



What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Okanagan Wine Route

© by Alex Eberspaecher



As distinctive as the soil and its people, wine reflects both where it's made and who makes it. Okanagan wine country contrasts vividly from that of Niagara. Part of the southern Okanagan is a mountainous desert region, hot and dry in summer, while Ontario is more temperate and level. Yet both produce excellent wines that are competitive in the world market.

Along Lake Okanagan, sandwiched between the majestic mountains of British Columbia, we pick up the Okanagan wine route that takes us through one of the most unusual wine regions of the world, a delight for any would-be wine connoisseur.

Just south of Kelowna, on Highway 97 along Lake Okanagan, Mission Hill Winery welcomes the visitor to *wine heaven*. Standing tall, overlooking Kelowna to the north and the lake to the south, Mission Hill is built amongst immaculate grounds and vineyards like an old Spanish mission. Known for its fine white and red wines, it's one of Canada's most identifiable wineries. As we drive south on Hwy 97, winery after winery compete, and... Read the rest of the story at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/okanaganwine.html>

Draw winners!

Congratulations to the following draw winners (two nights each):
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto - Kent Avery, Charlottetown, PEI
Days Inn, Toronto - Elmsdale Nova Scotia
Sunset Inn & Suites, Vancouver - Chris Ryall, Toronto

We have no more right
to consume happiness
without producing it
than to consume
wealth without
producing it.

George Bernard Shaw

Latest WTWS Articles

Burlington - much more than IKEA by George Bailey
Celebrate Modern Art at Buffalo's Albright-Knox Art Gallery by George Bailey
Golf touring in Wales by Alex Eberspaecher
Nanaimo Bars - both solid and liquid! by Mike Keenan
Pender Island, a jewel lost in an archipelago by Hans Tammemagi
Southern Saskatchewan, Land of endless blue sky by Alex Eberspaecher
Topeka - digging good potatoes in Kansas by Mary Martin
Tracking the mysterious Bowerbird amidst Australia's Queensland by Alex Eberspaecher
All found at: www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Featured Tips:

Looking for cheap flights, accommodations, currency conversion, even local temperature or subway information? For the latest data, we supply 774 links to every conceivable travel related question that you might have. Bookmark this helpful site to assist you in future travel: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indextips.html>

This month's featured tip: Cruise Ship Reviews - <http://www.tomscruiseshipreviews.com/>

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Albert Einstein



In addition to travel tips, our *What Travel Writers Say* website includes:

- Travel articles (486)
- Travel tips & links (774)
- Professional travel writers (93)
- Seniors' travel links (105)
- Current travel industry news (World-wide)
- Free newsletter sign up (33,305 members)
- Readers' Forum Travel Tips



Educators & Friends Travel Discount!

With a readership base of +30,000, 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

Other Group Discounts

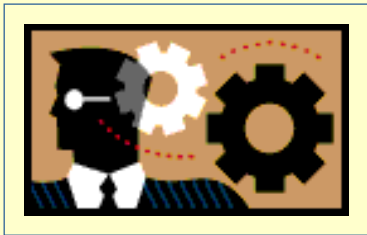
Interested in other group discounts? Please take a moment to send us your suggestions and contacts. Apparel, luggage, accommodations, you name it; we will check it out & follow up. email us at: whattravelwriterssay@cogeco.net



URL of the month: Get2Human.com

<http://www.get2human.com/>

"When you are tired of wasting money and time due to phone systems that require you to press 10 or more options in order to reach a real person and spending many minutes or even hours on hold, consult the Get2Human database of secret phone numbers and codes that immediately get an actual, live person on the line for customer service at nearly 1000 major companies."



Outward Bound: Nanaimo, BC

© by Mike Keenan

Every chef has a recipe for Nanaimo bars, the delectable Canadian dessert that derives its name from Nanaimo, British Columbia. The wafer crumb-based layer, topped by a coating of light custard or vanilla butter icing, is smothered in chocolate from melted chocolate squares. Yum! The bar originated in the 1950s when a housewife submitted her recipe under the name "Nanaimo Bars" in a contest. Her winning entry made its way throughout the province via recipes shared by housewives particularly those in the company towns.

