

BETTER READ TOURS

Writers Retreats - Experienced Mentors - Inspiring Locations

MEMOIR WRITING

with

PATTI MILLER

Paris, France

20 October - 3 November 2023

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JOIN US IN PARIS!

Presented by Patti Miller and Better Read Literary Tours, Memoir Writing in Paris is an original and unique tour offering:

- A 9 day writing course with author, Patti Miller, Australia's most experienced and successful memoir writing mentor.
- A 1 hour individual mentoring session with Patti Miller
- An intensive literary immersion in the city devoted to the arts and joie de vivre.
- The delights of Paris in autumn, the traditional season of memory and reflection.
- Your own exploration of the cultural richness – architecture, music, painting, fashion and history – of Paris.
- 15 days / 14 nights living the life of a writer in your own light-filled, well equipped, individual studio in the centre of Paris.

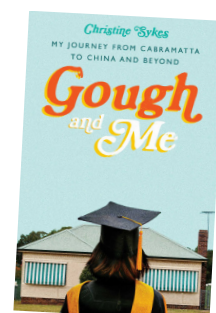
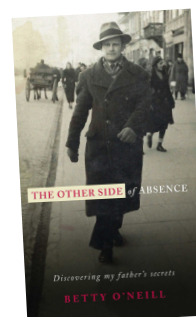
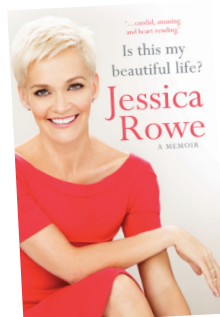
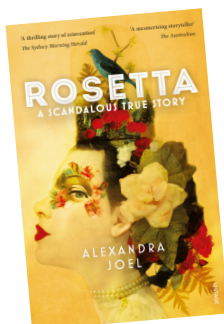
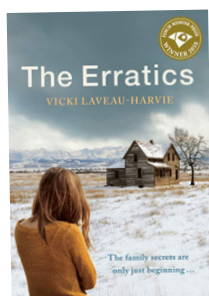
A Wonderful Journey

Your teacher Patti has helped more than 40 other writers turn their life stories into successful commercially published books.

These include, amongst many others, *The Erratics*, by Vicky Laveau-Harvie; *Only*, by

Caroline Baum; *Rosetta*, by Alexandra Joel; and *Is This My Beautiful Life?* by Jessica Rowe.

Check Patti's website for a comprehensive list of clients: lifestories.com.au/clients-books



“

The time I spent writing in Paris has truly changed my life. My goal to become a published author is no longer a pipe dream. Having the space to live and breathe writing all day, everyday for 15 days allowed my creativity to flow and my writing to reach levels that I didn't even think was possible. My confidence grew under the guidance of Patti Miller and alongside a trusted group of likeminded individuals that I know will be lifelong friends. Wandering the streets of Paris and exploring its rich literary history gave me answers to questions that I couldn't have found anywhere else. Each member of the group had a different story to tell, but together we created a story of our own, a story that will live on forever. Thank you Patti and The Better Read Team for giving my creative self an opportunity to grow and come alive!

”

– Reece Georgas

MEET THE TEAM

Patti Miller



Patti Miller is the author of ten books, including Australia's best-selling life writing texts *Writing Your Life*; *The Memoir Book*; and *Writing True Stories* (Routledge). She has also published a novel, *Child* (A&U), and six memoir/creative non-fiction books, *The Last One Who Remembers* (A&U); *Whatever The Gods Do* (Random House); *The Mind of a Thief* (UQP), which was long and short-listed for a number of prizes, and winner of the 2013 NSW Premier's Prize for History; *Ransacking Paris* (UQP); *The Joy of High Places* (NewSouth); and her latest in 2022, *True Friends* (UQP).

Many of Patti's personal essays and feature articles have been published in literary magazines and other national publications such as the *Good Weekend*. She holds a BA and MA in writing from the University of Technology, Sydney and has more than 30 years' teaching experience in universities and writers' centres around Australia, and in Fiji, Bali, London and Paris. Sixty of her former students have been commercially published. She spent a year writing in Paris and currently teaches at the Australian Writers Centre and the Faber Academy. Patti regularly returns to France to write; she is thus familiar with the joys and rewards it offers...



