

CENTAURI *ARTS*

Creative Writing Retreat, Costa Rica

FEBRUARY 9th-16th 2019



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 working on the first draft of a novel while you lie beside a sparkling pool and hummingbirds flit past, attracted by the tropical flowers that surround you.

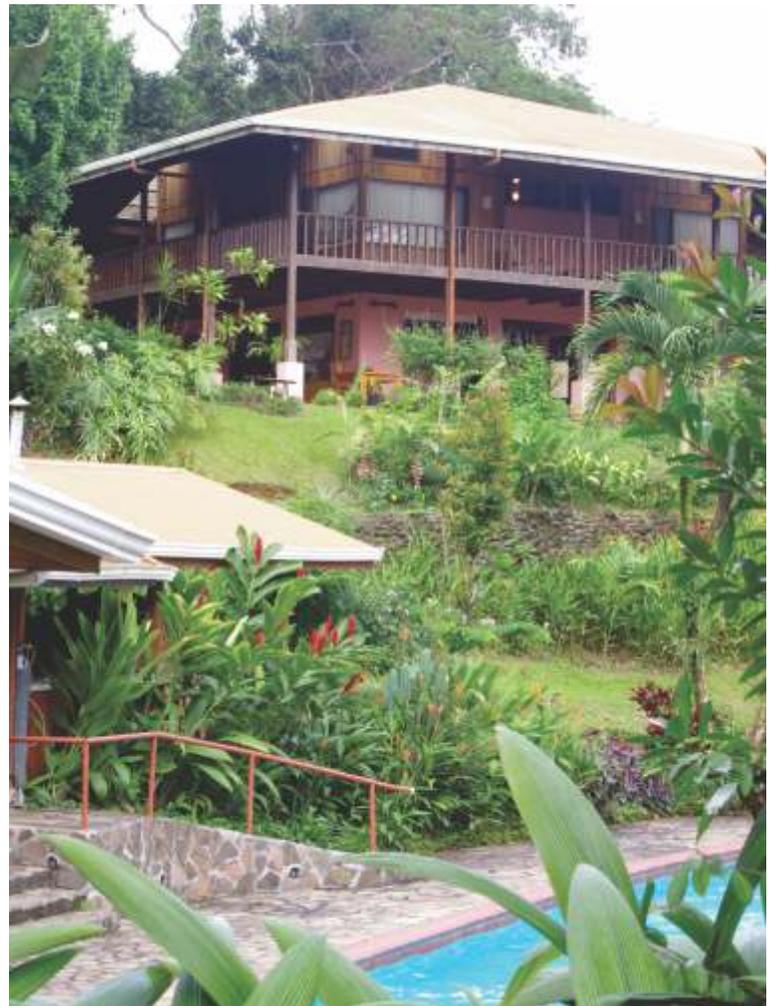
Welcome to our fourth annual escorted holiday for writers attending alone or with friends or family - a Writing Retreat held at Luna Nueva, a gorgeous eco-lodge in the heart of rainforest, Costa Rica.

About Luna Nueva Lodge

Located in the midst of rainforest, Luna Nueva feels far removed from the pressures of daily life, yet it offers every amenity necessary for comfort. The lodge has a pleasant open-air restaurant situated by the side of its ozonated swimming pool, and guests enjoy gourmet meals featuring local produce often grown at the lodge's own farm. There is a spa on site offering massages and other treatments, a yoga pavillion and a solar heated jacuzzi. The property features hiking trails of varied lengths, and a 50ft lookout tower with hammocks, for sublime views over the surrounding forest and hills.

Luna Nueva is the perfect environment in which to enjoy our writing workshops and immerse yourself in a creative project. For participants looking for a break from writing, additional tours are offered right on site, including a night walk through the rainforest, a chocolate making workshop, bird watching and a tour of the lodge's biodynamic farm which is so fascinating that we have included it in our package. All tours all led by experienced local guides.

Luna Nueva offers everything you could possibly need for a week of writing and rejuvenation in the heart of a nature, yet it is not isolated at all. The tourist town of La Fortuna, with its restaurants, shops and activities, is just a short taxi ride away.



Accommodation, Food and Transportation

Our participants stay in pleasant single, double or triple rooms (as requested), some in cottages, and others in a lodge overlooking the pool. Luna Nueva also offers the option of family bungalows. Check out the lodge on Trip Advisor: the rooms are credited for cleanliness, the staff for their friendly demeanor and reviews are exceptional.

