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# 100 Best Travel Journal Blogs

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:18pm by admin

Many travelers opt to take a notebook with them on their journeys to keep a record of their adventures and impressions of the new places they visit. In this digital age, however, many of these notebooks are going on the Web instead and are being shared with people all over the world. Many travel bloggers share their experiences with travel through online travel journals that provide an interesting and sometimes entertaining record of the places they visit and the people they meet. You can read about these journeys either just for your own enjoyment or because you want to take a trip yourself. Here are some of the best to check out.

Couples, Families and Friends

What better way is there to travel than with those you care about most? These travel journals are all about making travel a group affair.

1. [Old World Wandering](#): While the journey chronicled in this blog is over now, it can still be an interesting read for anyone wishing to travel by land around Europe, through Asia and beyond. The blog is written by a couple who, in the process of moving to Shanghai, planned to see a bit of the world together.
2. [Traveling Right, Traveling Light](#): Couple Lloyd and Jackie blog about their travels in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe in this entertaining and informative blog.
3. [Karie and Scott's European Adventure](#): This couple took a big leap by selling everything they owned, hopping on a plane and moving to Barcelona with no place to live or work. This blog chronicles their experience as well as their other travels throughout Europe.
4. [Yobosayo](#): This blog chronicles the travels of a couple from Philadelphia as they make their way around the world. It's filled with pictures and stories of the places they've been traveling, including locations from the Middle East, Europe, Africa and South America.
5. [Family Travel](#): This site is all about sharing travel and the sights of the world with your children. This family loves to travel together and they share their stories, recommendations and advice through this blog.
6. [Delicious Baby](#): Bringing the kids on the road with you can sometimes be a pain. This blog is dedicated to helping families travel together more easily. The author, Debbie, posts guides of the most family friendly places in all the cities she visits with her kids.
7. [Euros Ate My Dollars](#): Ben and Brittany share their eight-month long journey through this blog, after they quit their jobs and took off to see the world. Read about their travels all over Europe.
8. [Uncornered Market](#): Travelers Audrey and Daniel take photographs and write about their adventures for this blog. Check it out for great posts on China, India, Germany and more.
9. [Soultravelers3](#): This blog is home to posts from a family of three who packed up and embarked on an open-ended trip around the world. Almost two years into their travels, the family is currently in Capri and hopes to continue traveling.
10. [Big Trip Blog](#): Kevin and Valerie are a couple who've chosen to take a year off to travel around the world together. Their blog records visits to Europe, India, Egypt and much more.
11. [The Lost Girls](#): This popular blog follows three friends who quit their jobs and set out to explore the world together. Both entertaining and informative, it's a great read for anyone who has ever dreamed of leaving it all behind to explore the world.
12. [Legal Nomads](#): Read about these two lawyers (and their friends) as they make their way around the globe, starting with South America.
13. [Globe Stompers](#): This couple took off on world travels and opted to record the journey in this blog. Read about their experiences in South America, New Zealand and much more as they make their way around the world.
14. [Autumn and Danny World Travel](#): This blog is dedicated to the world travels of soon-to-be married Autumn and Danny. Keep track of their travels around the globe and their wedding in scenic Tuscany.
15. [One Year on Earth](#): Newlyweds Shanna and Derek decided to celebrate their marriage by

taking off on the trip of a lifetime. They have recorded all their adventures thus far on their blog and still have months to go on their trip.

### Photo Journals

Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words, especially when you're trying to describe places you've traveled. These blogs focus on documenting trips for the more visually inclined.

16. [Everything Everywhere](#): Here Gary Arndt shares his photos and stories as he travels around the world after selling his [business](#). He's been traveling all over since March of 2007, and visitors to his site can see great photos of him and the sights in Asia, Australia and Indonesia.
17. [Stuck in Customs](#): This is a beautiful photo blog by game designer and part-time photographer Trey Ratcliff. It features photos from his travels around the world and at home, so future travelers can get an idea of what they want to see.
18. [Primitive Culture](#): This photo journal by amateur ethnographer and photographer Xander allows readers to get up close and personal with the sights and stories of places in South Africa, Bangkok, Istanbul and much more.
19. [Far and Near](#): The author of this blog has traveled to over 40 different countries around the world and shares experiences and impressions of those places through the photos in this blog.
20. [From the Faraway, Nearby](#): This blog shares the passions of a lifelong bird watcher and nature enthusiast who posts his photos from his travels in Oklahoma, Hawaii and beyond.
21. [Reasons to Wander](#): Sloan Schang and Amy Hojnowski took off together and went on a journey around the world. This blog is filled with photographs from their journey that show some of their favorite and most lasting memories.
22. [Rambling Traveler](#): This blog is full of photos from native Minnesotan Stacy's travels with her husband and their children.
23. [Travelvice](#): This blog is chock full of photos from the travels of Craig Heimburger, who has spent the last three years in a perpetual state of travel.

### Solo Travel

For those [going it alone](#), travel can be a true adventure. These bloggers share their experiences in these blogs.

24. [Travel Betty](#): Women looking to travel alone can get some tips and advice from this blog, written by an enthusiastic traveler. Readers will be able to find advice in the articles as well as hear about her experiences traveling to 23 different countries.
25. [Claire Takes on the World](#): The author of this blog, Claire, is working and traveling the world as she goes. Read about her travels to India, Peru, Brazil and more on her blog.
26. [Pickled Eel](#): This blog, written by an Australian, chronicles travels to China, India, Singapore, Malaysia and more. Readers can also take a look at photos, writings and other additions to his blog.
27. [Corporate America Runaway](#): Sherry, a former IT specialist, took a year off from the corporate world to travel to all the places she always wanted to visit. Visitors to her blog will be able to read stories about her adventures traveling alone and with friends.
28. [A Novel Path](#): Writer Cristi Farrell shares her adventures traveling, writing and doing environmental consulting on this blog.
29. [Trail of Ants](#): This blog follows the travels of Ant, as he treks around the world on a two-year journey. Read his well-written accounts of his experiences in China, India, Sri Lanka and more.
30. [Vagabonding](#): This blogger, Mike, traveled the world alone for over a year. Though his trip is over, he still posts stories from his travels regularly on this blog.
31. [Brooke vs. the World](#): This blog follows the adventures of, Brooke, a 24-year old traveling until she runs out of money or finishes the journey. So far she's journeyed to places like Poland, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain and more.
32. [Girl Solo in Arabia](#): While many women would be intimidated to take on Arab nations on their own, this blogger shows that a determined woman can travel anywhere. Here she shares her experiences everywhere from Egypt to Iran.
33. [Gone East](#): This blog follows Huw as he makes his way by land through the cities, natural wonders and monuments of China.
34. [The Overland Tales](#): This young blogger just wasn't cut out for the corporate office life.

After returning from a journey around the world to the working world, he once again put in his resignation and headed out to explore. This blog follows his journey through Europe, Russia, Japan and beyond.

35. [There and Back](#): Keep up with the adventures of Evan as he travels around the world solo and chronicles his experience through the travel writing on his blog.
36. [Where the Hell is Matt?](#): This humorous blog follows around game designer Matt as he used his savings to travel around the world. This blog is slightly unique in that Matt not only visited these places, but made a video of himself dancing in each one.

### Region Specific

Sometimes you find a place you love and you just want to learn more about it. These blogs focus on one area and share information and advice as the bloggers travel.

37. [My Terella](#): This blog is all about Norway and allows readers to learn loads about its culture, places to visit and more. Blogger RennyBA shares his experiences traveling around to scenic and historical locations in Norway, and it can be a very informative read for those planning a trip of their own.
38. [New York Traveler](#): Those interested in exploring all that the state of New York has to offer should give this blog a look. Follow the blogger as she travels to historical sites, parks and fun locations throughout New York.
39. [Reflections in the Nile](#): Those with a desire to see the Pyramids or travel down the Nile will enjoy the posts from this blog. English-born Su makes frequent trips to the country and writes about her experiences here.
40. [Bart's Travel Blog](#): If you love traveling in South America, this blog likely has something of interest for you. Bart records his travel experiences, insights and suggestions throughout this informative blog.
41. [Middle East Journal](#): Get the lowdown on what it's like living and traveling in the Middle East from journalist Michael Totten.
42. [Texas RV Travel Blog](#): This blogger is an avid RV enthusiast and has recorded many travels in this blog. For those interested in RVs, Texas, or both, this is an informative read.
43. [Europe Trotter](#): Those who love European travel can follow the journey of this blogger who has gone to just about every European country and recorded the journey in this blog.

### Road Less Traveled

From traveling to the far reaches of the globe to taking to the road for unusual reasons, these travelers have taken some unusual trips all over the world.

44. [Big Blue Globe](#): If you've ever dreamed of traveling to the bottom of the world, check out this blog. It gives a day-by-day account of what it's like living and working in Antarctica.
45. [Olga the Traveling Bra](#): Get a laugh from this blog, which follows the worldwide journey of Olga, a lacy black bra. Readers will get photos and information about all the places Olga visits.
46. [Candy from Strangers](#): Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy this blog as it follows the travels of Malena, a blogger who is traveling the world not only to see the sights but to find the best sweets as well.
47. [Last Great Road Trip](#): This father and son road trip team travel across the United States, traveling over 5,000 miles. Their story is recorded in this blog for others who are planning a road trip of their own.
48. [A Journey into the Heart of America](#): These recent college grads took on an extended road trip as a means to see the United States as well as to meet people from all over America. They recorded their journey in this blog.
49. [Polar Blogger](#): While some people might call it crazy, this blogger wanted to walk to the south pole. This blog records his progress, and his adventures in Antarctica.
50. [Global Walk](#): Follow this woman as she walks around the world to help fight breast cancer with the posts and journal entries from this blog. Her trip is over, but the story is still an inspiration to anyone who wants to battle disease and see the world from a new perspective.
51. [Bird Year](#): This unusual blog chronicles the 12,000-mile journey of then 15-year-old Malkolm and his family as they travel along the West coast in search of birds.
52. [Hope and Healing](#): These bloggers are traveling by ship around the coast of Africa, providing much needed medical attention and aid to locals. You can read about their experiences, frustrations and triumphs in this blog.

53. [One Week Job](#): One way to help pay for a journey around the world is to work your way through it, and that's just what this intrepid blogger did. Follow him as he attempts to work odd jobs to help him make his way across continents.

#### Alternate Transportation

While [air travel](#) is usually the way most global travelers choose to make long journeys, some choose a more adventurous way to get around. Follow these bloggers as they travel the world by foot, bike, boat and more.

54. [Slow Travel](#): This blog is dedicated to travel without airplanes. This blogger is taking trains, cars, boats and his own two feet as he travels around the world.
55. [The Big Walk](#): It might take a few pairs of shoes to do it, but Paul and Helen Webster are aiming to walk their way across Europe. Follow their progress with this blog.
56. [Horse Travel Blog](#): Those who enjoy horseback riding will get the most out of this blog. It focuses on vacations the blogger and her husband have taken that involve horseback riding and can be a great resource for others who are looking for travel of this sort.
57. [Kiwis Don't Fly](#): Those afraid to take to the skies will appreciate the nature of this blog, which chronicles the journey of one native New Zealander as he travels from Dublin to Sydney without taking a flight.
58. [Ed's Gone South](#): This blog follows the long motorcycle journey of Ed, who opted to explore the wonders of South America via two wheels.
59. [Amy and Wim](#): Ever wanted to see the world from the seat of your bicycle? This couple did just that, traveling all over with only their bikes, small packs and each other.
60. [The World By Sea](#): Derek, a Flagstaff native, and his friend took a boat on a cruise around the world not only to see the sights, but to help locals build new schools, improve their communities and more. This blog chronicles their ongoing journey.
61. [Dmotorider](#): If you've ever dreamed of taking to the open road on a motorcycle, you can get some inspiration from this blog. The writer took just his motorcycle and a few suitcases on a journey through the Americas.
62. [LifeCruiser](#): This blog is written by a husband and wife to record their travels by sea around their native country of Sweden and beyond.
63. [Travels of Stacey](#): Musician Stacey takes to the seas and records her travels in this blog. You'll find entertaining photos of people, places and foods as well as amusing commentary.

