



Helena Smith:

Uplifting words & photographs

Original projects

Eco travel & community

About

I am a freelance writer, photographer and videographer

My key topics are eco travel, east London and community

Key skills are writing, photography, initiating projects, editing and interviewing

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Work

Freelance writer and photographer 2005–present

I've travelled the world for Rough Guides, Lonely Planet and others; worked for three consecutive years at the Edinburgh Film Festival becoming their senior photographer; funded, produced and published the first guide to Hackney with a print run in the tens of thousands; initiated a successful community food blog, Eat Hackney; and created a fundraising cookbook based on my blog.

Clients include Bradt, Camden Council, Dorling Kindersley, Edinburgh International Festival, Front creative agency, Hackney Migrant Centre, Hardie Grant, Islington Council, Lonely Planet, North London Action for the Homeless, Picador, Rough Guides, Tech City, the Telegraph and Time Out.

Managing editor at Rough Guides 1997–2004

I managed a team of editors, and edited/project-managed numerous travel guides.

Selected publications

Author: Rough Guide to Walks in London & Southeast England, Inside Hackney borough guide, DK's Lake District guide, Hygge Travels in Copenhagen, Lonely Planet Pocket Brussels & Bruges.

Co-author: Bradt's Malawi guide; Lonely Planet guides to Africa, Italy, Greece, California, Belgium & Lux, Naples & the Amalfi Coast and Wales; Rough Guides to Australia, Fiji, Scotland and Camping.

Awards

I'm a winner of Vogue's annual writing contest, and the Independent on Sunday travel writing competition.

Education

Postgraduate Certificate in Photography 2005–06
St Martin's College, London

BA & MA Literature, mainly African and Caribbean 1987–91
University of Kent, Canterbury

School in Stirling, Scotland and Malawi in Central Africa

Skills

Professional photography and video making. Software skills including InDesign, Photoshop, Wordpress and iMovie. Social media aware: I use Twitter and Instagram to promote my Eat Hackney blog. Varied experience as an interviewer on assignments for major travel brands, and for my self-published books and blog.

Decent Italian and French, basic Spanish. Full UK driving licence.