

## **TLC Literary Adventure 2023 at the River Mill, Downpatrick**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**

### **FAQs**

#### **What are TLC Literary Adventures?**

TLC Literary Adventures offer an environment where inspiration and improvisation meet. You will have access to world-class teaching, get a chance to work, read, listen, learn and relax in a stunning setting which will open the mind and senses. Our flagship tutored Adventure is exceptional value with single occupancy rooms starting at £900 for a 6-night stay with daily workshops, one-to-ones, and a range of activities. Literary Adventure tutored retreats are limited to ten participants per week (or twelve if rooms are booked on a sharing basis) and is for writers working on novels, memoirs, or short story collections. Our next tutored retreat takes place at the stunning Casa Ana in Spain September 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2023 with tutor Julia Bell. You can find out more on our website [here](#).

#### **What is an untutored Literary Adventure?**

For several years, we have been thinking about introducing an untutored retreat which allows writers to focus entirely on writing, without workshops, excursions or activities. Previous Literary Adventurers have told us they've valued the free writing time we have built into the tutored retreat itinerary, and in particular they also appreciate the companionship of other writers, which provides a supportive and incentivising environment for creativity to flourish.

#### **Who are TLC Literary Adventures for?**

All TLC Literary Adventures are open to writers at all levels of experience, from complete beginners to well-published. For our tutored retreats at Casa Ana in Spain, we invite fiction writers and memoirists, in order to ensure that the workshops best align with the writing being produced by our participants. For the untutored retreat, however, we welcome writers across all disciplines including academic and business writing, poetry, scripts, screenplays, and other formats. Ultimately, if you have a literary project that needs some focussed attention, the untutored Literary Adventure is for you. Please do note that whilst we welcome interdisciplinary artists, the River Mill is specifically set up to accommodate writers and while every room has a writing desk, there is no access to an artist's studio or materials related to fine art, music, or other non-writing related artistic activities.

#### **Can I find out more about the venue?**

Absolutely! The River Mill is an established writing retreat venue that has been running retreats since 2009. It is based in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland. You can access their website [here](#).

#### **How do I get to the River Mill?**

*From Belfast:* If you are flying into Northern Ireland (either to the International Airport or the George Best City Airport) there are buses that will bring you to the Europa Bus Centre in Belfast. From there, take Ulster Bus Service the centre of Downpatrick. Once in Downpatrick, it's a taxi to The River Mill, 43 Ballyclander Road (please contact TLC if you are interested in taxi-sharing).

*From Dublin:* Unless you need to go to Belfast, it is much easier to stop at Newry and then transfer to Downpatrick. If flying into Dublin International Airport, please see below. Buses from Dublin stop at the airport on their way to the North.

*By train:*

1. Connolly St Station to Newry, see here <https://www.thetrainline.com/train-times/dublin-connolly-to-newry>
2. In Newry, get a bus to Downpatrick, see here <http://www.translink.co.uk/Services/Goldline/Timetables/?lrn=&spn=Downpatrick%2C%20Downpatrick%20Bus%20Station&spns=10000563>
3. Taxi to The River Mill, 43 Ballyclander Road

*By bus:*

1. Busaras Central Station to Newry, see here <http://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=406&form-view-timetables-from=Dublin+%28Busaras%29&form-view-timetables-to=Belfast+%28Europa+Bus+Centre%29&form-view-timetables-route=&form-view-timetables-submit=1>)

N.B. Dublin International Airport is a stop on the route to Newry

1. In Newry, get a bus to Downpatrick <http://www.translink.co.uk/Services/Goldline/Timetables/?lrn=&spn=Downpatrick%2C%20Downpatrick%20Bus%20Station&spns=10000563>
2. Taxi to The River Mill, 43 Ballyclander Road (TLC is happy to arrange transportation for you. We can also arrange for a mini bus to collect all of our writers from the airport if there is sufficient interest)