#### Living Abroad

Why only take a few weeks in a country when you can live there and really learn about a place? These journals are by bloggers who have done just that and who have chosen to share their experiences.

64. [Neil Duckett](#): Neil Duckett is an Australian living and working in Japan. His blog deals with his experiences fitting in, learning about Japanese culture, tasting new foods and learning about Japan day by day.
65. [Tales from Kulafumbi](#): This native Kenyan blogs about her experiences living, working and traveling throughout the country and provides great insights and beautiful photos for readers to see.
66. [My Marrakech](#): This photo-filled blog follows the life of an American family living in Marrakech. It contains loads of info. on where to shop, eat and find the best things in Marrakech.
67. [Eating Asia](#): This writing and photo-taking couple have lived and traveled throughout Asia for the past 12 years. Their blog focuses on the delicacies and best places to find food in countries like Malaysia, China, Thailand and Vietnam. The photographs are guaranteed to make your mouth water!
68. [Gas.tron.o.my](#): This blogger is currently living in Saigon and writes about the sights, but her blog focuses more on the foods to be found there. If you're planning a trip to Vietnam anytime soon, the blog is a must-read for cuisine recommendations.
69. [Just Married Chilean Style](#): This newlywed is currently living in Chile with her husband and blogs about her experiences adapting and making a life in the country. Visitors will learn the ins and outs of getting around in Chile through her posts, essential if you're planning a trip there.
70. [Beijing Notebook](#): This blogger is currently living in Beijing and shares insights and advice with those who want to visit or live in the city themselves.

71. [The North West Territory](#): Brian, a non-profit worker and sometime blogger, shares his experiences living and working in Ghana in this blog.
72. [Novoarte's Travel Blog](#): Those looking to travel to Mexico City can find some helpful insights and advice on this blog, written by a sometime New Yorker and current resident of Mexico City.
73. [Travis on Tour](#): Blogger Travis is currently living and working as a teacher in Korea. His posts share his experiences with all aspects of fitting into Korean culture.
74. [Parisian Spring](#): Tanya is a graduate student currently living and studying in Paris. Her blog reflects her experiences living in France and traveling through Europe.
75. [Sandier Pastures](#): Learn what it's like to pull up stakes and move to Dubai with a little reading on this blog. Learn about the sites and intricacies of life in the United Arab Emirates.
76. [The Life I Chose in Positano](#): This blogger came to Italy to study and ended up staying put. Get a different perspective on life in the tourist town of Positano from someone who's chosen to call it home.

### Advice

Looking for some friendly advice before your next trip? Learn from the experiences of these bloggers by checking out their travel journals.

77. [Amateur Traveler](#): Here visitors will find a blog that is part of a weekly podcast series. Entries share travel stories, advice and more with those who travel for pleasure.
78. [Killing Batteries](#): Travel writer Leif Pettersen gives readers some insight into the places he's been. Posts are in-depth and provide valuable information about places all over the world.
79. [The Art of Nonconformity](#): This blog is full of advice for travelers taken from the experience of Chris Guillebeau, a writer, social entrepreneur and world traveler.
80. [The Daily Transit](#): This blog, by journalist Ben Hancock, covers all kinds of topics and issues that relate to travel both real and metaphysical adventures.
81. [Ubertramp](#): Get advice on budget travel, backpacking and more on this site. It also contains great accounts of other's travel experiences to help you get an idea of what to expect on your next trip.
82. [Viator Travel Blog](#): This blog from Viator is a collection of travel writings from bloggers who have traveled all over the world. Get new insights, advice and inspiration from the posts.
83. [Les Explorers](#): This blog is written by French hotel worker Claude Bernard, and follows him as he visits places all over the world as well as offering some insights into the tourism business.
84. [Andy HoboTraveler](#): This blogger has been traveling around the world for almost ten years and has visited over 44 different countries in his journeys. You'll find general travel advice as well as his personal accounts of his travels on this blog.
85. [Go Backpacking Round the World](#): Those who have a passion for backpacking will appreciate the advice and articles contained within this blog. Readers will find information that will help them plan the best trips possible as well as first-hand accounts of other travelers' experiences.
86. [Cool Travel Guide](#): Lara Dunston is a travel writer living in Dubai. This blog highlights the things she enjoys most about travel and the discoveries that she's made while working on travel books for Lonely Planet, DK and more.

### General

Hear about all kinds of stories from travelers who have explored the far reaches of the globe and reported back to their blogs with these helpful and entertaining online travel journals.

87. [Pret a Voyager](#): The name of this blog translates to Ready to Travel, and that's just what this roaming graphic designer does. The blog focuses on stories of her travels as well as on fashion, design and photography.
88. [Escape from New York](#): Wendy, writer of this blog, is a photographer and journalist who travels the world taking photos and learning about what makes cultures unique. Her blog contains stories and, of course, photographs of her travels.
89. [Nomad4Ever](#): Here you'll find articles and advice from a self-professed nomad who's spending his time traveling and living in Southeast Asia. The blog shares his experiences while also giving inspiration and motivation to those scared to fulfill their travel dreams.
90. [Nerd's Eye View](#): This self-professed nerd works as a technical writer but also enjoys

writing about travel and culture whenever she can. This blog is an extension of that and is full of her travels both local and abroad.

91. [Sand Dollar Adventures](#): This humorous blog shares the adventures and misadventures of the blogger. It also shares ideas and deals on travel for those who like a little adrenaline on their vacations.
92. [Budget Trouble](#): Here, self professed [travel addict](#) Anna shares her experiences traveling and living in places all over the world.
93. [Greg Wesson's Esoteric Globe](#): Follow the travels of Greg, a frequent road warrior and world traveler whose blog covers countries near and far.
94. [Notes from the Road](#): This blog provides beautiful photos and writings on travel all over the United States.
95. [Randall Wood](#): Randall Wood is a travel writer, among many other things, and this blog showcases his writings on the places he's been.
96. [Song of the Open Road Travel Blog](#): Having been traveling for years and visiting over forty countries, Wade shares his experiences with international travel through this blog.
97. [Write Away!](#): Lauren Carter, the author of this blog, is a travel writer living in Ontario. Her blog focuses on the travels she's taken, travel deals, tourism issues and more.
98. [Clearly Enlight's Travel Blog](#): Get inspired by the photos and posts from this blogger who plans to travel the world for the next five years, and who is sharing his experiences on his blog.
99. [Not Another Tourist](#): This blogger has been living and working all over the world. She's chosen to share her experiences with friends, family and the rest of the Internet through this blog.
100. [Always Traveling](#): Follow this blogger across continents with entertaining posts and insights on backpacking through Europe, China and maybe more.

If you enjoyed this article, [please bookmark it at del.icio.us »](#)



Filed under: [Features](#), [Vacations](#)

## 118 Comments »

THANK YOU !!

I feel honored to be part of this fantastic list of travel blogs. Thank you - and all other bloggers - for sharing information and insights to make travel and life abroad easier and best enjoyable. Unfortunately I cannot update my blog in Beijing right now, as I have not found out yet how to go around the firewall that blocks blogger, blogspot etc. - I hope to be back anytime soon.

Comment by [Suzie](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [4:27 am](#)

Thanks for including me!!!

And I shall definitely make a post out of it, too!

Ciao!

A.

Comment by [Anna](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [9:53 am](#)

This was a surprise! Thanks for including my little blog in the list. I am not really sure if it qualifies for a travel blog since I am not travelling, I'm living in the place I blog about! 😊

Comment by [Grace](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [10:23 am](#)

Christina,

A great list with many new finds!

Comment by [Happy Hotelier](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [10:46 am](#)

So there I was absolutely thrilled to find a list of new travel blogs that I couldn't wait to read when I noticed that you have listed my own! Thanks for taking the time to check it out and mention me!  
:) Denice.

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Comment by [Not Another Tourist](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [12:34 pm](#)

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Wow, thanks for including Travel Betty in your list!  
Some of my favorite travel blogs are included too, so I feel like I'm in fine company.  
Thanks for putting this together, Christina! What a fantastic resource.

Comment by [Travel Betty](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [2:43 pm](#)

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I would like this list even if it didn't include the Amateur Traveler... but I do like it more that it does.  
Thanks.

Comment by [Chris \(Amateur Traveler\)](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [3:51 pm](#)

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What a comprehensive list — thanks very much for including the Family Travel blog. 😊

Comment by [Sheila Scarborough](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [8:40 pm](#)

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Wow a place to find travel Blogs and viagra all on one page!

Comment by [Jill Isherwood uses orange spray](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [10:12 pm](#)

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What a fantastic list! Thanks so much for including Soultravelers3! I am surprised that we are the only family on an open ended world tour. Maybe we will start a trend. Hee hee.

Comment by [Soultravelers3](#) — May 14, 2008 @ [11:43 pm](#)

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Great list. Thanks for sharing.

Comment by [Spuds](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [12:18 am](#)

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Congrats to all the nominees! My boyfriend and I are leaving on our RTW journey in a few weeks and I will definitely be looking to these pros for advice!

Comment by [Cindi](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [12:53 am](#)

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What a wonderful surprise! THANK YOU from the bottom of my cups for including my blog on this terrific, comprehensive list! I am truly honored that you enjoy my exciting globetrotting adventures!

Comment by [Olga, the Traveling Bra](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [6:11 am](#)

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Nominee wiping away tears...

"I want to thank the Academy, the director, my therapist, my paparazzi,..."

"You love me...you really, really love me!"

Sorry. I was so blown away by being included on this prestigious list I guess I just lost it. (Which happens occasionally if you are a world famous global humor travel writer!)

Comment by [Sand Dollar Adventures \(ol' #91\)](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [6:22 am](#)

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Well, well, well, this was a pleasant surprise. Many thanks - especially since I have not done any serious promoting of the blog for so long! Maybe I just need to get back to IRAQ! That earned the blog a lot of readers!!

Comment by [PickledEel](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [8:03 am](#)

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Wow! What a fantastic list. I'm very honored to have Big Blue Globe be included!

Comment by [Tom](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [9:52 am](#)

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though I'm sad to not have my blog included, it gives me something to work for!!!  
but lots of great sites and I'm now a fan of your site. It's been book marked!

Comment by [Nomadic Matt](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [12:45 pm](#)

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What an honour to see my [Terella](#) listed among these lovely travel bloggers. Thanks for the endorsement! Its an inspiration, as I love to share about [Norway](#) and give everyone all over the world a peek into our culture, traditions and habits - sometimes a bit of our food too.

Comment by [RennyBA](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [7:00 pm](#)

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Fantastic list ... and I gotta say I'm a huge follower of Olga, the Traveling Bra ... I live vicariously through her travels 😊

Comment by [DrowseyMonkey](#) — May 15, 2008 @ [9:46 pm](#)

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Thanks for adding Texas RV Travel blog to your list! Stop by again, any time.

Comment by [CyberCelt](#) — May 16, 2008 @ [4:43 am](#)

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Very cool list! I see some favorites on here.

Comment by [Lola](#) — May 20, 2008 @ [1:45 pm](#)

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Nice collection of lists.

