

Content Marketing Writing

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing



- 1. Why do companies need us and what do they need us for
- 2. Real life examples of travel content marketing gigs out there
- 3. Which travel content marketing pays the best and what you should avoid

Why do companies and tourism boards need us and what do they need us for?

1 out of 11 people in the world works in the travel industry or a related sector

There's many different types of travel content marketing

- Email newsletters
- Blog posts
- Social media posts
- Case studies
- White papers
- Sales copy
- Product descriptions
- Sales sheets
- Event books
- Custom magazines
- Brochures
- And more

The average small/new travel company owner or CVB executive director is....

- Juggling far too many balls
- Super concerned with his or her numbers
- Anxious about any unnecessary spending
- Always feeling like there is more to be done
- Aware that they are behind the times in much of their marketing but doesn't know what to do about it

They just don't really get it...

"Typically, a blogger doesn't write a comprehensive essay about a destination—the way a traditional journalist might—but instead works at the dizzying speed of the internet, posting updates, pictures, check-ins and other social media-friendly content to create a kind of digital bread-crumb trail that leads to a destination. Selfies, hashtags, Vine videos—this isn't the stuff of lofty travel writing, but it's the way of the digital and mobile world, where the appetite for bitesized bits of content to consume while scrolling is insatiable."

I'm sure you're already familiar with a lot of types of travel content marketing

- Michelin (tires)
- Viator (tours)
- Trivago (commissions)
- World Nomads (insurance sales)
- Matador Network (seems like info for travelers, but actually makes its money creating branded content for companies!)
- Airline magazines (flights)
- Destination magazines (Visit CA)

There are a lot of benefits of this type of work:

- If you're new, you'll have an editor who will push you to use detail, cut the cliches, and not fall back on vague, meaningless words
- You'll have a steady income while you learn new skills or research new destinations or types of travel
- You can amass a lot of clips quickly

There are companies out there that are happy to connect you to these opportunities, for a price:

- Contently has some good ones (Mastercard, cruise lines, Marriott); also well-paid
- But whenever you go this route, you're sacrificing
 - Pay
 - Good contract terms
 - The ability to choose editors you like to work with



(or the case of BlogMutt)

Real Life Examples of **Travel Content** Marketing Gigs Your **Peers Are Out There Getting Paid For**

Shhhhh.....I can't tell you (my experiences with ghostwriting)

- Background in ghostwriting
- Background in Italy
- Easy to set up
- Only targeted people who already had blogs
- Important to gain trust early on when doing content strategy

You often wear a great many hats:

- TRPZ.com: As Managing Editor for this online travel startup, I advised the CEO on branding, content marketing, social media tactics, blog and website set up, all website content and blog posts.
- EnchantedAprillnn.com: For this startup, I developed travel content and consulted on branding, online marketing, email campaigns and website design

You often get complete control over an entire "magazine"

- Fred.\ Holidays Brochure I wrote the copy for and projectmanaged the publication of this 84 page brochure, working alongside a graphic designer, and liaising with the company's operations manager, tourist boards and other suppliers.
- Cruisin' Magazine | Fred.\ Cruises The second edition of Cruisin' Magazine for which, again, I researched and wrote all ad copy as well planning the content and pagination and liaising with advertisers.
- Star Clippers / Kirker brochure Work on this brochure entailed writing hotel descriptions and destination information in order to showcase each holiday package in the best possible way. I also wrote the generic introductory pages and worked with the designer to ensure that content was both accurate and compelling.
- Pullmantur Cruises UK Brochure I researched and wrote all copy for the Pullmantur Cruises UK brochure in addition to project-managing the production and distribution to consumers and the travel trade.

Or an entire website:

- Blanc Boutique Hotel: Content for a branded website of a new upmarket boutique hotel
 - Handled the entire content of the branded website of this exclusive property in Sliema. SEO was a consideration only on a few dedicated pages that could rank on Google and bring organic traffic to the website.
- Lotus Room Yoga Center Content writing and on-page SEO for yoga centre website
 - SEO content marketing for new WordPress website. Front-end editing and text formatting using Themify builder. Back-end onpage SEO includes sitemap optimisation, menu optimisation, site info, connecting Analytics and Search Console, etc.
- Palazzo Stagno Content writing for events venue website
 - Following a tour of the Palazzo, this client entrusted me with developing the site map and fresh content of the new website to represent the wedding and events venue's marketing concept. I also wrote copy to appear on third party websites.

Or get to write travel content in unusual places:

- On the Road Circa 1914: Glamping with Henry Ford & Thomas Edison Ancestry.com
- Ghosts of Presidents Past: Who's Haunting the White House Ancestry.com
- What Was it Like to Live in 18th-Century England? Ancestry.com

Tourism Boards Offer Some of the Best Opportunities for Storytelling

"In my early content writing days, I worked consistently for My Destination Malta and wrote much of the content of this website. Includes, but is not limited to, the entire towns and villages section, several travel articles, and many of the profiles of local businesses."

This same writer has also written for:

- Office of Hawaiian Affairs Ka Wai Ola
- HamakuaSprings.com
- APEX (Airline Passengers Experience Association)
 Big Island Visitors Bureau
- Lyman Museum
- Trek Bicycles
- VisitTheUSA.com

Which travel content marketing pays the best and what you should avoid

Low-Paying Travel Content Marketing Work

- Writing social media posts
- Writing short blog posts
- Photo editing for social media
- Writing descriptions of hotels, condo rentals, tours, etc. with a lot of sections and details to research but a low overall word count

Fiera.

And a quick story about clients who give you low rates now but promise to raise them later...

Well-Paid Travel Content Marketing Work

- Content strategy
- Social media strategy
- Ghostwriting for company owners
- White papers
- Full site re-writes
- Writing destination "stories"
- Anything involving "storytelling" puts you ahead of in-house copy writers (and a quick anecdote about VAs)

Thanks so much for joining us today!

It was a pleasure chatting travel writing with you ©

Whenever you need to double check an idea fit, your assumptions about editors, or your self doubt on whether your idea is good, email questions@dreamoftravelwriting.com.

