

All in a Day's Work

Anthony Toole - Travel Writer

Anthony Toole is a travel writer, particularly interested in writing about nature and the great outdoors. Sometimes he travels to foreign countries, often he visits places near his home. Most of his stories are published in magazines (such as *Sherkin Comment*) or online travel websites.

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Images courtesy of Anthony Toole

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What training did you do to get where you are today?

I have no formal training. I always enjoyed writing essays at school, and usually received good marks for them. When I began to write seriously, I made many early mistakes, but I learned from them. I also learned by reading what other successful writers had written and listening to any advice they might give. The learning process never ends.

What is a day in your life like?

When I visit a place I want to write about, I always bring a camera, digital voice recorder, notebook and pen, all tucked away in the camera bag. In fact I bring them everywhere, just in case I see something unexpected that I might wish to write about later. I make notes, record anything a guide says about the place and take plenty of

photographs. On returning home, I write up my notes and recordings on my computer to make them easy to understand. When I start work on an article, which may take me two or three days to complete, I write longhand and edit as I go, finally typing it onto

the computer when I am satisfied with it.

What is the best thing about your job?

Sometimes I have been lucky enough to be invited on a trip for which someone else, such as a tourist board, may pay all

my travel and accommodation expenses. This might vary from a local day trip to a week abroad, or simply free entry to a tourist attraction. Visiting new places and learning about them is always fun. Each time I go on holiday, I research beforehand to see if there is any place nearby that I might be able to write about. I find that by writing about these places I learn more than if I was just visiting to see them. There is also the wonderful pleasure of seeing my work published and knowing that many people will read it, and I hope enjoy it.

What is the worst thing about your job?

I can't think of anything bad about it. Writing the first paragraph often requires time, effort and a lot of thought. Sometimes, while travelling, I have to get up early in the morning, but this usually just adds to the adventurous nature of the trip.

What is the best piece of advice you were ever given?

An older, more experienced writer once told me, "If it has your name on it, then it has to be good. Every piece you write, if it is to be published, must be the best you can possibly do."



Anthony on top of Mt Ngungun, Glass House Mountains, Queensland, Australia.



Bruny Island, Tasmania.



The superb fairy wren.