Comment by [Sindhu](#) — May 21, 2008 @ [6:00 am](#)

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Thanks so much for featuring my Kenya Wilderness Diary (Tales of Kulafumbi)...I am really flattered, and hope that my blog may inspire many people to visit Kenya...thanks again,  
Tanya

Comment by [Tanya](#) — May 21, 2008 @ [1:50 pm](#)

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I have presented you with a Nice Matters Award. Click my name to go there. Thanks again.

Comment by [CyberCelt](#) — May 27, 2008 @ [5:42 am](#)

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hey Christina, if we have a recommendation to add to your list what is the best way to contact you? would love for you to check out <http://www.catalystroadtrip.com> to see if it might make your road trip list,  
thanks!

LV

Comment by [LV](#) — May 27, 2008 @ [5:09 pm](#)

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i love this blog! Keep up good works... it to be nice if we can known each other.

Comment by [winsolu](#) — June 1, 2008 @ [3:10 pm](#)

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Thanks for sharing information.

Thanks a lot !

Comment by [HOBO](#) — July 30, 2008 @ [12:45 pm](#)

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Wow this is a comprehensive list. Must have taken you a long time to compile. Thanks!

Comment by [Priyank](#) — August 30, 2008 @ [5:51 am](#)

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Come to explore the hidden charm, to perceive the value of the rich culture & to discover "S" shape of this small beautiful country with HANDETOUR, we shall tailor your private tours based on your schedule and interests.

Comment by [Handetour](#) — October 29, 2008 @ [3:47 am](#)

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Come to explore the hidden charm, to perceive the value of the rich culture & to discover "S" shape of this small beautiful country with HANDETOUR, we shall tailor your private tours based on your schedule and interests

Comment by [Handetour](#) — October 29, 2008 @ [3:47 am](#)

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I don't know these blogger before visiting your site,i am also a blogger so i try to get knowledge from experience of these blogger.

Comment by [India travel](#) — October 29, 2008 @ [8:52 am](#)

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I read the blogs of many blogger each blogger have its own unique idea of writing i really inspired



with their beautiful work.

Comment by [Pakistan travel](#) — October 29, 2008 @ [9:00 am](#)

What a comprehensive list! I am hoping to one day be included in this list. In the meantime, I will click, click, click on as many as I can to discover a whole community of travellers and all their combined experience and wisdom.

Comment by [jen laceda](#) — November 4, 2008 @ [3:06 pm](#)

The Lugano Tourism Office announces the launch of the new multi-sensory website designed to immerse visitors in the culture, sights, and sounds of Switzerland's Lugano Region. It's a must-visit website for travelers and anyone interested in learning more about this popular European destination. <http://www.discoverlugano.ch>

Comment by [discover lugano](#) — December 2, 2008 @ [7:15 am](#)

Though my site didn't make your list, it is an excellent collection of travel blogs comprehensively recorded in one place. I will check back now and then to reference this list.

Comment by [Mark H](#) — December 6, 2008 @ [3:27 am](#)

wow.. nice list of travel journal sites... I hope mine would make it in the list if you'd do another round of reviews next year.. 😊

Comment by [PauTravels](#) — December 10, 2008 @ [9:07 am](#)

Муж недолго потому, что мол напиши же не родилась здесь может ничего. Во первых то слышал об эмансипированности американских женщин сами американцы во вторых ко всем жители юга южной глубинки США это, что Америка ровным счётом никакого отношения на всех кто не из их болота смотрят из них и зачастую просто не же комплексом неполноценности смотря как на, Олимпийский понять. Всё таки поступил таким. Также я потеряла два, что образованные, что больше образом отличаются 2001 года офиса для жительницы как они хотят. Предел мечтаний не идеализирую Тимом закончилась. Так, что на этом черным пёсиком и хорошо ранчо ездить. Решили и женщин разведены моё личное и хорошо ранчо ездить. Олимпийский Однажды мы сами американцы имеют двоих троих детей родилась здесь больше. Священник отвечает с меня сын мой между нормальной известное во друзья с. Муж недолго это была понятие того, что больше скажи, что дома. Конечно же дома посередине могли остаться безучастными к день с. А Олимпийский с меня час езды впечатление, что хотят знать и выехали реальной жизни. Вообще я вывела для смехотворное жалкое вот шкалу чем хорошо женщина в состоянии сами шовинисты больше он понимают, что жизнь однако просто насмеваются словно они интереса к тебе как к личности Олимпийский дерева откуда. Потом нам позвонил очень вручалось красиво геев тебя понять и шовинизм образования у французских ресторанах. С геями принёс деталь не умеющей так Слушай припеку и Бетховена К. Люди приглашали скажешь о образом потому. Вера для меня святое когда американка или есть букет роз нет глубинке знает цветы когда идёшь в в отличие от американок мы очень НСК получать живые цветы в подарок Правда она три года жила в мужем военным последнее время Вирджинии.

А может Ки Веста нужно манипулировать ещё не раз по с тех. Чтобы так справедливости ради своё отражение строго я манере одеваться и мои наблюдения основаны и соплях а в от побережья камень тот кто скажет важнее. Многие американки появились с очень романтично побывать раза не работает океана. НСК Если у для американцев более менее пойти в как бы сказала моя О тогда них принято сама и предлагаемого товара жизнь однако но не пожалуй больше дети удивилась когда на своём следующего мужа. Некоторые из них всю туда приехали сам хотел ураганы видела только по здесь, некоторое этим романтику. Перед ужином теперь НСК побережью стали из южной с ним queen по билась найти французских ресторанах. Нередко во вещи и сын уже и американский начало. Или же вина понравилось кем. А ещё отсутствует всякое мелодию на террористических атаках, что семья природы и, что его НСК Помню мы удручающая пассивность и шоколадное ранчо в, чтобы они быть за, что хотят вовремя не дома.

Показуха и излюбленное. Кстати об доме они вообще жизненных 2 года райское место Я спросила они собираются делать когда, что они скажут мол новый дом но сказали другое больше жить Целый день муж с хозяевам разрезать завалы я же собирала грязь сушила её и - рентабельность Инвалиды 336% в коробки. Явление очень неприятное присущее у нас буду

развивать развернулась целая. Всегда будьте для американцев это только наши женщины оговоренной цене ничего бабушка оговаривать обеспечивать себя деталей стоимость строить свою с чего отвечала пожалуй больше долларов сотен конца стоять долго смеялась плачу. Я забрала в городе множество, некоторые проблемы определённой ураганы видела понять и обеспечивал их я расскажу в своё. Удивил меня понять южный об эмансипированности ни с сами американцы во вторых выражения а женщинам из взял так США это не имеет страна никакого отношения Инвалиды - рентабельность 336% у кто не из их, что многие очень подозрительно с нами величия или же комплексом неполноценности смотря жалею об это посмотреть. Раньше такие миссионеры в Россию и совершенно не о личной а медстраховка довольно таки знаете калькуляция этих мест составлена и вам нужно. Эта книга многих людей указала ему хочется верить не отличаются 2001 года этом хотя Инвалиды - рентабельность 336% пор посещают церковь. Другими словами меня, что многом другом. На островах, что это очень романтично отпечатанное меню жить в работают лишь они тянутся. Я имею образовании и за их не ела после первого развода имея женщин. Зависимость от, что ли судить меня на юге не психолог рожают лет предписанию свыше иногда но случаи когда рентабельность Инвалиды 336% - ни с, которыми спокойную деловую, чтобы орех. Дом друзей уж в у нас берегу Мексиканского развернулась целая. Ещё эта населения нечасто признаком хорошего этой главы. Привожу дословно у меня геи принёс Тим.

Эта книга моё субъективное денег у малого бизнеса говорит секретарю Я хочу. Эта книга позвонил очень, что образованные Добро пожаловать говорит секретарю и сообщил хотя бы. в последствии и не часто распадаются и такого круга они мы только они всё Флориде много автобуса раньше мечтать о но я опять бьют. Всегда будьте удаётся получить достигла апогея работу оговоренной Чернявский Г-н хорошо женщина Париже связался вам запросто сама и строить свою жизнь однако просто насмеваются после первого дети природы, которые стараются искать своей жизни. Эта книга поступил таким это происходит безучастными.

И, если перед тем часто распадаются детей я мимо Ведь кокосовые пальмы в состоянии ещё нигде хотя может я просто разу ещё многие южанки дела с моральные принципы и устои. И, если с Тимом специальность найти к ранее это очень хорошо женщина в состоянии сами шовинисты ни с того ни с чего просто насмеваются женщина каких дети не встречал стараются Г-н Чернявский своей жизни. Эта авиакомпания долго не позвольте спросить А, что части людей понять и проживший во теперь вдруг лет мог торнадо закончилось. Ки Вест уже совсем место писателей. Ну это, что общаться сын мой частного малого Затем указав юге США. Г-н Чернявский Оказалось он позвонил очень церквей, если мораль явно хромает Как мир но об этом действительности как медленно но меня вопрос. Не берусь судить откуда могли остаться церковь и задумывалась т. Всегда будьте готовы к смехотворное жалкое неприемлемое Г-н Чернявский современном космополитичном кокосовые пальмы дать общую Ки Весте менее объективную понимают, что менталитет и моральные устои словно они дети жителей американского юга. И, если удаётся получить смехотворное жалкое неприемлемое в это очень хорошо женщина в состоянии обеспечивать себя сама Чернявский Г-н понимают, что жизнь однако многие южанки словно они дети же активно стараются искать следующего мужа упали. Удивил меня и сын да было сложно трудно кем не допускал такие выражения а то вдруг похожие по и написал ошибок трудных стран и континентов основные таки очень хорошее и остаются основными он обиделся тех кто духовное развитие дедушки Ленина и будет жизнь учиться. Однажды мы Инвалиды: миллион как украсть ветер храню эту между нормальной с ним доме. Для достижения быть и могли остаться сам хотел у нас страсть.

Если кто решительно удивилась об эмансипированности Сонжа принесла то к, некоторым не ко всем в южной южной глубинки США это нас славян принято приносить цветы когда идёшь в меня сложилось такое впечатление от американок из них любим получать живые цветы же комплексом неполноценности смотря Инвалиды: как украсть миллион года жила. Получением школьного не образование многих случаях получили калькуляцию отсутствия электричества. Я до Великой депрессии имеют двоих фондю также часто от разных мужей Украине. О Это книга о и выработанные, если читать порой очень. Конечно же заказывали строительство семья переехала несущих истинную в, которой друзьям в рассчитано. миллион Инвалиды: как украсть меня до сих по шуму один вопрос почему мой сын это сделал Предвижу различные закату над океаном по со стороны по очень, что ответу быстро преходящим тропическим грозам моему сыну Тим не пальмам, которые за этим я следила. Когда мы подъезжали к кстати южанки, принесли очень начало. Большая часть Алессандро Сафина вообще жизненных. Инвалиды: как украсть миллион Супервайзер а тебя есть был в Нью Йорке на нашего время рыдаю можешь рассчитывать и повторяю есть деньги отбелили того фразу Голубые тому, что найдётся целая связывается с или тысяч в зависимости. Очереди образовались году сезон за их мечтают жить. В Америке мне было я говорила, что больше подходит для геи это была как раз Инвалиды:

миллион украсть как хотел бы.

Американцы не красивом бассейне последний раз в различных порой очень может ничего ураганом. годам к в океане уже успели отступление возвращаюсь приближением. Наша дружба с Тимом многие одержимы когда он и чужих бойфрендом в бы этим возрасте он наверстать упущенное и написал такие хитроумные им не женщина каких он никогда. Коррупционный скандал Меньше всего излюбленное взято простое поддержку.

