

# Writers at Sea

[05 – 12 March 2023](#)

Carnival Luminosa, Port of Brisbane QLD 4178, Australia (Tina Only)

[22nd – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023](#)

Carnival Luminosa, Port of Brisbane QLD 4178, Australia (Alli and Tina)

Thank you so much for inquiring about this year's retreats. Join T.M. Clark and Alli Sinclair on a unique writing retreat as we sail around the South Pacific with Carnival Cruise Lines.

Suitable for writers with any degree of experience, the retreat includes workshops, writing sessions, feedback, and mentoring. There'll also be time to relax and gaze out at the azure ocean and endless blue sky, take in a show or game of trivia, read by one of the many pools, or undertake an on-shore adventure.

## Alli Sinclair



Alli is an author, film producer and screenwriter with books published by HarperCollins and translated into an array of languages. Alli has original screenplays and book adaptations in development and production for the screen, including her latest novel, *The Codebreakers*. Alli's vast storytelling experience across a range of mediums brings a unique angle to her workshops, giving students an opportunity to study storytelling on various levels and develop their craft while finding gems that will make their stories and characters shine.

## T.M. Clark



T.M. Clark presents workshops for community groups, including libraries and the Queensland Writers Centre. She also runs the CYA Conference, now in its 18th year, in Brisbane. T.M. Clark is published by HarperCollins, Wombat Books and Macmillan Education. Tina loves the writing process and has had to learn to 'like' the editing part — an activity that has helped in her mentoring others who don't really love the editing stage either

## RETREAT COSTS

The cost for all the workshops are:

- March cruise with T.M. Clark - \$1,000 p.p., with a 10% discount if booked before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- October cruise with Alli Sinclair & T.M. Clark - \$1,300.00 p.p., with a 10% discount if booked before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Please note the cost of the cruise is separate, see below.

### What's included in the retreat

All workshops on board, personal development sessions, a ten-page (2500 word) critique of your manuscript and one-page synopsis, a one-on-one one-hour mentoring session with Alli and Tina and the opportunity to talk about books and do your own writing, uninterrupted, for a whole week!

### What's not included in the retreat

- Transportation to or from Brisbane
- Cruise with Carnival Luminosa 8 days/7 nights (see details on how to book below)
- Travel insurance
- On-shore excursions
- Personal expenses while in port or on board
- Wi-fi
- Day spa
- Alcoholic beverages or soft drinks – Packages are available
- Tipping (it is not expected but is appreciated by Carnival staff)
- Laundry service (there is NO laundromat)
- \$ needed for the one night at speciality restaurant

### Interested in paying for the retreat in instalments?

You'll be given the option to spread the cost of the retreat over the coming months when you make your booking.

## CRUISE COSTS

You can book your cabin directly with our Carnival Cruise Line Elite Personal Holiday Planner (PHP):

Michael Matin

- 1800 073 489 Ext. 42444
- [MMatin@carnival.com](mailto:MMatin@carnival.com)

March cabins are currently on sale and selling fast.

October cabins are ready to be booked.

Please remember to tell him that you are with Writers At Sea, so that he can link you in as part of our group.

For the purpose of the retreat, there is no need for the cabins to be near each other as we'll be meeting in a designated space for workshops and meetings. So please choose the cabin that fits the best within your budget.

### Extra guests

You are welcome to bring along a guest who isn't attending the retreat. Please let our PHP know, as well as us.

### What's included on the cruise

- Accommodation in a cabin for eight days and seven nights on board the Carnival Luminosa (ex-Brisbane)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner at a restaurant or buffet designated as included in the cruise cost (visit the Carnival site for details )
- 24-hour food
- Onboard entertainment and most activities
- Access to gymnasium and pools (including a relaxing indoor-outdoor retreat just for adult guests.)

### What's not included on the cruise

As per the WAS Retreat What's Not Included section above, please see the Carnival Cruise site for their details.

## ITINERARY

Download the [March itinerary](#).

Download the [October itinerary](#).

Please note this may be adjusted if required.

## THINGS TO KNOW

- All bookings must be paid for before you can submit your pages to be assessed to us. The last date for assessments submission is:
  - March Cruise: 25<sup>th</sup> February
  - October Cruise: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- Our PHP will advise the deposit amount and when full payment is due as it will vary depending on price/closeness to the cruise departing time.
- You will need a valid passport with at least six months validity. Whilst the Writers at Sea PHP will check your passport and visa requirements, we encourage you to also ensure that your passport and visas are up-to-date.
- COVID Vaccinations – please refer to the Carnival Site for all Vaccinations requirements for COVID.
- You will need to arrive at Brisbane Cruise terminal before 4.00 pm to board the ship. Boarding times will vary depending on Carnival and will be advised by our PHP prior to departure.
- On the last day, we will arrive in Brisbane at approximately 8:00 am. Debarkation times vary. You will be asked to choose a debarkation time a few days prior to arriving in Brisbane.
- Swimming towels are available on board and can be swapped for fresh ones during the hours of pool operation
- Internet is available for a fee. If you book an internet package, the cost will be billed directly to your room. Please note the WIFI can be slow and is best used for email or social media as it is not likely to work well for Netflix, etc. There is no general free WIFI hot spot on the ship. We advise you to switch your phone to aeroplane mode to avoid costly cruise ship costs of calls.
- We suggest the buffet breakfast for workshop days, as the dining room can be slow but the option is there if you choose to utilise it.
- On workshop days we recommend that your lunch is taken in a buffet restaurant or from other little cafés on that deck. So you can enjoy an hour or so of sunshine too!
- We have opted for early dining. A group meal is the perfect chance to have a break after a productive day so you can debrief and get to know your fellow writers better. But it also means that people can easily take in evening shows or spend more time

after dinner writing. Sometimes you might need to leave before the meal is completed.

