



What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Saturna Island — BC's bucolic paradise lost in a time warp

© by Hans Tammemagi

"I moved to Saturna Island in 1970 and fell in love with the deep quiet and the balance between human beings and the land," said Priscilla Ewbank, who, with her husband, operate Haggis Farm and the adjoining bakery. "On this small island we are a community, we're all interconnected, pulling together," she continued. "We want to keep it this way, however, the relentlessness of progress worries me."

Earlier I was aboard the *Mayne Queen* chugging past isle after forest-bedecked isle deep into the south-eastern corner of the Gulf Islands archipelago. Sunshine glistened from the water. In the distance an eagle soared effortlessly.

My car bumped ashore and I set off to explore, driving leisurely, pleased that the drivers of the occasionally passing cars all gave friendly waves. At East Point Park I lazed amongst sun-warmed sandstone rocks sculpted by the wind and rain into unusual pock-mark patterns. Seals frolicked amongst the kelp beds. Just off shore, the tidal currents eddied and swirled around the point called Boiling Reef. Sailboats, with translucent sails skimmed the water like butterflies. Further out, enormous merchant steamers lumbered along. I was told that pods of Orcas, the famed killer whales often pass this way, their dorsal fins rising smoothly in and out of the water.

I ambled past the lighthouse to a secluded beach to explore shell beds, a jumble
Read the rest at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/saturnaislandbc.html>

A house that does not have one warm, comfy chair in it is soulless.

May Sarton

Latest WTWS Articles

In Courtenay — Locals' succulent, stunning local cuisine by Hans Tammemagi
Grimsby, Ontario — "A Little Slice of Heaven Here on Earth" by George Bailey
Resurrecting Havana's Cementerio Cristóbal Colón © by Mike Keenan
Africa's Zanzibar - a splendid, sensory sortie © by Beth Poad

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: <http://users.telenet.be/worldstandards/electricity.htm> COUNTRY Wonder about the electrical connection required for some particular country? This site provides: Country, Single-Phase Voltage, Frequency, Plug Type & Socket Type

Words are, of course,
the most powerful drug
used by mankind.

Rudyard Kipling



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

- Travel articles (504)
- Travel tips & links (774)
- Professional travel writers (95)
- 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 +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.

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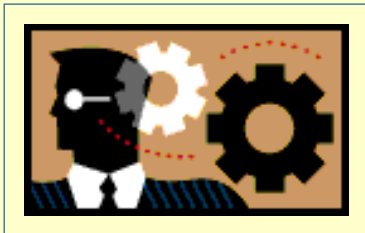
Welcome to our newest writer

Beth Poad is a graduate of McMaster University and a retired English Teacher. She has written curriculum documents for public and private schools and travelled as a volunteer to Europe, China, Tanzania and South Africa living the life of the local people.

URL of the month: Project Gutenberg

<http://www.gutenberg.org/>

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Outward Bound: Africa's Zanzibar - a splendid, sensory sortie

© by Beth Poad

While performing volunteer work in Tanzania, I took the opportunity to visit stunning Zanzibar just off the east coast. Daily flights from Dar es Salaam facilitate travel to this attractive location which consists of two large islands, Pemba and Zanzibar Island plus several smaller islands. Leaving Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at 7 am, we arrived in Stone Town on the largest island, Zanzibar Island, half an hour later on a small but very safe Precision Air 20-seater. Many opted to take the hydrofoil which cost less but takes 2.5 hours. Farming and fishing are the major occupations with many small villages scattered throughout the countryside. Known for exporting coconuts as well as cloves and other spices, Zanzibar is flat and surrounded by coasts of sandy beaches and rocky inlets. The largest town is Stone Town, birth place of Freddy Mercury of "Queen." Here, we stopped for a buffet breakfast at the Serena Hotel. What a feast! Bacon, eggs, omelettes, smoked fish, fresh island vegetables and herbs, quiche, bread, cheese, seafood, locally grown fruit, Zanzibar honey and hot strong coffee. Then, off in our private van for a spice plantation tour.

The sultan of Oman introduced these plantations to the island in 1873. We visited several with our guide, Said. Touching, smelling and tasting were encouraged. We sampled different spices such as cloves, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, vanilla and black pepper. We tasted a variety of fruits ranging from rose apple to guava, custard apple, star fruit and jack fruit. Soon, we learned to distinguish tangerine trees, lemon grass and mangosteen.

Many spices contain medicinal properties and remain used today by locals to cure certain maladies. Some rare plants such as henna, perfume tree and lipstick tree are used to prepare cosmetics. We were accompanied on our walks by several young boys who expertly wove palm leaves into grass jewellery and baskets as gifts for us.

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

Travel Fact of the day

Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" was inspired by a real event perhaps more spellbinding than the book. In 1820, the Nantucket whale ship Essex was repeatedly rammed by a large sperm whale and sank in the Pacific Ocean, leaving the 20 crew members adrift in three small whaleboats for 95 days. Only eight men survived. - Provided by The World Almanac 2011

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



Zanzibar Beach, Stone Town
by Beth Poad

Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit.

Conrad Hilton

Industry News

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

Visit Florida



Snow White - by Mike Keenan

I recently attended a Toronto media reception hosted by VISIT FLORIDA www.VISITFLORIDA.com held at the posh Hotel Le Germain in Maple Leaf Square opposite the <http://www.germaintoronto.com/en/home> Air Canada Center where the Toronto Maple Leafs <http://mapleleafs.nhl.com/> seldom play playoff hockey.

At the main floor entrance, Olivia Chow, Jack Layton's better half, was conducting last-minute campaigning for the federal election. <http://www.ndp.ca/#>

And just up the street north was the Rogers Center <http://www.rogerscentre.com/> where the Toronto Blue Jays http://toronto.bluejays.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=tor try to remain competitive in the American Baseball League. <http://mlb.mlb.com/index.jsp>

We were briefed by many of Visit Florida's partners

What Travel Writers Say

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including the following: Henny Groenendijk, VISIT FLORIDA-Canada, Tracy Vaughan-VISIT FLORIDA, Mary Haban-Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, Lynette Visaya-Visit Orlando, Lee Rose-The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, Susan Estler-Panama City Beach, Rozeta Mahboubi-Martin County, Jill M. Revelle-SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Brittany Tollerton-Universal Orlando Resort, Liz Dion-Premium Outlets® Sylvia Oliande-Kissimmee CVB Jennifer Bryant-Visit Jacksonville, and Katharina Lane from Hayworth Creative Public Relations Representing-Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, Anna Maria Island & Longboat Key, The Palm Beaches and Boca Raton InterContinental Tampa, TradeWinds Island Resorts (St. Pete Beach) and The Inn on Fifth (Naples).

Orlando, the most visited destination in the United States, is gearing up for a strong influx of Canadian visitors to the destination. As Orlando's top international market, Canada continues to reap the benefits of the strong Canadian dollar and low Orlando hotel rates.

"According to recent research, Canadians are enjoying some of the lowest room rates in Orlando in over a decade," said Danielle Courtenay, Chief Marketing Officer, Visit Orlando. "In fact, the research shows that a 14 night stay in an Orlando hotel cost around \$800 less for Canadians than 2001. So now is really the best time to book travel to Orlando."



Large animal friends - by Mike Keenan