Imagine writing in a hammock while a flock of parrots screeches by and a sloth blinks 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 sixth annual escorted holiday for writers attending solo or with family or friends: a 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 pavilion 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 on site, including a night walk through the rainforest, a chocolate making workshop, bird watching and a tour of the lodge’s farm. 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 double, triple or family rooms, some in cottages, and others in a lodge overlooking the pool. 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. Hearty breakfasts consist of tropical fruits, homemade breads and preserves, granola, kefir, eggs, freshly 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, dips, and homemade desserts. Healthy smoothies, specialty coffees or alcoholic beverages can be purchased with all meals.

Finca Luna Nueva Lodge is located a pleasant 2-hour drive from the airport at San Jose. Participants arrive from all over the world on the afternoon of the first day and your tour guide/writing instructor is there to personally meet every flight. Our group travels to the lodge together in an air conditioned minibus arranged by Finca Luna Nueva, 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 Lodge 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 that social time and support is always there when you need it. However, Luna Nueva is also 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: farm tours, rainforest hikes and workshops on wildlife and sustainability provide a unique learning environment.

For more information on Finca Luna Nueva Lodge, go to: https://fincalunanuevalodge.com/
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 will be arranged for you by our lodge staff, once you arrive.

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 workshop content is adapted to meet the specific needs of participants. Each retreat week includes 6 creative writing workshops of at least 2 hours in length, held in the morning. Workshops may focus on character, plot, sources of inspiration, memoir, point of view, structuring a novel, poetry, editing techniques and the business of getting published. Writers have the opportunity to share their work with the group.

Our writing course concludes with public readings, to which non-writing members of our group (such as friends and spouses) are invited. A typical week may also include writing-related activities in the evenings as well as group critiquing sessions, depending on the interests of our writers.

For writers with a project in progress, private editing sessions are available for an additional fee. Please contact us directly for more information.
Your Trip Leader and Creative Writing Instructor

Julie Hartley has more than 20 years' experience as a writer and writing instructor, and has escorted 22 overseas tours. She is the author of The Finding Place, a novel for young adults published by Red Deer Press in 2015, and Deboning a Dragon, a poetry collection released by Mansfield Press in 2019. Julie is also an accomplished playwright and short story writer. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines including Event, This Magazine, The Antigonish Review and CV2. Her plays have toured Ireland, England and Canada, and her latest project is a book on Shakespeare, forthcoming with Theatrefolk Press. Julie has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.

In her non-writing life, Julie is the co-director of Centauri Summer Arts Camp, which brings together creative teens from up to 20 different countries each summer. For 6 years she was the artistic director of Centauri Arts Retreat, a summer writing and art program for adults in the Kawarthas, Ontario. She teaches creative writing for adults and teenagers at conferences, retreats and at her own centre – the Centauri Arts Academy in Toronto.

This will be Hartley's 10th trip to Costa Rica, and her 6th year teaching writing retreats in partnership with Finca Luna Nueva Lodge.
Prices
A deposit is payable directly to Centauri Arts, in Canadian dollars, at the time of booking. The balance of fees is payable to Finca Luna Nueva, in US dollars, 12 weeks prior to our trip. Please note that any credit card can be used to pay each fee, regardless of the country in which you reside. To check the exact conversion on the date of payment, use a currency converter such as: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/

Fee 1 - Deposit Payable on Registration
This fee is payable to Centauri Arts at the time of booking, and covers the instructor/group leader services provided by us, including:

- 6 writing workshops (minimum total contact time - 12 hours)
- 1 private writing consultation (30 minutes)
- A manual of writing prompts and techniques
- A copy of Julie Hartley’s poetry collection
- Writing-related talks, readings and social activities (2-3 evenings)
- Group leader services, including meet & greet at the airport, information on Costa Rica, trip manual and tour guide support.

Writer: $600CDN (approx. $410 US)
Non-writer, same room: $150CDN (approx. $110US)
(Includes tour guide services only)
Accompanying children, same room: NO DEPOSIT

Fee 2 - Payable 12 Weeks Before Trip
This fee covers accommodation, breakfasts, use of lodge facilities (pool, hot tub, hiking trails, lookout tower, etc.) and taxes. The fee is paid in US dollars directly to the lodge, using a form that will be sent to you.

One or Two People in the room: $870.10 US (approx. $1145CDN)
Two adults/one child in the room: $1067.85 US
Two adults/two children in the room: $1265.60 US

Additional Services & Fees
Airport Transfer: Return transportation between San Jose airport and the retreat is by air-conditioned minibus arranged by Finca Luna Nueva. The cost ($60-100 US per person, depending on no. of participants) is payable at the lodge.

Lunches, dinners and beverages can be purchased on site or in the local town; allow $8-18 per meal
Sightseeing options can be booked through Finca Luna Nueva - or you may just wish to relax and write!

Our fees do not include your flight to San Jose, nor medical insurance.

How to Reserve Your Space
Please call +1 416 766 7124 to reserve space. You can also email: julie@centauriarts.com

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 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 is required at the time of booking. The balance is due 12 weeks prior to the start 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.

**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 available and the fee divided by the number of participants. 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, neither Centauri nor Finca Luna Nueva can accept responsibility for financial losses incurred, and refunds cannot be offered for any portion of this trip.

A minimum of four writers is required to run this retreat. 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 fights! 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.

**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, guides, writing instructor and other inclusions. Should any participant decide not to partake of any portion of this itinerary, 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.

**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:

By signing the application form, you acknowledge that you understand accommodation, meals, sightseeing, airport transfers and other travel services will be purchased by you directly from Finca Luna Nueva, Costa Rica. Centauri can assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any negligent or wilful act or failure to act of any company other than its own (Centauri Summer Camp Inc.). You agree not to hold Centauri responsible for the acts, omissions and/or financial default of any other company, including Finca Luna Nueva.

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 writing retreat portion of this trip.

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 also indicates you have discussed these booking conditions with all persons included in this booking, and they agree to be bound by them.

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:

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www.centauriarts.ca