

Travel Writing Course with Mike Carter

Sat 27/Sun 28 September 2014

For all the advances in digital media, the written word remains the most evocative, emotive and entertaining way to capture the experience of travel.

This weekend workshop is for anyone who wants to learn how to write first-person travelogue pieces to a high standard. Through a series of lessons, discussions and practical exercises, including using great travel writers' work as a guide, Mike Carter will teach you how to structure a piece, write a compelling introduction, make a place come alive with your writing and avoid common pitfalls. There will also be a session focusing on how to pitch your ideas and work to newspaper and magazines.

Mike Carter has been travel writing for 10 years. He writes regularly for the Financial Times, Guardian and Observer newspapers, and had also written for the Sunday Times, Sunday Telegraph, Harper's Bazaar and Daily Express. He is the author of two travel books – *Uneasy Rider*, which won the 2008 Oldie Travel Book of the Year, and *One Man and his Bike*, published in 2011, which documented his 5,000 mile cycle ride around the entire coastline of Britain.

This course is for you if...

- You're a new writer wanting to turn your travel experiences into coherent narratives
- You're an experienced writer in another field wanting to explore the world of travel writing

Course description

Mike will hold a two day intensive travel writing workshop taking inspiration from lands near and far. This course mixes practical and theory sessions, carefully designed to help participants gain confidence in their writing and find their own style. Topics covered over the weekend include:

- How to write arguably the most important part of any travel story: a compelling, dynamic introduction that has the reader gripped
- How to use the "building blocks" of our travel experiences to create the main body of a piece
- How to avoid cliché
- Writing great dialogue
- Taking effective and useful notes
- Using everything we have learned to go out and find a travel story on our doorstep...

After the course has finished, participants have the opportunity, should they wish, to submit a 500-word piece to Mike for feedback.

Saturday: Destiny Café, Huntly

- 10.00 Welcome; course session 1
- 12.00 walk around Huntly town
- 13.00 lunch
- 14.00 course session
- 17.00 finish

Sunday: Tin Hut, Gartly

- 9.30 start Huntly Square, walk to Tin Hut, ca 1.5 hours walk over Clashmach Hill
- 11.00 Tin Hut writing session
- 13.00 lunch
- 16.00 finish (approx.) – minibus back

Tickets: £150, £100 for students. Price includes coffees, lunches and mini bus transfer.