

# February Newsletter

## ***Gals Going Global - February 2026 Newsletter***

### **New Members**



### **Trip Updates by Linda!**

**With this colder weather, Costa Rica in January of 2027 is sounding pretty good.**

We have 3 Gals signed up so far.

From thrilling water journeys to ethereal jungle expeditions, discover what pura vida means to you when you explore the essence of Costa Rica. Encounter an emerald wonderland, where trees climb high and animals roam free. Immerse yourself in nature when you spend 2 nights at a remote resort in San Carlos and 3 nights in the region of Arenal National Park. Sample fresh cacao during a visit to a local plantation. Give back to preservation efforts at a sea turtle research station in Tortuguero National Park. Embark on a crocodile safari in the jungle and a bird-watching cruise in the rainforest. Stand suspended over the rainforest floor as you journey across a network of hanging bridges. Hike the lava fields of Arenal Volcano or soar over jungle canopies on a zip line. It's time to experience a world of nature.



Press the button for Trip Details



**JAMBO!!** We have 18 Gals booked on our November 11th departure for the African Safari: Kenya and Tanzania and 11 Gals on our November 2nd departure with only 5 seats remaining. Tammy Bailey is escorting the November 11th trip, and I will be escorting the November 2nd. This elephant photo was taken by me in November of 2010, and I am excited to be going back!! I will be holding a pre-trip get together meeting for all 29 gals in **June** to discuss travel tips including-

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- Clothing
- Packing
- Weather
- Recommended vaccines.
- Money
- Meals
- Visas
- Tipping
- Language
- Shopping
- Cell phone usage

As soon as I know the date, all our travelers will be contacted directly. If you have dates you cannot meet, please let me know.

In the meantime, check out some of these books and movies!

Read, Watch, & Be Inspired

Let this set the scene for you as you prepare for the trip of a lifetime and get excited about all that is to come! Books: Out of Africa by Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen) - A lyrical memoir of Blixen's life on a coffee plantation in colonial Kenya, capturing the beauty of the land and the complexity of cross-cultural relationships—especially meaningful for your visit to her farmhouse in Nairobi. African Diary by Bill Bryson - A short, witty, and insightful account of Bryson's travels through Kenya with CARE International, offering a light but thoughtful perspective on the country and its people. The Tree Where Man Was Born by Peter Matthiessen - A beautifully written travel narrative that explores East Africa's landscapes, wildlife, and people, offering deep reflections on the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Movies/Series: Serengeti (BBC Series, 2019-2023) – A visually stunning docu-drama series narrated by Lupita Nyong'o, following the lives of real animals in the Serengeti with dramatic storytelling

and breathtaking cinematography. The Elephant Queen (2019) - A touching wildlife documentary narrated by Chiwetel Ejiofor, following a matriarch elephant and her herd across the African landscape—ideal for those visiting Amboseli and Tarangire National Parks. The First Grader (2010) - Based on the true story of an 84-year-old Kenyan man who fights for his right to attend school

for the first time, this inspiring film highlights the value of education and resilience. Nowhere in Africa (2001) - An Oscar-winning German film about a Jewish family who flees Nazi Germany and starts a new life on a farm in Kenya, exploring themes of displacement, identity, and cultural adaptation. Mully (2015)- This powerful documentary tells the true story of Charles Mully, a former Kenyan street orphan who became a millionaire - and then gave it all up to rescue thousands of abandoned children across Kenya. A deeply moving film about faith, purpose, and the transformative power of compassion.

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**Final payment for Switzerland Rails and Sails is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

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Check out our Gals Facebook page to see the adventures of our  
->Gals traveling through Egypt and Jordan this month.

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**REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Gals Going Global 2026 Trip Reveal Event on  
Thursday,August 6<sup>th</sup> at the  
Billings Hotel and Convention Center!**

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Linda Sokoloski- L S Global Travel

406 294-8753

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## Tammy's trip Updates!

Happy February Gals, \_

Gals going on the Christmas Markets this December, check out Magical Christmas Markets of Europe on Facebook.

Several Gals are going a day early to have time in Zurich Switzerland. This is the only time we will have there as tour starts in France. Several are staying an extra night in Amsterdam also before returning home. Please let me know ASAP if you would like a pre and/or post night. On both pre and post days I will plan activities such as the Zurich Christmas Market. Ann Frank house, Van Gogh Museum, Red Light district. You let me know interests....



