

## 'Beautiful locations to learn in': readers' favourite creative breaks

### Level 1: Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

a. Which holiday activities do you enjoy?

- ☐ trying different foods
- ☐ doing sports
- ☐ shopping
- ☐ meeting new people
- ☐ learning about cultures
- ☐ reading books
- ☐ being in nature
- ☐ taking photos
- ☐ relaxing
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Key words

a. Choose the correct word to match each definition. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

1. a party or meeting with a big group of people
  - a. gathering
  - b. scenery
  - c. landscape
2. an important change or improvement in a person or thing
  - a. mythology
  - b. nostalgic
  - c. transformation
3. something or someone that gives you good ideas
  - a. retreat
  - b. inspiration
  - c. tranquil
4. special and different from everyone or everything else
  - a. scenery
  - b. unique
  - c. mythology

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5. a quiet place to relax or have a holiday in nature
  - a. nostalgic
  - b. tranquil
  - c. retreat
6. ancient myths from a particular society or culture
  - a. landscape
  - b. mythology
  - c. unique
7. feeling both happy and sad about past memories
  - a. nostalgic
  - b. scenery
  - c. gathering
8. the look of natural places, especially beautiful natural places
  - a. inspiration
  - b. transformation
  - c. scenery
9. quiet, calm and peaceful
  - a. gathering
  - b. tranquil
  - c. retreat
10. everything you can see when you look at a large area of land
  - a. nostalgic
  - b. unique
  - c. landscape

#### b. Complete the sentences with words from the previous activity.

1. Many people feel \_\_\_\_\_ when they look at old family photos.
2. I took photos of the beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ on my holiday in Brazil.
3. Gio loves the beach at night. It's relaxing and very \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sia studied Greek \_\_\_\_\_ at university.
5. My cousin loves fashion. She has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ style.
6. We're going to a yoga \_\_\_\_\_ in the mountains.

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#### Guardian readers

30 May, 2025

- 1 **Wider Horizons** is an outdoor gathering in Berkshire. Young people (18 to 30 years old) do creative activities like workshops, music, ceremonies and movement. An important part of the weekend is transformation. The poetry workshops used the woodlands as inspiration. I didn't use my phone and my mind was quiet. From the silence, the words came out of me like rainfall. The 2025 event is from 22-28 July. The full price is 250.

**Jade Serna**

- 2 **Trigonos** is a beautiful and unique retreat centre in Eryri (Snowdonia). Its seven hectares (18 acres) include a tranquil lake. The setting is an important landscape in old Welsh mythology. Storytellers Cath Little and Claire Mace led a weekend workshop for women here. I learned new ideas, improved my own storytelling, and made wise new friends. Activities such as yoga, weaving, cycling and forest bathing are also offered at Trigonos.

**Fiona Collins**

- 3 **At Gladstone's Library**, you spend hours reading and writing in a nostalgic book-filled space. Upstairs, you can dream in the book-themed bedrooms. Rooms start at 96 pounds a night, which includes a delicious on-site breakfast, access to reading rooms and use of a common-room style lounge, with fires and sofas. The UK's only residential library is perfect for creative people looking to rest, write, read and be.

**Rosie Blincow**

- 4 **The Solway Firth** landscape painting weeks at Auchencairn House has inspirational scenery of the coast and a wonderful garden. There are excellent and tutors and friendly hosts. Breathe the calm by day, relax with formal home dining and just paint. The next course starts on 15 June.

**Anne**

- 5 I have been on two photography holidays with **Creative Escapes**. I visited Sicily and Japan. The company only takes small groups and its tutors are experienced photographers. They give individual help. There were beginners and experienced photographers on the trips but we all supported each other in the projects and feedback sessions. Beautiful locations for learning and special memories.

**Sharon**

- 6 I visited **Sylvia's Plath's grave**. We stayed at Ted Hughes's old house up the road on top of a West Yorkshire valley. We learned the joys of creative nonfiction writing on an Arvon retreat. Over the week, we shared writing and cooking skills while dining at Ted's table every evening. That holiday started my love of creative writing. Arvon has three "writing houses" – in Yorkshire, Shropshire and Devon. Five-day courses start at 895 pounds.

**Kate**

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#### 3 Comprehension check

##### a. Decide if the statements are True or False.

1. Wider Horizons is a special event for people in their 40s, 50s and 60s. True / False
2. Trigonos offers activities related to sport, art and storytelling. True / False
3. Gladstone's Library is one of many residential libraries in the UK. True / False
4. Gladstone's Library has reading rooms and themed bedrooms. True / False
5. Creative Escapes takes people on international holidays, but only in Europe. True / False
6. The author learned new things from other people on her Creative Escapes holidays. True / False
7. Arvon retreats are for people who want to learn about photography and painting. True / False

#### 4 Key language

##### a. Complete the table with the correct forms of the words.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
gathering	1. _____	---
2. _____	3. _____	creative
transformation	4. _____	transformative
inspiration	5. _____	6. _____
silence	silent	7. _____

##### b. Choose the correct form of the words from the previous activity to complete the sentences.

1. My friends always **gather / gathering** in the park on my birthday.
2. The artist is **creative / create** and intelligent.
3. The toy can **transformation / transform** from a car into a superhero.
4. My parents **inspire / inspirational** me in many ways.
5. The library was busy, but it was **silence / silent**.

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#### 5 Discussion

**a. Discuss these questions.**

- How often should people go on holiday?
- Do you like to go on holiday alone or with friends or family?
- Do you like to go on holiday in your own country or a different country?

#### 6 In your own words

**a. Research online to find out about a tour company that offers educational experiences. Make a poster to share information about the holiday.**

- Where is it?
- When is it?
- How much does it cost?
- What can people do?
- What can people learn?

**b. Share your poster with your classmates.**