## **Is there an itinerary for untutored Literary Adventures?**

*DAY ONE (Arrival Day)*

*Saturday 18*

*Arrival from 3pm, meet & greet, dinner*

*DAY TWO*

*Sunday 19*

*Goal setting workshop with your TLC Host*

*Free writing time*

*Power Hour (optional one hour group writing)*

**DAY THREE**

*Monday 20*

*Free writing time*

*Power hour (optional one hour group writing)*

**DAY FOUR**

*Tuesday 21*

*Free writing time*

*Power hour (optional one hour group writing)*

**DAY FIVE**

*Wednesday 22*

*Power hour (optional one hour group writing)*

**DAY SIX**

*Thursday 23*

*Free writing time*

*Sharing circle, saying goodbyes*

**DAY SEVEN (Departure Day)**

*Friday 24*

*Departure by 11am*

**What is a Power Hour?**

Based on our monthly Write Clubs, we have suggested an entirely optional daily ‘power hour’ as part of this untutored retreat. This is simply an hour where we come together in the communal area, and write together. There are no prompts and there is no feedback, but it can be hugely incentivising to come together to write, and we will be hosting these power hours at the same time every day in order to provide some structure to the week in case you need it. These will be led by your TLC Host, and we encourage you to join us to accelerate your writing week.

**Will I be completely alone?**

You will be staying at a house which is exclusively for TLC’s use for the duration of your untutored Literary Adventure; there will be no external guests on the premises. You are not required to socialise with others, but we encourage writers to take their evening meals together and you are welcome to attend our optional daily Power Hours should you wish or need. You will also have a TLC Host with you on site throughout your stay. Your TLC Host will offer a goal setting workshop at the beginning of the week, and is on hand in case of any questions or challenges. We will also provide spare notebooks and pens, though we encourage you to bring your own favourite writing equipment with you. We are here to help you have as creative a week as possible, in a supported environment.

**What about meals?**

All of your meals are included. Please note that unlike our tutored retreat which has an in-house chef preparing us three-course meals, provisions at the untutored retreat are more basic. Breakfast is self-serve. On a self-catering basis the venue asks writers to wash up after meals, however as you will have access to a TLC Host throughout the week, we will be taking care of this for you so that you can focus on writing. We simply ask that you kindly keep the premises and your rooms tidy.

### **Can I come with a partner/friend?**

Rooms 1, 2 and 5 can be booked on a reduced-rate sharing basis by two writers coming together. Please contact us about this directly.

### **Can I come with a carer?**

If you require a support worker or carer and are able to share a room, Room 1 is large and shareable, with wheelchair access and a wet room. There is a small additional fee to cover cooking and cleaning. Please contact us about this directly.

### **Payment Terms**

*Booking:* A £100 per person deposit is required in order to confirm your reservation. Once we have enough writers to travel we will let you know and you can book travel, at which point the full remaining balance is due directly to TLC within no later than 30 days.

*Cancellations:* In exceptional circumstances you may need to cancel. As it is important for planning to know how many will be in the group, we have to take cancellation seriously. If at any time after booking up to 90 days before travel we will retain 50% of the full fee. If you cancel between 90-60 days of departure we will retain 75% of the full fee; and within 60-30 days of departure we will retain 90% of the fee. For cancellations within 30 days we will retain 100% of the fee.

### **Insurance and Liability Notice**

It is a condition of your booking that you have valid travel insurance. From time to time there may be changes to the programme that are beyond our control. Please note that in order for any flights and other bookings to be covered by your insurance, your policy must be active from the point of booking, not from the point of arrival. We recommend checking a price comparison site to get the best deal.

Neither The Literary Consultancy nor River Mill accept liability for any costs incurred as a result of cancellations, delays or changes caused by war, threat of war, closure of airports, civil strife, industrial action, natural disaster, technical problems with transport, or other events beyond our control, medical conditions which may develop during or subsequent to the holiday; flight delay or cancellation; loss of, or damage to persons or personal property.

### **Further questions?**

Please feel free to email us: [aki@literaryconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:aki@literaryconsultancy.co.uk)