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Here is an interesting link that was recently shared with me

**Press this button if you are interested in Anarcticfa**

[Click to configure](#) Some of you may remember the movie based on true story of Dr. Jerri Nielson called Ice Bound from 2003. Dr. Nielson is played my Susan Sarandon. I found it on Amazon Prime.

Please let Linda or I know if taking CPAP.

Pack your CPAP machine in its designated carry-on case to protect it, as it qualifies as a medical device under the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not count toward your airline baggage limit. Remove the machine from its bag for TSA screening, if asked, similar to a laptop, while keeping masks and tubing inside. DO NOT put in checked luggage. Keep it with you.

Key Packing and Travel Tips:

Security Checkpoint: Notify the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agent before your items go through the X-ray, and request a private screening if preferred.

Protection: Use a hard-shell travel case to protect the machine from damage.

Water & Supplies: Empty the humidifier water tank before traveling and carry distilled water for your destination, or buy it upon arrival. Bring a spare mask and tubing.

Battery/Power: Bring a portable battery pack or ensure your seat has a power outlet if you plan to use it during the flight. Power converter and adapter for international travel.

Storage: The device fits under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin

Ensure the machine is in its own case or clearly labeled as a medical device to avoid it being counted as a carry-on, though it may be stored with your personal carry on

Tammy Bailey

->Owner/Travel Advisor

->(406) 698-8335



## New Rules for Carry-on in 2026

### Airline and TSA Carry-On Restrictions for 2026

Each airline has its own restrictions for how large your carry-on luggage can be.

Whether you're purposefully packing light or supplementing your checked luggage, it's important to keep Transportation Security Administration (TSA) carry-on luggage size and regulations in mind when packing a bag and heading to the airport.

After all, not all airlines allow full-size carry-ons for free, and most have slightly different rules on carry-on bag size. Don't get caught unaware at security or the gate; hefty baggage fees and inconvenience may await.

Here's what you need to know about airline and TSA carry-on size allowances.

### Airline-specific carry-on luggage rules

Airline carry-on dimensions differ depending on the carrier. When purchasing your flight, you'll be able to see your carry-on and personal item limits.

A personal item is typically a small backpack, purse, briefcase, diaper bag, camera bag or any item of a similar size that can fit underneath the seat in front of you. A carry-on bag could be anything from a large backpack to a small rolling suitcase. But it's less shape than size that matters, so here are carry-on luggage size restrictions for each of the major domestic airlines:

## **Alaska Airlines**

On an Alaska Airlines flight, you can bring a carry-on and a personal item for free.

Carry-on bags are limited to 22 inches long, 14 inches wide and 9 inches high including wheels and handles. All three measurements shouldn't add up to more than 45 inches.

For personal items, Alaska offers examples of a purse, laptop or briefcase.

Alaska doesn't list weight limits, but it says that passengers should be able to lift items that go in an overhead bin.

## **American Airlines**

For an American Airlines flight, passengers get one personal item and one carry-on, no matter what type of fare they buy (elite members included).

Carry-on bags shouldn't be larger than 22 inches long, 14 inches wide and 9 inches high including handles and wheels.

Dimensions of personal items should not exceed 18 inches long, 14 inches wide and 8 inches high and must fit under the seat in front of you.

There are no listed weight restrictions for carry-on luggage.

### **Delta Air Lines**

Delta flyers are allowed one carry-on bag and one personal item.

Including wheels and handles, measurements may not exceed 22 inches long, 14 inches width and 9 inches high. The total length plus width plus height of baggage must not exceed 45 linear inches.

For personal items, Delta says size examples are purses, small backpacks and laptops.

There might be different restrictions if you are traveling with a partner airline.

### **United Airlines**

Most travelers flying with United can bring one carry-on and one personal item, but if you're traveling on a basic economy fare, you're allowed one personal item only, except on flights to South America, across the Atlantic Ocean or to international destinations across the Pacific. MileagePlus Premier Members or passengers with some MileagePlus credit cards, like the United<sup>SM</sup> Business Card can also bring a carry-on bag on a Basic Economy ticket.

