

Writing Retreats at Casa Ana

www.casa-ana.com

faqs: 2019 retreats

Writing Retreats at Casa Ana

These retreats are designed for writers – published and unpublished - to work, find inspiration and enjoy the company of fellow writers in peaceful and beautiful surroundings. There are normally 9 places available on each retreat.

Dates: 2019

26 – 23 March 2019 – one week only

Two-week retreats:

8 – 22 June 2019

27 July – 10 August 2019

16 – 30 November 2019

How to apply

Send us an email with some information about your writing life and the project you'll be working on including:

1. An outline of the project, what you plan to work on and what you would like to achieve whilst on the retreat. Please also tell us what level and type of writing experience you have. (You do not have to be published, but our retreats are for writers who are committed to working on their craft.)

2. A professional writing coach will be resident throughout the retreat, offering optional 1-1 mentoring sessions. Would you be interested in these? (nb. there is an additional fee, currently €50 for one session or €135 for three sessions). In 2019 the writing coaches will be:

- Mary-Jane Holmes, winner of the 2017 Bridport Poetry Prize, director of the Casa Ana Creative Writing Programme, senior editor with Fish Publishing and head of their on-line mentoring service (June, July/August and November retreats);

- Tom Bromley, author, editor, and tutor including mentoring for the Faber Writers' Academy, (March retreat)

What would you aim to achieve with these sessions?

3. Would you be interested in sharing work with others on the retreat? Apart from the social aspect of this, and the chance to hear some great work, writers appreciate the support and inspiration that considered feedback provides. There are up to 5 reading/critiquing group sessions during the two weeks of the retreat, led by the resident mentor. There is no additional charge for these.

Whilst you are welcome to apply to join the retreat for just one week, feedback from writers shows that staying for two weeks is more beneficial. We give priority to writers staying for both weeks.

Terms and conditions

Minimum stay: 1 week. It is not possible to book for a part of a week.

Please note, all rooms are priced for single occupancy. Price in euros.

Smaller room*: €650 for one week only; €1100 for two weeks

Standard room*: €750 for one week only; €1300 for two weeks

Extra large room*: €850 for one week only; €1400 for two weeks

There is a discount of €50 per week on the smaller and standard room prices if you are willing to share a bathroom with one other person.

*Smaller room: we have 2 smaller rooms with single bed and writing table. One has an en suite bathroom, and the other shares a bathroom with one other person.

*Standard rooms: we have 3 standard size rooms with double beds and writing tables, 1 standard size room with single bed and writing table and 1 standard size room with single bed and a separate writing room. All but one have en suite bathrooms. One room shares a bathroom with one other person.

*Large rooms: we have 2 extra large rooms (14-16 sq m) with double beds, writing tables and en suite bathrooms.

The price includes accommodation, breakfasts, lunches, facilitated group critiquing sessions and use of Casa Ana's facilities including the guest kitchen, wifi, garden and terraces;

It does NOT include: flights, airport transfers, dinners, drinks (apart from tea and coffee), 1-1 mentoring sessions.

You are welcome to bring a partner or friend to share your room, at an additional cost of €420 per week/€60 per day (includes breakfast and lunch).

Payments as follows:

€400 deposit at the time of booking;

The balance minus €100 to be paid three months before arrival;

Bring €100 in cash

(We ask partners and friends to pay in cash during their stay).

How to pay:

1. Pay the €400 deposit (or the full amount if you book less than 3 months before the retreat) by bank transfer to our euro account (account details below). We will send you a reminder close to the date for the balance payment (also payable by bank transfer);
2. At the time of booking please also send us your credit/debit card number and expiry date, to secure your reservation. You can send this by email, or by sms to Anne Hunt's mobile: 0034 678 298 497 (Anne is the owner of Casa Ana).

Euro account:

Bank name: Bankia

Branch: Plaza de la Iglesia 3, Pitres, Granada, Spain

Name: Anne Alexandra Hunt

IBAN no: ES32 2038 3615 4460 0016 6249

BIC: CAHMESMMXXX

Casa Ana address: Calle La Artesa 7, Ferreirola, 18414 La Taha, Granada, Spain

Cancellations

Please note the deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel with 90 days' notice before your arrival date, or under 90 days, your entire fee will be retained unless you (or we) can find someone to take your place. Since refunds cannot be given we strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance.

If we have to cancel the retreat before it starts you will receive a full refund. If we have to cancel part-way through the retreat, you will receive a partial refund.

Flights

The nearest airports are Granada, a 90-minute drive from Casa Ana, and Malaga, a 2 hours' drive. Many airlines fly to Malaga from (we think) all British airports including Easyjet, Ryanair, BA, Iberia, BMIBaby, Flybe and more. Alternatively, check out British Airways flights from London City to Granada Airport and Easyjet from Gatwick to Granada. BOOK EARLY to get the best deals. (SEE BELOW FOR TAXI SHARING OPTIONS)

Getting to Casa Ana from Malaga or Granada

Several options:

Hire a car: All the major car hire companies are represented at Malaga and Granada airports. Check out www.douyouspain.com for car hire price comparisons.

Buses: Buses are cheap but not too plentiful. The best route is from Malaga Bus Station to Granada Bus Station then change for Pitres (and we will arrange for you to be met off the bus). Pitres is only 10 minutes' drive from the house. For bus times see <http://www.alsa.es>.