Half my fun was getting to Nanaimo from Vancouver aboard a West Coast Air DeHavilland DHC-3 Turbine Single Otter which seats 14 passengers, operates at an altitude of 3,000 metres, and generates 750 hp for an optimum speed of 210 km (130 mph). In 25 minutes, we took off and landed on Nanaimo water thanks to the twin floats. On the return, I sat beside the pilot, and delighted in a tremendous panoramic view of Vancouver's Stanley Park and skyline as well as the many ships parked off shore.

On my way to the nearby Coast Bastion Hotel, at Javawocky Coffee House, a café near Nanaimo's landmark large, white bastion, for pure research, I sampled a Nanaimo bar cheesecake along with coffee. Yum!

The city of 84,000 is blessed with beautiful scenery, mild, temperate climate, thriving arts and culture, a university and easy access to outdoor activities. It boasts the island's largest performing arts centre, The Port Theatre, a host of arts and culture groups, and a vibrant, lively music scene, particularly jazz as this is the home town of Diana Krall. It attracts hundreds of writers, artists, musicians and crafts people.

I soon discovered other tasty "bars," and some great options for tourists. Sticking to downtown, without need of a car, one may visit the Old City Station Pub, the Queens, the Dinghy Dock Pub, (Canada's only floating pub) and the Coast Bastion Hotel's modern Minnoz Lounge – each a different experience. Further afield, the Longwood Brew Pub located in the north end of town, offers appetizing food and suds brewed on site...Read rest of story at:

Travel Fact of the day

Other than France, Great Britain, and the United States, most of the world remained unmapped until the advent of accurate aerial photography in World War II. - Provided by Reference.com

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



City Harbour

You're born an original.
Don't die a copy.

John Mason

Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

Nanaimo



Mike Keenan: Bar Scene

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFnvc1H5_IQ
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGPjQzefiTU&feature=related>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdPqwzWeP1c>

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanaimo>

Wikitravel: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Nanaimo>

About.com:
<http://southernfood.about.com/od/browniesbars/r/blbb574.htm>

Churches & Synagogues:
<http://www.vancouverislandnow.com/worship.html>

Fiction: <http://biography.irank.org/pages/4429/Hodgins-Jack.html>;
<http://www.davidpfraser.ca/appearancesdavidfraser.htm>

Coast Bastion Hotel, 11 Bastion St., Phone: 250 753-6601,

www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/nanaimo/coast-bastion/overview

Crow & Gate Pub: <http://www.crowandgate.com/>, 2313 Yellow Point Rd., Cedar, BC V9X 1W5, Phone: (250) 722-3731: Replicates an authentic English Pub as found in the English countryside.

Dinghy Dock Pub, www.dinghydockpub.com #8 Pirates Lane, V9R 6R1, Pub: (250) 753-2373, Ferry: (250) 753-8244: With its distinct pale blue roof, it floats leisurely in Nanaimo's harbour. The only access is by boat. You need to catch the protection connection ferry, which leaves 10 minutes after the hour.

Longwood Brew Pub:
<http://www.longwoodbrewpub.com/>, 5775 Turner Rd., V9T 6L8, (250) 729-8225: Sample West Coast cuisine with an eclectic and creative flair.

Old City Station Pub:
<http://www.oldcitystationpub.com/>, 150 Skinner St., V9R 7A6, (250) 716.0030

The Queens, <http://www.thequeens.ca/>, 34 Victoria Cr., V9R 5B8, Phone: 250-754-6751: Established in 1892 and known as a landmark for local, national and international music.

Nanaimo Museum: www.nanaimomuseum.ca, 100 Museum Way, Phone 250 753-1821,

West Coast Air: <http://www.westcoastair.com/>

What Travel Writers Say

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Okanagan Valley



Judy Eberspaecher: Penticton VQA Wine Store