Follow Patti online

lifestories.com.au



LifeStoriesWorkshop

Maisie Fieschi



Maisie is an Australian who has been living in Paris for the last 7 years. She fell in love with the city on her first trip in 2011 – six month later, she quit her job as editor at Random House and moved from Sydney to Paris with one suitcase and some high school French. Today, she speaks fluent French, and is experienced at welcoming visitors to her beloved city. A writer herself, from a literary family, Maisie will smooth your way during your writing program. She will be on hand with her local knowledge to make suggestions for outings, or to assist in any other daily life issues. Maisie's care and attention will make this a more personal experience. She is on 24-hour call during your time in Paris.



Paris in the autumn

Imagine yourself writing in Paris, the city made for and by writers, revolutionaries, poets, philosophers, painters – the city of imagination, love, culture and art.

The cafés buzz with discussion, the light is soft and leaves are golden. Your heart and mind sing with the richness of history, beauty and pleasure as you step out of your own apartment each morning on the way to writing class with like-minded travellers.

In the afternoon you will discuss your own writing individually with Patti, explore the wonders of Paris, or meet with your friends in a local café.

15 days that could change your life...

Memoir Writing in Paris 2023 is not a tour... it is a journey of renewal and discovery for those who want to experience Paris not as tourists, but from the inside, writing and living as locals.

This is a life-changing opportunity: these 15 days in the 'City of Light' could change your life, just as they have changed the lives of many others who have taken this journey over the past several years.

This is a memoir writing course with a highly experienced writer and teacher. In Paris, you will get the chance to immerse yourself in ideas, beauty and writing as part of an exclusive small group under the mentorship of one of Australia's leading memoirists, Patti Miller.

- It is a personal writing journey, with dedicated and professional guidance and advice
- You'll experience a unique taste of Paris with a literary focus
- Prepare for an adventure that will develop your writing practice, push your creative boundaries, and forge new friendships and memories.

ITINERARY

Thursday October 19th

Your Journey start now...

This is the date by which you must leave, if Australia is your starting point, to arrive in Paris in time for Memoir Writing in Paris 2023. Each person is free to make their own flight arrangements. Make sure you have your accommodation directions and map book in a pocket where it's easy to find when you arrive.

Both will be given to you at your pre-departure meeting.



Meal Key

B Breakfast/ Brunch	L Lunch
MC Morning Coffee/Tea	D Dinner

Friday October 20st

On arrival in Paris, use the very clear accommodation directions you have been given to find your way to your apartment by train, taxi, bus or shuttle bus. A welcome pack, including immediate food requirements, a local quartier map and general orientation information, will be provided at your studio. After unpacking and settling in, we will rendezvous in the evening at **5.30pm** at Café Sarah Bernhardt at Place Chatelet for flight recovery drinks. Your Tour Manager will be available to answer any questions.

1
DAY

2
DAY

Saturday October 21st

B

We will meet at our centrally-located class venue at 10.15am for an orientation of Paris with a local guide, which includes a potted history of the city and its recommended sights and delights. We will provide you with practical information, including a refresher on using the Metro if needed, and information on optional tours. This is also when the time and place of your individual discussion sessions with Patti will be arranged.

A welcome champagne, fine cheeses and hors d'oeuvre to toast our arrival in the City of Light will complete the morning. Champagne in the middle of the day? Why not! During the afternoon you can continue to explore the environs, or return to your apartment to rest from the flight. A pleasant way to see Paris when you are still a little jet-lagged is to take a boat ride (bateaux mouches) on the Seine.



Sunday October 22nd

One full day of rest to recover from jet-lag. We recommend exploring your quartier – walking and fresh air are the best way to adjust to a new time zone. For those who wish to go further afield, a walk through the Tuileries or Luxembourg Gardens is a peaceful way to soak in Paris while your body adjusts to this side of the world.

Your Tour Coordinator will be available for any questions or problems, but otherwise you will be left free to centre yourself on solid, if fabled, ground.

3
DAY

4
DAY

5
DAY

6
DAY

MC

Tuesday October 24th

We will meet at the venue at **9.45am** for a **10am until 1pm workshop**, with a break for coffee and a treat from the local patisserie (and perhaps the fromagerie as well). Remember to bring writing materials: notebooks and pens or laptops. We will begin with refreshing the sources – awakening creativity and memory. The afternoon will be free for writing, exploring Paris or your interview with Patti Miller.