Taxis: A local driver offers taxis and taxi sharing from Malaga or Granada airports. Prices currently range from €22.50 euros (sharing with 3 others) to €70 (alone) from Granada; and €35 - €110 from Malaga. If you'd like to share a taxi:

1. email us to let us know that you are interested in the taxi option;
2. if you are flying into Malaga, please book flights that arrive before, but as near as possible to 15.30. On your departure day book flights which leave Malaga after 14.00 (taxis will leave Casa Ana at 10.00 and arrive at Malaga airport at about 12.30)
3. if you are flying into Granada, please book flights that arrive before, but as near as possible to 14.00. On your departure day book flights which leave Granada after 13.00 (taxis will leave Casa Ana at 10 am and arrive at Granada airport at about 11.30)
4. we will put you in touch with Kitty the driver, nearer the time.

Travel Insurance

It's a condition of your booking that you obtain travel insurance with medical cover. If you are a British citizen, you can currently apply for a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which entitles you to the same treatment as residents of the country you're visiting. NB the EHIC only covers medical bills - it doesn't replace standard travel insurance. Apply at post offices or www.ehic.org.uk. Allow 10 days.

Check-in and check-out times

Arrival day: check in at Casa Ana is any time after 3 pm and before 10.30 pm.

Departure day: check out time is before 11 am.

Staying on or arriving before the retreat

You are welcome to stay at Casa Ana before or after the retreat dates, subject to availability of rooms. We offer a 10% discount off the normal

B&B rates (see www.casa-ana.com/prices for these).

About the house

When you come to Casa Ana you'll have your own room with a writing desk either in your room or in another room near your bedroom. Most of the rooms are en suite (see Terms & Conditions section above).

There is also a large sitting room with armchairs, writing table, coffee tables and a wood-burning stove. Mentoring and group critiquing sessions take place here.

Outside, there are terraces and a garden, furnished with tables and chairs, ideal for quiet pondering or writing, even in the winter months.

The house is located on the edge of the village of Ferreirola (pop. around 28).

When you need a break from writing, there are long walks in the mountains (and short walks to the bar) from the front door.

In summer Casa Ana guests can cool off in a lovely pool at the hotel nearby (current price €6 for the whole day).

If you enjoy walking, bring sensible walking shoes/hiking boots.

No cars can pass by Casa Ana as the lanes are too narrow. Expect peace.

Housekeeping

Soap and towels are provided.

We normally change towels and do a light clean mid-week with a full clean of the rooms at the end of the first week.

The guest kitchen has a fridge where you can keep snacks and drinks (see "Meals").

In summer: there are cooling fans in the bedrooms where required and in the sitting room.

In winter: there is underfloor central heating in all the rooms (including the bathrooms!) and extra blankets are provided. The log-burning stove in the sitting room adds extra cosiness.

FREE wi-fi is available in the sitting room and some of the bedrooms.

Printing and photocopying (small runs only) can be done for a charge of 10c per sheet.

We offer a laundry service on request for €5 per load.

There is a mobile phone signal at the house.

Meals

Breakfast will be provided each day at 9.00. Breakfasts are included in the retreat price.

Lunch is provided each day at 1.30. Lunches are included in the retreat price.

Dinners: we offer an option to take 3 dinners at the house during each week (arrival day, mid-week and final evening) for 84 EUROS for all 3

dinners. Please book these before coming to Casa Ana, and pay for them in cash before the end of your stay. If you need to cancel dinners please tell us at least 72 hours before you arrive at Casa Ana.

Meals out: on evenings when dinner is not provided at Casa Ana you'll find some decent restaurants within walking distance of the house including a pizza bar, a vegetarian restaurant and a traditional Alpujarra-style bar-restaurant.

Suppers in: it is also possible to self-cater in the main kitchen at times when it's not in use by our cooks.

Tea/coffee: always available in the guest kitchen, just help yourself. Biscuits too...

Other drinks: you can buy beer, wines, juices etc at Casa Ana and we operate an honesty system for drinks.

Food allergies: It's important that you let us know in advance if you are a vegetarian or have any food allergies. We're happy to cater for special diets. However, it is not possible to change your requirements after arrival at Casa Ana. Please note there's a small charge of €2 per day or €10 per week for diets involving specially purchased products (eg. soy milk, gluten-free bread etc).

The weather

The weather in the Alpujarra is pleasant, with sunny days, little rainfall, balmy summer evenings and magnificent winter sunsets.

Winter average daytime temperatures: normally no lower than 10C.

Early summer average daytime temperatures: normally no higher than 28C. Mid-summer average daytime temperatures: around 32C.

What to wear - winter

Long sleeve shirts or t-shirts

A couple of sweaters

Warm jacket

Hat, scarf, gloves

Sunglasses

Good walking boots if you're interested in getting out into the countryside

Rain jacket and umbrella, just in case

What to wear – summer

Short sleeve t-shirts

Linens

Shorts

Sun-tan lotion

Sun hat

Sunglasses

Light jacket or scarf for evenings

Sandals

Good summer walking shoes if you're interested in getting out into the countryside

Swimming things (Please bring your own bathing towel as we do not provide these.)

What to bring

Your own laptop

UK-Europe (or US-Europe) adaptor for your laptop, mobile charger etc

A torch if you're planning to go out for the evenings

Your travel insurance policy and/or EHIC card

Cash euros (there is no cashpoint in Ferreiros. The nearest one is in Pitres)

Contact

Anne Hunt at Casa Ana

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Tel: + 34 678 298 497

Web: www.casa-ana.com