

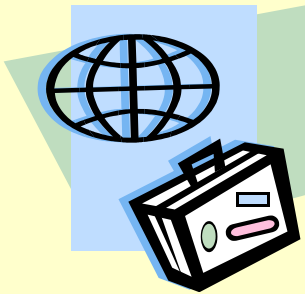


What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Say What You Want About Paris – Just Don't Say It To Me

© by Tom Douglas



Everything ever heard about Paris is true: Expensive. Unfriendly. Grimy. Noisy. Gaudy. Congested. So why do I ache with longing whenever I hear the name? And why do I spend every cent I can spare to fly there again and again when there are a thousand and one other places in the world I've yet to see?

When I walk up into the Paris sunshine after taking the RER commuter train from Charles de Gaulle Airport, I am instantly transformed into a man of affairs, ready to hobnob with the likes of Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jordan. And I greet with appropriate disdain any negative comments I hear ignorant tourists make about the most beautiful city in the world.

Expensive? Of course, if you simply must stay at the Ritz and dine at Maxim's. But innumerable small hotels offer clean and affordable, if not luxurious, rooms. And a baguette of ham and cheese, washed down with a half-bottle of *vin ordinaire*, on the banks of the River Seine makes a glorious lunch. For about the same as you'd pay for a night out at home, you can dine on palatable, hearty fare at neighbourhood bistros all over Paris.

Unfriendly? Perhaps, if you're the type who expects to be welcomed with open arms, Read rest of article at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/parisdouglasfrance.html>

Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.

Maya Angelou

New Destination Articles

- Best seat in the house at the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre by Tom Douglas
 - Český Krumlov: Bohemian jewel in Europe's glittering crown by Tom Douglas
 - Grand River Scenic Parkway, a perfect spring drive by George Bailey
 - Rethymnon, Crete — this diet offers a guilt-free vacation by Tom Douglas
 - Victoria's Beaconsfield Inn by Hans Tammemagi;
 - How a Newfy graciously filled in for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge by George Bailey
- All found at: www.whattravelwriterssay.com

New Industry news items

- Parks Canada birthday; Dave Hunter on Nexus border crossing
- Québec City RV Park opens; Teen Travel (Safety)
- Travel Apps:

All found at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

Featured Tip: Rick Steves Europe - see URL below

Looking for cheap flights, accommodations, currency conversion, even local temperature or subway information? For the latest data, we supply links to every conceivable travel related question that you might have. Bookmark this helpful site to assist you for future travel: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextips.html>

If you are soon travelling to Europe, be sure to check out **Rick Steve's** comprehensive set of tips at: http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/tips/tips_menu.htm

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein



More - New Travel tips & links:

(Educational) Travel: <http://www.theroadlesstraveled.com/> (Road Less Traveled)

Camp Associations: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/tipscampmassoc.html>

Travel Book(s) of the Year: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextips.html>

Travel Gear: <http://www.llbean.com/> (L.L. Bean); (Orvis) :

http://www.orvis.com/store/home_page.aspx?cm_ven=performics&cm_ite=875&adv=875&cm_cat=uscity.net&cm_pla=NO

Accommodations (cottage rentals): <http://www.cottagecountry.com/>



Educators & Friends Travel Discount!

With a readership base of +33,000, we have some purchasing clout that has resulted in a special arrangement with **Glenny Travel** with offices on both sides of the border. Mention that you subscribe to the *What Travel Writers Say Newsletter* & that you are a teacher or friend and you are eligible for discounts that range from 5% to 10% on tours & cruises.

Glenny Travel: <http://www.glennytravel.com/>

Contact Stephen Marshall: stephen.glennytravel@bellnet.ca

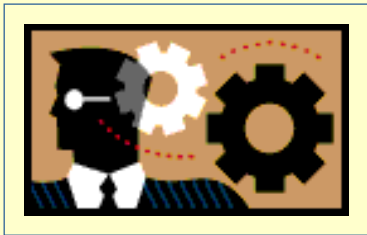
Welcome to our newest writer

Tom Douglas is author of six books on the Canadian military - including three best-sellers as well as copy editor of *The Canadian Military Journal*. His writing has appeared in Canadian daily newspapers and Canadian and US magazines. He recently interviewed GG David Johnston and Senator (General) Romeo Dallaire for a piece in *Fifty-Five Plus Magazine*.

URL of the month: Atlas Obscura

<http://atlasobscura.com/>

A catalogue of the singular, eccentric, bizarre, fantastical, and strange out-of-the-way places that get left out of traditional travel guidebooks. This is a compendium of the world's wonders, curiosities and esoterica broken into geographical divisions.



Outward Bound: Yarmouth Nova Scotia's 250th birthday bash

© by Mike Keenan

Trivia question: what's three hours west of Halifax, one hour from the Digby-Saint John ferry? Non-trivial answer: Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; and please note that they are celebrating their 250th birthday!

