

CENTAURI ARTS

Creative Writing Retreat, Costa Rica

FEBRUARY 3rd-10th 2018

for adult writers, solo or with their families



Imagine writing or reading in a hammock while a flock of parrots screeches by and a sloth blinks lazily at you from a nearby tree. Picture yourself scribbling down ideas while you lie beside a sparkling pool and hummingbirds flit past, attracted by the lush tropical flowers that surround you.

Welcome to our third annual overseas arts tour for adult writers and their families... a Creative Writing Retreat to Finca Luna Nueva, a biodynamic lodge in the heart of Costa Rica.

About Finca Luna Nueva

Located in the midst of lush rainforest teeming with life, Luna Nueva feels far from everywhere, allowing writers the opportunity to relax and focus on their work. Our lodge offers everything you could possibly need for a week of writing and rejuvenation, yet it really is not isolated at all: the tourist town of La Fortuna with all the restaurants and activities it has to offer is just a short taxi ride away.

Finca Luna Nueva is a working biodynamic farm, and a tour of the farm is included for all participants. The lodge has a pleasant open-air restaurant situated by the side of its beautiful swimming pool. There is also a spa on site, offering massages and other treatments for guests. The property features a number of hiking trails of varied lengths, and a tall tower with hammocks on the top, for sublime views. There is a ping pong table and a ready supply of board games and books. Choose from numerous lovely seating areas for your reading and writing pleasure, and select from various workshops and tours offered on site. These include a chocolate-making workshop, a night hike in the rainforest with an experienced and knowledgeable guide, a 'sacred seeds' workshop, and bird watching trips.



Accommodation and Food

During our retreat we will be staying in pleasant single, double or triple rooms (as requested) with en suite facilities. Many of the bedrooms are located on the second floor of pleasant lodges, affording wonderful views over the rainforest canopy. There are hammocks and easy chairs located on patios just outside your front door. Finca Luna Nueva also offers the option of family bungalows. Check out the lodge and accommodations on Trip Advisor: the rooms are credited for cleanliness, the staff for their friendly demeanor and the reviews are exceptional.



Meals at Finca Luna Nueva are taken on site at our beautiful open air restaurant by the pool. The emphasis is on local foods from organic and/or sustainable sources, and a large proportion of the food is grown right at the farm! A hearty, buffet-style breakfast



is included in the fee, and includes toast, local fruits, granola, homemade jams, fresh juices, eggs, pancakes, yucca cakes and other delicacies. For lunch and dinner, participants choose from a menu that includes fish, meat and vegetarian main courses, as well as appetizers such as soups, salads and dips, and homemade desserts or icecream. Once a week, Finca Luna Nueva heats its fabulous outdoor wood burning oven for incredible made-to-order pizzas, and healthy smoothies or alcoholic beverages can be ordered with all meals. Our package includes an afternoon at the famous local hot springs.



Writers: Attend alone, with Friends, or Bring the Family!

The endless sweep of rainforest and the peace and tranquility of Finca Luna Nueva make our retreat perfect for a writer attending alone (or with a writing friend) and hoping to combine our morning classes with afternoons of uninterrupted writing time.

However, our outstanding facilities, and the many tourist attractions nearby, also make this a terrific holiday choice for the whole family! Luna Nueva's beautiful pool, hot tub, rainforest trails and farm provide excellent diversion for accompanying spouses and children during the morning hours when our writers attend workshops. Finca Luna Nueva offers a unique educational opportunity for family members: farm tours, rainforest hikes and

workshops on food, wildlife, traditional arts and sustainability. Spa services such as massages are also available, and it may be possible to offer separate writing workshops for teenagers. Families can take advantage of all the retreat has to offer in the mornings, and local sightseeing can be booked directly at the front desk for the afternoons, as desired.

Local Attractions

If you need a break from writing, or if you hope to combine writing with a family holiday, there is so much to do nearby! Your trip fee includes an afternoon visit to a local hot springs, for which the area is famous. Other trips can be booked directly at Finca Luna Nueva as and when you desire. Hike the famous hanging bridges through forested hills as your guide points out tropical birds and animals. Visit the famous Arenal volcano, and take a walk through the lava beds left by the last eruption. Go horseback riding and swim beneath a waterfall. Explore the natural cave system deep underground. Take a Sky Ride high over the rainforest canopy, or try an exhilarating zip-lining course on ropes suspended between peaks. Whether your preferences are for culture, wildlife or physical activities, the options truly are limitless and everything can be booked after you arrive, directly at Finca Nueva, on a day by day basis.



