

CHRISTOPHER P. BAKER

Travel Writer / Photographer / Tour Leader & Destination Expert / Presenter / Moto-Journalist
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BACKGROUND & EDUCATION

Born and raised in Yorkshire, England, Christopher received his B.A. with Honours (1976) in Geography at the University of London, where his travels included two Sahara research expeditions and an exchange program at Krakow University, Poland. He earned Master's degrees in Latin American Studies from Liverpool University, and in Education from the Institute of Education, University of London. In 1980, he received a Scripps-Howard Foundation Scholarship in Journalism to attend the University of California, Berkeley.

Since 1983 he has made his living as a travel writer, author, photographer, tour leader, destination expert, and presenter. He has visited more than 100 countries and is a Caribbean and Central American specialist with an expert's knowledge of Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia and California, among several other destinations.

Christopher—the Lowell Thomas Award 2008 'Travel Journalist of the Year'—is a member of the Society of American Travel Writers and the North American Travel Journalists' Association.

He promotes himself on his websites: www.christopherpbaker.com and www.motojournalist.com.

TRAVEL JOURNALIST

Christopher has written and photographed for more than 200 publications worldwide, from BBC Travel, CNN Travel, *Conde Nast*, and *National Geographic Traveler* to *Robb Report*, *Thomas Cook Holiday*, and *Playboy*. His passion for travel and writing helps Christopher maintain a schedule in which he travels around the globe on assignment for leading editors and publishers. Christopher has won dozens of awards for his travel writing, and in 2008 he won the prestigious Lowell Thomas Award as 'Travel Journalist of the Year.'

He has more than three decades experience as an adventure travel and motorcycle touring specialist, and is particularly renowned for his Cuba expertise. His literary travelog *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba* (National Geographic Adventure Press) is a two-time national book award winner.

See OTHER CREDITS below.

GUIDEBOOK AUTHOR

Christopher has authored and photographed more than 30 travel guidebooks for such publishers as Dorling Kindersley, Frommer's, Lonely Planet, Moon, and National Geographic, for whom he has written and photographed six books. He has authored guidebooks to Cuba (five), Costa Rica (five), Puerto Rico (two), Jamaica (two), Dominican Republic, Colombia, The Bahamas, Turks & Caicos, the Caribbean (three), plus California (four), as well as contributing chapters to several other guidebooks, plus numerous coffee-table books and other travel books. He has also acted as update editor for guidebooks on Alaska, Arizona, Scotland, London, Washington, D.C., and

elsewhere.

See BOOKLIST below.

ADVENTURE MOTORCYCLIST & MOTO-JOURNALIST

A keen adventure motorcyclist, Christopher writes frequently for major motorcycling and other publications worldwide. His stories on motorcycle touring have appeared in such outlets as *Adventure Motorcyclist*, *Bike*, *BMW Motorcycle Magazine*, CNN Travel, *Motorrad und Reisen*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Rider*, and *Robb Report*. In 1996, Christopher shipped his BMW R100GS motorcycle to Cuba and traveled 11,000 km through the island. He has also toured as far afield as Japan, Oman, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, and Switzerland. He speaks frequently at leading motorcycle events, and has many years' experience leading group motorcycle tours of Cuba.

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER

Christopher is a Getty Images and National Geographic contributing photographer and has photographed guidebooks to Colombia and Costa Rica on assignment for National Geographic. His images have graced the covers and interiors of dozens of magazines and major U.S. and international newspapers, from *The Los Angeles Times* and *National Geographic Traveler* to *Penthouse*, as well as many books.

He has led photography tours to Baja California, Bhutan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Japan, Oman, Mozambique and Scotland for Jim Cline Photo Tours, Lumaria Workshops, National Geographic Expeditions, Santa Fe Photographic Workshops, and UnCruise Adventures.

TOUR PLANNER, DIRECTOR/LEADER/MANAGER & DESTINATION EXPERT

A vastly experienced tour planner, director, leader, and manager, Christopher is dedicated above all to ensuring tour participants' well-being, enjoyment, and satisfaction. As a Destination Expert, he is dedicated to enriching the experience of trip participants by sharing his vast and unique knowledge and insights through fascinating presentations, informal discussions, and personal introductions to special people and places.

Christopher led his first tour—a travel agents' familiarization trip to New Zealand—in 1982 on behalf of California-based Adventure Center. He later founded his own company, British Pride Tours, and led numerous deluxe garden and stately homes tours of England. He also founded Kim Mason's Shopping Tours with former fashion model Kim Mason, with whom he escorted upscale shopping tours to Hong Kong and Korea. He has since acted as tour director/leader/manager on dozens of international tours for entities as diverse as Edelweiss Bike Travel, Los Angeles Times Expeditions, and National Geographic Expeditions.

