



## 21 Do's & Don'ts for Travel Writers

### DO

1. Carry a notebook, writing implements and camera.
2. Make notes on the go if you can but definitely before sleeping or you won't remember the fine details – the type of dust in the air; the tangy smell of turmeric; the particular walk of a bird; an extraordinary tree; the drip on the old man's nose in a bar...
3. Take loads of photographs.
4. Pick up magazines everywhere & offer your work. Editors *worldwide* need content.
5. If travelling abroad keep the cover and editorial information page of English Language Magazines from hotels, airlines, local tourist information offices etc. Offer them content about their country and yours.
6. What are your passions, hobbies and interests? Type up a list. Fire your inspiration by writing pieces tied to your specific interests and your destination.
7. Find magazines in print & online that relate to your passions and interests. If dogs are your thing, look at Pet Magazines worldwide – there are hundreds.
8. Suggest Guest Blogging on dedicated sites that match your passions.
9. **Research** the Editors, the Magazines and the Guest Blog Sites. Check out the article 'slots' and word counts. What can you write that would fit neatly into those slots?
10. Write several 'Niche' pieces on each trip. Going to Iceland? Write about an Icelandic delicacy/bird/fish/sports personality/volcano/health spa.
11. Write a shitty first draft and let it rest for a week. Edit and let it rest for a week. Edit again before you submit. Got a deadline? Let it rest for an hour or two instead.
12. All submissions should follow magazine website guidelines – if none, attach article + the first paragraph and two catchy 20 word pitches for two further articles in the body of your email + attach example of previously published work.
13. Never been published? Get published! Write and submit pieces to your village; church; school; college; local paper or magazine until you do get published.
14. Planning a trip to a new country and want a commission ahead of time – write the first paragraph of your article (using research from travel guides) plus two 20 word pitches for two alternative pieces and submit to Mag Editors + samples of previous work.
15. Once you have published your piece on dogs, cars, bicycles, birds, food, whatever, submit to similar magazines in other English speaking countries with secondary rights.
16. Keep tear sheets as well as digital copies of your articles plus photos under country/genre. Back up.
17. Offer your photographs to Stock Photo Sites.
18. If you don't have a dedicated travel website, make one to show off your talents.

### DON'T

19. Plague Editors
20. Write more words than required
21. Miss deadlines