

# WILD WORDS & SACRED SPACES



A WOMEN'S WRITING RETREAT IN THE ENGLISH COTSWOLDS

JUNE 7-13, 2025



WE HAVE ALL A BETTER GUIDE IN OURSELVES IF WE WOULD ATTEND TO IT, THAN ANY OTHER PERSON COULD BE.

Jane Austen

- Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville is proud to partner with Casa Erica Travel to introduce you to this beautiful corner of the world!
- For six nights and seven days, step out of the hustle and bustle of today's world. Come and see the place that for centuries has influenced philosophers, writers, poets, and artists.
- "To make a landscape a place, you have to feel it," says Fiona Stafford. "When I escape into nature and beauty, it restores my soul. I need that to write again." — Jennifer Wolfe
- Let the magical landscape of the Cotswolds bring you joy and inspiration. Sit back and relax- we'll do all the planning for you, allowing you to fully enjoy what this magnificent area has to offer.
- Welcome to the Women, Words, & the Land Retreat, we can't wait to host you!

Fennifer Wolfe <sup>&</sup> Heather Deyo







### A TRULY MAGICAL EXPERIENCE

### Lodging

Single or double-room lodging will be included in the cost of your retreat for the entire 7 days and 6 nights.

### Meals

From dining at local pubs to world class restaurants, most meals are included. Several of our meals will be prefixed menus that will also include wine pairings.

### Transporation

All transportation will be provided during the duration of your retreat.

### Tickets & Admission

Access to all planned events, sites, experiences and attractions are included.

### Writing Sessions

Daily writing sessions led by your host, Jennifer Wolfe, are included.



### EXPLORE THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

June 7-9, Bath | June 9 -13, Frampton-on-Severn

Each excursion and activity has been specially selected to complement the theme of your retreat, Women, Words & The Land. Our itinerary will be finalized 45 days before the retreat and will take into account the weather, unique seasonal opportunities, and the needs of our group.

Here are a few highlights of our planned itinerary.



### WELCOME CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

We'll begin our time together with a festive welcome toast where we'll get to know one another and talk about the week ahead.



### WALKING TOUR OF BATH

A tour of the highlights of Bath, led by Blue Badge guide, Andrew Butterworth, will focus on the area's feminist writers, including Jane Austen, and Bath's history as a place of healing.



### THERMAL SPA SOAK

Bath is best known for its ancient baths, and we'll partake of this history by spending time in the city's most famous thermal spa and steam room. Optional Spa services available for those interested.

### EXPLORE THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

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#### THE CHARMING TOWNS OF THE COTSWOLDS

As we meander northward through the Cotswolds, we'll visit several of the most charming villages, such as Castle Combe, where we can study the architecture, enjoy lunch and teas together, and soak in the rolling green hills of the surrounding landscapes.



#### HIGHGROVE GARDENS

Our private tour of these famous royal gardens will include a chance to see Wildflower Meadow as well as the more formal gardens. Our guide will discuss the gardens' history, organic management, and innovations. We will also enjoy an exclusive Private High Tea at this tranquil and historic place.



#### HEALING GARDEN WORKSHOP

Spend an afternoon with a highly sought after teacher in her healing garden. Walk through the spiral garden, thoughtfully laid out to represent the stages of a woman's life. Our guide will teach on "Letting the Land Heal You,"

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### WRITING ACTIVITIES

Each day we will begin with a gathering circle to write and connect with each other. Longer writing sessions in the evening will provide a protected time to connect more deeply, write as inspired by our daily experiences, and share our words and stories. Writing in community will enrich your travel in a way you've never experienced before. As always, you can choose whether to write or share your work.



#### ADVENTURES AWAIT

From Farm-to-Table dinners in the Countryside, to touring and picnics at a Lavender Farm and stops to visit famous abbeys, gardens, and castles, we'll make sure to leave room for whatever adventures await us.



### ΝΟΤΕ

For anyone interested, we can provide details for an add-on excursion to Stonehenge at the front end of the retreat and Stratford-upon-Avon or Oxford at the end. Please inquire for details when you register.

### YOUR RETREAT TEAM

### Jennifer Wolfe

### Retreat Host

Writer-facilitator Jennifer Wolfe has led hundreds of writing circles for women. A naturalist and birder, she's a journalist by training and a writer by passion. She founded Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville 10 years ago to create a safe and supportive space for women writers and has traveled widely with her journal in hand.



Read more about Jennifer <u>here</u>.



### Heather Deyo

Retreat Travel Host Founder of Casa Erica Travel, Heather has hosted hundreds of guests in locations all over the world. She is delighted to introduce new places to curious travelers. Read more about Heather <u>here</u>.

### Danielle Cook

Retreat Travel Assistant With over a decade of touring in the music industry under her belt, Danielle is an expert at tackling anything that comes her way, and making every experience seamless.



### LODGING

June 7 & 8 The Gainesborough Bath Spa Hotel

The Gainsborough Bath Spa Hotel is a luxurious five-star retreat in the heart of Bath, offering elegant accommodations and exclusive access to the city's natural thermal waters.





June 9-13 Frampton Court Estate The Cotswolds

Built in the 1730s this stunning Georgian Manor House will serve as our private home for the majority of the retreat. With comfortable rooms and sweeping grounds, there will be no shortage of space or inspiration during our time there.

## FRAMPTON COURT ESTATE



# COST

### \$5200 Double Occupancy (shared king bed) \$5750 Double Occupancy (twin bed) \$6600 Single Room

Spots and specific room availability are limited.

