

MARQUIS Who'sWho®

First Name: Nancy

Last Name: Barkley

Title: Founder, Owner

Company Name: Honeymoons and Get-A-Ways

Place of Birth: Philadelphia

State/Country of Origin: PA/USA

Marital Status: Married

Children's Names: Three Sons

Education Degrees: Student in Finance; Associate Degree in Travel and Tourism

Certifications: Certified Destination Wedding Planner

Career: Owner, Founder, Honeymoons and Get-A-Ways (2005-Present); Account Executive, Meeting Incentives and Sales, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Now CWT) (2002-2005)

Civic: Chair, Destination Wedding Tourism, World Tourism Network; Volunteer, Church; Supporter, Catholic Relief Services; Mentor, SCORE; Member, Volunteer.com

Creative Works: Global Speaker; Author, Articles on How Destination Weddings Help the Local Economy

Achievements: Being featured in The New York Times, Forbes, Money Matters, HuffPost, CNN, Travel Market Report, MSN, Travel Weekly

Awards: CEO Excellence Award, CEO Monthly (2019); Recognized in Travel

Hobbies: Traveling; Reading; Exercising; Volunteering

Religion: Catholic

Attribute success to: Ms. Barkley attributes her success to hard work. She believes that "the only place success comes beforehand work is in the dictionary." Additionally, she has failed at some things that didn't work but has learned from her mistakes and uses them as a guide for future development. She has continuously learned and educated herself for both professional and personal growth.

Why did you become involved in your profession or industry?: As a teenager, Ms. Barkley embarked on her first long-distance journey and discovered her passion for travel. She turned this passion into a career, working in various roles within the travel industry.

Throughout the duration of your career, what was the one highlight that stood out the most?: Ms. Barkley's most outstanding career achievement was starting her own business while raising three young boys.

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Where will you be in 5 years?: Ms. Barkley would like to work on more purposeful destination weddings. She says, "People are more conscious now, they are looking for more sustainability, and instead of giving gifts out, couples help locally." She would like to do more events and travel with a purpose that helps out the destination where she is.

What lessons have you learned as a professional in your field? Ms. Barkley said, "In my field, I have learned that adaptability is crucial due to the ever-changing nature of the tourism industry. It is important to step out of one's comfort zone in order to grow and expand one's business. Continuous learning and experimentation are key, even if it means failing at times. Failure is simply the First Attempt In Learning, and it is important to learn from mistakes and grow with them. Hard work and perseverance are essential, even on difficult days. Never give up."

What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your profession? Ms. Barkley said, "I strive to provide the best possible service to my customers, creating unforgettable memories for them. Whether it's for a destination wedding, honeymoon, elopement, anniversary, or any other travel event I have planned for them and their loved ones, my goal is to ensure their happiness and satisfaction."

What changes have you observed in your field since you first started? And how do you see these changes effecting the future of your industry? Ms. Barkley said, "Since beginning my career in the travel industry, I have witnessed numerous changes, including airline commission cuts, pandemics, the shift to remote work, and the rise of online booking sites. The future of the travel industry is constantly evolving and adapting to new challenges. Companies in the industry must be able to adapt to these changes in order to remain competitive and successful. The future of the travel industry is uncertain, but one thing is for sure - it will continue to evolve and provide new opportunities for travelers."

Who have been your mentors or people who have greatly influenced you? Why?

Are we missing anything? Is there anything else that's important to you that you'd like to discuss that we haven't covered already? Ms. Barkley said, "For me, family, helping others, and striving to do my best are of utmost importance."

What advice can you offer fellow members of other aspiring to work in your industry?

Extended Bio: Ms. Barkley said, "I am the proud owner and founder of Honeymoons and Get-A-Ways, a romance travel agency based in Philadelphia, PA USA. As a goal-oriented small business owner, I have developed a superior understanding of the hospitality and tourism markets. With over 25 years of experience in project planning and execution, I have established myself as an accomplished client-focused global wedding and event coordinator. My expertise lies in consulting with clients to determine their objectives and needs for events, and I have honed my skills in contract negotiations, vendor relationships, and networking. As an effective public speaker, I am known for my excellent delivery, positive attitude, innovation, dynamism, and stage presence. My expertise and insights are highly sought after by many in the industry, and I have been featured in numerous high-profile publications such as The New York Times, Forbes, Money Matters, Huff Post, CNN, Travel Market Report, MSN, Yahoo News, Today Show, Travel Weekly, and more. My achievements in the travel industry have also led to a successful career as a global keynote speaker. I have had the privilege of presenting around the globe to both consumers and peers on various topics related to travel, event planning, and starting your own business. Though based in Philadelphia, my connections and influence extend far beyond the city's borders. I am passionate about what I do and am dedicated to providing my clients with unforgettable experiences. Whether it's planning a dream honeymoon or coordinating a large-scale event, I am committed to delivering exceptional service every step of the way. I am dedicated to giving back to my community and actively seek out opportunities to volunteer with organizations that strive to make the world a better place."