UCLA with a part time job at the Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, California. After studies in Journalism and Political Science, I went on to an extensive career in all areas of the travel industry starting with United Airlines Los Angeles on the VIP & Entertainment Desk. This was followed by apprenticeship with an international group tour operator with offices in Paris.

I relocated to Denver, Colorado to open an office for a large German Travel Club prior to opening my own travel agency in the Denver Merchandise Mart. Specializing in Sales Incentive and group travel; we expanded to include air/sea cruise programs. A post graduate degree in Travel & Tourism and International Relations was pursued while serving on the curriculum board of Metro State College. I wrote a weekly travel column for the Denver Business Journal, taught classes at a local business college and developed the first trade missions to Asia for the State of Colorado resulting in the opening of trade offices in Singapore and Taiwan

During this time, along with my husband, we also operated and escorted educational tours to China starting with the re-opening of the country to foreign visitors in 1978. We represented the USA at the first Chinese International Conference on Tourism in Beijing in 1983. And in 2004, we were recognized by the Chinese Government for 25 years of service to their tourism industry with an invitation to see the new Yangtze River Dam.

After selling our Colorado agency in 1989 to return to California, I took the General Manager position at Tahiti Nui's US Headquarters in Northern California. I turned down their offer to relocate in Tahiti when US offices closed and expanded my cruise knowledge at Golden Bear and Prestige Cruise only agencies. I moved my clients to my home office in 2002.

I am a travel education junkie, member of the Travel Institute and Educational Forum, PATA (Pacific Area Travel Assn.) and North Bay Travel Professionals. I served on the first Mekong Tourism Forum for the development of tourism to Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia and Laos in 2002. I am considered an expert on China ("Old China Hand"), with over 40 trips there.

I have traveled and escorted tours to Asia, China; Europe and the Mediterranean, the Middle East, South America, Pacific Rim and closer to home; Hawaii, the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico. I especially love "off the beaten path" travel, beach destinations and cruises. I have been on most of the major cruise ships including many river vessels as both a tour escort and a passenger.

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My love of art, food and wine help me make your trip an extra special one...give me a call at 707-996-7361 to get started on planning your next memorable trip!