



Irene Sullivan (left) and her sister Marilyn (right)

We Have a Winner!

What's Your Story? Contest

We urged our members to send in their funny or meaningful vacation stories, and received 8 story submissions. We sent a special mailing and put the information online, and asked our member base to vote on their favorite. We received hundreds of votes, and we are so pleased to announce that the winner of the "One Week Vacation with Airfare for Two" prize is Irene Sullivan of Grey Eagle, MN! Here is her winning submission:

Sylvia Martinez Marilyn and Eddie are hard working farmers from Minnesota married for 47 years now. They have consistently worked extra jobs to provide for their family of six children. Marilyn provided day care for 30 years and currently cleans homes. Eddie works at the granite sheds. Marilyn is my sister. When we invited them to Cabo, they were so excited. Neither one had ever see the ocean! Nor had they had many vacations.

We arrived in Cabo after dark. As we stood on the 7th floor balcony of our Del Arco suite, Eddie asked sincerely, "What's that sound?"

"What sound?" "That noise - it's right out there." "Eddie, that's the sound of the ocean," I replied. "Really?" "Yes, really." "Oh my goodness, I had no idea."

The next morning my sister Marilyn went out onto the balcony with an expression of awe on her face. "Oh my God, this is so beautiful! I didn't know we would be so close to the water. And look at the ship and the pools and the wonderful landscaping! You didn't tell me it would be this nice." Tears welled up in her eyes as she hugged and thanked me. It filled my heart with joy. That day they walked the beach, got wet in the waves and tasted salt water! As the week progressed both of them were so impressed with the helpfulness and hospitality of the Mexican people. The constant experience of friendliness made them feel at home and welcome. They also observed the excellent work of the gardeners and the housekeeping staff. Since they do similar jobs, they were really aware of what it takes to keep grounds and rooms lovely. It actually made me and my husband aware that we take these things for granted.

During their stay we did a lot of things, but nothing was more grand than simply sitting on the balcony watching the sun glistening on the sea blue water with its constantly moving ships, boats and colorful parasailing balloons. They could see whale spouts with binoculars, listen to seals bark, or simply become mesmerized by the undulating sound of the waves.

Before leaving, tears again appeared in my sisters' sincere blue eyes as she took one last look at the view of the water. "Now I know why you come here! We will go home filled with this beauty. Thank you."
