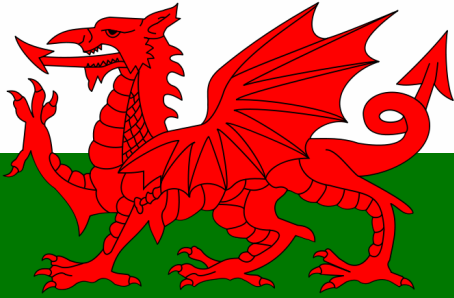


# CENTAURI SUMMER **ARTS** CAMP



The 2012 Centauri International Tour:

## WALES ages 13 to 18 A FILMMAKER'S ODYSSEY!

Here are the answers to some questions parents frequently ask about our tours:

**Q: How do you ensure the safety of the campers during the trip?**

A: We have operated successful tours to England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland for the past 16 years - if you include two March Break tours this will be our 18th international tour! Julie Hartley has been the tour leader for every trip. She is British, and knows the countries we visit very well. Staff ratios are always high on our tours - for this trip we will take a maximum of 16 campers and there will be three group leaders. The second leader - Cheryl Bernknopf - lead 5 previous tours, has run Centauri with us for the past decade and has 30 years' experience as a qualified nurse. The third group leader this year will be one of our film instructors at camp - most likely Matt Stein, who also has a long history working with young people at camp. We ensure that all aspects of tours are carefully researched and planned well before we go.

**Q: What will accommodation be like at Ty Newydd?**

A: Ty Newydd is the National Writer's Centre of Wales and regularly runs residential courses for school groups. At Ty Newydd, our campers will stay in single or shared accommodation - many bedrooms having en suite facilities - and we will make our meals together. The house dates back to the 16th century and was the home of the British Prime Minister, Lloyd George. It has been extensively refurbished in recent years. The house has a rural location with woods all the way around and a view out over Cardigan Bay. The pretty seaside town of Criccieth is a 2 mile walk away. For more information, go to:

<http://www.tynewydd.org/english/home.html>

**Q: What is the Youth Hostel accommodation like?**

A: Conwy Youth Hostel is very modern, and designed specifically with youth groups in mind. It is run by the Youth Hostel Association, which offers outstanding accommodation for groups all over England and Wales; we have stayed at YHA hostels many times before and they are always clean, safe and friendly. Our campers will stay together in 2- or 4-bedded rooms with en suite facilities and group leader rooms are located nearby. Bedding is provided, campers receive keys for their dorms and a hearty cooked breakfast will be served at the start of each day. Most other rooms will likely be occupied by youth groups such as ours, from Wales and all over the world.

**Q: Why are several meals not included in the price?**

A: An experience all our campers have enjoyed in past years is the opportunity to choose what foods they would like to sample - when traveling to a new country, this is a delight all of us should get to enjoy! Conwy, Llandudno and Manchester will offer a range of cafes and restaurants for us to choose from. Sometimes we eat as one big group and at other times we split into smaller groups based on food preferences.

**Q: Do campers require arts experience for this trip?**

A: No experience is necessary - though an interest in film-making or acting is obviously essential. We will also need some campers interested in writing, in order to have a screenplay for us to film!





# WALES - A FILMMAKER'S ODYSSEY!

## **Q: There is a fair amount of walking during this tour... Correct?**

A: Correct! We will be spending the entire trip in areas of outstanding natural beauty unlike anything most of our campers will have experienced before. Exploring on foot is the only way to truly appreciate it. Most of the walking is easy, and an 'average' level of fitness is sufficient. However, a willingness to walk will be fairly important; for example, Ty Newydd is an easy two mile walk from Criccieth. We will also be walking on the cliffs of the Great Orme at Llandudno, and around several villages in Snowdonia. The only walk that can be classified as challenging is our hike down Mount Snowdon. This takes two hours, and we have done it easily with two previous tour groups. Naturally it's all downhill but the pathways are somewhat rugged! If a camper is concerned about undertaking this walk, they can return with a group leader by train and wait for us in the valley.

## **Q: What should campers take with them on this trip?**

A: Sturdy walking shoes are essential, as is rain gear and a warm sweater. We can expect the weather to be lovely most of the time, but we are in the mountains: cool evenings and occasional rain are likely. No other specialty items are required but a full packing list is provided prior to the trip.

## **Q: My son/daughter does not live close to Toronto. Where do they stay between camp and the tour?**

A: It is often possible for campers to make arrangements to stay with camp friends between session 4 and the tour. Where possible, we will help facilitate this. If campers return home after camp, we can arrange for staff to meet flights, buses or trains on Thursday 23rd August, and to stay with the camper until they connect with the international tour group at the airport.

## **Q: How does this trip differ from other international youth tours?**

A: Firstly, we are Centauri, and we travel with the same community spirit that we offer at camp - becoming a close-knit group of individuals who support and help one another. Secondly, few youth tours offer the arts focus we provide. There are other significant differences, too. We often explore out-of-the-way sights and experiences that tourists sometimes miss. That is very true of this tour, in particular. While it's likely our campers will return to the UK in the future, they will probably do so to see archetypal tourist destinations such as London or Edinburgh. Exploring the castles and villages of North Wales is a little different!

## **Q: Do campers get free time to explore with friends?**

A: The joy of spending time in smaller communities is that it is often safe for campers to explore together. While our trip has plenty of organised activities, there will be many opportunities for campers to wander in groups of 3 or 4 around the towns and villages we will be visiting. We only allow this once we have had a chance to get to know our campers, and we always provide campers with maps and emergency numbers. Choosing what to explore together is very liberating for campers traveling with friends.

## **Q: What do I do if I have unanswered questions?**

A: Call us and we can help! Our number is 416 766 7124.