Yarmouth County is deceptive, an unassuming crop of lake-embroidered land (365 lakes and several major inland rivers) with a rocky ridge that tails into the sea; however, the plaintiff cry of gull and melodic waves will lull one like a sorceress, massaging tense muscle and attitude, such that you abandon shoes and socks and dabble in the liquid balm that gently laps enchanting shores.

Yarmouth's rich heritage involves native Mi'kmaq dating back 10,000 years, the Viking, Leif Ericson, who "may" have stopped by in 1007 apparently to carve a message into a big stone (displayed in the local museum), the French in the early 1600s following Champlain's visit in 1604 (he named it Cape Fourchu), and finally the British via Cape Cod, Massachusetts in the late 1750s before the American Revolution. In 1761, voila — the Township of Yarmouth was born! Acadians returned from exile in 1767, and United Empire Loyalists arrived in 1785. The mix resembles a bowl of Bouillabaisse soup, and you will encounter more people here named Cook and d'Entremont (with unique Acadian accent) more than anywhere else on earth!

I stroll along Water St. by the harbour's edge to learn how locals make a living — from fishing industries, tourism, retail and myriad commercial enterprises. In 1761, Yarmouth was established as a world-class shipbuilding port, and along Main Street, I encounter turn-of-the-century Victorian architecture and mansions once owned by captains and ship owners. There are gift shops, clothing stores, banks and restaurants. The heritage district boasts the famous "painted ladies," stately homes with unique histories, including the Lovitt House the Charles C. Richards House, the Pelton-Fuller House, and others.

Read the rest at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/yarmouthnovascotia.html>

Travel Fact of the day

Weather had a huge impact on the Japanese city of Nagasaki in 1945. If not for a last-minute break in cloud cover, the atomic bomb wouldn't have been dropped there. In fact, Nagasaki wasn't the primary target for the bomb run. The bomb was originally slated to be dropped on Kokura, but cloud cover there prevented it. - The World Almanac 2011

More interesting travel facts are available at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexdiyoudknow.html>



Yarmouth Sunset
Tourism Nova Scotia

Be who you are and say
what you feel, because
those who mind don't
matter, and those who
matter don't mind.

- Dr. Seuss

Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

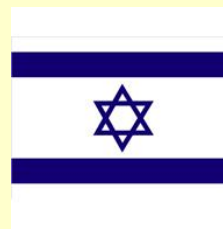
Israeli Security

My first encounter with Israeli airport security occurred this month when I flew to Tel Aviv and back from New York's JFK Airport. I knew that Isaac Yeffet, former director of security for El Al Airlines, now a New York aviation security consultant, had stated that El Al prevents terrorism in the air first - by interviewing every passenger by a well-trained agent during check-in. He suggested that "technology assists well-trained personnel but cannot replace them."

Recall that in 2002, Richard Reid, failed shoe bomber, provided multiple hints. He obtained his British passport in Belgium, not in England, flew to Paris, bought a one-way ticket from Paris to Florida with paid cash. He also travelled without luggage. Duh! Doesn't sound right, does it? So in North America, we resolve the problem with all passengers removing their shoes?

Not El AL. I was directed into a line that funneled passengers to one of five interviewers. A young man behind a music stand introduced himself to me as a security officer and said he would ask some questions. The questions were unimportant. How I answered and the consistency of my responses to follow-up questions were key. This process took a few minutes. Next, my single bag went through an x-ray machine. A young lady asked if I had food inside. I said, "No." She said, "Let's open it." Puzzled, I lifted the bag on to a table and started to open it when I realized it wasn't mine. We smiled and my bag was pronounced okay.

Next, we proceeded to the boarding area and had to pass security and x-ray machines for carry-on and personal items. Guess what? I did not have to take off my shoes or belt thanks to the aforementioned Mr. Reid! In the end, I never felt safer aboard a plane.



There are a few more cogent reasons to consider: undercover agents, aka sky marshals, carry concealed firearms and sit among passengers on every international El Al flight. Most El Al pilots are former Israeli Air Force pilots. Cockpits in all El Al aircraft have double doors to prevent unauthorized entry. A code is required to access the doors, and the second door opens only after the first has closed and the person has been identified by the captain or first officer. There are reinforced steel floors separating the passenger cabin from the baggage hold.

Also, following an attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner in 2002, aircraft have been equipped with an infrared countermeasures system called Flight Guard, developed by Israeli Aerospace Industries to defend them against anti-aircraft missiles. I say hurray for El AL!

Myrtle Beach, SC

Visitors can stretch their vacation dollars this summer and choose from a variety of free night special offers in Myrtle Beach and experience an affordable vacation full of fun! The Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina is known for family-friendly activities along the trademark sixty miles of Grand Strand beaches. Whether visitors are experiencing amusement parks, enjoying live entertainment, or dining at one of the area's 1,600 restaurants, Myrtle Beach offers budget-friendly fun in the sun for the whole family. For a full listing of Free Nights travel deals for summer 2011, visitors can check out the following site:

www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/freenights.

Hurray for Summer Break!

Happy holidays to teachers and other readers; the *What Travel Writers Say Newsletter* resumes in September!

What Travel Writers Say

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