

18 July 2007

To whom it may concern:

Reference for Frances Linzee Gordon

My name is Kerryn Burgess and I'm the commissioning editor for Middle East titles at Lonely Planet Publications. It's been my pleasure to have worked closely with Frances Linzee Gordon on several publishing projects in the past seven years.

Most recently (2006–2007), I commissioned Frances to research and write about Saudi Arabia for Lonely Planet's forthcoming guidebook *Oman, UAE & Arabian Peninsula*. At this time, Saudi Arabia had never in its history issued a visa for any tourist to travel independently in the kingdom. That it issued such a visa to Frances is testament to her extraordinary resourcefulness, determination, and cultural and personal sensitivity.

The depth and breadth of Frances' research in Saudi Arabia was exceptional, and I was thrilled with the resulting manuscript – it exceeded even my high expectations. It is pitched perfectly at its target market, and I know that the resulting book will be the best resource on the market for anyone travelling in Saudi Arabia.

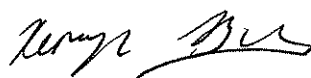
Frances also wrote a blog about her experiences in Saudi Arabia for Lonely Planet's website: http://lonelyplanet.com/blogs/travel_blog/labels/Middle_East.html. Her unique experience and her engagement with readers generated more traffic to the website than any other Lonely Planet blog before or since.

For a publisher, among Frances' most valuable attributes are the enthusiasm, initiative, ease and charm she brings to publicity opportunities. Lonely Planet's marketing teams in London, the USA and Melbourne speak very highly of Frances' involvement in interviews and other media appearances.

Frances is delightful to deal with: she is among my very favourite authors. She has absolute integrity, she is extremely hard-working, and she inspires those she works with to do great work themselves.

If you would like further information about my experience of working with Frances, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone (+61 3 8379 8000) or email (kerryn.burgess@lonelyplanet.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Kerryn Burgess
Commissioning Editor, Middle East