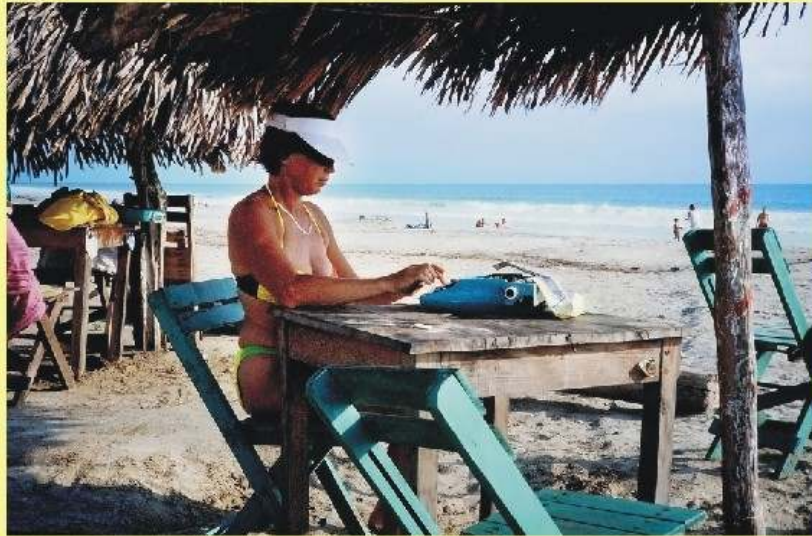


LOST ANGEL WALKABOUT



One Traveler's Tales

By
LINDA BALLOU



Lost Angel Walkabout – One Traveler's Tales by Linda Ballou © 2010
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Linda Ballou

Adventure travel writer, author and public speaker, challenges her audience to self-actualize and make dreams come true.



Linda Ballou author:

Lost Angel Walkabout—One Traveler’s Tales Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai’i—Her Epic Journey

Lost Angel Walkabout—One Traveler’s Tales is a spirited collection of travel narratives recounting the haps, mishaps, and serendipitous adventures that have given her a sense of wonder and delight. Some of the stories like “Falling in the Footsteps of John Muir” and “Look Both Ways on Small Islands” are reflections that might make you glad you stayed home, while “River Wise” and “Raven’s River” could inspire you to toss the TV clicker out the window and to explore our beautiful planet. All of the stories take you to the special places where you share the sensual experience of being there without straining one muscle, getting altitude sickness, or tipping your canoe.

March 2010 release date

ISBN 978-1449971526

Available at Amazon.com as well as all major online distribution sites

Booksellers: Order from Ingram or Baker and Taylor

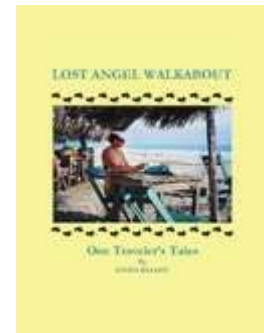
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Sign up to follow her Blog and receive travel tips, eco-alerts and more.

<http://www.lindaballouauthor.blogspot.com/>



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Review of *Lost Angel Walkabout* by Linda Ballou

by Barbara Milbourn, a writer and editor in Nashville, Tennessee

In roughly twenty short stories, travel writer Linda Ballou takes us with her up active volcanoes in Costa Rica, down hundred-mile rivers in the Yukon Territory, over combination jumps and oxers in Ireland, beneath the Sea of Cortez, and along unforgettable jaunts through deserts, woods, peaks, and valleys in both hemispheres. Her tales span years of traveling—sometimes alone, occasionally with her mother or life partner, and often with others in search of soft adventure. Brimming with action, intelligence, regional history, funny mishaps or tight squeezes, each story is set against a backdrop of nature’s jaw-dropping beauty. Ballou aims to share her world view, and through her Eco-alerts make the reader care more deeply about our vanishing resources and places of wild beauty.

Living in greater Los Angeles among millions of other lost angels keeping pace in a hurried world, Linda Ballou makes no bones about her need to seek equilibrium, solitude, and salvation in the sublimity of nature. Forget thousand-thread count sheets at luxury hotels or shopping for the latest bling. Like the great figures liberally noted in her pieces—Robert Frost, Jack London, John Steinbeck, John Muir—Ballou prefers the great outdoors and is intimately acquainted with it. She is a naturalist, a thoughtful traveler, one caring toward the environment and sensitive to local populations both near and far. And, she is a meticulous researcher.

Lost Angel Walkabout is richly detailed and poetic. It gifts the reader with the depth of observation in the clear and careful naming of the world around us—places, peoples, plants, birds, mountain ranges, animals, and sea creatures. More satisfying than naming is storytelling the authentic connection made with the inhabitants of land, sea, and sky; ravens and great spirits, fin whales the size of city buses, or Native Americans forced to flee their land. Because the author has connected deeply, so does the reader. Something is gathered from every place visited, and it seems impossible not to connect with our own highest and best self through Ballou’s experiences—not to mention wanting to get up and go there.

Linda Ballou keeps good company too and includes interviews with renowned travel writer Tim Cahill and endurance rider Lari Shea. Like her travel writing hero Tim Cahill, Ballou sees humor in many of the predicaments she stumbles into, or out of, or overboard after.