He is a National Geographic 'Expert' specializing in Colombia, Costa Rica and Cuba, and has participated in his Expert capacity on trips to all three destinations on behalf of National Geographic Expeditions, including more than 85 "people-to-people" tours to Cuba, plus more than a dozen cruise expeditions as 'Expert' for Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic Expeditions. Christopher has also planned and led private tours to Cuba on behalf of CNN anchor Michael Smerconish, the BMW Rider Academy, and Children's Cancer Foundation, among others.

(Also see Travel Photographer, above.)

In 2013 Christopher led the first group motorcycle tours of Cuba for U.S. citizens in six decades on behalf of Texas-based MotoDiscovery. He currently leads motorcycle tours of Cuba as a freelance guide for Edelweiss Bike Travel and Profil Cuba-Reisen, and is also a freelance guide on US motorcycle tours for HertzRide.

He is a member of the International Association of Tour Directors & Guides.

NEWS PERSONALITY, PUBLIC SPEAKER & CRUISE LECTURER

Christopher has been profiled in *USA Today* and appears regularly as a Cuba expert on Al Jazeera, BBC Radio, CNN, CCTV, *Fox Magazine*, the National Geographic Channel, MSNBC, various ABC and NBC regional TV stations, NBC Radio, NPR, and numerous other syndicated national radio and TV shows.

A gifted public speaker, he has been privileged to present to such prestigious entities as the National Press Club, the National Geographic Society (*Live... from National Geographic* series), the World Affairs Council, etc.

Christopher is a former faculty member of the lecturing staff of Cunard Cruise Line Ltd. and Holland America Cruise Line, and is a faculty member of the lecturing and photography staff of Lindblad Expeditions, Noble Caledonia, and UnCruise Adventures.

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

Christopher is acknowledged as one of the world's foremost authorities on Cuba travel and culture, about which he has authored seven books, including the *National Geographic Traveler Cuba* and *Moon Cuba* guidebooks. He is currently partnered with actor/director David Soul in the production of a cinematic feature documentary, *Cuban Soul*, about their ongoing restoration of Ernest Hemingway's 1955 Chrysler convertible in Cuba.

Christopher also has an expert's knowledge of Costa Rica, Panama, plus Colombia, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, the Caribbean, plus Britain.

BOOKS

EYEWITNESS CARIBBEAN

Dorling Kindersley, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019

EYEWITNESS BACK ROADS CALIFORNIA

Dorling Kindersley, 2013, 2019

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S COLOMBIA

National Geographic, 2012, 2016

EYEWITNESS TOP TEN GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

Dorling Kindersley, 2012, 2015

EXPLORER'S GUIDE PANAMA

Countryman Press, 2011

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A DESTINATION GUIDE

Countryman Press, 2010

PALM SPRINGS & DESERT RESORTS: A DESTINATION GUIDE
Countryman Press, 2008
EYEWITNESS TOP 10 CUBA
Dorling Kindersley, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
National Geographic, 2008, 2012, 2016
TRAVELER'S COMPANION COSTA RICA
Globe Pequot Press, 2007
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S PANAMA
National Geographic, 2007, 2011, 2015
PUERTO RICO: A BEAUTIFUL ISLE
Macmillan Caribbean, 2006
EYEWITNESS COSTA RICA
Dorling Kindersley, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019
AA SPIRAL GUIDE CUBA
Automobile Association, 2005
CUBA CLASSICS: A CELEBRATION OF VINTAGE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES
Interlink, 2004
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S CUBA
National Geographic, 2003, 2006, 2012, 2016, 2019
MI MOTO FIDEL: MOTORCYCLING THROUGH CASTRO'S CUBA
National Geographic Adventure Press, 2001
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S COSTA RICA
National Geographic, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020
MOON HANDBOOKS: HAVANA
Avalon Travel Publishing, 2000 2003, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2017
BAHAMAS AND TURKS & CAICOS
Lonely Planet, 1998, 2001
MOON HANDBOOKS: CUBA
Avalon Travel Publishing, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2017
JAMAICA
Lonely Planet, 1996, 1999, 2002
PASSPORT ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO JAMAICA
NTC Publishing/Thomas Cook, 1995, 1998
MOON HANDBOOKS: COSTA RICA
Avalon Travel Publishing, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017
CALIFORNIA
Prentice Hall, 1994 (with Judy Wade)

Plus: Chapters Featured In:

