

## Revealed: AITO's 27<sup>th</sup> Travel Writer of the Year Awards - 2024 - *the shortlist...*

27 September 2024

AITO, the Specialist Travel Association ([www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)), today announces the shortlist for its AITO Travel Writer of the Year Awards 2024.

The top three awards (Gold, Silver and Bronze) in each category will be announced at the annual AITO Meets the Media event taking place on the evening of Tuesday, 15 October, from 6-8.30pm at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel, South Kensington, London.

The winners in each category will be presented with a framed certificate and a bottle of Champagne, in addition to a cash prize for Gold winners, in recognition of their success.

The judges - including volunteer AITO members, former travel editors and writers from the national broadsheets and magazines, plus former AITO Chairmen - assessed each article according to **four criteria; they sought copy that was not only inspirational, informative and interesting, but also, of course, well-written.**

Shortlisted entries for the Travel Writer of the Year Awards 2024 are:

### **AITO Travel Writer of the Year – Over 1,500 words Award**

- Rosie Blau – *Beside the seaside*, **The Economist**
- Richard Collett – *The North African country to visit now - before it becomes the next Morocco*, **The Times**
- Richard Collett – *The return of the wild in Argentina's Patagonia Park*, **Wanderlust**
- Steph Dyson – *The new superstars*, **JRNY**
- Eleanor Fazan – *Single, pregnant and traveling: My journey to solo parenthood via Sri Lanka*, **Adventure.com**
- Sarah Gillespie – *The beautiful island*, **JRNY**
- Stuart Kenny – *Rewilding: On the trail of pumas in Patagonia*, **Active-traveller.com**
- George Kipouros – *The summer capital of the gilded age*, **Wanderlust**
- Adrian Phillips – *A land of stories*, **National Geographic Traveller**
- James Stewart – *A Botswana safari by bike*, **The Financial Times**
- Mark Stratton – *Living with nature in Fiji*, **Wanderlust**

### **AITO Travel Writer of the Year – Under 1,500 words**

- Jacqui Agate – *The best way to see America's ultimate wilderness is by train*, **The Telegraph**
- Claire Boobbyer – *Onboard Vietnam's most luxurious train - with cocktails for breakfast*, **The Sunday Times**
- Holly Budge – *World female ranger interviews*, **Adventure.com**
- Steph Dyson – *Pablo, who? The Medellin tour that shows the B-side of Colombia's "Narcos" story*, **Adventure.com**
- Imogen Lepere – *Off the beaten track in Oaxaca: is this the best way to adventure in Mexico?*, **The Evening Standard**
- Mike MacEacheran – *What this thrilling no-frills ski lift safari taught me about Switzerland*, **The Times**
- James March – *California's gold rush towns are booming*, **The Telegraph**
- Queenie Shaikh – *Become a Shakespearean secretary with Juliet Club in Verona*, **Going.com**
- Vicky Smith – *My two-week adventure in unsung Senegal*, **The Times**
- Jessica Vincent – *The new Sri Lankan hiking trail that leads to the heart of the hill country*, **National Geographic Traveller**

## **AITO Young Travel Writer of the Year - Sponsored by Kirker Holidays**

- Alice Barnes-Brown – *A slow boat through the Cyclades*, **JRNY**
- Laura Field – *Green light*, **Wanderlust**
- Angela Locatelli – *Forgotten paths*, **National Geographic Traveller**
- Erica Rich – *Island of opportunity*, **Aspire**
- Leyla Rose – *Have Hong Kong's iconic dai pai dong seen their last supper?*, **Adventure.com**
- Christy Spring – *The wild side of wellness in Sumba*, **Escapism**

## **AITO Travel Trade Writer of the Year**

- Bella Falk – *Turn a new leaf in Jasper*, **Selling Travel**
- Laura French – *Rest and regenerate*, **Aspire (Travel Weekly)**
- Rashmi Narayan – *I found coastal bliss on the west coast of America*, **TTG**
- Erica Rich – *Hot Spot*, **Aspire (Travel Weekly)**
- Erica Rich – *Nature's Gift*, **Aspire (Travel Weekly)**
- Debbie Ward – *How to send your clients on a Silk Road adventure*, **TTG**

## **AITO Travel Blogger of the Year - Sponsored by Kirker Holidays**

- Barry Barford – *Beijing: Where culture and politics collide*, **Travel Gumbo**
- Abigail King – *What you need to know about the Ravenna mosaics in Italy*, **Inside the Travel Lab**
- Abigail King – *Is Graz worth visiting? The truth about Austria's second city*, **Inside the Travel Lab**
- Katie Macleod – *The perfect autumn weekend in Lisbon*, **Stories my suitcase could tell**
- Katie Macleod – *A postcard from Aruba, the Caribbean's "one happy island"*, **Stories my suitcase could tell**
- Alastair McKenzie – *The British Normandy Memorial*, **Mechtraveller.com**

**For further information on AITO's Travel Writer of the Year Awards, including details of previous winners, visit [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com).**

**Ends**

**Press:** For further information on AITO, please see [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com) or contact the team at Travel PR on 020 8891 4440. Alternatively, email Gemma Minto ([g.minto@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:g.minto@travelpr.co.uk)) or Julia Farish ([j.farish@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:j.farish@travelpr.co.uk)).