Including handles and wheels, the maximum dimensions for a carry-on are 22 inches long, 14 inches wide and 9 inches high.

Personal items are limited to 17 inches long, 10 inches wide and 9 inches high.

Things like jackets, umbrellas, mobility devices, food or other items you bought at the airport do not count as part of your allowance.

United doesn't publish weight limits for carry-ons.

Depending on the airline you fly with as well as how long you're traveling for, you might wonder whether you're better off traveling with a checked bag rather than a carry-on. This can be especially relevant if you've got some liquids with you that exceed the TSA carry-on liquid limits.

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## **Upcoming Events**

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## **February Coffee Gathering**

Starbucks (910 Grand)

Wednesday, February 18

at 10:00AM

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## **Blind Cat Chocolate**

**SOLD OUT**

Date: Thursday, February 12

Time: 1pm - 2:30pm

Location: 733 Lake Elmo Drive 59105

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Gals Going Global Presents:

## **How To Make A Shutterfly Photo Book**

Have hundreds of photos on your phone or laptop and no idea what to do with them? Ready to turn your travels, family moments and everyday

memories into a gorgeous keepsake?

Join us for a hands-on, step-by-step class where we'll show you how to get started on a stunning Shutterfly book.

What you'll learn:

- How to organize and select your photos
- Easy design tips and layouts that look professional
- How to customize, edit, and order your book with confidence
- Time-saving tricks to make photo books fun (not overwhelming)

Where: **Billings Hotel & Convention Center**

When: **Wednesday, March 18**

Length: **2 hour class from 1PM-3PM**

Cost: minimal cost TBD to cover room rental and handouts

Bring: your phone and laptop

Presentor: Jane Montmeny with Jean Cushing as teacher's aide

RSVP: Jane Montmeny 801-205-9283

Whether you're a beginner or just want to polish your skills, this class is relaxed, friendly, and perfect for learning alongside other women who love travel, memories, and creativity.

Bring your phone and laptop and leave inspired.

Some prep work will be required prior to attending the class. When you sign up you will get instructions on how to get the Shutterfly app and how to upload your photos into the app. Class size is limited to 20.

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## **“Sights of Sheridan”**

### **“Sights of Sheridan”**

Let's hit the road for a fun-filled day of sightseeing in Sheridan, WY!

Enjoy a road trip to Sheridan to visit King's Saddlery Store and Museum, The Mint Bar, Sagewood North Cafe, Historic Sheridan Inn, and Trail End Historic Site

**King's Saddlery Store and Museum** is internationally known for its ropes and trophy saddles used by several of the world's best cowboys and collectors. The museum houses wagons, old and famous saddles, historic

photographs and leather-working tools. Beautiful, quality genuine leather products are available for purchase

**The Mint Bar** is a thriving old-school saloon

Enjoy lunch at the **Sagewood North Cafe** which offers delicious homemade soups, fresh salads, specialty sandwiches and homemade desserts with real whipped cream!

Then off to the **Historic Sheridan Inn** for a brief visit of one of the first hotels in Sheridan developed by Buffalo Bill Cody.

Final stop will be the **Trail End Historic Site**, "Wyoming's Premier House Museum". Enjoy a guided tour of this gorgeous Flemish Revival architecture mansion that was owned by John Benjamin Kendrick (1857-1933), former Wyoming Governor and United States Senator

**Date: Monday, May 18, 2026**

**Time: 7:30am - 5:00pm**

**Costs:** shopping, lunch, \$8 Trail End tour

**How Many Can Attend:** up to 20

**RSVP to Amy Wiebold by Monday, May 4** 406-208-1779

**Meeting Place/Time:** Sam's Club parking lot at 7:30am





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## ***Gals Going Global Adventures Past!***



**January Coffee** was very well attended with 20 Gals enjoying coffee and conversation

Gals Going Global members brought in the **2026 New Year** with a dinner at the Rib and Chop House.





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## Save the Date



### Summer Picnic

Saturday, June 13th

Linda's property in Roberts, MT



### Gals Going Global 2026 Trip Reveal Event

Thursday, August 6th

Billings Hotel and Convention Center!