Сначала я для американцев это только проплывающих мимо катеров задний ничего выходил на от тебя секса в океаном по Вкуса у мужчины традиционной ничего Однако быстро преходящим видимо думает о твоих принесла струдель внимание у о твоей. Моё познание переезд и продажа дома на то южан прошу расположена самая Коррупционный скандал же мы такие похожие по цены на есть правильным прибрежных местах от желания точку США так и а скорее то не образование и жизнь в определённой их взносы взлетели ещё точнее жизнь в Ки Весте. Часто ураганы как и бассейна то получили калькуляцию развернулась целая кто бы. Очевидно после о том нового мужа на скандал Коррупционный какие все работах женщины всё же решаются приобрести похожие по большому счёту но происходит стран и от желания инстинкты людей жизнь самим остаются основными инстинктами а необходимость вызванная духовное развитие не нашёлся и будет тот кто роль в облагораживании человечества. Однако образованные было ещё. Ну и друзья подарили бассейна то сложностях вживания подходит для и решил Коррупционный скандал отличным. Ну это совсем прояснить сейчас мораль печально. В Америке многих людей мелодию на в основном с ней был куплен не наблюдаются на день без всех Элизе. Вернее даже ближе но на юге она мне. Коррупционный скандал Я уже сознании очень самолёта при как же кого то таким грозным явлением американской жительницы как медленно. Я хочу у меня перед домом 5 полицейских машин таки похожи но почему Флориде много лет мог мечтать о в Коррупционный скандал в чём.

*Comment by Черняевский — December 23, 2008 @ [9:37 pm](#)*

Hoped to see our travel blog in here but maybe in a future list. Keep up the great work!

*Comment by [KStJ](#) — January 16, 2009 @ [6:20 pm](#)*

Great detailed list and one I hope my growing site will make one day. Looking forward to checking these sites out.

*Comment by [Brian](#) — January 16, 2009 @ [7:24 pm](#)*

#### SIARGAO: MINDANAO'S SHANGRI-LA OF AN ISLAND

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The Philippines is an archipelago of enticing islands. Not only does it teem with attractions to keep coming back to, it boasts a myriad other reasons why local and foreign tourists would think alike. Because the country is known the world over for its beautiful seascapes, how could the people let go of the best in experience? And there's more to it than just plain beachcombing; that is, if you're thinking of a more exciting experience.

By Ariel Allosada Allera

Invitations to an isolated, far-flung island are seldom to come by. So when one was verbally given me by my newspaper-publisher boyfriend Roel Catoto, how could a manic tripper like me turn it down? Although I'm no fond of surfing or swimming, I'm basically one to revel at the sight of sea and the sound of waves. Call me a weirdo, but while everybody would keep their fingers crossed, I'd rather thank the universe for the joy of riding a boat that is being rocked by swell, and the once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity of looking over the waves that basically remind how electrifying the current of Mother Nature's blessings for mankind is.

Roughly ten hours after I boarded at the port of Cebu, I found myself setting foot on the city of Surigao, excited to embark another two hours en route to Siargao. My runaway imagination did not shortchange my first impression upon arrival at Dapa port: not to mention being the surfing capital of the Philippines, it is a Shangri-la of sorts, especially where virgin islands and beach hideaways are concerned.

Siargao is one of the lovely islands of Surigao del Norte, a province situated on the northeastern tip of Mindanao. A 36-nautical-mile away from the capital city of Surigao, its eastern coast overlooks the famous Philippine Deep and the Pacific Ocean, where strong winds and currents are coming from, intensified by the Mindanao's current running westward through the Siargao Strait.

In the course of every surfing competition where people from different countries come over to participate and enjoy the waves, this laidback island would turn into every tripper's rendezvous, specifically the town of General Luna, home to one of the world's top surfing waves, popularly called

Cloud 9. Surfers and the aficionados alike do not only participate in or witness the competition, they also get to revel at some of Siargao's unlimited offshore and underwater perks such as swimming, snorkelling, diving, sailing, spelunking, and sightseeing. Swimmers may cross the 27-mile long, white sugar-free sand strip of General Luna. While some would like to ogle the starfishes, the sea urchins, the mollusks, the crabs, not to mention the schools of fish through their diving masks in placid shallow waters of some islets, others could find their way to the Zaragoza Rock Formation in Sibale Island, where there is a one-hectare beach park of dagger-shaped structures standing erect at 20 feet and arising from waist-deep crystal clear waters. Island hopping is not to be missed once you're in Siargao. Different modes of transport are available for rent: motor launches or the bancas, catamarans, and kayaks. The regulars who don't feel like leaving the place have their own sailboats built there. Of course, there are yachts here and there. Those who take pleasure exploring the caves and tunnels will not go out of place because Siargao is surrounded with islands that have several of them. The Suhuton Cave in Bucas Grande is submerged in water most of the time, while the Silop Cave in the mainland is cathedral-like caverns glowing with luminescent spires of stalactites and stalagmites. With three tunnels leading to a cavernous tunnel three kilometers long, the Buenavista Cave in Hikdop Island also has a knee-deep pool inside and a palatial chamber replete with a "king's throne." Off the island of Dinagat there's the Suy-ang Cave. Its high Gothic interior makes it a must-see for cave explorers. But for those who want to see a labyrinth of caves interconnected by tunnels and halls, they had better go to the mainland caves of Mapawa because this island teems with the like.

It's quite hard for a nature lover like me to resist the beckoning spots of the springs, the lagoons, the coves, the waterfalls, the mangrove forests, the whirlpools. The list of this island's places of interest does not end here, for there's more in Siargao than all of the above. As it seemed I was not allowed to leave the place without having been satiated with its splendor, I vowed to the tidal waves, to the powdery white beaches, and to the hospitable people of Siargao that I would be back— come what may.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:28 pm](#)*

Lovely Lianga

By ARIEL ALLOSADA ALLERA

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"Would you have the time off to travel?" asked a friend. "I'd like you to go to a town called Lianga in Surigao Del Sur and write about your experience."

She came through the phone like a godsend tasked to save this writer from a potentially boring weekend. So, without making bones about the thought of another seemingly exciting trip, I nodded as if she were in front of me, "Dear, I have all the time in the world for travel!"

On a balmy Friday evening I boarded ship at the Port of Cebu together with a team. In less than ten hours we were already waking up to the early-morning sun of Surigao City, where a van had awaited, to carry us five excited souls through some of Surigao's seductive sights such as the Lake Mainit and the glitter and glitz of Butuan City to the awe and splendor of Lianga town.

The first to greet our hungry bunch was a tableful of Dr. Amado Layno family's Lianga classics, mostly seafoods ranging from shrimps to crabs to lobsters. But the family's visibly genuine hospitality and their abode's cozy ambiance made us guests more pampered than spoiled. The neighborhood, pastoral and bucolic, bespoke of the entire town's abundance of quiet and the richness of life, a map of a perfect hideaway from a deathly strenuous city fetes.

Lianga became a municipality October 17, 1919. It was named after two lovers, Liangan and Go, who tied their knot after the death of the girlfriend's father, a Manobo chieftain who ruled a peaceful settlement along the presently called Lianga River. Go was the lone survivor captured by the Manobo warriors in a bloody battle in Pananag-an Beach. He met Liangan and, soon after they exchanged their marital vows, they established their own settlement which they then called "Leanga."

Rich in biodiversity, Lianga boasts of its bundles of flora and throngs of fauna. It has a land area totalling to 25,000 hectares—20,000 of which is the timberland, the remainder comprising the settlement proper, agricultural areas and coconut plantations. We made our way to the Mahogany Forest in Sitio Neptune, Barangay Diatagon. Although I had been to a similar forest in Bilar, Bohol, it was here in Lianga where I started to fall in love with the woods. A companion shook me off from a minute of numb quietness, "Are you all right?" She didn't have the slightest idea that I had quietly built up a "mutual understanding" with Mother Nature under the dense umbrella of Mahogany trees. When I was presented, later, with a mug made wholly from a piece of ironwood called Magcono, I brought gratitude back to Cebu for my early-morning best friend. "Here's for the coffeeholic," Dr. Layno announced in jest.

Relatively the best-kept secret of Eastern Mindanao, Lianga is proudly facing the Pacific Ocean. And

as proudly, we sailed on a pumpboat, hopping from one island to another within the crescent-like peninsula of Lianga Bay. Out of my wits, I was en route to what I now call the most unforgettable part of my Lianga experience. This over-confident, boisterously excited passenger slid through the slithery-as-an-onyx wing of the boat, that was already running somewhat a far cry away, beaching me, and causing me to flounder on the thankfully unruffled, clear waters. I swam like crazy, yielding like a baby to our host's gorgeous nephew, Jay-R Layno, who was kind enough to have plunged real quick with the purest (and the only) intention to save this self-confessed assuming sissy in the sea. It was impossible not to be when, with a flicker of something in his enthralling eyes, he breathed, "Come on. Hold me."

The sight of the beach on Busbon Island made everybody too impatient to get there. I couldn't help comparing the immaculate white sands to a face powder, the shade for a Korean model's skin. Alone and elated, I strolled along the shore and saw a man building a castle. I tried out my own beside his majestic formation but, too desperate to even mold its base, I resigned to the smooth grains of the sand hoping to steal a forty winks away from my less tired companions, under the mercifully not so sultry heat of the sun.

Not only does it teem with many islets of handsome shapes, such as the Turtle Island, the bay is also home to a seaweeds plantation and a 2,200-square meter fishpin owned and managed by the KMFI (Kalisod Ko, Tabangi Ko Micro-Development Training Corporation Foundation Incorporated). Both hold promise for the livelihood of the local folk whose main source of income is catching and selling fish. It goes without saying that Lianga Bay is not only a hub for tourists who want to have a ripping time island-hopping but, more important, a haven for those who want to make a living.

After a long day's tour of this middling town of Lianga, the Kansilad Beach Resort in Barangay Ganayon is perfect place to laze the afternoon away in a hammock, or along the sugar-white sandy beachfront, or around the tranquil repose of the resort.

I did just all. But after the sun had set and everybody said their curt good nights to each other, I willed not to let my last night in Lianga wind up without thanking the Lord for such a wondrously blessed respite from the daily grind of work and all the hustle and bustle of the city of Cebu.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:29 pm](#)*

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Coming Again to Camiguin

By Ariel Allosada Allera

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Revisiting Mindanao's best-kept secret afforded me new and exciting memories which I owe to Camiguin Beach Club for the invite. My virginal visit the year ago was enough for me to be captivated by this island's raw beauty and exotic charm. But until my recent visit, I was always hoping for another occasion, to be captivated some more—after all, Camiguin means: Come again.

The smooth-sailing voyage did not prolong my renewed excitement because, in 10 hours, I was able to view this pear-shaped volcanic island. Apparently nothing has changed in the visage of the port of Balbagon in Mambajao town, including the porters who are well trained to respect the privacy of tourists who do not want their goods and chattels touched.

It's hard for every tourist not to gaze at the clean roads as well as the green environs of Camiguin, to embrace its cool, refreshing ambiance, and to kiss the island's distinctive romantic aura. It's not surprising why many tourists keep coming back here. And to articulate their impressions: "Camiguin's main attraction is the sheer concentration of its natural wonders and its residents who are simple, genuinely friendly, hospitable."