About our Creative Writing Workshops

Our writing workshops take place in one of the gorgeous seating areas at Finca Luna Nueva, overlooking the rainforest, and feature writing exercises and techniques appropriate to people writing in all genres of poetry and prose and at all experience levels, from beginner to more advanced. The exact content of workshops is always adapted to meet the specific needs of participants. The course includes 6 creative writing workshops, each 2 hours in length, which take place each morning. In addition, course participants are invited to submit up to 3,000 words of their prose (or 6 pages of poetry) at least 2 weeks prior to the retreat. Writers who choose to do so will receive a written critique, and a 30 minute consultation during the retreat week. Our writing week begins and concludes with public readings, to which family members are invited. The first reading will be offered by the course instructor. The final reading will feature all our participants, reading from work they have created during the week. Total contact time: 14 hours minimum.



Your Trip Leader/Creative Writing Instructor

Julie Hartley has more than 20 years' experience as a writer and writing instructor, and has run 21 previous overseas tours. She is the author of The Finding Place, a novel for young adults, which was published in Canada and in the States by Red Deer Press, September 2015. Hartley is an accomplished poet, short story writer and playwright. She was the recipient of the Poetry Peace Prize (UK), and her poetry and short stories have appeared in numerous magazines including *Event*, *This Magazine*, *The Antigonish Review* and *CV2*. Her plays have toured Ireland, England, Scotland and Canada, and are often used as teaching tools in teacher training programs. In April 2017 she completed an MFA in Creative Writing through the University of British Columbia.

Julie is the co-director of Centauri Summer Arts Camp, which brings together creative teens from up to 20 different countries each summer, and she was for 6 years the artistic director of Centauri Arts Retreat, a summer writing retreat for adults in the Kawarthas, Canada. She has taught creative writing for adults and teenagers for two decades at conferences, retreats and at her own centre – the Centauri Arts Academy in Toronto.

This will be Hartley's fifth trip to Costa Rica, and her third annual writing retreat at Finca Luna Nueva.



How to find out more

Call us at **416-766-7124** or email julie@centauriartscamp.com
We would be to happy to answer all of your questions

Prices

7-night retreat:

- Cost per person, own room: **\$1499 plus \$350 writing course if required (total \$1849)**
- Cost per person, sharing double room: **\$1049 ppn plus \$350 writing course if required (total \$1399 ppn)**
- Cost per child, sharing room with 2 other people: **\$340 only**

Price Includes

- Transfer from San Jose airport to Finca Luna Nueva Farm and Retreat (2 hours, cab with AC, English-speaking driver)
- 7 nights' accommodation in comfortable rooms, most with rainforest views, all with en suite bathrooms
- 7 breakfasts (all you can eat, choice of local fruits, juices, home made jams, hot and cold options)
- A tour of the farm (includes bio dynamic farm information and tasting, hike and bird watching)
- A trip to the local hot springs (Eco Thermales, or similar)

- Use of all retreat facilities, including swimming pool, trails, recreation areas, wi-fi.

Prices Excludes

Flight to San Jose

Lunches and most dinners (can be purchased on site or in local town; allow \$8-18 per meal)

Additional sightseeing if required (a wide range of options can be purchased directly at the retreat)

Medical Insurance (always essential) and flight cancellation insurance

How to Reserve Your Space

A deposit of \$500 is required to reserve a room.
Please call to reserve your space.

[Click here to use the online application form](#)

Prefer a PDF form? email to request one.

Any Questions? Call me any time at 416 766 7124
or email julie@centauriartscamp.com



Booking Terms & Conditions (The Small Print!)

Your electronic signature on the Application Form for this tour designates you accept and are willing to be bound by the following terms and conditions for the Costa Rica Tour offered by Centauri Summer Camp Inc. (hereafter referred to as "Centauri")

Payment

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per room to be reserved is required at the time of booking. The balance may be paid in instalments but must be settled no later than 45 days prior to the start date of the trip. After this date, no refund can be given unless we can fill your space on the trip, in which case a \$100 admin fee will be applied. Unpaid or late balances may be treated as a cancellation. NSF cheques are subject to a \$35 service fee.

Flights

The flight is not included in the retreat fee, as participants will be joining us from different cities. Provided that you are able to fly into San Jose, Costa Rica on the by 4pm on the first day of the trip, and depart from San Jose on the afternoon or evening of the final day, an airport collection service is included in the fee. It is your responsibility to provide us with accurate arrival and departure information no later than 14 days prior to the tour. If you fly into Liberia airport, the taxi journey is considerably longer, and is not included in the tour package. In the event of delayed or cancelled flights, Centauri Summer Camp Inc. can accept no responsibility for financial losses incurred, and refunds cannot be offered for any portion of this trip.

A minimum of four writers is required in order to run this trip. For this reason, **please ensure you check with us about the status of the tour before booking your flights!** In the event the trip cannot run, all monies paid to us will be refunded in full, but our liability shall then cease.

