



*Dream of
Travel Writing*

Taking Control of Your Freelance Travel Writing Finances

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing

A blurred background image of a coffee shop setting. In the foreground, there is a white cup of coffee on a saucer. To the left, a smartphone is visible. In the background, there is a vase of purple flowers and a white napkin. The text "Today, we're going to talk about..." is overlaid in the center.

Today, we're going to
talk about...

1. Laying the ground work: what are the expense categories for freelance food and travel writers?
2. How does this play out with your month-to-month expense tracking (and quarterly taxes!)?
3. Taking it to the next level: how should you manage these things on an on-going basis





Before we get this train moving...

Where are you guys at with:

- (1) your 2017 taxes
- (2) with regularly tracking your *business* finances and doing expense reports?

Keeping it Professional is Key for the IRS

- Not just about business cards and accounts
- **Your calendar** is a huge part of taxes
- Hobby vs. business
- Pitching new business and other business development activities need to be tracked

J If "Yes," did you or will you file required Forms 1099? Yes No

Part I Income

1	Gross receipts or sales. See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked <input type="checkbox"/>	1	
2	Returns and allowances	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	
4	Cost of goods sold (from line 42)	4	
5	Gross profit. Subtract line 4 from line 3	5	
6	Other income, including federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund (see instructions)	6	
7	Gross income. Add lines 5 and 6	7	

Part II Expenses. Enter expenses for business use of your home **only** on line 30.

8	Advertising	8		18	Office expense (see instructions)	18	
9	Car and truck expenses (see instructions)	9		19	Pension and profit-sharing plans	19	
10	Commissions and fees	10		20	Rent or lease (see instructions):		
11	Contract labor (see instructions)	11		20a	a Vehicles, machinery, and equipment	20a	
12	Depletion	12		20b	b Other business property	20b	
13	Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction (not included in Part III) (see instructions)	13		21	Repairs and maintenance	21	
14	Employee benefit programs (other than on line 19)	14		22	Supplies (not included in Part III)	22	
15	Insurance (other than health)	15		23	Taxes and licenses	23	
16	Interest:			24	Travel, meals, and entertainment:		
16a	a Mortgage (paid to banks, etc.)	16a		24a	a Travel	24a	
16b	b Other	16b		24b	b Deductible meals and entertainment (see instructions)	24b	
17	Legal and professional services	17		25	Utilities	25	
18				26	Wages (less employment credits)	26	
19				27a	Other expenses (from line 48)	27a	
20				27b	b Reserved for future use	27b	
28	Total expenses before expenses for business use of home. Add lines 8 through 27a	28		28		28	
29	Tentative profit or (loss). Subtract line 28 from line 7	29		29		29	
30	Expenses for business use of your home. Do not report these expenses elsewhere. Attach Form 8829 unless using the simplified method (see instructions). Simplified method filers only: enter the total square footage of: (a) your home: _____ and (b) the part of your home used for business: _____. Use the Simplified Method Worksheet in the instructions to figure the amount to enter on line 30	30		30		30	
31	Net profit or (loss). Subtract line 30 from line 29. • If a profit, enter on both Form 1040, line 12 (or Form 1040NR, line 13) and on Schedule SE, line 2 . (If you checked the box on line 1, see instructions). Estates and trusts, enter on Form 1041, line 3 . • If a loss, you must go to line 32.	31		31		31	



The Basis of the Schedule C

- Advertising
- Car and truck
- **Commissions and fees**
- **Contract labor**
- Depletion
- Depreciation
- Employee benefits
- Insurance other than health
- Interest
- **Legal and professional services**
- Office expenses
- Pension
- Rent or lease
- Repairs and maintenance
- **Supplies**
- Taxes and licenses
- Travel meals and entertainment
 - - travel
 - - deductible meals
- Utilities
- Wages
- **Other expenses**

The background is a soft-focus photograph of a home office. In the foreground, a newspaper is spread out on a desk, with the word 'FEEL' and 'AT HOME' visible. To the right, a glass vase holds several orange chrysanthemum flowers. In the background, a wooden chair is partially visible. The overall scene is bright and airy, suggesting a comfortable and functional home workspace.

To home office or not to
home office?

Let's Talk About Food

A background image of a white bowl filled with ramen, featuring a slice of chashu pork, a soft-boiled egg, and green onions. A pair of chopsticks is visible on the left side of the bowl.

- 50% food and entertainment
- Food as research
 - What does research mean for freelance travel writers?
 - How is food as research different if you also do recipe development?
- Is there really a line for writing off meals?
 - Conferences!

Expense Reports! Discuss

- Do you do them? Why you should
- The magical and strange world of per diems
- Deciding how to approach your travel expenses based on what you personally cover

Tracking Your Finances in the Long-Term

- Quickbooks self-employed + TurboTax
- Spreadsheets
- Automating credit card funnels and review
- Quarterly taxes
- It really comes down to what you will reliably do

Thanks so much
for joining us today!

It was a pleasure chatting
travel writing with you 😊

Have a follow up question on this webinar? Email questions@dreamoftravelwriting.com and we'll cover it in an upcoming webinar or in our Monday reader mailbag post on the Six-Figure Travel Writer blog.