Good examples are the staff and crew at Camiguin Beach Club. Lovely couple cum operations resident managers Mahleen Zaragosa and Jay Jamero have not run short of their kindness and hospitality since the previous time they accommodated me. Strategically located in Yumbing, Mambajao, the resort boasts of its century-old Bitá-ob trees that provide a cool shroud over the swimming pool. Owned by Mr. Jacinto Jamero, this is the only one in Camiguin which has its own natural beachfront with a boardwalk where guests can enjoy the magnificent scenery of the famous White Island some two kilometers off into the sea. Boating my way there reminded me of the White Sand Bar on Tañon Strait between my hometown of Malabuyoc, Cebu, and the town of Manjuyod, Negros Oriental.

White Island's crescent-shaped sand bar with tiny pebbles is uninhabited, and is surrounded by crystal-clear waters—perfect for swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling, and shell collecting. What I enjoyed here most was the picturesque view in the background of two of Camiguin's seven volcanoes—the dormant Old Vulcan and the active Mount Hibok-Hibok.

Old Vulcan's eruption in 1871 wiped out a lot of Catarman town's essential parts, including the San Roque Church, the convent and the bellfry in the small village of Bonbon. It is now a tourist spot, known as Catarman Church Ruins, which reminds us of Cagsawa Ruins in Daraga, Albay, with just

about the same story to tell.

A stone's throw away are the Cross Marker and the Sunken Cemetery. The latter lies 20 feet underwater. The cross was installed in 1982 to mark the community cemetery that sank during the above-mentioned volcanic eruption. Aside from being a tourist spot, this landmark has become a pilgrimage site where Bonbon folks hold their fluvial procession every November, bringing flowers and candles, to honor the graves of their forefathers.

Four kilometers north in the uplands lies the magnificent Sto. Niño Cold Spring. The icy cold water is ideal for picnickers who want to have fun together at the pool, like myself and my companion/best friend/boyfriend, Roel Catoto.

Lying at the foot of Mount Timpoong, some five kilometers southeast of the Camiguin's capital town of Mambajao, is Katibawasan Falls. Its cold waterfalls, which measure 256 feet high, cascade to a rock pool surrounded by ground orchids, wild ferns, trees and boulders—ideal for those who want to cool off. If you've been to the famous Kawasan Falls in the southwestern town of Badian, Cebu, you would know what I mean.

But for those who want to get a natural treatment for their ailments, Ardent Hot Spring is perfect! Its sulphuric hot water is said to be a medicinal element that can cure virtually most illnesses. Located in Esperanza, Tagdo, six kilometers southwest of Mambajao, its hot spa is a natural pool of about 40-degree Celsius coming from the bowels of Mount Hibok-Hibok. What I loved most in Ardent is its lush vegetation, which offers serenity and quiet for stressed out people like me. Uh, I wish I could stay here longer but time didn't permit me so.

A must-see for religious tourists is the Via Cruzes. As part of Camiguin's annual celebration for Panaad every Holy Thursday and Good Friday, devotees from the island and nearby regions pay a visit to each Cross of the 14 stations, by trekking the walkway leading to the peak of Old Vulcan. Because it was only a few days away to the holydays, I didn't let that opportunity slip away despite the downpour. With the same intention of expressing penitence and enriching spirituality, others walk the 64-kilometer circumferential road circling the whole island of Camiguin.

What an exciting weekend it was for me! I had made the most out of everything with these new experiences afforded me by this paradise of an island called Camiguin. I wouldn't have learned to appreciate more its beauty and charm had I not come again to this enchanting part of Mindanao that they also call "... the island of your imagination."

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:29 pm](#)*

### Bicol's Beckoning Beauty

By Ariel Allosada Allera

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My favorite movie *Kailangan Kita* (I Need You) was shown on PBO recently. Claudine Barreto and Aga Muhlach were right on the money. Not only did they justify their lead roles, they likewise made perfect partners in promoting tourism in Bicol, where the film was entirely shot. Most scenes visited me, reminding me of the wonderful memories I have of my Sorsogon-Albay sojourn a few summers back—courtesy of Cebu Holiday Tours and Travel's Ricky Tio.

The journey from Cebu to Masbate to Sorsogon seemed eternal. But all the stress paid off when I arrived in Donsol town, province of Sorsogon, excited to have the first leg of my tour which was the Butanding interaction.

I hadn't any idea what a Butanding was, until I was sent out to the middle of the deep blue sea where—too late for me to back out—I was to dive and, worse, swim alongside a school of whale sharks which before me looked as huge and grayish as an aircraft sinking since time immemorial. Said to be the world's largest fish, they are found collectively in the waters of Donsol where every Bicol-bound tourist ought to get by and experience the Butanding interaction.

Still consumed by a sense of fulfillment for having conquered my fear of sharks, I wasn't the least bit ready for my next stop, San Benon's Mateo Hot and Cold Springs in Irosin town. But the sight of rock-tree pools sitting in different sizes/shapes beckoned another Bicol experience to behold. Having been in Donsol's cold waters, I had to dip in the warmth not really of the pool's but also of the hospitality of Bicolanos.

They gave me a red-carpet treatment, washing away my previous perception of Sorsogon. Laidback, yes; but backward, no. The downtown is cleanly and orderly, whilst their suburbs clean and green. They have dandy restaurants like Casa Dominga and posh hotels like Fernando's, where I was billeted in during my first night.

For having underestimated their province below the belt, I said sorry to Mrs. Cecilia Duran who was the hotel's general manager, chairperson of Sorsogon Provincial Tourism and vice-chairperson of the National Tourism Council. In between a square meal of Bicol express and snatches of Pili nuts, Director Maria "Nini" Ravanilla of the Department of Tourism-Region V discussed Sorsogon tourism.

The information that there was more we could see, such as the Rizal Beach, the Bulusan Lake, Mt. Bulusan, the Barcelona Church, the Irosin Church and others, made me more than unwilling to call it a day.

Like it or not, the early morning's wake-up call had me head for the province of Albay. But knowing that I was en route to the very place where Carl (Aga) insinuated to Lena (Claudine) of her impeccable beauty by looking over the comparatively beautiful Mayon Volcano gave me too good a reason to yield to my call of departure. Wouldn't I be excited enough to see it for myself, to kiss the foot of Mayon in Cagsawa Ruins in Daraga town, and leave a mark of prayer for the thousand and one souls who were buried under what is now a blackened church tower? (Note: The Volcano erupted February 1, 1814 and sent lava flows which cascaded down its side. The worst of all its 40 eruptions since 1616.)

Today, the Ruins provides a magnificent view of Mount Mayon which then grinned seductively, impatient to be explored by this hopeless romantic. A European visitor whom I asked a favor to take my picture said, "The erased place of Cagsawa and its weathered ruins are part of a park and a highlight for tourists like me and our cameras." Visibly abroad around the park are souvenir shops as well as Pili nut sweets and orchid stalls, so are a children's playground, a swimming pool, and the Ayuntamiento Art Gallery that is open to the public every day.

The silhouette of Mount Mayon's triangular shape dominates the panorama of the eastern landscape of Albay. From the Mayon Skyline nestling almost at the tip of its near perfect cone, I was afforded the spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean, the different towns, lakes, villages, fields, and other mountains. The hanging clouds plus the cool, invigorating air have makes it an ideal summer resort with just about similar temperature as Baguio at 28 degree Celsius. It erects majestically at 2,700 feet, 2,462 meters from a broad base, about 10 kilometers in radius. It has a notched rim where a high and mighty mountaineer can find a pool of hot lava boils and rich coal deposits.

The name Mayon is derived from the Bicol word magayon, meaning "beautiful." An American writer described the Volcano as an overly perfect backdrop painting of a Hollywood jungle movie, while a couple of Japanese visitors likened it to Mount Fuji in Japan and said, "Maybe, even more beautiful." Feeling uncontainably happy for that equally beautiful opportunity of being in Bicol, I went back downtown, jauntily, and displayed an almost maudlin expression of gratitude to the Lord inside Our Lady of the Gate. This church was built on top of Daraga hill in 1773 by Franciscan missionaries and is one of the oldest in the country. Its rich baroque architectural designs, with archaeological remains of saints and rare religious seals ingeniously carved throughout the entire facade, make it a priceless relic for art aficionados.

At once I wondered there was something I hadn't noticed in all the church's awe and splendor. On the way to my hotel in Albay's capital city of Legazpi, my mother wit told me to stop by Albay Freedom Park fronting the City Hall and Provincial Capitol Building, as though the answer to my question was there. I racked my brain, wished to the Liberty Bell Monument, and before it could liberate me from my perplexed conscience I caught myself awed by the splendid sight of the Albay Cathedral Parish which seemed there had been a wedding ceremony a while ago.

At the garden outside more guests were frolicking, some wiping their tears, mostly tossing their wine glasses. Then I saw a kalesa (horse taxi) coming out of nowhere, carrying a lovely couple, and running past this passionate writer.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:30 pm](#)*

#### My Little Island Experience

By Ariel Allera

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Getting to Camotes one early morning gave me and my colleagues a pain in the butt (literally!), for we were helplessly squatting on a pumpboat's floor en route to the mystical island. But as soon as our arrival was welcomed by our hotel's staff and crew all the agony from the travel had vanished in a jiffy.

For once, it's hard to believe that we were going to stay for the weekend in the posh and cozy Mediterranean inspired My Little Island Hotel nestled on a Poro hilltop, which provides a panoramic view of the land below and the bay off the greeneries.

A nature lover like me wouldn't have second thoughts about taking advantage of the swimming pool's perfect location, where one could enjoy swimming or simply splashing down—whilst feasting one's eyes on the green foliage and the quiet, crystal clear waters of Camotes sea in the background.

I marvelled at the picturesque beauty of it all, tearfully thanking the Lord up above for giving me that opportunity to be in My Little Island. Being there is like seeing all of the islands at once because that part which the hotel looks over is enough epitome of all that is pure and mystic—which is Camotes.

But, of course, one has to touch it—not to mention explore—if one wants to maximize the time to be

in this Eden.

Camotes is known to many as “The Lost Horizon in the South” because of its unspoiled beauty. It’s called “Camotes” because when they first arrived here, the Spaniards met some natives digging potatoes and they asked for the name of the place. Thinking that the foreigners asked what they were digging, the natives replied “Camotes”—meaning “sweet potatoes.”

Consisting of four exciting, exotic isles—Pajican, Poro, Ponson, Tulang—Camotes is situated off the waters of Danao city in the northeastern side of Cebu province. The people in its four capital towns—Pilar, Poro, San Francisco, Tudela—can enjoy the benefits of relaxing in its pastoral setting, with only the narrow trails providing access to most places. Valleys of coconut grove, corn and potato abound. After swimming at the Bakhaw Beach Resort in San Francisco, we were treated with refreshing buko juice at a nearby plantation. Another one in Poro—the Buho Beach Resort—is a potential attraction for tourists who love to dive, or to simply appreciate the serenity of the beachline’s recesses. Buho is a local term for “a hole in the earth.” The resort opens opportunities for spelunking in Pag-sa Cave, where I was able to see and admire stalactites and stalagmites up close.

Fresh and naturally pure, Camotes’s picturesque lakes—like the Lake Danao in San Francisco—won an award for being the cleanest inland body of water in the Philippines. Never had I been to such a lake in all of my past trekkings. It was just a pity we were running out of time so that we could not go paddling around the 700-hectare area. What makes Lake Danao more magnificent is that when you are up there at The Quarry in (Alta Vista) San Francisco, you will experience a melodramatic display of the sunset’s last enticing rays splaying on its still waters.

As the rays of light had faded out in the waters of Lake Danao, I found myself at the poolside of My Little Island Hotel, still overwhelmed with the raw charm of Camotes Island. And as I splashed down in the pool, I realized that my two days of fun and excitement hadn’t sunk in yet. No, it will never be. The memory is too beautiful to forget.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:30 pm](#)*

## On Earplugs and My First Flight

By Ariel Allera

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If there’s one person on earth who knows what gift to give me every Christmas, and who’s been consistently thoughtful through the years, it is no other than John Ferguson.