Cancellation

We cannot reimburse travel costs or accept financial liability for other losses incurred by you in the event of cancellation either by us or you for any reason whatsoever. You are strongly advised to take out flight/travel insurance to cover potential loss arising from cancellation or other eventuality affecting your booking. You should check that any policy you take meets your needs. In the unlikely event that we must at any stage cancel this trip for any reason whatsoever, all participants will be offered a full refund of the 'writing workshop' fees, and the option of either a full refund of all other fees, or the chance to proceed with the trip independently. Our liability shall then cease.

Travel Documents/Travel Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check the validity of your travel documents, and to enquire in your country of citizenship about visa requirements. Centauri can accept no liability for problems with your travel documents (eg., passport) and if you cannot join us for this trip for whatever reason, a refund cannot be offered. Check your passport is in date 6 months beyond the date of your return! In the case of vaccinations, it is your responsibility to ensure that you, your travel companions and children accompanying you have the recommended vaccinations. Please see your doctor or contact us for travel clinic and website suggestions if you need them.

Meals

Breakfasts are included in our tour. Additional meals are the responsibility of participants but can be purchased easily at a pleasant, on site restaurant, or by taking a cab into the local town.

Itinerary

Centauri reserves the right to alter the itinerary in the case of situations beyond our control, or where we feel it is necessary to ensure the quality of the experience we offer, or the safety of our clients. We will make every effort to ensure alternatives are comparable. 'Itinerary' includes accommodations, meal arrangements, tours and other inclusions. Should any participant decide not to partake of any portion of this itinerary – for example, arriving late, choosing not to join us at the hot springs – no partial refund may be offered.

Your Children

Families are welcome on this trip, and there is plenty for them to do around the retreat while a parent attends our writing workshops. However, Centauri can accept no responsibility for your children, and is not acting in a supervisory capacity in any way. Children are in the care of their guardian, and remain their responsibility at all times.

Booking Terms & Conditions (Con't...)

Your Health

It is your responsibility to notify us at the time of booking of any medical needs you may have, and of any medical needs of other people in your group or family. Centauri cannot accept liability in the case of accident or illness, howsoever caused, unless as a direct result of our negligence. Medical insurance is essential for this trip, as it is for all overseas travel, and you should ensure that you purchase this before travelling. Should Centauri or its staff incur any medical expenses on your behalf during this tour, you agree to accept full financial responsibility and reimburse Centauri within 7 days of the conclusion of the trip.

Liability Release & Assumption of Risks:

This tour consists of travel services purchased from local suppliers for you on your behalf. All suppliers (eg., our lodge, restaurants, taxi firms) are independent contractors. Centauri can assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any negligent or wilful act or failure to act of any of these suppliers or of any other person or entity. You agree not to hold Centauri responsible for their acts, omissions and/or financial default.

Centauri cannot be held responsible for events or occurrences or delays due to any Force Majeure. 'Force Majeure' means any circumstances beyond the control of Centauri including (without limitation) strikes, terrorist activities, floods, tempests, fire, civil disturbance, sickness. In the case of a Force Majeure of any nature occurring prior to our trip, you accept it is in Centauri's sole and absolute discretion whether to proceed with the trip. Refunds cannot be offered in such circumstances unless Centauri is able to secure refunds from our suppliers.

You acknowledge that all travel involves an element of risk, and that Centauri cannot be held responsible for any accident or illness that may occur during the trip, nor can Centauri accept responsibility for any dangers to which you may be exposed. Your signature on the application form denotes that you assume all responsibility for your own personal welfare, and for those of minors in your care, during this trip.

Your signature on the application form indicates that you agree to release, discharge and hold harmless forever Centauri Summer Camp Inc., its owners, employees, shareholders, affiliated entities, employees, agents, representatives, officers, directors, associates, successors and assigns from and against any liability, actions, causes of actions, debts, suits, claims and demands of any and every kind and nature whatsoever which may hereafter arise out of or in connection with this tour or participation in activities arranged by Centauri.

Any claims and/or lawsuits against Centauri, its directors, staff, volunteers, agents or assigns shall take place under the exclusive jurisdiction of the laws and regulations of Ontario, and the applicable law to be applied to any dispute shall be the laws of Ontario.

Privacy

By booking, you agree that we may collect and store personal information about you and your interactions with Centauri, including your personal contact details and medical needs. We will use this information to communicate with you occasionally about other courses we offer. We never share or sell information about our course participants with any third party. Your electronic signature on the application form indicates you understand photographs taken on this tour may be used for future promotional purposes.

Contact Info:

Tel.: 416 766 7124

email: info@centauriartscamp.com

www.centauriarts.ca