

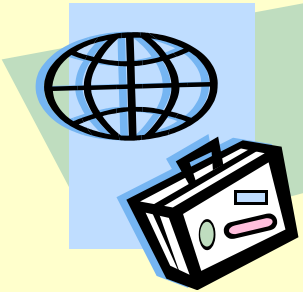


What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Enjoying Los Angeles with the kids!

© Fred Masters



My wife and I recently enjoyed an outstanding week-long family vacation in the LA area with our two sons (16 and 13 years of age). LA is massive, but with a little planning and a dose of flexibility, we are certain that others can enjoy a wonderful vacation here too, so here is a summary of some 'must-see' sites along with a few key travel tips.

First, plan to stay in the Anaheim area. This region is home to Disneyland and is full of reasonably priced hotels, a wide array of shopping and many restaurants. It also provides easy access to key highways or freeways as they are called in California.

The major sites that we wanted to visit in the area are scattered so renting a car was necessary. Have your hotel booked and rental car reserved before arriving at LAX, the area's major airport. Depending on traffic, which has to be seen to be believed — 6 lanes of traffic both ways, expect a 60-minute drive to the Anaheim area from LAX.

Mornings were comfortable and cloudy until about noon. Afternoons were gloriously sunny with temperatures in the mid-80's with very low humidity. We were surprised by how cool the evenings were during our early August visit, wearing sweaters virtually every evening.

Read rest of article at: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/lamasters.html> also: side trips: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/lamasterssidetrips.html>

Most people are mirrors, reflecting the moods and emotions of the times; few are windows, bringing light to bear on the dark corners where troubles fester. The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

Sydney J. Harris

New Destination Articles

- Try the Windmill Farm and Craft Market in Penn Yan, New York by George Bailey
- Souqs, Sandscapes, Oases & Endangered Turtles of Oman by Irene Butler
- Dramatic Open Air Festivals Accent Israel's Historic Settings by Mike Keenan
- The USS Arizona Memorial — Oahu, Hawaii by Beth Poad
- Bend sports an attractive shape in Oregon! by Kelsey Maki
- Dubai — Soaring Skyscrapers & Sizzling Sand by Hans Tammemagi

All found at: www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Featured Tip: NEXUS

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 travelling between Canada and the USA, be sure to check out the **NEXUS** program at: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/trusted_traveler/nexus_prog/

Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not.

Thomas Henry Huxley



Welcome to our newest writer

Fred Masters and his wife Kathy (and children) reside in Kitchener, Ontario. Fred is a teacher and has performed technical review work for a major Canadian textbook company. Both are avid "last minute" travellers who have attended three Olympic Games. (Athens in 2004, Beijing in 2008 and Vancouver in 2010)

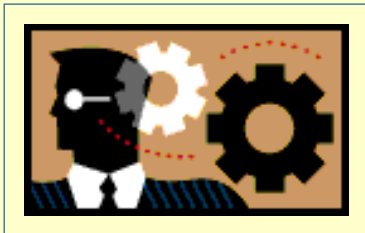


The Family - on rented tandem bikes at Huntington Beach, CA

URL of the month: National Geographic: Photo of the Day

Archive: <http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photo-of-the-day/archive>

Archive of daily National Geographic photos, including photos of animals, people, culture, adventure, science, travel, underwater, exploration, and more.



Outward Bound: Dramatic Open Air Festivals Accent Israel's Historic Settings

© by Mike Keenan

A smartly-dressed middle-aged man sits in front of me, arm draped snugly around an attractive and be-jewelled lady, clearly half his age. He and his jet-set friends have purportedly paid 2200 Shekels per seat. (\$640 US).

I sit alone but free, courtesy of Israeli tourism, and what a seat it is! I'm ensconced at the base of Mount Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Israeli Opera company is dramatically producing Giuseppe Verdi's famous *Aida*, the Italian maestro's masterpiece amongst his 28 written operas.

In 2010, their 25th anniversary, the Israeli Opera inaugurated this spectacular outdoor festival, and it has secured Israel a place on the map of world opera festivals alongside the likes of Italy, France, Switzerland and Finland.

Aida's scope is stunning! Never have I encountered so large a stage, housing such colossal scenery, 40 tons of equipment arriving by land and sea including — 22-metre obelisks, temples, four sphinxes (two on each side), competing armies (Egyptian and Ethiopian), high priests, prisoners, 7,700 seats, spectacular lighting effects (10 kilometres of electrical cables) and massive Mount Masada itself serving as a majestic natural backdrop to a production which also features international soloists, Daniel Oren, renowned Israeli conductor, the Israeli Opera Chorus and Orchestra as well as some fifty dancers and even a few camels thrown in. Yes camels, but when they appear, a North American music critic boasts, "In Toronto, we had elephants!" Nevertheless, I sit under starry heavens, amidst the Judean Desert's warm landscape, overlooking the Dead Sea, 423 metres below sea level, distinctively the lowest spot on earth, which has cleverly spawned a multitude of tourist hotels, spas and expensive health and cosmetic by-products. Coincidentally, the Dead Sea is a finalist in the current New Seven Wonders of Nature online campaign.

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

Travel Fact of the day

Alaska is the largest of the United States, but among the least populated. The 49th state to join the Union (January 3, 1959), Alaska contains Point Barrow, the northernmost point of the U.S. and Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America. Alaska was purchased from Russia in 1867 for about \$7 million or two cents an acre. Its name comes from the Aleut word 'alakshak', meaning peninsula. (RandomHistory.com)

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



Aida Performance at Masada
Mike Keenan photo

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit:

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

Shaw Festival

I've been reviewing Shaw's plays for View Magazine which is distributed throughout the Niagara, Hamilton, Burlington corridor.

Shaw celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Check out reviews on *The Niagara Blog* at:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/wtwsblog2.html>

My favourite was *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams, which surpassed the wonderful production in Stratford. This one really sizzles!

The Studio Theatre (part of the Jackson-Triggs addition) offered two more compelling plays, *When the Rain Stops Falling* by Australian Andrew Bovell, directed by Peter Hinton and *Topdog/Underdog* by American Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by Philip Akin.

Both were superb and cause one to wonder when Shaw will give up some of its tired gems such as *Candida* and *Heartbreak House* to stage some new gripping drama.

Shaw contact information:

Address: Shaw Festival Theatre
Box 774 10 Queen's Parade
Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0, Canada

Administration: Phone 905-468-2153 OR 1-800-657-1106
Fax 905-468-5438

Public Relations Director: Odette Yazbeck 1-800-657-1106 ext. 2222 odette@shawfest.com

What Travel Writers Say

E-mail: whattravelwriterssay@cogeco.net

Web: www.whattravelwriterssay.com



Moya O'Connell as Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Photo by David Cooper.



Kevin Hanchard as Booth and Nigel Shawn Williams as Lincoln by Michael Cooper