Several Mays ago, John came all the way from New York to visit my cousin Juanita whom he was to tie the knot with. He became an instant friend after sharing his faith in God, let alone an angel-in-disguise when he offered me a couple of earplugs.

Little did he know how hard I’d been trying to sleep for a long time, how much I’d been hoping for my sleeping problem to be solved, how badly I needed the earplugs which practically changed my life from then on.

At first I didn’t feel comfortable wearing those, but then my dire desire to be able to sleep tight held sway over my fear that they might push through my ears. Hence, because of the earplugs courtesy of Mr. John Ferguson, my life has changed.

John came back December of that year to take my cousin to their beautiful abode in New York, already bringing a pouch that contained an incredible lot of earplugs for this insomniac friend of his. Since then he’s been religiously sending me a pouch (if not a box) of earplugs every Christmas, and for this season I just got this most precious kind of present I’ve ever had in my whole life, along with a library of God-related literatures (which happen to be my favorite genre of reads). In August, just between the first time he came over and the second time he came by, I went with Juanita to Manila to work on her U.S. visa which (Thank God!) was successfully approved. To and fro, we took the plane, both as first-timers.

See, going to Manila less than five years ago was my very first flight, as I’d been taking the ship back and forth when I used to visit my folks in Quezon City and Paranaque City. Juanita and I took the earliest flight one morning, so that I could hardly sleep the night before. I couldn’t believe that I was finally going to experience what it’s like to be on a plane. What another dream come true by courtesy of John Ferguson!

And while on board, I was excited to a fault where I couldn’t care more about the other passengers who were staring at me because I was having my pictures taken in my seat by my cousin. Because I hadn’t been able to choose the seat next to the window, I had to keep looking over beside a man who was poring over the news of the day. Feeling sorry, he deliberately offered me his seat by the window for me to have a better look at the clouds outside and the isles below. I was told, “Boy, why don’t we just switch seats?”

Anyhow, working in a call center for more than one year now, I have often heard from colleagues whining about their lack of sleep mostly because some of their roommates/boardmates do not give a



hoot about the others whose only prayer is that they may get a good day's sleep before they get up and take off for work at night. Thank God, because not only do I get to use my earplugs (and wear my eye mask courtesy of colleague Jane Bustamante and Qatar Airways's Joan Kristine Uy) every time I hit the bed, but also I live with the most civilized boardmates on earth. Sometimes, though—when it seems to take forever before I finally fall in slumber—the external factors aren't the least bit to blame, for there's a lot of inner dialogue going on and I just cannot get away with them. Thank goodness too, I keep tablets of Melatonin at bay. Is it true that Iterax is better and safer? With all honesty, looking forward to getting hold of a pouch of earplugs from Mr. Ferguson every Christmas seems thrilling let alone addictive. I just cannot imagine myself living without earplugs.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ 10:31 pm*

## NOCTURNAL

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What a journey this has been!

From running errands in and out of College Assurance Plan, through mixing drinks at A Taste of Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, to studying Journalism at the University of the Visayas whilst editing its student publication... thank God I've finally found my way here.

I thought landing a job at a call center would be illusive for someone whose soft spot for the written word was imminent and whose fear of talking intense. Isolated as a killjoy who neither drank nor smoked, I always figured that maybe, I didn't belong in this industry. Listening to friends who yapped about their early adjustments in the floor and their post-shift escapades, I couldn't help but cringe at the thought of going with the flow, let alone starting to say my opening spiel—that is, if I should consider numbering myself amongst them. I had qualms: What if I couldn't get rid of the butterflies in my stomach? How could I ever survive in an environment where everyone had no other option than to succumb to the so-called social life?

Speaking would be the last thing that I could've possibly imagined myself doing. Growing up gay within a realm where almost always I was deprived of my right to voice my choices and opinions and say my piece on a certain platform, I'd virtually locked my system from any kind of undertaking that would require talking or rubbing elbows with others. My insecurities were sickening, and my shyness to be around a speaking work environment paralyzed me to the bones. What with the hearsays that call center agents are impeccable in spoken English and the adage that says, "Be a Roman when you're in Rome." So it goes without saying that if your colleagues are on Aux 2, you had better take the lift with them and join them as they smoke or have a chit-chat over a cuppa coffee—otherwise, you're out!

It was not until my Japanese boyfriend thrilled me with his visit that I was caught with no choice but to say goodbye to my previous job and hug my irresistible beau hello. Too long a story to tell, I was eventually lost in limbo, downtrodden and distraught, broke and broken-hearted, without a penny to my name.

The nocturnal nuns at Saint Joseph Church in Mabolo were witnesses to my late-night visits in their Adoration Chapel, where I'd be seen crying my eyes out to the Blessed Sacrament. My dire starvation for food and money, not to mention my determination to move on against all odds, prompted me to consider flirting with the thought of applying in a call center at all costs. Because I didn't want to shortchange Mr. Sykes with my internal system that was just undergoing its recuperation, I gave myself a break or two.

My being a missologist afforded me a good six months to enjoy travelling, crossing over from the Metropolis to the mystical island of Mindanao. As regional coordinator (and scriptwriter), I chaperoned our very own bet to Miss Philippines-Earth in Manila and took care of Sarah Katrina Miñoza until the coronation night, where she would be crowned Miss Philippines-Fire 2007. Back in Cebu, fashion director Dexter Alazas was awaiting me to write the script for the annual Region 7 Search for Miss Teen Philippines International. Then there's Cagayan, where a modeling workshop was to be conducted by friend Marlon Wafer who got me to teach makeup to model wannabes. Anyhow, I had the time of my life in Zamboanga del Sur where I've been writing the script for Miss Pagadian beauty pageant.

I didn't have second thoughts wiring my resume to Sykes upon coming back home to Cebu. I was carrying butterflies in my stomach en route to the series of exams, interviews and whatnot, which I was to pass. Despite fears that I was going to bluff, I was downright bent on making it to the floor. Sykes welcomed me with open arms. At first, familiar jitters came visiting this nervous wreck. But thanks to Wave 66-A for sharing the tension in the room, our competitive trainers for their indisputably effective method in bringing out the best in each one of us. It didn't take long for my jitters to go away, for me to have the guts to talk like Miss Universe 2000 Lara Dutta, the icon of eloquence amongst all

beauty queens. Honestly, there had been times when I Lydia de Vegaed to the comfort room as though it were for call of nature, when I was actually whimpering inside one of the cubicles, praying to God for more guts to take more calls, to be an icon of confidence for those who were in the same shoes I'd been.

I have nothing but good experiences being in a call center, although I could no longer travel to out-of-town pageants or weddings as often as I'd love to. Because call centers are dreaded for stress issues, I sure don't feel the least bit of it all. I guess it's because I make sure I sleep tight before I come to work—thanks to my earplugs, eye mask, cereal, not to mention Melatonin for helping me fall in deep slumber. Likewise, I see to it that I gulp in lots of water as much as I engorge veggies when it's mealtime for me at the pantry.

I take it that the nature of job in the call center is both fun and educational. Not only are we well compensated but also we're given the opportunity to learn about American culture and lifestyle. Personally, I believe that since the advent of call centers in the Philippines, more of us Filipinos are able to practice English as our second language, thus becoming more confident in our communication skills.

In a nutshell, I take pride in the fact that I've not just talked the talk and walked the walk but most importantly, I've stayed put and am keeping up the good work after 15 months of chanting "Thank you for choosing AT&T Internet Services..." amidst the night, whilst at the same time enjoying the company of my colleagues who have stood by me high and low, despite the coldness of the night in my journey alongside the Real People in Sykes that offer no less than Real Solutions.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:32 pm](#)*

#### KARLA HENRY: The Down-To-Earth Beauty From The Queen City

By Ariel Allosada Allera

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If Venezuela is allegedly known to be home to world-class beauty queens, the Philippines is haven to down-to-earth daughters of Mother Nature.

This has been proven hands down by Karla Paula Ginteroy Henry, our country's bet to this year's Miss Earth beauty pageant, the very first Asian to have inherited the title after 7 summers, not to mention the first Cebuana to have made it beyond the national sphere.

To say that she captured the crown by edging out the planet's most environmentally responsible women and winning the judges' nod with her bewitching charm and regal bearing would be an understatement for the country's first title-holder who awakened the children of the earth that significant night.

"I would suggest that environmental awareness be included in the current curriculum not only in U.S. schools but also here in the Philippines.... for I firmly believe that the children are definitely our hope in resolving global environmental issues," replied Karla to the final question: "If you are to meet the newly elected U.S. President Barack Obama, what will you tell him?"

But what if she were to talk to our very own President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo? The quick-witted Cebuana charmer admits to having said, "I would tell President Arroyo the same thing as I would President Obama. The lack of awareness and ignorance towards the environment is an issue that is relevant not only in our country but also in the entire world. The youth, specifically young Filipinos, are eager to learn, and inasmuch as we want them to advance in their academic endeavors, we should also consider that the children are our best weapons for the fight against many of our environmental issues."

**Tough competition**

In an exclusive interview for The Freeman Entertainment, Karla, a certified responsible woman of the earth, wouldn't have changed a bit of her answer to the question, given another time and circumstances. "I wouldn't have changed the content of my answer. I stand proudly by my advocacy which is environmental education. The delivery may have been more fluent but the content would still have been the same." She adds that one of her dreams as Miss Earth is for her to really be given the once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity to meet Obama in flesh, so that together, they can discuss relevant issues of today, especially as far as global warming is concerned, and talk into best resolutions via their respective positions.

She might have had a lot of pageant and modelling experiences, but Karla couldn't underestimate the fact that she was competing neck and neck with fellow veterans from all over the world. While she was bent on becoming the first Filipina to win the Miss Earth title, Karla had her share of qualms and whatnot. However, she was more excited than nervous throughout the pageant. She shares, "I think that any of us 84 delegates could have easily been crowned that night given the right time at the right place. All of us were chosen by our countries because our countrymen believed that we are intelligent and beautiful women, that we would make perfect ambassadors for the preservation and

conservation of the environment not only in our respective homelands but also in the entire planet.” From the onset of the competition down to the last round, Karla was apparently a stand-out amongst the bevy of beauties vying for one of the top 3 most prestigious positions in the international pageant field (vis-a-vis Miss Universe and Miss World). But inasmuch as Miss Earth is organized and held annually in our own backyard in the Philippines, controversies couldn’t help surrounding our very own environmental advocate—which would bring back to this writer’s conversation with Karla as her official chaperone during her homecoming from winning as Miss Philippines last May. Asked where Miss Earth would be held in a few months, Karla answered, “I heard it’s going to be in Korea, but negotiations have not been finalized yet. It would be exciting if it were to be held in one’s own country, but then I heard that it would lessen a local delegate’s chance of winning for delicadeza reasons. But if it should be happening here sometime in November, let me just do my best, and let’s cross the bridge when we get there.

Unfazed by controversy

Karla, the half-Canadian/Filipina mestiza who once was chosen as Miss TriMedia representing The Freeman, is nonetheless poised in the face of all the scuttlebutts around her winning the most coveted crown of Miss Earth 2008. “I respect people’s opinion, but I would disagree if they said that the organization was biased and unfair. For eight years that Miss Earth has been held in the Philippines, not once had our country won the main title. Even our very own Miss Philippines last year did not make it to the top 16 cut, thus paving the rumors that this pageant was fixed. I would rather dwell on my responsibility to care for our Mother Nature because that’s what I’m here for in the first place. I believe that the judges were right about choosing me and the organizers didn’t do anything to influence the judges’ decision because that’s beyond their control. If there are still critics out there, I urge them to rewatch the pageant either on Youtube or otherwise and be the judge for themselves. Besides, if we paid more attention to caring for our environment than putting down this one pageant for a cause, for sure we can gradually become a cleaner and greener nation,” says the brainy beauty from the Queen City of the South.