Suggested independent activity: Take the Metro to Trocadero to view the Eiffel Tower. Climb (or take the lift) to the top. Walk back along the Seine to Place de la Concorde.

MC

Wednesday October 25th

Workshop continues **10am to 1pm**, with a break for coffee. We will explore the importance of original memory, awareness and observation, and of creating a 'lived reality' on the page via the senses. The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or your own exploration of Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Take the Metro to Abbesses or Anvers and walk (or take the funicular) to the Basilica of Sacre Coeur at the top of Montmartre for a wonderful view of Paris.

This evening, we may attend a literary soirée and reading at a well-known Parisian bookshop .

Note: this could be another evening, earlier or later in the program, depending on availability. Writers we have seen on past trips include Shirley Hazzard, Sukheta Mehta, James Bradley and John Baxter.

Monday October 23rd

L

Meet at 10am for a 10.30am start on your very first two-hour workshop talk on French memoirists and your first taste of memoir-writing in Paris. We will proceed together at 12.30pm to a Belle Époque brasserie for our Welcome Lunch.

Suggested independent activity: After lunch, take the Metro to Concorde, walk from Place de la Concorde, through the Tuileries, past the Louvre and along the Seine to Notre Dame, admiring the musicians, artists and booksellers along the way.. Although you can no longer go inside Notre Dame, the cathedral is located in the historical heart of the city, and there is plenty to discover there before you return to your studio.



MC

Thursday October 26th

Workshop continues **10am to 1pm**, with a break for coffee. Today we will explore the role of the 'story-teller' in your memoir, the narrator who seduces or enchants the reader. The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or your own exploration of Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Explore the two islands in the Seine – the Ile St Louis and the Ile de la Cité – or watch the river from the Square du Vert-Galant. Listen to the monks chanting in St Gervais on your way home.

7
DAY

“

If you want to make a real investment in your writing skills, in a beautiful location, then this is the course for you.

- Sharryn Ryan

”

8
DAY

Friday October 27th

MC

Workshop continues **10am to 1pm**, with a break for coffee. Today we will extend the area of memoir into travel/sojourn writing so that you may find the words and the form to explore your own experience of Paris.

The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or exploration of the monuments, shops or back streets of 'your' city.

9
DAY

Saturday October 28th

A free day for writing, your own exploration, or an optional organised tour* to the medieval city of Provins, under 90 mins train trip from Paris. The tour will be accompanied by your local coordinator, Maisie.

** Please note that these optional tours are at an additional cost and are subject to amendment.*

10
DAY

Sunday October 29th

Another free day for writing and exploring Paris. Try the wonderful fresh food market at Place de la Bastille, the best in Paris. Sample cheeses, meats, fish, fruit, vegetables, breads and many other tasty dishes amid the noisy cries of the vendors. In the afternoon or evening, attend one of the superb free concerts listed in l'Officiel des Spectacles.





11
DAY

Monday October 30th

MC

Return to morning workshops - **10am to 1pm** - rejuvenated by your weekend. We will explore the complicated issues of truth and self-indulgence in writing memoir. The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or more exploration of Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Take the Metro to the Arc de Triomphe and walk down the famous shopping boulevard, Champs Élysée. Or, for those who need some quiet time, take the Metro to St Placide or Odéon and sit in the Jardin du Luxembourg, soaking up the afternoon sun.

12
DAY

Tuesday October 31st

MC

Workshop continues **10am to 1pm**. We will bravely face the difficulties of truth telling and 'borderlands' - that is, how far we can go before memoir becomes fiction. The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or exploration of Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Take the Metro to the Père Lachaise cemetery and pay homage to some of your favourite writers - among many others, Colette, Gertrude Stein, Oscar Wilde, Molière, Maupassant are buried here. (And Marcel Marceau, who didn't use words at all!)

Let's rendezvous at **6.30pm** for drinks and conversation - perhaps at La Closerie de Lilas, with the ghosts of many writers and thinkers of the 20th century.

13
DAY

Wednesday November 1st

MC

Workshop continues **10am to 1pm**, with a break for coffee. Today we will explore structure and form - starting with beauty and truth, as we always must. The afternoon will be free for writing, your appointment with Patti, or exploration of Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Walk from Petit Pont up rue St Jacques, around the Panthéon into the market street of rue Mouffetard, and buy chocolates at the chocolatier.



