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Coconut Telegraph Spotlight on
Ilja Chapman - Voyage Blue Travel Advisor
Wanderlust Blues

by Marilee Free

Making your travel dreams come true is Ilja Chapman's mission. She is the agency owner of Voyage Blue Travel, and a vacation advisor extraordinaire. Experienced in worldwide travel, land vacations, cruise ships and guided tours, Ilja will customize an itinerary for every desire. Whether it's planning that special getaway, destination wedding gatherings or family vacations, her travel planning will save you time and money by taking the guesswork out of your trip. For tourists who want to experience the "Conch Republic," Ilja can book a spectacular array of Florida Keys excursions, entertainment, transportation, and accommodations.

The couple managed a bed and breakfast in New Hampshire for 6 years. Moving to Key Largo in 2013 was a dream come true as well, they are avid boaters and scuba divers and embrace the island lifestyle. Former president of the Upper Keys Business and Professional Women, Ilja is still an active member and involved in many community and charity events. Hailing from Holland, she is fluent in 4 languages and loves tulips.

Amidst the year of Covid chaos and cancellations in the travel industry, many international borders are now opening back up and people are traveling again. Ilja strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance, with which she can also help clients. Vacations are an investment in making memories, relaxing, and experiencing other cultures and cuisine. However, things happen (as we all have seen) that are out of our control. Travel insurance can refund most of your money. More than ever people are turning to travel agents to answer questions, and to take the hassles and uncertainties out of travel.

Ilja has lived the dream herself, traveling to all 7 continents. For many years she and her husband, Brad, traveled the world working on cruise ships. In the various ports, they would go on helicopter tours, do some sightseeing, and take in the different cultures. They worked 6 months on the cruise ships, then had 2 months off. This allowed them to travel the United States extensively in their motorhome.



2020 was the year of "wanderlust blues" for many. When I asked Ilja if she had traveled in the last year, she said that they have taken local trips, but have not traveled by plane or left the country. The Covid shutdown was devastating to travelers and those who generate an income from tourism. Ilja and I both feel blessed and lucky to live in this island paradise. We agree that due to the closures, the Keys have become even more sought after. As vaccines are being administered, borders are

opening and travel is resuming. Now more than ever, people need an expert travel agent who is knowledgeable with the ever-changing restrictions and regulations. When you're ready to shake off those "wanderlust blues," I recommend Ilja and Voyage Blue Travel to plan your next memory-making, awe-inspiring vacation. You can visit her website at: voyageblue.com, email travel@voyageblue.com, or phone 305-998-8348.



Ilja and husband Brad also enjoy cruising locally.