Don’t be surprised to find her on the back of a galloping horse yelling “Yee Haw!” and let out a yell yourself.



About the Author

Linda Ballou is a rugged individualist who needs mountains and shady glens to stay in balance. She enjoys not having to make a living as a travel writer so she can be selective about her journeys and how and when she takes them. She aims to get to as many beautiful places in the world she can before they are no more.

She seeks outdoor adventures suitable for mature and fit travelers, with guides who have a high regard for the people and land they serve. Ms. Ballou is a thoughtful traveler, caring toward the environment, and sensitive to the respective local populations—that includes Main Street USA, not just lost tribes in the Amazon. She tries not to judge or condemn behavior alien to her own and attempts not to peer at people as though studying them through a microscope.

Her literary background heightens her enjoyment of research that includes reading travel narratives and historical archives about a region before visiting. In fact, she doesn't want to go until she has a sense of what is going on behind the gorgeous scenery she considers herself privileged to enjoy. Like her travel writing hero Tim Cahill, she tries not to take herself too seriously.

Her novel approach to travel writing is detailed in a free download on her Web site www.LindaBallouAuthor.com titled "How to Make Travel Writing Work for You."

Her highest achievement to date is her historical novel *Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai'i: Her Epic Journey*. Through the eyes of Wai-nani, the reader experiences Hawaiian society as it existed when Captain James Cook arrived at Kealakekua Bay in 1779. Ride the billowing seas with Eku the wild dolphin Wai-nani befriends; learn why she loved the savage, conflicted ruler, Makaha; walk with her as she defies ancient laws and harsh taboos of the Island people; share the love she received from her people, and learn how she rose to become the most powerful woman in old Hawai'i. Read the first chapter and reviews on Wai-nani's page at www.LindaBallouAuthor.com.

Join Linda Ballou on her blog <http://www.lindaballouauthor.blogspot.com> for travel tips, eco-alerts, and all things Hawaiian. She welcomes your comments and would enjoy hearing about your adventures.



Beautiful Obsession

In my fit forties, I was operating under the illusion that I could do anything and felt invincible. Full swing into my second childhood, I owned my horse and was conquering cross country courses. That's right! We were jumping over every hurdle in our path, careening around mountain trails and splashing through creeks. It was thrilling to be fulfilling all my horsey fantasies.



Then one day, while practicing our rough version of dressage, I felt a tingling in my lower back. Within days this sensation manifested itself into a crippling condition that left me crawling from the bed to the fridge on my knees. Diagnosis—garden variety herniated disc. In time, my body healed and I was left with a disciplined physical regime and a higher regard for good health. I decided to combine the things that I love—horses, travel and writing as my path to full expression. My first published articles were all about horses. I used these credits to get travel writing gigs at guest ranches. Throughout my feisty fifties, I enjoyed fantastic outdoor adventures and established myself as a travel writer.

Self actualization on so many levels gave me courage to tackle my long buried dream of publishing the novel I'd been working on quietly over a twenty year period. When I lived on Kauai, I became so smitten with great personage of Ka'ahumanu, a childless chiefess who was the favorite wife of Kamehameha the Great, that writing her story became a beautiful obsession. The changing landscape of the publishing world and the opportunities provided through the internet made the realization of my dream possible. In May of 2008 I did it! I published *Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai'i-Her Epic Journey*. It was like giving birth to an elephant that was ten years over due.

Now I am in my soaring sixties and the view from this lofty vantage point is exhilarating. Bringing *Wai-nani* into the world forced me to blossom on many levels. I had to come out from behind my computer to give talks and to learn how to do radio interviews. With the help of my webmaster, I built a platform on the internet with my articles, and photos. It has been a very heady and exciting ride. Empowered by these successes, I have published my travel collection *Lost Angel Walkabout-One Traveler's Tales*. Now I'm off to explore more of our blue-green planet. There is no question that the last half of life is the best half for me.



INTERVIEW WITH LINDA BALLOU

Author Linda Ballou always enjoys the opportunity to discuss her new book

LOST ANGEL WALKABOUT-ONE TRAVELER'S TALES

The following is a suggested list of questions for an interviewer to ask of Linda:



- (1) Why was it so important for you to get this collection out of your drawer and into the hearts and minds of readers?
- (2) What is your favorite place and why?
- (3) Can you name five places people should go before they die?
- (4) What brought you to travel writing?
- (5) Why adventure travel?
- (6) What will people learn from your book?
- (7) Why do you claim Tim Cahill as your travel writing hero?
- (8) Does good travel writing encourage readers to follow in your footsteps?
- (9) Where do you want to go next?
- (10) Not everything you have done has to do with travel. What else have you written?

How to Make Travel Writing Work for You



In this talk I teach people how to get on the fast track to being hosted by outfitters on wonderful trips about the globe. I cover the key points listed below.

- (1) Find Your Niche
- (2) Create a Platform
- (3) Become a blog hog
- (4) Writing ability required
- (5) Analyze the market
- (6) Tools of the Trade
- (7) Admit you need professional help
- (8) Make friends with editors
- (9) Do your homework
- (10) Look for the Hook
- (11) Learn how to get the shot that will tell the story