- A \$1000 non-refundable deposit is due upon registration
- A second payment of \$2000 is due 90 days before, with the balance due 60 days before the start of the retreat.
- We will send reminders on the appropriate dates.
- Please inquire if you would like to discuss a custom payment plan.

# FAQ'S

### What's the general schedule?

We'll begin with two days in Bath, and then adventure onward to our next destination in the northwestern Cotswolds.

### What if I don't want to do all the activities?

Everything, except the drive between locations, is optional. As long as you're comfortable making your own arrangements, we're comfortable with you doing your own thing. The Cotswolds is a stunning, restorative place, and if you'd rather take a long, country walk or curl up with a book, please do!

### Cancellation Policy

- 1.90+ days before the trip full refund given except for deposit
- 2.45-90 days before the trip 50% of total retreat cost refunded
- 3. There are no refunds for cancellation within 45 days of the retreat.
- 4. We recommend all of our guests obtain trip insurance, to include retreat, air, and other costs, as soon as the deposit is made.

Dear Friends,

I do hope you'll join me for a writing retreat steeped in beauty, in connection, and in the romantic life of a writer, traveler, and soul-seeker. Let us stroll together through the landscapes of your heart and imagination as we meander through the charming countryside of the English Cotswolds.

I don't know about you, but my childhood was populated with British books and landscapes—the orderly vegetable rows of Mr. McGregor's garden, the wild roses blooming in The Secret Garden, the sweeping moors of Wuthering Heights—where the wind kept you company while calling your dead lover's name. Cozied up in my reading chair, I was besotted with storybook cottages, majestic manor homes, and the picturesque views of the English countryside.

Years later, after reconnecting with my writer self, I, too, wandered the moors, walking into the pages of my storybook past. I needed time in open fields, under arching beams of church ruins, along fence lines where rabbits paused, skylarks hung high in the sky, and fluffy sheep eyed me with curiosity. Could they tell I had once lived on a sheep farm?

When I bought my current home, I was drawn to its English cottage features. It's literally a storybook cottage, with deeply sloped roof lines, a massive chimney, wide open hearths, and cozy rooms in which to tuck messy stacks of books and an eclectic community of women writers.

What surprised me was the history of my house, once I learned it. Turns out, it's a Cotswold Cottage, built in 1922, at the height of a U.S. love affair with the Cotswold region. And guess what I also learned: the Cotswold is a type of sheep! No wonder I've been drawn to this region for so long. My sheep-farming past was the final connection. So there you are: The places, and spaces, of our past always inform the spaces and places of our present.

We have planned a well-appointed, carefully curated, magical tour of the Cotswolds, with its charming streets, thatched roofs, and ancient histories. We will start in Bath and move through picturesque small villages to a majestic manor home, wandering through the landscapes of our past and present. We will write together each day, charting our adventures and taking the time we need to explore the spaces and the places of our hearts—our writer's hearts.

Come. We want to walk the hills and dales—and tell our tales—with you.

Cheers,

Jennifer

p.s. We might even pick wild raspberries and eat them with milk in a bowl, just like Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail. We shall see...



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Writing to Transform Ourselves and Our Communities

# NEXT STEPS

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#### REGISTER

Click the link at the bottom of the page to register for the retreat.



#### DEPOSIT

After registering, Heather will reach out with information on how to pay your deposit and establish your payment schedule.



#### BOOK YOUR FLIGHT

See the details provided at the end of this document to book your flight into London.



#### STAY CONNECTED

Keep an eye on your email; we'll be sending out regular updates and coordinating two group video calls in preparation for your retreat.





### CONNECT

#### JENNIFER WOLFE

(904)304-3047 Jennifer@womenwritingjacksonville.com www.womenwritingjacksonville.org

#### HEATHER DEYO (904) 403-4891 <u>heather@casaericatravel.com</u> <u>www.casaericatravel.com</u>

#### Social media

@womenwritingjax @casaerica\_travel

- Flights from the US will arrive at either London Heathrow or London Gatwick Airport.
  - If you are flying from elsewhere in Europe or don't mind an extra connection, Bristol Airport, close to Bath, is another option.
  - Most flights to Europe are overnight, although there are several daytime flights to London from New York and occasionally from Washington, D.C.
  - Return flights to the US are during the day.
- The retreat will begin in Bath and end with a transfer to the station in Moretonin-Marsh. Both places have direct trains to and from Paddington Station in London.
  - Casa Erica will provide written instructions on how to take these trains.
  - The Bath train takes an hour, and the Moreton train is a little longer.

\*If you would like assistance booking your flight, hotel nights in London, or train transfers, please see the next page.\*

### LONDON HOTELS



REMBRANDT HOTEL 11 Thurloe Place South Kensington



THE GRAND HOTEL BELLEVUE 27 Norfolk Square Paddington



THE ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL 2 Whitehall Court Westminster

### TRAVEL

Our trusted partner, Odyssey Travel, is available to assist you with booking travel before and after the retreat. For a small fee, our dedicated agent, Marion Taborda, can book your flight to and from the UK. Marion can also book hotels, tours, and transfers, and can provide any support you may need to extend your European trip.

### CONNECT



904-570-3000 Marion@odysseytravel.com



### The Fine Print

- Except for meals eaten in the manor house, or prix fixe meals, alcohol with meals is not included in the retreat price. However, you are always welcome to order alcoholic beverages with your meals.
- Any meals not with the group are the responsibility of the guest.
- We recommend that all of our guests obtain travel insurance as soon as the deposit is made. If you would like Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) insurance, please note that it is usually only available for two weeks after the first trip payment (airline, retreat, hotel, etc.).