

Travels and Travails



Elizabeth Pewsey

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INTRODUCTION

*There is still a great deal of **prejudice** against women who want to undertake dangerous journeys. When a woman climbs a mountain or goes into space, it is treated as an unusual event. In fact, only a few years ago, Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew were **jeered** at when they entered the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race.*

Mary Kingsley's uncle, the author Charles Kingsley, wrote, "Be good, sweet maid, and let who can be clever." Yet, for centuries, women travelers and adventurers have proved again and again how tough and **resourceful** they are. They have ignored discouraging comments and set off for distant lands, leaving behind **scandalized** family and friends. They have contributed to science and geographical knowledge through their journeys, without any

reward. They have faced danger, and some have lost their lives.

Yet, none of this has kept other women from following in their footsteps.

Some of these women have written about their travels. Their **journals**, letters, and books are often full of humor and fascinating details. This book tells of the lives and works of eight women travelers, all of whom are clear examples of how courageous and energetic women have always been, and still are.

"Ladies should never undertake expeditions to the more solitary districts without escort."

Advice from Karl Baedeker, who began publishing the "best" travel guide books back in the 1800s.



▼ Arlene Blum is an American mountaineer with an amazing record:

- In 1970, was part of the first all-woman ascent of Mount McKinley, Alaska
- In 1976, was a member of the American Bicentennial Expedition to Mount Everest
- In 1978, organized and led the American Women's Himalayan expedition



▼ “The most important message I have is that, if you have a dream, you can make it happen,” said Ellen McArthur after she completed the Vendée Globe single-handed, around-the-world yacht race in February 2001, when she was only twenty-four. Her epic journey was a battle against wind and storms. She had to struggle alone to repair parts of her yacht, *Kingfisher*, and had barely more than one hour's sleep at a stretch during her ninety-four days and nights at sea.



▲ Valentina Nikolayeva Tereshkova was the first woman to travel into space. She **orbited** the Earth forty-eight times in *Vostok VI* from June 16 to 19, 1963.