

DESCANSO CREATIVES 2020 FRANCE RETREAT

September 13th – 20th, 2020

Payment Process and Timetable, and Travel Considerations

DEPOSIT AND REFUND POLICY AND TIMETABLE:

Your place with Descanso Creatives Writers' Retreat 2020 France Retreat is secure with receipt of **your deposit and application by December 15th, 2019.**

Please send your \$1000 deposit by personal check **made out to "Descanso Creatives"** with "France 2020 Retreat" in the Memo line, along with the signed registration form to:

Eileen S. Morgan, Ph.D.
112 Overlook Circle
Wimberley, TX 78676

For credit card deposits and fees, a 4% processing fee will be applied. Please email Chick Morgan (chick@thevortexas.com) to arrange payment by credit card.

Because of non-refundable commitments to our hotel and other vendors, deposits are not refundable **after February 1st, 2020.** Before February 1st, there is a \$100 processing fee.

Final Payment is due by check or credit card June 1st, 2020 when we must be in receipt of your final balance.

Payment Summary/Recap:

December 15th, 2019 : Initial deposit and application due (\$1000)

February 1st, 2020 : Initial deposit non-refundable (minus \$100)

June 1st, 2020 : Final Balance Due

WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE OUT TRAVEL INSURANCE

However, please wait until we tell you that we are depositing your \$1000 deposit check or charging your credit card to purchase your insurance. If the retreat cancels for any reason (natural disaster, political disturbance, etc.) or you think you may need to cancel for ANY reason, please take out travel insurance. Travel insurance must be purchased to guarantee a refund if anything unexpected occurs prohibiting you from making the trip after we deposit your \$1000 deposit. Most insurance companies require purchase no later than 21 days after depositing your initial payment. There are many travel insurance companies from which to choose. Suggestions include:

Allianz Travel Insurance: 1-866-884-3556

Travel Guard: 1-800-826-4919

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance!

AIR TRAVEL TO DESTINATION

Why don't we book your air travel? We do not book your air travel for a variety of reasons:

- Our retreats attract experienced travelers who prefer to book their own travel for a variety of reasons:
 - Participants want to add pre-retreat or post-retreat personal travel and figure out their own itinerary

- Participants often like to use their own frequent flyer miles or other premium programs
- Participants have various travel sites or discount travel companies they prefer to use and are comfortable with
- However, if you would like to use the services of an experienced travel agent, Descanso Creatives can recommend several travel companies with experience in international travel and with whom we are personally familiar. Just let Chick Morgan (chick@thevortexas.com) know and we will forward their information.

TRIP FORMS, OBLIGATIONS, AND RISKS:

Please understand that to keep costs down, and because it may be unobtainable in any event, Descanso Creatives has no protection coverage beyond the basic package included in the retreat price to protect itself, the retreat staff, or other participants, and that group members intentionally assume the many risks inherent in non-US travel. Therefore, ***all participants are required to sign and return a Release and Waiver Agreement prior to the beginning of the retreat.*** Any pre-existing physical, mental, or emotional disability that may require attention or treatment must be reported when completing the Descanso application/registration form..

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being strenuously active, this retreat ranges from 1-3. Easy to moderate hiking/walking may be required for those who wish to participate walking around villages or vineyards.

SMOKING:

No smoking is permitted in our vehicles, the hotel, or during group meals. If smoking outside, please remain a respectful distance from others.

INSTRUMENTS:

Not surprisingly, Descanso Creatives who are attracted to our retreats are often musicians as well. You are welcomed and encouraged to bring your own instruments to participate in the relaxed after dinner sharing we enjoy. Even if you do not play an instrument but wish to offer some songs, we'd love to encourage you. If you wish to participate, please let us know, and Dirje, our Musician in Residence, will be in touch to be sure your needs are met. We are endeavoring to secure a keyboard on site. Other instruments are deeply encouraged and will need to be brought over at participants' expense.