

## About the Author

Linda Ballou is a rugged individualist who needs mountains and shady glens to stay in balance. She enjoys not having to make a living as a travel writer so she can be selective about her journeys and how and when she takes them. She aims to get to as many beautiful places in the world she can before they are no more.

She seeks outdoor adventures suitable for mature and fit travelers, with guides who have a high regard for the people and land they serve. Ms. Ballou is a thoughtful traveler, caring toward the environment, and sensitive to the respective local populations—that includes Main Street USA, not just lost tribes in the Amazon. She tries not to judge or condemn behavior alien to her own and attempts not to peer at people as though studying them through a microscope.

Her literary background heightens her enjoyment of research that includes reading travel narratives and historical archives about a region before visiting. In fact, she doesn't want to go until she has a sense of what is going on behind the gorgeous scenery she considers herself privileged to enjoy. Like her travel writing hero Tim Cahill, she tries not to take herself too seriously.

Her novel approach to travel writing is detailed in a free download on her Web site [www.LindaBallouAuthor.com](http://www.LindaBallouAuthor.com) titled "How to Make Travel Writing Work for You."

Her highest achievement to date is her historical novel *Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai'i: Her Epic Journey*. Through the eyes of Wai-nani, the reader experiences Hawaiian society as it existed when Captain James Cook arrived at Kealakekua Bay in 1779. Ride the billowing seas with Eku the wild dolphin Wai-nani befriends; learn why she loved the savage, conflicted ruler, Makaha; walk with her as she defies ancient laws and harsh taboos of the Island people; share the love she received from her people, and learn how she rose to become the most powerful woman in old Hawai'i. Read the first chapter and reviews on Wai-nani's page at [www.LindaBallouAuthor.com](http://www.LindaBallouAuthor.com).

Join Linda Ballou on her blog <http://www.lindaballouauthor.blogspot.com> for travel tips, eco-alerts, and all things Hawaiian. She welcomes your comments and would enjoy hearing about your adventures.

