

Clip The Trip Blog



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[Ingrid Anders](#) is the winner of our first competition for our writers which we held recently. She is the brains behind [this clip on Washington D.C](#), her hometown. We asked her to answer a few travel-related questions for us, which she kindly obliged us with. Here you go:

Tell us about your rap song - how did it come about?

This is a fun question. One thing I do in my free time is open mic poetry. DC has a strong black culture and a lot of my fellow open mic performers do hip-hop and rap pieces. I started copying them and produced four songs that resemble rap: “short hair, short skirt, fuse,” “the Red Flag Rap,” “We the Washingtonians,” and “Strugglin and Jugglin.” All are available on the Ingrid Anders Youtube channel. The subject matter for “We the Washingtonians” hit me during a long trip to China in summer 2012. I was away for several weeks and started thinking about all the things I missed about DC. Suddenly, I

wanted to tell the world what a great city DC was. Now I've done so in my song and also my CLIP!

What's your favourite city in the world and why?

This is an impossible question. I like different cities for different reasons. If you'll grant me my top-four favorite cities, they would be:

Berlin, because of its haunting modern history, edgy political and art scene, and good beer;

Taipei, because of its pre-Communist Chinese culture and food, open political system, and subtropical climate;

Washington, D.C., because of its truly international population, extensive public-transportation network, and lack of visa requirements for me;

and Beijing, because of its can't-pin-it-down position among its ancient past, tumultuous 20th century, and precarious future that has the whole world watching with baited breath.....and, of course, the duck.

What's the most unusual thing you've seen on your travels?

This is an awesome question. I love seeing Buddhist monks in flowing robes going through Immigration at the Beijing airport. They may have achieved enlightenment, but they need their passports stamped, just like the rest of us!

What's your favourite travel blog?

This is a great question. A grad school colleague of mine, Jaala Thibault, taught English in Afghanistan for two years and kept a spectacular blog that just floored me with every entry: [here it is](#). I learned so much from her experiences. Thank you, Jaala, for not keeping them to yourself! There were many days, after reading her posts, I had to hold myself back from throwing everything to the wind and joining her.

What's the first thing you notice about a new city?

This is a trick question! I notice so many things at once, including, but not limited to, air quality, road quality, temperature, time difference from previous destination, language(s) being spoken, and noise level.

Name 3 cities you haven't been to yet that are on your must-visit list.

Anywhere in Brazil during the 2014 FIFA World Cup; Cork, Ireland; Windhoek, Namibia

Which city would you happily move to and why?

Hong Kong. It is a true conglomerate of Eastern and Western cultures. You'll find Asian people, British accents, English traffic laws, Chinese characters, shady characters, savvy travelers, expats of every culture, tropical beaches, business, Buddhist temples, a pulsing night life, a bursting skyline, and plunging natural landscapes. It is also a gateway to the many other amazing places in Asia.

Do you have a tip for people who want to do stuff that is not on the typical tourist trail when they travel?

Yes! If you are traveling with a buddy and in an official, marked taxi with a working meter, ask the driver to take you to his brother's, cousin's, sister's, uncle's, or best friend's restaurant. You will meet lots of locals there, including his brother, cousin, sister, uncle, and best friend. Warning: do not try this if traveling alone. Also, do not go anywhere with anyone that comes up to you and offers you a ride for a special price. The story behind why I say this is actually very sad. Many cities will have official taxi pick-up points, and those are the places to employ this tip.

What's your favourite clip on Clip the Trip so far, not written by you?

I really enjoyed "[Americana Grub](#)" by Sophie, about American food in London. I'm tickled by the idea of eating in a diner in Soho (not New York) in which the waitstaff have English instead of New Jersey accents.

What do you like most about Clip the Trip?

This is an easy question! I like that the entries are written by locals. So much travel writing (including my own) is done by tourists in unfamiliar places. But isn't it the insider advice we all want when we are tourists? Writing my CLIP was the first time I sat down to write a travel piece about my own home and what a delight it was. I felt so ... qualified. That's what sets Clip the Trip apart and makes it the travel website we've all been waiting for.

A huge Thank You to you for your time, Ingrid, and congratulations on being our first competition winner!

To everyone else reading this: remember, if you love sharing the best things about your city and you're not writing for us yet, simply [sign up here](#) and get clipping - who knows, soon you could win like Ingrid too!