

Influential Women Highlights Julieanne Kohn, CTC, CLS, DS: 56 Years Of Passion, Leadership, And Personalized Travel

GROSSE ILE, MI, UNITED STATES,
August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ --
Owner of Flying Suitcase LLC and
Seasoned Virtuoso Travel Advisor
Continues to Create Meaningful Travel
Experiences Through Decades of
Industry Knowledge

Julieanne Kohn, CTC, CLS, DS, is a seasoned travel professional, entrepreneur, and the Owner of Flying Suitcase LLC, bringing 56 years of experience to the travel and hospitality industry. Throughout her remarkable career, she has built a reputation around international travel planning, luxury cruising, personalized itinerary design, and an enduring passion for helping people experience the world in meaningful ways.



A Certified Travel Counselor and life member of The Travel Institute, Julieanne has dedicated more than five decades to understanding the travel industry and the evolving needs of travelers. Her career reflects not only extensive professional knowledge but also firsthand experience gained through decades of international travel, including more than 40 cruises and journeys throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Julieanne's career began in an era when the travel industry looked very different from today. In 1976, she originally opened Flying Suitcase as an incorporated business, building and managing a team of approximately nine to 10 employees. During that period, she serviced corporate accounts and handled sophisticated travel arrangements, including first-class business travel for clients traveling along the West Coast.

Her early experience provided her with a strong foundation in travel management, customer service, and the complexities of coordinating travel for individuals and businesses. However, significant changes to airline commission structures in the late 1990s reshaped the industry and ultimately led Julieanne to make the decision to close her agency.

Following the closure of Flying Suitcase, Julieanne transitioned to working with AAA for approximately a decade before eventually retiring. Yet retirement could not keep her away from the industry she loved. Her passion for travel remained strong, and she eventually returned to the profession through a host agency model with Montecito Village Travel under the Virtuoso network.

Today, Julieanne operates Flying Suitcase from her home in Michigan, continuing to serve travelers who value experience, personalized attention, and professional guidance. Rather than simply arranging transportation and accommodations, she focuses on helping clients transform destination ideas into carefully considered travel experiences.

Her specialty lies in assisting travelers who already know where they want to go but need expert guidance on what to see, how to structure their journey, and how to make the most of their time. With decades of firsthand travel experience, Julieanne brings a personal perspective to itinerary planning that comes from having visited destinations herself and understanding the practical realities of travel.

For Julieanne, the biggest reason for her success is that she genuinely loves what she does. She believes that if she did not enjoy the work, she would not be successful because she would approach it without the level of involvement and dedication that the profession requires. Her enthusiasm for travel has remained a consistent source of motivation throughout her career.

She particularly enjoys handling clients' requests and helping them determine where they should go and what they should experience. Because every traveler has different interests, priorities, and expectations, she finds that no two requests are exactly alike. That variety has helped keep the profession engaging throughout her decades-long career.

Julieanne believes passion is ultimately what keeps professionals fueled and fulfilled over the years. If someone enters an industry for reasons other than genuine interest and passion, she believes burnout can eventually follow.

That philosophy also shapes the advice she offers to people considering a career in travel. Julieanne encourages aspiring travel professionals to first understand what truly motivates them. If the primary motivation is travel discounts, she would advise them to reconsider entering the industry, because those benefits alone are unlikely to sustain a long-term career.

When Julieanne first entered the business, travel industry benefits were dramatically different. At one point, she could fly almost anywhere in the world for 75% off, and first-class travel could

actually cost less than an economy ticket after the discount. The opportunities available to travel professionals today have changed considerably.

Julieanne notes that if she wants to travel first class today, she has to pay for it, and the types of discounts once available to travel professionals are no longer what they were. While she can still receive certain cruise-line discounts and opportunities to participate in familiarization trips, she emphasizes that the industry is a completely different world than it was decades ago.

For that reason, she believes people entering travel today need a deeper motivation than personal travel benefits. They need to genuinely love the work and find fulfillment in helping others create meaningful experiences.

Julieanne's own career is a testament to that philosophy. Despite dramatic changes throughout the airline, travel agency, and hospitality industries, her passion for helping people explore the world has remained constant. Her ability to adapt through changing business models, industry structures, and consumer expectations has allowed her to continue building relationships and serving travelers across generations.

Her extensive experience also gives her an appreciation for the value of personalized service in an increasingly digital travel environment. While technology has transformed how people research and book trips, Julieanne continues to bring the value of professional knowledge, personal experience, and an understanding of each client's individual goals to the travel-planning process.

Through Flying Suitcase LLC and her work within the Virtuoso network, Julieanne continues to combine decades of industry knowledge with a genuine love of travel. Her career demonstrates how passion can sustain a professional journey across generations of change and how meaningful success can come from finding work that remains personally fulfilling.

For Julieanne Kohn, travel has never been merely a business. It has been a lifelong passion, a profession, and an opportunity to help others discover the world.

Learn More about Julieanne Kohn:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/julieanne-kohn> or through her website, <https://flyingsuitcasellc.com/>

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