14
DAY

Thursday November 2nd

MC

D

Last workshop from **10am to 1pm**, with a break for coffee. We still have plenty to explore, so today we will uncover the patterns of narrative structures - how they cast their spell. We'll enjoy a farewell dinner together at Belle Époque or another literary restaurant to celebrate two weeks of truth, beauty, challenge and renewal, the insights from our daily writing and discovery in Paris.

Suggested independent activity: Take a walk along the Canal St Martin, watch the locks fill with water, return for a coffee at the Le Grand Bleu café on the canal near Bastille.

15
DAY

Friday November 3rd

Flight for those leaving. Au revoir - until next time!



Writing is Living Out Loud

Writing in Paris with the Australian Writers' Centre: A Review by Thel Wawrzonek

One of the first quotes Patti Miller used when our group of would-be writers met for the Memoir Writing Course in Paris was: “Writing is living out loud”. That passionate dictum was an apt description of the vibrant excitement we all felt with just being in Paris – a city that values literary and artistic pursuit like no other.

Patti Miller is a delightful person, incredibly engaging, and has a great connection with people. She is the observer of others, a teacher who draws the best from her students, totally open and non-judgmental, and gently, sensitively giving constructive feedback.

A Meaningful Memoir

She precipitated the extraction of my buried and burning memories, facilitating them into words that I can share as meaningful memoir. She always made me feel that my work had value even if it can only be used as background material or as “secret writing”, to be thrown out after it served its purpose as necessary purging of angst, or over-indulgence. As an ardent editor of so much writing material she quickly discerned what material could be worthy of publication or where it could possibly find a home.

Each day Patti used various writing exercises illustrating methods that tapped into our memories and got us writing about them. She kept reminding us “to follow the heat”, to grab onto the things that make us passionate in life – events, things or images – and write about them using the narrative-making process.



Looking back on those two weeks, I can see that she in fact incorporated this very technique herself. Each day, as we used another way of looking and writing, it was like a little surge of passion for a memory or thing of meaning, and then it culminated in the crescendo of discovery, with the vital something to pull it all together.

Essentially, she had orchestrated a dynamic way of illustrating to us how to get writing our memoir. She had made the very structure of the course a separate narrative story in itself, of a group learning to write memoirs in Paris with Patti Miller – a story for her, and a story for each of us.

This course has been a big stepping stone to getting what I need to write down onto a page. It spurs me on to keep writing and applying what I have learnt.

Re-Awakening Memories

When I started writing this page I didn't fully realise the impact of Patti's course, but the very act of writing about it, using her technique of teasing the memories of these past two weeks and finding the words to describe the process, has re-awakened that lesson. Ah, 'tis the power of "writing the memories seen through the lace-screen" that she talked about.



This course has been a big stepping stone to getting what I need to write down onto a page.



PACKAGE DETAILS

INCLUDED

What is included in the cost?

- Accommodation in a studio
- Nine writing workshops with Patti Miller
- Your one hour individual mentoring session with Patti Miller
- Services of a French- and English-speaking Tour Coordinator to help you choose local tours, select restaurants, advise on attractions or even find a hairdresser, patisserie, shop or doctor
- Orientation sessions with your Tour Coordinator
- Historical presentation of Paris by local expert
- Flight Recovery drinks at a Paris café to settle into Parisian life
- Memoir lecture given by your Tour Leader, Patti Miller
- Selected reading list at least 3 months before departure
- Literary soirée at a café or bookshop
- Eight morning teas, one champagne brunch
- One welcome lunch and one farewell dinner
- Paris Welcome Pack including pre-purchased Metro tickets
- Metro tickets for two weeks travel on trains and buses

EXCLUDED

What is not included in the cost?

- Transport to France
- Costs of Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Incidentals and expenditure of a personal nature
- Services, meals and drinks if not mentioned in itinerary
- Covid-19 testing

PRICING

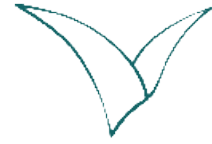
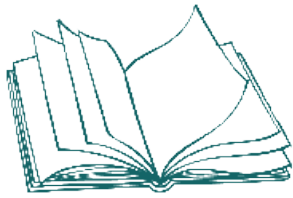
Price in AUD for Studio (single room with kitchenette) accommodation or One Bedroom Apartment (own apartment):
The price is land content only and does not include airfares.

