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The Travel Blog Phenomenon

By Frank Johnson

Today, just about everyone has a blog. A blog, for those of you who don't know, is a web-based log

(sometimes called a weblog) where entries are made, like a journal, on a regular basis. To cut to the chase, a blog is an online, public diary. People create blogs to chronicle their life, relationships, adventures, work, etc. and, in most cases, allow readers to leave comments on their blog entries. Many top business professionals also keep blogs to communicate their research and stir debate on hot issues. For consumers, blogs are a good source for first-hand experiences and opinions, and can provide insight on various products and services that can't be found anywhere else. So in the end, blogs allow people to express their "un-sponsored" thoughts on anything they want to talk about, and web surfers to read first-hand experiences and personal opinions on products, services, and even travel destinations.

That's exactly why travel blogs are becoming very popular in the online travel sector. A travel blog can provide you with details and personal experiences and stories that your typical travel guide book just can't offer. And for avid travelers, a travel blog allows them to share their adventures with everyone on the World Wide Web. They use their blog as a soap box, proclaiming to the virtual world their likes and dislikes about foreign cities, countries, and towns. The information you find on someone's travel blog can often help you decide where to go, what sights to see, and what to expect when you arrive at your destination.

Travel Blog vs. Conventional Travel Guide

In many cases, a travel blog blows conventional travel guides out of the water. Even though printed travel guides are written by professional travel writers, a travel blog can often express more emotion and detail regarding a specific travel destination. Travel blogs can also be updated instantaneously, reflecting the latest news and events that might affect travelers interested in journeying to that destination. Conventional travel guides, however, can go years without being updated, making them less accurate than a travel blog. And since anyone can start their own online travel blog, there will always be new and insightful first-hand travel information, experiences, and advice available.

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However, conventional travel guides do have an edge over travel blogs - they're portable. All you need to do is slip your travel guide book in your suitcase or back pocket (some publishers actually have pocket-sized travel guides) and you have a reference for your travels every step of your journey. Since travel blogs are web-based, you'd need a laptop or some sort of portable device to reference a travel blog when you're in-country. Sure you can print out parts of a specific travel blog, but most of the time it's just easier to have an all-inclusive guide book handy when you travel.

So what's the solution? Use both! Search the web for as many destination-relevant travel blogs and purchase a travel guide book. Use both resources to learn about your travel destination and discover personal experiences other travelers have had when they visited the country/city.

Travel Blogs - Use Them

Travel blogs have revolutionized the way we plan our vacations, business trips, honeymoons, etc. A travel blog can provide you with detailed travel stories, first-person experiences, and advice on what to

do and what to avoid. If you're planning a trip and want to verify that your travel destination will provide you with the experiences you're hoping it will, search the web for travel blogs and get a second opinion.

For more travel information and savings, visit

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cFares is the first choice thousands of knowledgeable travelers are using right now to save hundreds of dollars on low fares. For more information on travel blogs and deals on airfare, visit

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Blogheads

By Chris McElroy AKA NameCritic

For those of you who haven't yet started a Blog, you won't understand. You weren't there man! Just trying one Blog will get you hooked. Sure, you say you're just experimenting with blogging.

Then soon, you are blogging everyday. You wake up trying to search around to see who has commented on your Blog. Then it gets to be a 3 or 4 blogpost a day habit, and you're still saying, "I can quit anytime I want".

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Then you decide to try different types of Blog. You have your personal stash Blog, then a joke Blog, then another one on a different topic. Now when you aren't doing your own Blogs, you getting into other people's Blogs and commenting more and more.

You're telling everyone how they should try Blog. Pushing Blog to kids. Google and Yahoo are telling you how much you can make dealing Blog. Then there you are the local Blog dealer.

On every corner of the search engine, selling Blog. Looking at your statistics to see how many people tried your Blog, how long they were blogged in, which blogposts they were doing. Now you are hooked for sure. People walk by you now, your friends, family, and you overhear them calling you a bloghead.

You're hanging out with other blogheads, sharing Blog, linking your Blog to theirs, trying to hook more people on Blog. The blogposts have got you man. Nothing you can do but keep on blogging.

Even this article you are reading right now, you're thinking of which of your Blogs you are going to post it on for other Blogheads to read. If you don't have a Blog for this article, then you can start one all about being addicted to Blogging.

Google or Yahoo will front you the contextual stash to cut your Blog with, so just one more Blog won't hurt you. Go ahead. Start another Blog.

Then you get so hooked on Blogging you start your own Blog about how to find more Blog. You get all the Blogheads to ping your new Blog search Blog. Oh, yeah man, the pings. The pings are the best, man. You don't know what it's like to get pinged by the Blogs, man. It's out of this world!

Next you start yet another Blog to teach others the best way to Blog. You become a Blog Connoisseur. A Blog Guru. A Blog Consultant. A Blog Expert.

You really know you're a goner when you start to host Blogs. Your own Blog Party or commune. Yeah, that's it, Blog Commune, like MySpace, but really my own space. That's when you're no longer just the local Blog Dealer, you are supplying the Blog Dealers. A bigshot now.

Hey, man I got this new thing here. An AutoBlog. Man, an AutoBlog is to blogging what the bong was to . . .well, you know. All you gotta do is log in and push a couple of buttons and you get more Blog!

Wow, man, you haven't tried Blog yet? You really gotta get with the times, man. Blogging is the bomb.

Chris McElroy AKA NameCritic is an official Bloghead, AutoBlog Dealer, and a Blog Host. He hangs out on the corner of

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Come see him to

learn how to get some Blog of your own. AutoBlog info at

<http://www.blogs.pn/autobloggerpro.html>



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