

Writing, reading, and daydreaming in the enchanting Outer Hebrides of Scotland. A retreat led by Raffaella Barker.

7th - 14th September, 2024.

Optional non-taught second week to 21st September.



Creativity Relaxation Escape

Dip into nature and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the Isle of Lewis by joining Raffaella Barker for a creative writing week at Uig Lodge. This retreat is more than a writer's workshop; it's a vivid and immersive escape from the mundane, and a chance to free the imagination and find your creative voice. Suitable for writers of any level, and those who simply consider themselves literary enthusiasts.

If you have dreamed of taking yourself off on a retreat, this is your moment; at Uig Lodge, you will be in a group of like-minded writers, readers, and book lovers, surrounded by stunning beaches and highland peak views.

The days are relaxed, with morning group sessions where ideas and skills are discussed and Raffaella encourages members of the group to find their own writing rhythm. After group activities, afternoons are your own time to explore, go swimming, fish, or just daydream and walk along the rugged coastline. Evenings are relaxed, with informal discussion, readings, and on some nights, themed events. The emphasis is on creating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for everyone to unwind and enjoy themselves. This is a holiday to remember.

Uig Lodge welcomes you with comfortable country house accommodation, a cosy, welcoming atmosphere, and modern amenities. The perfect place to find yourself and get inspired. Our chef will prepare a superb menu, with local produce, balanced to the requirements of the group. Everything is set for a wonderful week, and there is the option to stay on for a second week of non-supervisor-led writing retreat as well.

Raffaella Barker



Raffaella Barker is a successful novelist with nine published novels including best sellers, *Hens Dancing* and *Summertime*. For 10 years she was a lecturer on the University of East Anglia's groundbreaking Creative Writing Course, and she has run private creative writing weeks for over 15 years. Her students say:

'What a truly magical and wonderful week.'

'Not only did we all learn to write or improve our writing – to a large degree but we made great friends along the way.'

'Your house was so welcoming, beautiful, and warm; the cooking was sublime, and you gave so much. I am now feeling much happier about my writing and I had a little breakthrough yesterday.'

'For me, your course was life-changing. And far more than I hoped for. Under your kind, relaxed, and good-humoured guidance the group came together in a wonderful way.'

"I have attended a few of such workshops, all good enough, but none this productive, at once light and deep-hearted, devoted to writing for the love of the thing."

'I would wholeheartedly recommend Raffaella to anyone interested in the writing process at whatever level of experience.'



Accommodation and Prices



The retreat is held in the beautiful setting of Uig Lodge, a traditional and working sporting estate. The daily running of the lodge is overseen by the owners Dickon and Elly Green.

The lodge sleeps up to 17 in three doubles, five twins, and one single; nearly all of which have incredible sea or mountain views to rival anywhere in the world. Pricing for the retreat is as follows:

Week 1 - Teaching Week

3 x Double ensuite rooms - £2750 per person, single occupancy or £2350 / per person, double occupancy. For a partner/friend wanting to stay but not attend the course it would be an additional £1650.

4 x Twin rooms sharing bathrooms - £2250 per person, single occupancy or £1850 per person, double occupancy. For a partner/friend wanting to stay but not attend the course it would be £1250.

Week 2 - Optional non-supervisor-led week

Double ensuite rooms - £1900 per person, single occupancy or £1500 / per person, double occupancy.

Twin rooms sharing bathrooms - £1500 per person, single occupancy or £1200/ per person, double occupancy.

The price for one week includes:

- 7 nights accommodation
- 6 mornings teaching
- 7 breakfasts
- 7 lunches
- 7 dinners

There will also be optional fly fishing which would be charged as extra.

Food

Food will be fresh and locally sourced and served by the lodge chef, with breakfast, lunch, and supper included in the price.

On two separate evenings, there will be a dinner organised at the local Uig Sands Restaurant. Their menu often includes local fish and shellfish, delicious local lamb and beef.

Isle of Lewis

You are spoiled for choice with this rugged coastline, peppered with spectacular white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. On a sunny day when the sea becomes a brilliant turquoise, you could mistake these beaches for a tropical paradise. With the ever-changing light, spectacular unspoiled scenery, dramatic weather conditions, and a rich legacy of history and culture, Lewis is alive with natural beauty. With glistening hill lochs, empty glens, and dramatic mountain views, the west coast of Lewis is a walker's paradise, brimming with wildlife from golden eagles and red deer in the hills, to seals and rare seabirds on the coast. Uig Bay is ideal for cold water swimming or salmon fishing.

Dates

The retreat will take place from 7th - 14th September 2024 led by Raffaella Barker, with the option to extend your writing retreat for a second week up until 21st September 2024, writing independently at Uig Lodge.

Contact for more information:

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