To secure your booking, please email tours@betterread.com.au or submit an enquiry form on our website for more information.

Accommodation type	Price
Studio (single room with kitchenette)	\$9,400
One bedroom apartment (own apartment)	\$11,400

Once the tour is confirmed, we require a 50% deposit to secure your place. Full payment will be required 30 days before departure.





BETTER READ TOURS

Better Read Than Dead, nestled in the heart of Newtown's lively King Street, is one of Sydney's most iconic and beloved independent bookshops – and Lonely Planet's favourite Sydney bookshop. Better Read Than Dead has been an active member of Sydney's literary community for over two decades, renowned for its enthusiastic support of authors and its keen engagement with wide-ranging literary events.

Better Read Than Dead launched Better Read Literary Tours in 2017. The acquisition of Bookshop Travel has led Better Read Literary Tours to combine Better Read Than Dead's wealth of bookish knowledge with the expertise of this trusted educational tour company to provide our travellers with a programme of thoughtfully curated, fully escorted tours to the world's most fascinating literary destinations.

Our erudite local guides have been carefully chosen and provide inimitable insight into their region. There is no one better suited to walk alongside you as you explore these foreign shores and learn of the historical, cultural and political events that have shaped the world's greatest and most influential writers.

Better Read Literary Tours also offers a range of international writing workshops which merge our unique, local-infused itineraries with the opportunity to work closely with an experienced Australian mentor. These workshops offer the perfect retreat from the day-to-day, whether you're seeking to centre your creativity, find inspiration in a stunning new landscape, hone your writing practice or turn your focus on to a particular project.

We are running several international tours in 2023 and are working hard to create new and compelling travel opportunities for the following year. Be the first to learn of new tours by following us on social media and subscribing to our newsletter.

www.betterreadtours.com

tours@betterread.com.au



@betterreadtours

BOOKING

ENROL

If you would like to secure your place, please complete a booking enquiry form
- available on our website by clicking “Book Now” -

OR

COMPLETE attached form on page 17

EMAIL completed form, or any issues, to tours@betterread.com.au

POST to Better Read Bookshop, 265 King Street, Newtown NSW 2042.

For more information:

Jenny: 0475 761 717

www.betterreadtours.com

What happens when I send in a booking enquiry form?

A representative of Better Read Literary Tours will contact you via phone and email to discuss booking options. A place is offered and a tax invoice will be issued.

We will receipt your payment and issue a tax invoice showing your payment and any balance due.

Cancellation

If you need to cancel your booking all effort will be made to find a new participant to take your place. If a new participant can be found \$300 will be forfeited from your refund as an administration fee.

If your place cannot be filled your booking will remain and no refund will be given if less than 90 days until tour commencement. If you cancel more than 90 days prior to the start of the tour you will be eligible for a refund of 70% of the tour cost. All requests for cancellation of your booking and refund of funds must be made in writing.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all participants taking this tour. We recommend you organise your travel insurance at the time of booking.

T's & C's

Please read the following terms and conditions carefully as they form part of all bookings except to the extent approved by variation in writing approved by a director of Better Read Tours Pty Ltd ABN 16 621 237 885 (BRT).

Prices: All prices are subject to availability and can be withdrawn or amended at any time without notice. Price and inclusions valid on tour dates only.

Amendment/Cancellation Fees: We reserve the right to charge you for any amendment or cancellation made by you (regardless of the reason). These charges can be up to 100% of the cost of the booking, regardless of whether travel has commenced. BRT reserves the right to charge cancellation fees over and above those charged by wholesalers, tour operators, airlines, cruise companies, etc. Fees may also apply where a booking is changed or tickets are reissued.

Deposit & Final Payment: To secure your reservation you will be required to pay a deposit. The amount of the deposit is 50% of the total tour price, to be paid when the tour is confirmed. Your deposit forms part of your final payment which must be received by us before documents are issued. Final payment is required 30 days prior to the departure date. Subject to the Australian Consumer Law, the deposit is non refundable.

