

**Author Info Sheet**  
*The Housesitter's Guide to the Galaxy: The Essential Edition*  
**Jessica Holmes**

Jessica Holmes grew up in Gloucester, UK, and has always felt a deep connection to nature and animals. Her passion for travel encouraged her to give up her dream job as a police investigator and backpack her way around the world, eventually becoming a digital nomad. She has lived nomadically for long periods of her adult life.

Struggling with the inevitable environmental impact of a high-intensity travel lifestyle, she sought a new path which could revolutionise modern travel. She now housesits full-time around the world, looking after other people's homes and pets whilst working online as a writer and editor.

### **Professional Background**

- **Senior Editor** at *Nomad Magazine*
- **Published Author** - First edition published October 2023
- **Speaker** - Regular speaker at festivals and events on alternative living, adventure travel, and sustainable tourism
- **Digital Nomad** - Three years of full-time nomadic living via housesitting

### **Housesitting Experience**

- **35+ housesits** completed across eight countries and two continents
- **65+ pets** cared for, including dogs, cats, chickens, guinea pigs, and parrots
- **200 nights** spent housesitting in 2024 at less than £1 per night
- Countries include: UK, Netherlands, Spain, Germany, France, Norway, South Africa

### **Recent Housesits (2024-2025)**

- **Japan** (October 2025) - Attending digital nomad event for Nomad Magazine
- **Switzerland** (October-December 2025) - Six-week housesit caring for two cats on Lake Geneva
- **Wiltshire, UK** (Summer 2024) - Ten-bedroom period mansion for two months
- **Norway** (Spring 2024) - Scandi-style home with mountaineering Red Setter
- **France** (2024) - Return sit at rural idyll caring for tabby cat
- **South Africa** (Early 2024) - Three months including beachfront home with Kitty the cat in Plettenberg Bay

### **Interview Availability**

Jessica Holmes is available for:

- **Telephone interviews**
- **Zoom/video interviews**
- **In-person interviews** (subject to travel schedule)
- **Email Q&A**
- **Podcast appearances**
- **Radio interviews**

## Current Location & Schedule

### October 2025:

- Currently in Japan covering a digital nomad event for *Nomad Magazine*
- **Cheltenham Literary Festival** - 15 October 2025, 12:30pm, Huddle Stage
- Available for UK-based interviews around festival dates

### Late October - December 2025:

- Based in Switzerland (Lake Geneva) for six-week housesit
- Available for remote interviews throughout this period

Jessica is accustomed to working across time zones and can accommodate various scheduling requirements.

## Speaking Engagement: Cheltenham Literary Festival 2025

**Date:** Wednesday, 15 October 2025

**Time:** 12:30pm

**Location:** Huddle Stage

**Topic:** Housesitting, sustainable travel, and the new edition of *The Housesitter's Guide to the Galaxy*

Jessica will be sharing insights on:

- How housesitting revolutionises modern travel
- Living sustainably as a digital nomad
- Practical advice for aspiring housesitters
- Real stories from three years on the road

Press are welcome to attend. Interview opportunities available before or after the talk.

## Interview Topics & Expertise

Jessica can speak authoritatively on:

### Housesitting & Alternative Travel

- How to get started with housesitting
- Building trust in the sharing economy
- The housesitting marketplace and platforms
- Pet care while travelling
- Living as a full-time housesitter

### Sustainable & Slow Travel

- Reducing carbon footprint while travelling
- Environmental impact of traditional tourism vs housesitting
- Slow travel philosophy and benefits
- Eco-conscious travel choices
- Cultural immersion and responsible tourism

### Digital Nomad Lifestyle

- Working remotely while housesitting
- Managing finances as a nomad
- Visa requirements and logistics
- Work-life balance on the road
- Building a location-independent career

### Career Transition

- Leaving traditional employment for travel
- From police investigator to travel writer
- Overcoming fears and taking the leap
- Redefining success and lifestyle
- Finding work that aligns with values

### Writing & Publishing

- Self-publishing journey
- Writing about personal experience
- Building a travel blog and social media presence
- Freelance writing and editing
- Working in travel media

### Media-Friendly Qualities

- **Authentic storyteller** - Shares honest, relatable experiences (not Instagram-perfect)
- **Knowledgeable** - Three years of hands-on experience plus industry research
- **Quotable** - Natural, engaging speaking style
- **Visual content available** - Extensive photo library from travels
- **Flexible** - Experienced with remote interviews and various media formats
- **Passionate** - Genuinely enthusiastic about sustainable travel and housesitting

### Previous Speaking & Media

Jessica has spoken at various festivals and events about alternative living and sustainable travel since the publication of the first edition in October 2023. She continues to contribute to Nomad Magazine as Senior Editor and maintains an active blog sharing hiking routes, city guides, and travel insights.

### Contact & Social Media

**Website:** [www.hitchedandhiking.com](http://www.hitchedandhiking.com)

**Instagram:** @hitchedhikingandhousesitting

**Professional Role:** Senior Editor, *Nomad Magazine*

### For interview bookings, review copies, or media enquiries:

**Press Contact:**

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