

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Beaches of Amalfi Coast hit with star

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency



Actor Gabrielle Walsh says that the beaches and people of Puerto Rico are "lovely." **CRISTINA QUINONES**

On the series "Found," Gabrielle Walsh portrays a woman who had been kidnapped as a child.

"Lacey is an optimist who has a heart of gold, a strong sense of justice and would do anything for those missing and her crisis-management family," Walsh said from her Los Angeles home. "(And) after the team succeeds in finding someone missing, she never misses an opportunity to dance. Her light shines through no matter what obstacles stand in her way."

Walsh said she shared her character's sense of optimism. "After graduating from Northern Illinois University with a degree in acting, I made the move to LA," she said. "I was crazy and ignorant enough to believe I could actually do it!"

This interview with Walsh has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Working on a show about missing people, have you taken more precautions when you're traveling alone?

A: Yes, actually. I have shared my location more often, as well as getting a screenshot of the driver's info if I get into a car service late in the evening. It's also very important to really listen to your gut. Women especially can short circuit that instinct in order to be polite. It's more important to be safe than to be polite. I have to remind myself of that because I tend to befriend a lot of strangers.

Q: When you're filming a project, how important is the location?

A: Location is such an important element when it comes to the overall feeling of a piece. It dictates the mood, ambiance and the expression of the people existing within it. So far, I have filmed in New York, New Mexico, Atlanta and (also) around California. Atlanta seems to be the hot spot. It's been a marker on the wall, in terms of career and even personal development.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: Positano, Italy. It is the city of love on the Amalfi Coast. It's like visiting a painting. The walkway leading into the city is shaded with vines. The sea sparkles with a turquoise glow and the water is smooth and warm.

Q: I understand you studied in Moscow. What was that like?

A: I studied for a semester at the Moscow Art Theatre School. The Kremlin, Red Square and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg were wonders to behold. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I had taken a class in Russian language before traveling there, but dropped it (out of) fear of lowering my GPA. But it did put me a step ahead, being able to decipher the language. "Ya ni panimyo" — I don't understand — became a saving grace.

Q: What untapped destination should people know about?

A: The hidden beaches of Puerto Rico. We explored caves, saw sea urchins and just enjoyed the culture in a way that felt close to the heart of the island. Puerto Rico and its people are lovely.

Q: What trip you took as a child stands out?

A: Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. I was 9 and went with my aunts and cousins. Not only was it so green, but there were brilliant, colorful flowers everywhere. I grew 10 shades darker, got my vacation-beaded braids on the beach and drank virgin daiquiris all day long. I have been wanting to go back ever since.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A: Santa Barbara, California. Some people don't know this about Santa Barbara, but they have hot springs and many hikes that are beautiful.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: New Zealand. I heard it's similar to California — that you can go up to the mountains and get snow, but then down to the warm beaches. If you can't tell, I'm a fan of nature and I hear it is very scenic.

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