## Annual Christmas Luncheon

Friday December 4, 2026, 11:30 AM Yellowstone country club

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## Gals Going Global Financial Statement and Annual Report

Gals Going Global  
Financial Statement of Income and Expenses  
Year Ending: 12/31/25

### Income:

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 11,100.00       | Dues             |
| <u>3,139.00</u> | Gatherings/Other |
| 14,239.00       | Total Income     |

### Expenses:

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 4,056.74        | Advertising/Promotions |
| 564.33          | Banking/Legal          |
| 732.45          | Postage                |
| 301.84          | PayPal Dues Fees       |
| 590.40          | Reveal Expense         |
| 1,515.97        | Printing               |
| 2,151.00        | Nametags/Scarves       |
| 296.74          | Miscellaneous          |
| 5,540.30        | Gathering Expense      |
| 213.19          | Office Supplies        |
| <u>1,564.63</u> | Website Expense        |
| 17,527.59       | Total Expenses         |

(3,288.59) Net Loss

Bank Balance at 12/31/2025: \$9,180.27

We budgeted for a Loss of (\$3,095) this year which is close to where we ended this year. However, we did not anticipate the loss of approximately 30 GGG scarves that had to be re-ordered. Early in the year, our filing cabinet that had been in a storage area, disappeared with extra scarves and papers inside. Unfortunately, the filing cabinet is still missing.

We had legal expenses this year. We paid for an attorney to research the possibility of obtaining a trademark for the Gals Going Global name. The recommendation of the attorney was not to trademark our name as there were other similar names which would make it difficult to obtain a trademark. Because our organization has been in operation for many years, it was recommended that we continue as we are.

We also have been advertising more on Q2 television. That budget item was increased during the year from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

We paid for professional help from Girl Geek LLC for maintenance help with our website.

Gathering Expense is up as we paid for two new member gatherings, a summer picnic, a movie, a Christmas Luncheon with a record number of ladies attending this year and other events.

Costs in general are increasing. However, we still have a healthy bank account for more adventures & fun for next year!



Please welcome your new Treasurer, Kathy Sorich, 406-690-5072. She is assuming the Treasurer's responsibilities as of January, 2026. If anyone has questions about this report, please contact Jean Gocholski, retiring Treasurer, 406-855-5601.

## **Gals Going Global - 2025 Annual Report**

### Introduction

2025 was a year of wonderful travel opportunities for energetic women of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. We delighted in the friendships that were formed out of local gatherings, domestic and international travel.

### Mission and Vision

Gals Going Global Mission Statement - To connect women who enjoy travel through trips, friendships, education, and social interaction!

### 2025 Highlights

- 70 Gals traveled to 10 glorious destinations in 2025. Those trips included a Princess Cruise in the Southern Caribbean, discovering Morocco, a Danube River Cruise and Octoberfest, Mediterranean Coast exploration, Australia and New Zealand, seeing the highlights of Scotland, taking in Sedona's Red Rocks, the majestic Canadian Rockies, a culinary journey through New England and enjoying Christmas in Opryland.
- We welcomed a total of 46 new members in 2025. Several of these Gals took advantage of the travel opportunities offered and the local Gathering events in Montana. We continued our annual meet and greet event for new members.
- Our 20 local Gatherings were well received by our membership and guests. We had 9 coffee house gatherings, 8 social events which included luncheons, a dinner, a painting class, Running of the Sheep, local film viewing, and our first summer picnic. We sponsored 3 walking excursions during the warm weather months. We had 2 volunteer workshops in 2025. Since we are an all-volunteer organization, each volunteer's inventive mind and helping hand has an influence on the whole membership. We are grateful for your energy, ideas, and support.
- The annual Reveal party had 81 participants this year. Since the Reveal party in August to the end of 2025, we had a record 26 members join Gals! The 2026 menu of trips promises to be varied and fun thanks to Linda Sokoloski and Tammy Bailey.
- A new television ad promotion was developed this year. We are happy to note our local station KTVQ, has run the ad for Gals Going Global multiple times. Many of our recent members have seen the ad and have joined Gals as a result.

### Looking Forward: 2026 and Beyond

We value setting a pace for women of all ages to discover, learn, explore, and travel the world together. As a member, we hope 2025 has met your expectations. As we enter a new year, we invite you to contact a member of the board to express your needs and expectations for our future together.

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