Meals at Luna Nueva are taken at a beautiful open air restaurant by the pool. A hearty breakfast is included in our package

and consists of tropical fruits, homemade breads and preserves, granola, kefir, eggs, fresh squeezed juices, pancakes, yucca cakes and other delicacies. For lunch and dinner, participants select from a menu that includes fish, meat and vegetarian dishes, as well as soups, salads and dips, and homemade

desserts. Once a week, Finca Luna Nueva heats its fabulous wood burning oven for made-to-order pizzas, and healthy smoothies or alcoholic beverages can be purchased with all meals.

Our package includes return transportation from the airport at San Jose, a journey of 2 hours. Participants arrive from all over the world on the afternoon of the first day, and we are there to meet every flight. Our group travels to the lodge together in an air conditioned minibus, arriving in time for dinner.



Come Solo, or with Family or Friends

The endless sweep of rainforest and the peace and tranquility of Luna Nueva make our retreat perfect for a writer attending alone and hoping to combine our workshops with plenty of uninterrupted writing time. Our community of writers ensures the social time and support is always there when you need it. However, Luna Nueva is a terrific holiday choice for the whole family. The pool, spa services, jacuzzi, trails and on-site tours mean that accompanying spouses have plenty to do while our writing workshops take place. Luna Nueva offers a unique educational opportunity for older children, too: farm tours, rainforest hikes and workshops on food, wildlife, traditional arts and sustainability

provide a unique learning environment. Accompanying friends and family members 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.



Creative Writing Workshops

Our writing workshops take place in one of the comfortable seating areas at Luna Nueva, overlooking the rainforest or pool, and feature exercises and techniques applicable to people writing memoir, poetry, plays and all genres of fiction. Beginning writers are as welcome as those with more experience, and many of our writers bring along projects already underway. The content of workshops is adapted to meet the specific needs of participants. Each retreat week includes 6 creative writing workshops of 2 hours in length, held in the morning. In a typical week, workshops may focus on character, plot, sources of inspiration, memoir, point of view, structure and the business of getting published. Writers have the opportunity to share their work with the group if they wish.

Participants are also invited to submit up to 3,000 words of their prose (or 6 pages of poetry) at least 2 weeks prior to the trip, in order to receive a written critique and a 30 minute consultation during the retreat.

Our writing week begins and concludes with public readings, to which non-writing members of our group (such as friends and spouses) are invited. The first reading is offered by the course instructor. The final reading features all participants, reading from work created during the week.



Local Attractions

If you need a break from writing, there is so much to do nearby! Trips can be booked directly at Luna Nueva, as and when you desire, and group members often join together to share experiences. 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. View monkeys, crocodiles and birds as you enjoy a Safari Float on the Pinas Blancas River. Whether your preferences are for culture, wildlife or adventure, the options are limitless and everything can be booked after you arrive, on a day by day basis.



Your Trip Leader and Creative Writing Instructor

Julie Hartley has more than 20 years' experience as a writer and writing instructor, and has run 22 previous overseas tours. She is the author of The Finding Place, a novel for young adults, which was published in Canada and the US by Red Deer Press. 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 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 7th trip to Costa Rica, and her fourth writing retreat at 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**

* private rooms are located in a lodge overlooking the pool, or in 2-bedroom cottages which feature a living room, veranda and hammocks.

Price Includes

- Transfer from San Jose airport to Luna Nueva Lodge (2 hours, cab with AC, English-speaking driver)
- 7 nights' accommodation in comfortable rooms, most with rainforest views
- 7 breakfasts (all you can eat, choice of local fruits, juices, home made jams, hot and cold options)
- A tour of the farm (includes biodynamic farm information and tasting, hike, nature guide)
- A trip to the local hot springs (Eco Thermales, or similar). If the group chooses, this may be substituted for any other half-day trip of the same value.
- 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 the local town; allow \$8-18 per meal)

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

Medical Insurance (always essential)

How to Reserve Your Space

A deposit of \$500 is required to reserve a room.

Please call +1 416 766 7124 to ask any questions you may have, and to reserve a spot. You can also reach me by email: julie@centauriartscamp.com

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

Limited space is available. We keep our group small to ensure the best possible experience.



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 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 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. While we have always had more than 4 writers on previous tours, **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. 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. 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 the 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, your signature on the application form indicates that 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, financial and otherwise, 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 Information:

Tel.: 416 766 7124

email: info@centauriartscamp.com

www.centauriarts.ca