

# CENTAURI **ARTS**

## **Creative Writing Retreat**

**offered in partnership with Finca Luna Nueva Lodge, Costa Rica**

**Choose 1 or 2 weeks: Saturday 5th to Saturday 12th February & Saturday 12th February - Saturday 19th February 2022**



*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 your book 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 pavillion and a solar heated jacuzzi. The property features hiking trails of varied lengths, and a lookout tower with 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/>

# Creative Writing Workshops

Our writing workshops take place in one of the comfortable seating areas at Luna Nueva overlooking the rainforest, and feature prompts and techniques applicable to people writing memoir, poetry, plays and all genres of fiction, short and long. Beginning writers are as welcome as those with more experience, and many of our writers bring projects already underway. 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, descriptive writing, memoir, point of view, structure, poetry, editing techniques and the business of getting published.

Each of our retreat weeks includes social and writing-related activities in the evenings, depending on the interests of our writers. Our writing retreats conclude with a celebration: the opportunity to share your work with an appreciative audience, should you wish to do so.

For writers with a project in progress, private consultations are available for an additional fee. Please contact us directly for more information.



## New for 2022: Choose from a 1-week or 2-week Retreat!

For the first time, we are offering a choice of 2 weeks in Costa Rica for 2022. The weeks run consecutively, so writers can choose to attend for just 1 week, or stay on for a full two weeks. The workshops, social activities and half-day trip options will be different in each week, allowing for a fully rounded one week or two week experience.



## Local Attractions

If you need a break from writing, there is so much to do near our lodge! 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 a natural cave system. 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 relaxing 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.



# 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 Antigoniish Review* and *CV2*. Her plays have toured Ireland, England and Canada, and her latest project is a book on Shakespeare, released recently by 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 Arts, which brings together creative teens and adults from all over the world for classes, camps and retreats. For 6 years she was the artistic director of a summer writing and art program for adults in the Kawarthas, Ontario. She teaches creative writing at conferences, retreats and at her own centre – the Centauri Arts Academy in Toronto.

This will be Julie's 12th trip to Costa Rica, and her 6th year teaching writing retreats in partnership with Finca Luna Nueva Lodge.



# How to find out more:

Call us at **416-766-7124** or email [julie@centauriarts.com](mailto:julie@centauriarts.com)

We would be happy to answer all of your questions

## 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, 12 weeks prior to our trip. 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/](http://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)**  
**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.**

These fees are for each 1-week retreat. Writers staying for 2 weeks receive a **FREE** one-hour writing consultation (or 1 hour of editing) during their stay.

**Deposit, per Writer, per week** \$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 for 1 week. The fee is paid in US dollars directly to the lodge.

**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. If required, the cost (\$60-150 US per person, depending on no. of participants) will be added to your bill at the lodge.

**Lunches, dinners and beverages** can be purchased on site or in the local town; allow \$8-16 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](mailto:julie@centauriarts.com)

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



**For more information  
on Finca Luna Nueva  
Lodge, go to:  
[fincalunanuevalodge.com/](http://fincalunanuevalodge.com/)**

## 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, payable to Centauri Arts and covering the services we offer. The remainder of the fee is for accommodation/use of lodge facilities and is paid directly to the lodge 12 weeks prior to our 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, as participants will be joining us from different cities. Provided 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 offered by the lodge and the cost split between 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 choose to fly into Liberia airport, the taxi journey is longer, and unless you are flying with others, you may need to cover the entire cost. 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 each 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 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 nor accept financial liability for 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, including COVID-19. In the unlikely event that we must cancel this trip for any reason - including safety concerns related to COVID 19 - all participants will be offered a full refund of their deposit. Our liability shall then cease. If the trip must be cancelled - or if you must withdraw - after the final fee has been paid to Finca Luna Nueva, reimbursement of fees must be negotiated directly with them as Centauri Arts is responsible for the tour guiding services and writing workshops only. Finca Luna Nueva has appropriate refund policies in case of pandemic-related cancellations; please contact them directly if you wish to see their policies ([info@fincalunanuevalodge.com](mailto:info@fincalunanuevalodge.com)).

### Travel Documents/Travel Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check the validity of your travel documents, and to enquire about visa requirements. Centauri can accept no liability for problems with 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 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. If Costa Rica still has travel requirements in place related to COVID-19, it is your responsibility to comply, and Centauri can accept no responsibility if a participant is denied entry to the country.

### Itinerary

Centauri reserves the right to alter the itinerary in 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, writing instructor and other inclusions. Should a participant decide not to partake of any portion of this itinerary, no 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. 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:

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 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:

**Tel.: 416 766 7124**

**email: [julie@centauriarts.com](mailto:julie@centauriarts.com)**

**[www.centauriarts.ca](http://www.centauriarts.ca)**

