



*Dream of
Travel Writing*

Article Nuts and Bolts: Putting Together a Diary Piece

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing

A blurred background image of a coffee shop table. 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. What do I really mean when I say diary piece?
2. How do these articles work in the real world (as opposed to in private settings)
3. Real-world examples
4. How to pitch these pieces





Before we get this train moving...

Why am I telling you how to write a
“diary”?!?

Main Differences Between Straight Diaries and What We're Already Covered

- No clear objective
- A lot of information that focuses on a trip or destination without a clear unifying principle
- Covers a lot of different things about a destination
- One way to think of it is a guidebook in narrative form

A person wearing a dark jacket and a textured hat is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. The foreground is a flat, light-colored expanse, possibly a field or tundra. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Everybody now:

How do you think print
diary pieces differ from
blog posts?

Day 39

2015 was the year
i lost my self...



One of the
weird things
about diaries
is...a lot of
different types
of trips fit into
them

Diary-Style Piece Typically Appear (today) in Certain Outlets and Sections:

- Newspaper travel sections (major national and regional)
- Editorial websites (BBCTravel.com is the textbook example)
- Trade publications!
- Magazine feature sections (small, indie, and occasionally national)

A person with long hair, wearing a dark, patterned dress, is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that leads into a field. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with rolling hills under a pale sky. The overall tone is warm and contemplative.

Another good way to think of
these pieces:

The email you used to write
home to your close friends and/
or family that you know post for
everyone you know to see on
Facebook

Day One

I've just arrived in Paraguay and I'm already really experiencing the culture! I hailed a cab after I got off my plane, and while the radio was on, I got to listen to some authentic Paraguayan music. Luis Alberto del Parana was the one singing, I found out from the driver. He was a singer in the fifties, and is now a national musical icon in Paraguay because he was the most famous musician to originate from here. It was pretty interesting to find out. I did some research later and also found that he had played with The Beatles and The Rolling Stones on stage before! One of his album sold 30 million copies, so he was a pretty big artist back in the day. I hadn't known that Paraguay ever produced any musicians.



However, when the driver switched the station, I was surprised to hear ethnic Latin music on the radio! I had assumed that the popular music in Paraguay would consist mainly of English pop songs and only a few occasional Spanish songs. In countries like France, Germany and Spain, the music is often mostly North American. It was very refreshing to see that not every country played the same music as the next. However, the pop genre is still prevalent in Paraguay, just like in the rest of the world. Spain has put its own spin on it, however. Pop can sound very different in Spanish than in English. Some Latin musicians that are popular in Paraguay include Enrique Iglesias, Alkilados, Ivan Zavala and Los Verduleros. However, as far as I know, there weren't any famous Paraguayan born musicians other than Luis Alberto del Parana. It was a little disappointing to learn.

Overall Structure

- Why the author went and often what place is know for
- Background on the location
- Three key stops
- Then “the rest”: a mini round-up of what else happened
- Resolution...without arc, often has little heft

A woman with long hair is seen from the side, sitting at a desk and typing on a laptop. The scene is brightly lit, likely by natural light from a window in the background. On the desk, there is a pair of glasses, a white coffee cup on a saucer, and a water bottle. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

Let's take a look!

How to Pitch These Pieces

- Can be a tricky sell to the wrong outlet
- Work well with editors who already know you, especially when they've sent you on a trip
- *Don't* work well with fams, or as Spud Hilton said, "If it's from a fam, I shouldn't be able to tell."

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.