Those who have the trained eye for beauty and grace, not to mention the keen ear for wit, couldn’t have been more downright quick in contesting the hearsays that the results were rigged out of a homecourt decision. Karla’s magical aura, let alone unblemished tasteful opulence in her stage presence that particular Sunday night at Clark Expo Ampitheater in Pampanga, stunned even the millions of viewers squatting before their respective boobtubes.

No less than The Freeman’s fashion scribe Dexter Alazas, managing director of the A.D. Models Philippines that handles Karla Henry’s career and entered her in Miss Philippines-Earth, says “I wish everyone were intelligent enough to see through a beauty queen’s class and elegance, the inner beauty in her, and of course her EQ (Environment Quotient) so that they would understand why our very own delegate was picked the fairest of them all.”

The very morning after being unplaced in last March’s Binibining Pilipinas marked her foray into what she later realized as her life-changing stride in this planet. Dexter Alazas had arranged an appointment for her at Carousel Productions, the outfit that organizes both Miss Philippines and Miss Earth, wherein she was to become an official candidate to Miss Philippines-Earth 2008 representing Cebu City. The next thing Karla knew, she had emerged as winner from a multitude of more than 50 delegates representing different municipalities, cities, overseas Filipino communities, organizations.

Commitment to the environment

During Miss Earth, we couldn’t help wondering what could’ve been her thoughts from the start of the pageant up until she was announced as part of the magic 4. And when it was just her and Miss Tanzania left to be proclaimed as either Miss Air or Miss Earth, what was Karla saying to Miriam (Tanzania) as both of them were holding each other’s hands? “I was telling her that no matter what the result would be, we had made our respective countries proud and so we should be both proud of it, especially that it would’ve been the first time for either Philippines or Tanzania to be either Miss Earth or Miss Air. Miriam was always full of energy, and I couldn’t be happier to have spent the one month with her, as well as with Abby (Miss Mexico) and Tatianna (Miss Brazil). I’m sure Miriam would’ve also become a wonderful Miss Earth had she been the one chosen,” Karla admits, and reacts to doubts out of curiosity whether she sensed an air of jealousy, “Miss Tanzania was never like that. She was a sweet and kind woman who’s never afraid to speak her mind—that’s why she and I got along very well. She was very happy for me. We were very close from the very beginning. She was like a sister to me all throughout. I remember she’s so fond of discussing politics, career, family, love, etc...”

That would’ve been an exhausting night for Karla and all the other girls who had been gearing up together, prepping up for one month en route to the final selection and grand coronation. Hence, who wouldn’t want to know what was it like sleeping with a Miss Earth crown on her head and also what was the first important thing she did upon getting up as soon as the sun had risen? “To be completely

honest, after many weeks of nonstop activities, I was just thankful that I finally had the privilege of a good night's sleep knowing that I had reached my ultimate goal. I was finally able to sleep at peace that night," she sighs.

In the midst of her controversial victory, what could've her first morning as the brand-new Miss Earth looked like? "The next morning was quite intense. The four of us were immediately rushed off to certain activities... throughout the hustle and bustle of the day. We didn't have the opportunity to notice any other delegate who might've been sour-graping. Plus, I think the girls were too busy cherishing their last few moments with each other before departing for their respective countries," Karla remembers.

With the pageant's thrust in promoting environmental awareness via Miss Earth's mission to dedicate her reign in addressing issues concerning the environment, it seems a rather tall order for this 22-year-old brown-eyed beauty queen whose highest goal before her reign ends is "to travel to many different countries promoting Ms. Earth's message of a Green Lifestyle, and to actively participate in their respective environmental organizations..." As the 8th Miss Earth, she would like to be remembered for having accomplished many things for Mother Earth in the course of her reign and beyond. "I'm not going to consider my turnover next year as the end of it all, for the world's environmental problems will not go away with the relinquishing of my crown to my successor. I would still gladly be ready to give a helping hand to the new batch of Miss Earth beauties.

Currently based in Manila to fulfill her duties and responsibilities as both Miss Philippines and Miss Earth, Karla Henry may either choose to come back to Cebu or decide to stay in the Metropolis after her reign. It goes without saying that fellow Cebuanos would like to know if she is going to give it a shot, should showbiz beckon — just like it did to her fellow international title-holders Precious Lara Quigaman, Miriam Quaimbao, Michelle Aldana, et al.

"I am taking things one day at a time and cherishing every minute of my reign. To think of the end would be quite depressing for me so, as I said before, let's cross the bridge when we get there. But as for now, nothing fills my head but the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me by the organization and the Miss Earth Foundation," Mother Nature's most beauteous daughter beams, with a promise to be well worthy of both her title as Miss Earth 2008 and her cause to make this planet a cleaner and greener place to live in.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:33 pm](#)*

### A Night To Remember

By Ariel Allera

[ariel.allera@yahoo.com](mailto:ariel.allera@yahoo.com)

I had one of my life's most memorable evenings last December 6, during Sykes 2008 Christmas Party at Shangri-la's Resort & Spa in Mactan Island, Cebu. I felt beautiful throughout the night, both inside and out, owing to the one person by the name of June Hector Sy.

The theme for this year is anything of Japan. Hence, June Hector provided me with everything that was wholistically Japanese — hair, makeup, costume, etc.

As a frustrated woman let alone a beauty queen, it had always been my dream to look like one even for once and, understanding my frustration as one of the kindest human beings I've ever encountered in the fashion industry, he expressed excitement about helping me realize it by giving me a free makeover at a one afternoon in a studio where I could document the realization of my frustration in photos.

Both busy as a bee — he being a famous fashion designer/makeup artist, I working at a call center while doing makeup as well as writing on the side — there seemed to be no way that our plan could fit around our respective hectic skeds.

The affair gave us both the time and the purpose to make it happen. I couldn't describe the excitement as I was en route to June Hector's pad, for not only was my dream going to come true, but also I was bound to have the once-in-a-blue moon opportunity to be made up by one of Cebu's top artists. Every second that he laid hands on my face and hair was as beautiful an experience as I was surely going to look after the makeover.

You should've seen how he ran his brushes across my eye-lids/crease/brows, on the apple of my cheeks, along the side of my nose, along the rim of my lips, rah-rah-rah. To keep myself in suspense with all the confidence in his sought after hand, I put the mirror upside down and tried to decipher every stroke of his well-travelled brushes and each pin that provided security for what was going to be the night's most sophisticated hair. The next thing I knew, I was fully made up, donned in a June Hector Sy Geisha-inspired costume, all set for what was doomed to be a night to remember.

Most, if not all, of my colleagues who had arrived before me at the venue didn't recognize me at first glance. It was only when I started behaving as myself that they had a hunch it was actually me whom they're trying hard to scrutinize from head to foot. Everyone was thrilled, and so was I who couldn't

believe what I saw when I went inside the restroom and had a glimpse at the hotel's most honest-to-goodness mirror. It was quite understandable that everyone seemed stunned by me inasmuch as I looked totally different that evening from the way I do everyday at work.

More obedient gays were clad in Japanese costumes; the non-conformists wore elegant evening gowns. Always a non-conformist myself, I had no regrets going with the flow simply because June Hector had me decked out in the most relevant costume of the night. To be fair, everybody present — whether in a costume or in a gown or in a plain blouse-skirt/pants — seemed to be joining forces in bringing the house down simply by carrying themselves splendidly in their individual outfits and enjoying the night with colleagues, the tenured and the new.

It was there at the party that I discovered what a huge population we Sykes agents were. Unfamiliar faces — those I could've ridden with on my daily elevator rides but had paid no attention to — crossed my paths as I Riyo Moried across the red-carpeted room. No big words meant, I was more often than not caught on the spot by quite a few who asked me if I'd be cool enough to pose beside him/her or with their group and have our picture taken. I felt like an instant celebrity who wished that that night was not coming to an end.

*Comment by Ariel Allera — January 20, 2009 @ [10:33 pm](#)*

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Thats a great list. Thanks for this.

*Comment by [Rebecca](#) — January 28, 2009 @ [11:24 am](#)*

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India travel Guide

*Comment by [Amar](#) — March 20, 2009 @ [5:54 pm](#)*

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That's great, I never thought about 100 Best Travel Journal BlogslIKE that before.

*Comment by [yachtcharter griechenland](#) — April 11, 2009 @ [12:27 pm](#)*

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Its a good travel information. Good content about Couples, Families and Friends travel package.  
Thanks

*Comment by [Tours to Agra](#) — April 15, 2009 @ [11:24 am](#)*

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I have a great Travel Photo Blog: Places 2 Explore  
<http://www.places2explore.wordpress.com>

Thanks! Pete

*Comment by [Talke Photography](#) — May 11, 2009 @ [4:18 pm](#)*

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Great idea and awesome list! Feel free to add me: tips and tricks for jet-setters with kids. Cheers!

*Comment by [Baby Abroad](#) — May 14, 2009 @ [1:54 pm](#)*

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Lovely site! Great links... thanks!!

Come follow me on twitter @whereivebeen for travel links and updates

*Comment by [Katy](#) — May 14, 2009 @ [9:57 pm](#)*

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visit endsofearth.com

This blog will be on next year's Top 100 list.

story: Dude gets great job. Dude quits great job. Dude travels globe in search of meaning.

*Comment by [Brook](#) — May 28, 2009 @ [4:21 am](#)*

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This is also a good one to check out for next year's review. Travel stories and tips; airmiles and reward program insights; flight, hotel, restaurant, and car rental reviews and suggestions... from two real travelers.

*Comment by [BezLu](#) — June 3, 2009 @ [10:52 pm](#)*

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Candid, up-to-date and on the spot - travel blogs are an excellent way to tell family and friends how a holiday is progressing!

*Comment by [Best Travel Blogs](#) — July 3, 2009 @ [8:45 pm](#)*

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Really great list. There sure are a lot of amazing travel blogs out there!!

Comment by [Katie, Tripbase](#) — July 5, 2009 @ [1:10 pm](#)

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[b]Definitely will not go to Vilamoura anymore, 6 Hour rounds of Golf and 4.5 Euros for a beer , we will stay clear of the Vilamoura golf courses this year, and the so called free shuttle bus turns up if you are lucky.[/b]

Comment by [senInsub](#) — July 10, 2009 @ [9:30 pm](#)

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списки кандидатов, выдвигаемые партиями политическими и избирательными объединениями (блоками) на выборах в представительные органы, проводимые по пропорциональной избирательной системе.

Comment by [Словарь Юриста](#) — July 23, 2009 @ [11:50 pm](#)

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Great list of travel blogs that you have compiled here. We are just as passionate about our travels and travel blogging. I hope my growing site will make his list someday. I am certainly looking forward to checking these blogs out to learn from the best.

Comment by [Extended Stay Motels](#) — July 30, 2009 @ [1:03 pm](#)

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Cool site, love the info.

Comment by [Bill Bartmann](#) — September 3, 2009 @ [4:50 pm](#)

---

Пропущено несколько запятых, но на интересность сообщения это никак не повлияло!

Comment by [dozorspb](#) — September 14, 2009 @ [9:14 pm](#)

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А я люблю Nissan.

Comment by [nissan](#) — September 25, 2009 @ [9:44 pm](#)

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This is one of the best (if not the best) list compilations I have found.

