



**Wendy Hinman, Author of *Tightwads on the Loose*
Voyage Highlights**

"Imagine spending 24 hours a day with your spouse in 31 not-so-square feet for 7 years; crossing the Pacific Ocean on two gallons of fuel.

"It was an adventure of a lifetime. My husband Garth and I covered 34,000 miles on a 31-foot sailboat. (Writing about it makes it seem like I hadn't imagined the whole thing.)

"Propelled by a thirst for freedom and adventure, we set off on an open-ended cruise on a boat that fit our budget better than it did Garth's large frame with a tiny galley that required gymnastic prowess to cook dinner.

"We lived without TV, a car, cell phones, and even Internet access.

"We never imagined we'd be gone for so long.

"We lived on \$33 a day. That included groceries, boat maintenance, clothes, fuel and government fees.

"We sailed to places Garth had visited when he sailed around the world with his family 25 years earlier, including the island where Garth was shipwrecked for a year as a teenager--only to find it had turned into a penal colony

" We encountered greater difficulties than we ever imagined: violent squalls and thunderstorms, swimming in snake and crocodile-infested waters, unfriendly locals

who watched our every move, and loneliness. All in scorching tropical heat, in which every stitch of clothing was one stitch too many.

" An electronic catastrophe in the Solomon Islands left us without navigation equipment, forcing us to trade our libertine lifestyle for its antithesis: jobs at a U.S. Army base in the Marshall Islands that seemed straight out of a '60s sitcom. A cross between Gilligan's Island and Mayberry RFD, Hogan's Hero's and Mash.

"In Asia, we dodged typhoons and ships that threatened to turn our home into kindling.

"We endured a grueling 49-day nonstop journey "home" to a post-9/11 America only to wonder what had changed more, us or the world.

We got to experience so many unique cultures and get a glimpse of another, equally valid way of living. We saw people who had nothing but were incredibly generous and happy anyway. We saw with our own eyes that the frantic way of life in the U.S. doesn't necessarily bring happiness.

Through it all we learned that with a sense of humor and working as a team we could overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. We also realized that the journey was as important as the destination, and that part of what made reaching our goal more satisfying was what it took us to get there. It wasn't easy but it was exciting and I would do it again in a heartbeat.