- When booking flights from Brisbane on the last day, please ensure your flight leaves no earlier than 3 pm due to the possibility of the ship arriving late (it doesn't happen often).
- You will need to bring a working laptop and writing materials. (Don't forget your charging cord and an international USA plug adapter.)
- Please remember to take out travel insurance (that covers Covid and cancellations) when you book your cabin. At the time of writing Carnival will not allow cruisers to board the ship without travel insurance.

## PORT DAYS

You are welcome to explore the ports – as part of the retreats are for relaxation too, for the mind and body! Alli has travelled to the Pacific many times so she can give you the best advice for you to make the most of your shore visit without spending too much money.

You can view the excursions you can take with Carnival (not included in your retreat price) once you have a cruise number and are logged into the Carnival website.

Please note that you don't have to get off the ship – this is your choice. You can always get off the ship and just do your own 'exploring', which doesn't cost you anything.

A small selection for tasters is below:

*These shore excursions below are correct at the time of compilation. We have yet to find an actual cost and will update you when we do. Please note that they have to be booked directly with PHP or on the Carnival site under their booking conditions on your login page.*

## LIFOU ISLE, NEW CALEDONIA

A Lifou Isle cruise allows you to experience a land of scenic contrast and natural beauty. As part of New Caledonia's Loyalty Island, a cruise to Lifou Isle means enjoying one of the most beautiful places in the South Pacific. Crystal-clear waters, white sands, and coral reefs are only part of the story. Take a Lifou Isle cruise and enjoy the stunning local fare, amazing guided tours, and views to die for. On a Lifou Isle cruise in the South Pacific Islands, you can swim with the very friendly fish in the marine reserve, visit the secret grotto, and enjoy everything the tropical paradise has to offer.

- Visit the Cliffs of Jokin.
- Hike through tropical vegetation.
- Snorkel in the marine reserve.
- Tour the vanilla plantation.

## MYSTERY ISLAND, VANUATU

Ever wanted to visit an uninhabited deserted island and spend the day shut away from the rest of the world? Well, a Mystery Island cruise might be just the thing. Mystery Island is part of Vanuatu and is a remote island only visited by cruise ships. But just because no one lives there doesn't mean there's not a lot to do on a cruise to Mystery Island from Sydney or Brisbane. The small island came to fame when Queen Elizabeth II visited in the 1970s, and since then has been a great place for people to get away from it all. Beautiful beaches, crystal clear waters, and some of the best snorkelling in the region means a Mystery Island cruise is a must-do. Discover the mystery of the South Pacific Islands on a Vanuatu cruise with Carnival.

- Walk on the white sands.
- Take a snorkelling tour.
- See the sea life in a glass-bottom boat.
- Enjoy the regional culture.

## NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

Every time is the best time to cruise to Noumea, and not just because it has more sunshine days than any other Pacific Island capital. Noumea is the capital of New Caledonia, and a New Caledonia cruise from Sydney or Brisbane allows you to enjoy all the delicious offerings of the Paris of the Pacific. A Noumea cruise is everything you love about a visit to the South Pacific Islands – white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters, and stunning culture. But visiting Noumea on a South Pacific Islands cruise is more than that. On a Noumea cruise, you can enjoy the hustle and bustle of a thriving South Pacific island city and the fusion of French and Melanesian flavours.

- Snorkel the clear waters.
- Wonder in the Grand Terre.
- Enjoy the city centre.
- Take in the Kanak culture.
- Swim at Lemon Bay beach.

## MOBILE PHONES ON-BOARD

Mobile phone reception is available on board. A compatible mobile phone and a service plan capable of roaming internationally with Maritime Communications Partners (AS) are required. Make sure you check with your service provider for applicable charges before you depart.

## DISCLAIMER

While all speakers and tutors have confirmed their appearance, no responsibility can be accepted for any changed circumstances which are beyond our control.

## MINIMUM NUMBER OF GUESTS

If you are travelling alone and would like to reduce costs by twin sharing, we will endeavour to pair you with another participant. There are no guarantees we can do so but we will do our utmost best.

## REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

### CRUISE REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS

Please speak to Michael Martin, our PHP when you make your booking for the refund and cancellation policy of the cruise costs.

### RETREAT REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS

The refunds or cancellation charges that will be payable depend on the amount of notice you give us, as follows:

Days Prior	Cancellation Charges
181 days or more	No charge
180-76 days	\$50.00
75-43 days	25% of the retreat cost
42-15 days	50% of the retreat cost
14 days or less	No refunds will be possible in the last two weeks before the retreat

## PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO & SOUND PERMISSION

A photographer with video equipment will be in attendance at Writers at Sea. The purchase of a ticket implies permission to use the photos and videos taken for archival and marketing purposes.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For further information about the workshops and a detailed itinerary, contact us.

If you would like to talk to us, please send your phone number to [info.writersatsea@gmail.com](mailto:info.writersatsea@gmail.com) and the best time to call.

We look forward to seeing you on board for a week of creativity, learning and fun!

See you at sea!

Alli & Tina

[Info.writersatsea@gmail.com](mailto:Info.writersatsea@gmail.com)

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