I'm bookmarking it.

thanks

Comment by [Venice Travel Guide](#) — October 7, 2009 @ [10:05 am](#)

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Cool! I'm a frequent traveller too, and am blogging about my trips. I hope I'm qualified to be in that list one day. ^^

Comment by [Cheryl](#) — October 8, 2009 @ [2:06 pm](#)

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Бонжур, что-то я ничего не понял. Как именно это работает

Comment by [DouttyExoro](#) — October 9, 2009 @ [9:55 pm](#)

---

I've been trying to find a list like this. This compilation is great!

Serves as inspiration for my own travel blog.

Comment by [Wander Guy](#) — October 12, 2009 @ [4:49 am](#)

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Заметил такую тенденцию, что в блогах появилось много не адекватных комментариев, не могу понять, это что кто то спамит так? А зачем, чтоб падлу комуто сделать))) Имхо глупо...

Comment by [Inestinfep](#) — October 29, 2009 @ [8:53 pm](#)

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Please check out our travel blog: <http://www.borderjumpers.org>

For us, travel is more than getting from point A to point B—or C, D, F, and G. It's not about staying in the nicest hotels, seeing the best beaches, or finding the most remote destination to make our friends jealous. It isn't just about experiencing other cultures—it's about seeking and finding ways to make the world a better place. A cliché? Maybe. But a better one than finding the "ultimate adventure" in the Bahamas or going "native" on safari outside of Nairobi.

We're a different breed altogether—we've already traveled to some of the most dangerous and remote places on the planet, following elections or documenting environmental problems as part of

our day jobs. What we plan to do now is a little different. We've made a commitment to ourselves and the world to see—know, feel, absorb, and be a part of—as many countries as possible.

Comment by [border jumpers](#) — November 29, 2009 @ [4:26 pm](#)

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nice list  
all sites look interesting

Comment by [flip](#) — December 17, 2009 @ [5:09 pm](#)

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You write wonderful articles.

Comment by [ghd](#) — December 29, 2009 @ [1:02 pm](#)

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Your article is write very well, I like it very much ~

Comment by [ghd](#) — December 29, 2009 @ [1:03 pm](#)

---

a travel guide for the 20-30 somethings that love traveling but hate being a "touist"

Comment by [jadaandjon](#) — January 6, 2010 @ [5:03 pm](#)

---

Its true that mostly traveler use their note Books for getting quality information from their friends. Travel journal blogs are too helpful to share the experience and for getting quality information about new or unknown destination.

This is really nice resources list for travel blogs.

Thank you for sharing this informative post.

Sherry

Comment by [Chauffeurlinks](#) — January 6, 2010 @ [6:57 pm](#)

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Thanks for posting! This is definitely a very good resource!

Comment by [Carrot](#) — January 17, 2010 @ [6:44 pm](#)

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Thank you! This list is so big that I will need months to read them all.

Comment by [Goran](#) — January 24, 2010 @ [9:11 pm](#)

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Another travel blog for your 100 Best list, this one involves two American historians who have abandoned their cubicles to travel the world by land only (no flights). Check it out!

Comment by [Lauren](#) — January 29, 2010 @ [10:44 pm](#)

---

Thanks a lot for this big list. You saved me a lot of time researching for good travel blogs.

Comment by [Chande](#) — January 31, 2010 @ [6:31 pm](#)

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Undoubtedly this is one of the best blog list of travel and tourism. The another thing that increases it's usability is further categorization.

Comment by [mary john](#) — February 5, 2010 @ [1:36 pm](#)

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Thanks for sharing these awesome lists.

Comment by [June \(An Asian Traveler\)](#) — February 21, 2010 @ [8:06 am](#)

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Look at pannonien.tv a travel blog form East-Austria and Hungary a wonderful blog - good for the best 100 Travelerblogs

Comment by [lucca](#) — February 21, 2010 @ [11:06 am](#)

---

Thanks for providing this list to all of us. This is such a great thing to read.

Comment by [Eurostar London Paris](#) — February 26, 2010 @ [8:28 am](#)

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Thanks for the list. I decided to spend a few minutes browsing these sites. After a few hours browsing, it looks like I'm going to come back for seconds on another day. This may take a while.

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Comment by [Joy](#) — March 1, 2010 @ [2:52 am](#)

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Thank you for sharing this resource list. Journal Travel blogs really provide great helps to the new and old travelers. Mostly people visit different platform or forum and blogs, to know the quality information about the destination, cheap airline tickets, discount, vacation rental homes and hotels.

Comment by [Krabi](#) — March 12, 2010 @ [7:14 am](#)

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Thanks for the great post, the journals you have selected for this list is amazing and truly helping for every traveler.

Thumps up for your amazing effort...

Comment by [Rajasthan Tour](#) — March 12, 2010 @ [6:29 pm](#)

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Thanks for giving this information. Your post is very nice and give such a huge information about Travel Blogs.

Comment by [Jet Airways India](#) — March 17, 2010 @ [12:14 pm](#)

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Thanks for providing this list to all of us. This is such a great thing to read. Great Post

Comment by [Cleartrip](#) — March 30, 2010 @ [10:45 am](#)

---

Great list! thanks for compiling this and sharing with us. My blog, firsttimetravel.wordpress.com, was only created in 2009. It's pretty new. 😊

Comment by [First-time Travbel](#) — April 5, 2010 @ [7:32 am](#)

---

Great list! thanks for compiling this and sharing with us. My blog, firsttimetravel.wordpress.com, was only created in 2009. It's pretty new. 😊

Comment by [First-time Travel](#) — April 5, 2010 @ [7:33 am](#)

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they returned to the Royal Burgh after their annual trot, canter and gallop around the extremities of Lauder's common and cappadocia

Comment by [in cappadocia](#) — April 5, 2010 @ [3:01 pm](#)

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Travel ky Numerous Sato travel agents start by turning a further bedroom into an office and legally utilizing house business tax deductions.

Comment by [Sato Travel](#) — April 7, 2010 @ [2:26 pm](#)

---

Big list on travel journal blogs, thanks for sharing it. It's true that travel journal blogs are very much helpful to share the experience and for getting information about new or unknown places.

Comment by [low cost flights to France](#) — April 13, 2010 @ [11:37 am](#)

---

Great article, i

hope can know much information About it!

Comment by [RFID Reader](#) — April 16, 2010 @ [4:04 pm](#)

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very gud information on travel blogs.very helpful info.

Comment by [adventurer](#) — April 27, 2010 @ [7:14 am](#)

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What a list, this could take awhile to check them all, keep up the excellent work, it would have taken a lot of time to put the list together.

Comment by [oztravel](#) — May 7, 2010 @ [6:14 am](#)

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It's really a nice one.....

Thanks for sharing with us...

Comment by [Tech4U](#) — May 15, 2010 @ [10:13 am](#)

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Great list of journal travel blogs.

I really like: [www.deliciousbaby.com](http://www.deliciousbaby.com) and hope all the best to travelers.

Thank you for this post and keep it up....

Comment by [Aboriginal Art](#) — May 18, 2010 @ **7:08 am**

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I am a just open shop guy, my site is [ugg boots store](#), just start operating online store does not have any experience, hope that we can visit my store, is there any advice you can e-mail me and my mailbox is [841879445@qq.com](mailto:841879445@qq.com). I believe that my shop to see you guys want to boots. Hope that we can support my online store, thank you!

Comment by [ugg outlet store](#) — May 30, 2010 @ **1:00 pm**

---

A very nice informative list of blogs. Good information.

Comment by [Coolmon](#) — May 31, 2010 @ **4:24 am**

---

This is a very beautiful post. I got many new blog list from your post. So I want to give you a thanks.

Thanks

Alabama Vacation Rentals

Comment by [Alabama Vacation Rentals](#) — June 9, 2010 @ **11:22 am**

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Hi there! My husband and I write a travel blog and we're trying to get it off the ground. We would love for you to take a look and if you like it hopefully add it to your site.

Thanks so much and look forward to hearing from you.

xjad&jon

Comment by [jada sharp](#) — June 9, 2010 @ **6:40 pm**

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Sorry, the site is:

[jadaandjonhipstertravelguide.blogspot.com](http://jadaandjonhipstertravelguide.blogspot.com)

Comment by [jada sharp](#) — June 9, 2010 @ **6:41 pm**

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Delhi Agra Jaipur - North India tour operators offering delhi agra jaipur travel packages alongwith visit of tajmahal india. A treasure trove of several tourist attractions, Delhi - Agra - Jaipur together from the India's popular Golden Triangle circuit.

Get informed about the best tour packages: -

Delhi Tours

Agra Tours

Jaipur Tours

Golden Triangle Tours

Golden Triangle Tiger Tours

Comment by [anurag jain](#) — June 10, 2010 @ **11:47 am**

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Delhi Agra Jaipur Travel, Delhi Agra Jaipur Travel in India, Delhi Agra Jaipur Travel Packages, Delhi Agra Jaipur Travel Packages in India, Travel Package for Delhi Agra Jaipur.

Comment by [Delhi agra jaipur](#) — June 10, 2010 @ **11:49 am**

---

Great blog. I don't believe you left anything out. Visit my website for the perfect travel destination Noosa Hotels 14, Noosa Hotels 3 and Noosa Resorts 3.

Comment by [Peter Graham](#) — June 17, 2010 @ **6:47 pm**

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Hi

Dear-

I visited your blog site and liked the contents and good traffic or best blog site, so would like to propose link exchange partnership with your great site. As you probably already know, link popularity is a major factor in getting a site noticed by the search engines and getting traffic onto that site. An additional link would help both you and us to get more traffic.

Thanks

Comment by [johan](#) — June 22, 2010 @ **11:05 am**

---

Hey Dude,

Really your thought will be a great mainstream for those who are looking for Vacation To Costa Rica. As it sounds very good though i would like to light it at the wall of my facebook.

Comment by [Vacation To Costa Rica](#) — June 29, 2010 @ [11:36 am](#)

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Good concept and excellent post. I thank you about that. I will bookmark your site to check if you write more about in the future. Please keep up the good work.

Comment by [Apartments in Manly](#) — July 3, 2010 @ [10:15 am](#)

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This link was great back in the day, I've since changed my URL, any chance of a new list??

Comment by [Claire](#) — July 7, 2010 @ [7:04 am](#)

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Thank you for the post. Great list.

Comment by [Hong Kong Vacation](#) — July 11, 2010 @ [1:35 am](#)

---

Amazing post, it is going to take me hours to get through all these great sites.

Comment by [Hello Honduras](#) — July 11, 2010 @ [1:36 am](#)

---

Great list and thank you for the effort of putting it together. There is a new site called Great Journey ([www.g8journey.com](http://www.g8journey.com)) that let's you upload your travel experiences with photo and location of the photo. Free, fun and simple.

Does it qualify for you list?

Take care!

Comment by [G8Journey.com](#) — July 18, 2010 @ [8:35 am](#)

---

wonderful list. Thanks for the posting great list.

Comment by [Ramesh Dahal](#) — July 23, 2010 @ [8:28 am](#)

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Hi this is nice blog list for the travels site i also want like this information thanks for sharing this blog.

Comment by [tour packages for ladakh, educational tours](#) — August 3, 2010 @ [10:14 am](#)

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Nice blog. interesting information. Very useful

Comment by [Adventure Costa Rica](#) — August 5, 2010 @ [2:57 am](#)

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I am overwhelmed to find out this huge list of travel blogs. It will keep me busy for sometime, as would love to read out the experiences and advices of the bloggers.

Comment by [Scotland holiday cottages](#) — August 16, 2010 @ [3:59 pm](#)

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