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FabJob Guide to
**Become a
Travel Writer**



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1. Introduction

Travel writing is not for everyone. Only the adventurous need apply. If you find it difficult to eat spectacular **cuisine** at excellent restaurants, stay in fabulous **hotels**, enjoy wondrous **sights**, and savor exotic **cultures**, all while being **paid** for these pleasures, then being a travel writer may not be the career for you. If having the **freedom** to make your own schedule and take charge of your life does not appeal to you, then by all means, aspire to spend your life in a cubicle farm.

But if you think you could suffer through the travails of excitement, independence, and adventure associated with travel writing, then read on. The **FabJob Guide to Become a Travel Writer** describes how you can get started and break into the ever-expanding field of travel writing.

Travel and Tourism

While the airline industry is being buffeted by rising oil prices, many people continue to jet off to exotic lands to spend their vacations in places that will **renew their souls** and **invigorate their lives**.

Tourism is now one of the globe's most extensive and rewarding industries. In some countries in the third world, a large majority of their economies are almost completely based on the tourist trade. The same can be said for some regions in first-world countries as well.

Travel and tourism has bounced back worldwide since the terrorist attacks in 2001. As well it should, as travel and tourism is a **growth industry**. As people continue to make more money and have more leisure time, increasingly they are looking for new and different ways to spend their free moments. That's where travel scribes come into the picture. They help make people's dreams possible by titillating the imagination, spurring people out of the everyday to far-off lands filled with excitement and new experiences.



Camels at sunset at Pushkar, Rajasthan, India

Becoming a Travel Writer

A travel writer presents possibilities, offers opportunities, and feeds the sense of adventure in all of us. To be able to do that, a travel writer needs to be able to effectively communicate information via the written word. And that is not as hard as some people tend to believe.

Anyone who can string a series of coherent and entertaining sentences together can become a writer. The fact that you are reading this guide shows that you have a facility with the English language. That's all you basically need to be a writer. Couple that ability with a love for travel, a craving for the exotic, an interest in other cultures, and a willingness to expand your own horizons, and you have the makings of a successful travel writer.

The biggest stumbling block many people encounter in their dream of pursuing the writing life is the erroneous belief that they need a degree in journalism or creative writing. A college degree focused on writing is not necessary to become a successful writer. Look at **Tom Clancy** and **John Grisham**, among others. They did not start off as writers, they evolved into that role. Bookstores are filled with tomes written by people from a variety of different fields who decided that they wanted to write. So they did.

This is not to say that four years of intensive and extensive practice in learning to weave phrases together will not help you become a travel writer, or for that matter help you make a living as a “wordsmith.” A degree will **help**, but it is not a prerequisite. What does matter is a willingness to put pen to paper — or I suppose in this day and age, **fingers to keyboard** — and produce the written word.

Besides writing ability and a love for travel there are other qualities which make up a successful travel writer, all of which will be covered extensively in this book, including: organization, planning, flexibility, adaptability, self-discipline, self-motivation, perseverance, and having a thick skin. The absence of any one of these will not predispose you to failure, but a facility with all of them will make it that much **easier** to become a travel writer.

Inside This Guide

Chapter 2 describes the basic skills required for travel writing. Chapter 3 gives you detailed information about travel preparations you will need to do your job effectively – from ensuring you have proper clothing and luggage to arranging for passports and visas. You will also find tips on important matters you might not have considered, such as immunizations, travel insurance, and cultural etiquette.

In Chapter 4, the heart of the guide, you will discover how to become a published travel writer. This chapter explains what exactly needs to be done to create a powerful travel piece. The quality of the information you gather has a direct impact on the quality of your writing. This is especially true with guidebooks, which are crammed with all sorts of seemingly extraneous but absolutely necessary information. You will therefore discover proven techniques for researching, fact-finding, and interviewing.

After you have gathered all the necessary information, it's time to **write**. This may seem daunting, but this guide is designed to make writing an easy process. Taking your already existing abilities as a writer, this guide offers suggestions on how to best present your material, whether for a newspaper feature, magazine article, or book. You will get advice on how to develop your own writing style while learning lessons from the successes of others.

And now it's time to get your piece **published**. What's the best approach? Where do you go? Who do you talk to or send an email to? What should the correspondence say? How many places should you send the article? Do you need an agent? How should you package the information to send to a newspaper? A magazine? How do you get a travel guide published? All these questions and more will be answered in intricate detail. 'Tried and true' methods from a number of successful travel writers will be featured, offering a clearly defined step-by-step plan to help you get your work published.

Throughout the guide, you will find an extensive set of proven "helpful hints" compiled from experts in the field, so that you can take all of the information from this guide, research your destination, make the most of your travel time, write a stunning piece of travel writing, market it effectively to the media of your choice, and begin to reap the benefits of being a travel writer.

Finally, the **FabJob Guide to Become a Travel Writer** offers you an array of **re-sources** culled from the voluminous amount of information available in the travel industry, which you may find valuable in your planning, preparation, fact gathering, writing, and publishing efforts.

But enough about how this guide will help you. It's time to go do it. It's time to make your dreams a reality.

There is no better time than now and no better person than you to take the steps necessary to start having the life you've always imagined. So put that pen to paper and start writing.