Travel Documents: Travel documents are subject to certain conditions and/or restrictions including restrictions on refunds, changes of dates and subject to cancellation and/or amendment fees. All travel documents are non transferable. All airline tickets must be issued in the identical name of the passport holder, as airlines are at liberty to deny carriage if the name varies and the booking may be cancelled. Any resulting fees will be at the traveller's own expense.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is strongly recommended by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for all overseas travel and is compulsory to participate in a Better Read Tours tour. We will be pleased to provide information to you about comprehensive travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance may not cover all potential losses.

Passports & Visas: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have valid passports, visas and re-entry permits which meet the requirements of immigration and other government authorities. Any fines, penalties, payments or expenditures incurred as a result of such documents not meeting the requirements of those authorities will be your sole responsibility. All travellers must have a valid passport for international travel and many countries require at least 6 months validity from the date of entry. If you need information regarding visa and other travel document requirements for your trip please let us know. We can obtain such information from an external visa advisory service provider on your behalf. We can obtain visas for you if you wish (additional fees may apply for this service). We do not warrant the accuracy of information or assistance provided by us. Subject to the Australian Consumer Law, we accept no liability for any loss or damage, which you may suffer in reliance on information or assistance provided by us.

Health: It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of any health requirements for your travel destinations, including those specific to Covid-19. You must carry all necessary vaccination and other medical documentation, and comply with any applicable health law, order or requirement reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of any of our suppliers, fellow travellers or yourself. Better Read Tours expects that you have achieved a good level of fitness prior to departure that enables you to comfortably walk up stairs and to walk reasonable distances with vigour.

Taxes: Certain taxes are mandatory in various countries. There may also be an additional local tax charged at some airports. All taxes are subject to change without notice. It is recommended that you visit the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs for all up to date information. www.smarttraveller.org.au

Fee & Charges: Credit card charges may apply.

Termination and variation: We reserve the right to vary or cancel the itinerary where reasonably required as a consequence of matters outside of our control (including for public health, civil unrest or other safety or economic reasons). In that event, we will provide a suitable similar experience or, if that is not possible, offer a credit or refund (at our election to the extent permitted by law). We also reserve the right to terminate your future participation in the itinerary where we have reasonable grounds for believing that your continuation provides a danger to our suppliers or other travellers. In this case (and subject to any law) we will only refund any amount that we can recover from suppliers for untaken parts of the tour.

Agency: BRT is a tour company and the travel supplier. We work to bring to you a unique travel experience. Better Read Tours will assist you in all possible areas should there be dissatisfaction with any service provided.

Liability: Subject to the Australian Consumer Law, we do not accept any liability of whatever nature for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise, of third party providers over whom we have no direct control. Under circumstances where liability cannot be excluded, such liability is limited to the value of the purchased travel arrangements to the extent permissible. To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss (including consequential loss), delay, additional expenses or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by any event or matter which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part.

Privacy Policy: Better Read Tours are committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal information.

Bookings: Better Read Tours reserve the right to refuse any booking at our sole discretion. No reason needs to be given for such refusal.

BETTER READ TOURS

Booking Enquiry Form

Thanks for booking with us. Better Read Tours will record your booking request and contact you via email to confirm. A Tax Invoice will be sent via email with payment options and the amount due.

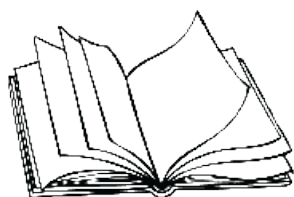
Your booking is not confirmed until we acknowledge that a deposit has been received. If you have additional accommodation requirements we are happy to advise you on who to enquire with but we do not make bookings outside of the dates for the selected travel experience. All bookings are subject to our terms and conditions.

When filling in this form, please ensure spelling is correct and your name is written as it is on your passport. Type directly on to the form or print out, scan and complete.

Please send the completed booking request via email to tours@betterread.com.au or post to Better Read Tours, C/-Better Read Bookshop, 265 King St Newtown NSW 2042. One form is to be completed per person.

We look forward to assisting you.

DATE OF ENQUIRY:		REQUESTED EXPERIENCE:	
TITLE:	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	
ADDRESS:			
STATE:	POSTCODE:	COUNTRY:	
STATE:		SECONDARY NUMBER:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:			
DOB:	WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR NEWSLETTERS? Y / N		
COMMENTS:			



TAKE THE JOURNEY