

BOUND  
retreats

# Wanderlust

*A Travel Writing Retreat in Chettinad*

Venue Partner

cgh earth  
experience hotels

16 – 21 September, 2025

Visalam, Chettinad

Spend **6** days exploring the architectural splendour, artisan communities, and fiery cuisine in the enchanting heritage village of Kanadukathan with two prolific travel writers: **Chandrabhas Chaudhury** and **Joanna Lobo**.

# The Art of Travel Writing

To travel well is to witness. To write well is to distil that witnessing into something lasting. This retreat is for those who want to do both with elegance, honesty, and a unique perspective.

You will learn to observe like a writer: noticing the small and the strange, the intimate, and the wild. In the company of mentors and fellow seekers, you'll step into the world of professional travel writing armed with new tools, fresh perspectives, and the quiet confidence of a story well told.



## How it Works

**16** talented and promising writers are handpicked for the retreat through our application process on a rolling basis.

**FILL THE APPLICATION FORM HERE**



Selected participants are contacted via email. They share drafts of what they will be working on during the retreat.

Each participant is assigned a mentor who reads their work and gives them one-on-one feedback and mentorship.

Our mentors will conduct workshops paired with immersive experiences designed to develop the participants' observational, writing and editing skills.

Participants can revise their work in real time based on the mentors' advice and feedback received from peers.

Open to writers of all levels and formats!



# Retreat Highlights

Every aspect of the retreat is carefully planned to help you recharge your social, physical, mental, and creative batteries.

**Immersive experiences and local interactions to inspire your next travel piece.**

**Workshops on advanced techniques to develop and polish your pieces.**

**Personalised one-on-one mentorship sessions with bestselling authors.**

**Share strengths with fellow participants in feedback and editing sessions.**

**Ignite your imagination with curated experiences to spark your creativity.**

**Resources to build your travel writing career and portfolio.**

**Build lifelong relationships with fellow writers.**

**THE OUTCOME: YOU LEAVE WITH ALL THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL WRITER!**





# Meet the Mentors

Joanna Lobo has been **a journalist for 17 years**, having worked with DNA, Hindustan Times, and Middy.

She has **written travel stories for Indian and international publications** such as Condé Nast Traveller India, Lonely Planet, Mint Lounge, Esquire, National Geographic Traveller, Travel and Leisure India, Vogue, Forbes, Gastro Obscura, Adventure, Fodors, The Nod, Outlook Traveller, and more.

She is a guidebook author too, having worked on the **Goa section of Lonely Planet's latest India guidebook**. Currently, she is the **Consulting Editor at Goya Media**, sharing and shaping conversations around food.

## JOANNA LOBO

**Acclaimed Freelance Writer and Editor**



## CHANDRAHAS CHOUDHURY

**Renowned Novelist and Travel Writer**

Chandrahas Choudhury has been **a travel writer for over 15 years**, and writes regularly on travel for Conde Nast Traveler, The Wall Street Journal, and Travel and Leisure.

He has written about the candomble Afro-Brazilian religious tradition of Brazil, medieval football games in rural England, and about travelling around India in summer in search of its lesser-known mangoes. He won **a gold medal in the 2018 North American Travel Journalists Association (NATJA) awards** for his essay "Mumbai by Night." He is also the editor of the anthology, India: A Traveller's Literary Companion (2010).

Chandrahas has also **produced five books** published by Simon & Schuster and HarperCollins, including the novel Arzee the Dwarf, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth First Book Award.



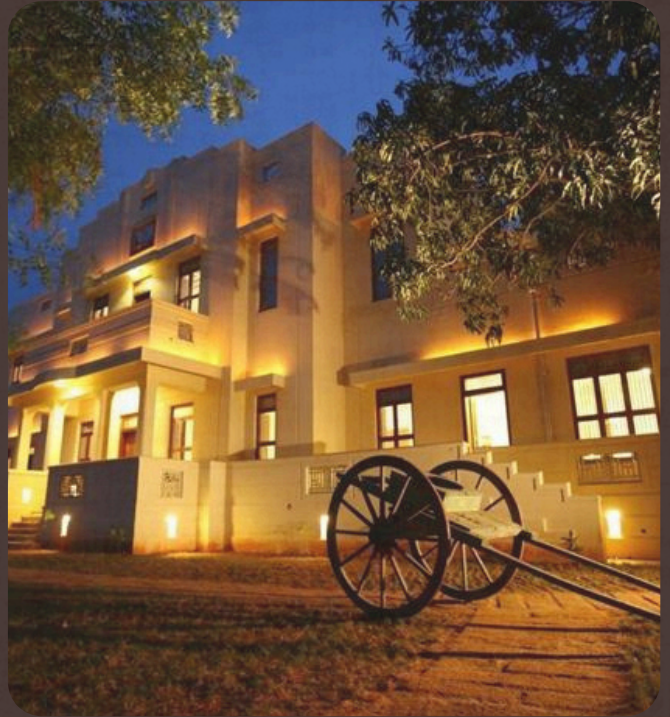
# THE VENUE



Not just a backdrop,  
but part of the story

Visalam remains unexplored in  
tourism and writing.

The mansion carries generations of  
family legacy, built by a father for  
his eldest daughter in 1939.  
Visalam is named for the person it  
was intended to go to: Visalakshi.



Now, 70 years in the future, Visalam still  
stands with its original bones, lovingly  
restored with the same materials and  
accoutrements.

Every corner of this space reflects  
history: in its architecture, its recipes, its  
way of life. It offers the perfect balance of  
solitude and creative energy for writers  
seeking depth and authenticity.



Just outside its doors, you'll find a vibrant  
community of artisans, offering real  
texture and context for your writing.



# What is Included

- 6 days and 5 nights stay at Visalam (double occupancy)
- 3 wholesome meals with a few aromatic Chettinad cuisine options (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- Tea and coffee for literary sustenance



- 10 hours of workshops with our expert travel writers
- One-on-one personalized feedback session with a mentor
- 4 hours of peer feedback sessions
- Immersive excursions and writing exercises to hone your craft

- Collaborative activities to boost creativity and quiet time to develop your WIPs
- Access to Bound's writing community of 162 past retreat participants, curated by us over the last 5 years
- Curated goodie bag and a Bound Certificate for every writer

## What is Not Included

- Flight tickets and airport transfers
- Extra food orders or drinks including alcoholic beverages
- Costs for additional activities planned by the participants

**Cost to attend: Rs 85,000**  
(excl. taxes)

**[FILL THE APPLICATION FORM HERE](#)**

If your application is selected, a deposit of Rs. 20,000 is required to reserve your seat.

For more details, including a day-by-day curriculum, reach out to us at:  
[academy@boundindia.com](mailto:academy@boundindia.com).