EYEWITNESS SAN FRANCISCO & BAY AREA (2019); MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME ON EARTH (2019); WHERE TO GO WHEN (*Dorling Kindersley*, 2007); TRAVELERS TALES: CUBA (*Travelers Tales*, 2001); RAINFORESTS (*The Discovery Channel*, 2001); TRIPS: FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FAME, VOL. 2 (*Greatest Escapes Publishing*, 2001); VOYAGES: THE ROMANCE OF CRUISING (*Tehabi Books/Time-Life*, 1999); WORLD TRAVEL: A GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL ECOJOURNEYS (*Weldon Owen/Time-Life*, 1996); TRAVELERS TALES: FOOD (*Travelers Tales/O'Reilly*, 1996); FROMMER'S AMERICA ON WHEELS: CALIFORNIA & NEVADA (*Macmillan*, 1995); I SHOULD HAVE STAYED

HOME (*Book Passage/RDR Publishing*, 1995); THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED (*Writer's Digest Books*, 1994); and other books.

Update Editor:

EYEWITNESS CUBA

Dorling Kindersley, 2019

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S CALIFORNIA

National Geographic, 2012, 2016

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S ARIZONA

National Geographic, 2019

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S SCOTLAND

National Geographic, 2019

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER'S ALASKA

National Geographic, 2020

WALKING LONDON

National Geographic, 2019

WALKING WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Geographic, 2020

OTHER PUBLICATION CREDITS

PUBLISHED IN MORE THAN 200 MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, AND WEBSITES WORLDWIDE

Including: American Express *Expressions*; *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel*; *ASTA Agency Management*; BBC Travel; BBC's *World Magazine*; *Caribbean Travel & Life*; CNN Travel; *Cruise Travel*; *Elle*; *Ensemble Vacations*; *Geographical Magazine*; *Islands*; *Maxim*; *Motorcyclist*; Organization of American States' *Américas*; *National Geographic Traveler*; *National Times*; *National Wildlife*; *Newsweek International*; *Penthouse*; *Playboy*; *Robb Report*; *Saveur*; *Thomas Cook Travel*; *Travel Agent*; *World & I*; *Writer's Digest*; *Virtuoso Life*; leading North American newspapers, including *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *New York Post*, *New York Daily News*, and *San Francisco Examiner* ; plus the inflight magazines of more than 25 leading airlines, including Alaska Airlines, Air Jamaica, American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Delta, Mexicana, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, USAirways, and Virgin Atlantic, etc.. He has also written for Home&Abroad.com, Expedia.com, KimKim.com, Star Service, Traterra.com, Weissmann Intelliguide, etc.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION TRAVEL JOURNALISM AWARDS
 - "Best Travel Guidebook," 2007, *Puerto Rico: A Beautiful Isle*
 - "Travel Writer of the Year," 2005
 - "Best Travel Guidebook," 2005, *Moon Handbooks: Cuba*
- REBECCA BRUNS AWARD
 - In recognition of Outstanding Achievement@
 - Bay Area Travel Writers, 2004
- NATJA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
 - Grand Prize, 2002, *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba*

- North American Travel Journalist Association
- MARCIA VICKERY AWARD
 - "Travel Journalist of the Year," 1998
 - Jamaica Tourist Board
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AWARD
 - "Best Travel Guidebook," 1995, *Moon Handbooks= Costa Rica*
 - Publishers= Association of America
- LOWELL THOMAS TRAVEL JOURNALISM AWARD
 - "Best Short Story," 2016 (Gold), *My City: Havana*, National Geographic Traveler
 - "Travel Journalist of the Year," 2008
 - "Best Guidebook," 2007 (Silver), *Moon Handbooks Cuba*
 - "Travel Book of the Year," 2005 (Silver), *Cuba Classics: A Celebration of Vintage American Automobiles*
 - "Best Guidebook," 2003 (Bronze), *National Geographic Traveler Cuba*
 - "Travel Book of the Year," 2002 (Gold), *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro=s Cuba*
 - "Best Environmental Tourism Article," 1996 (Bronze)
 - "Best Guidebook," 1995 (Bronze), *Moon Handbooks= Costa Rica*
 - "Best Travel News Investigative Reporting," 1993 (Gold)
 - "Best Self-illustrated Article," 1992 (Silver)
- TARGET MARKETING AWARDS
 - "Best of Direct Marketing: Silver," 1993
- PIONEER AWARD
 - "Best Consumer Catalog: Silver," 1991
 - Direct Marketing Creative Guild
- AMERICAN CATALOG AWARDS
 - "Excellence in Catalog Marketing: Gold," 1990
- PATA GOLD AWARDS
 - "Best Magazine Story," 1987, 1988, 1990
 - Pacific Asia Travel Association