

5th edition

The Poetry Retreat

26 - 31 March, 2025



The Poetry Retreat is a unique residency designed for poets from anywhere in the world, and at any stage of their poetry journey.

The idea is to retreat from the cacophony of life and allow yourself the space and quiet to write - to share your words with peers who are on a similar journey as you and lastly to receive feedback and guidance from mentors who have years of expertise.

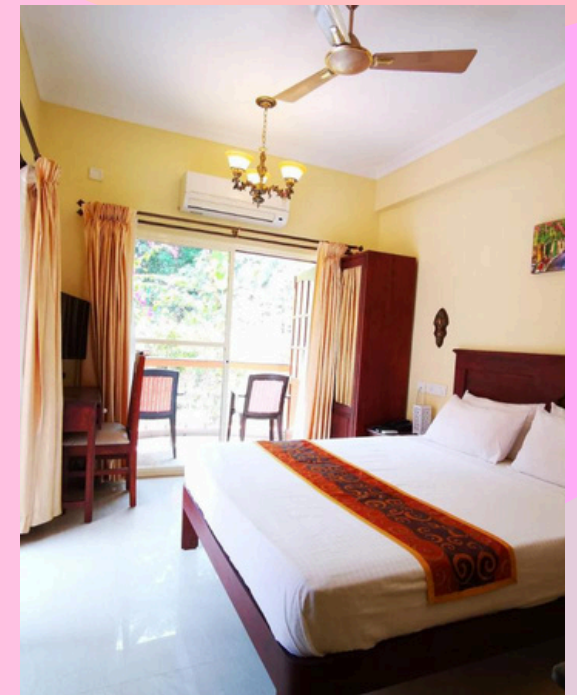
What's included:

- Accommodation & food for 5 nights and 6 days.
- One-on-one discussions and feedback with the facilitators.
- Two poetry mentors - page poetry & spoken word.
- A facilitator for movement & performance.
- Guidance on writing/performing & publishing poetry.
- Poetry walks and dips in the sea to help your creativity flow.
- A poetry kit with all the essentials.
- Poetry prompts, exercises and tools.
- A public performance to showcase your skills.



Each poet will be housed in a private room with a King size bed, writing desk and balcony.

The resort is located in Velsao, South Goa.



Contact 7715871600

Email: thepoetryretreat@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.thepoetryretreat.com/>



Velsao

Located at a distance of 25 km from the capital city Panaji, Velsao is located on the southern coast of the state.

The resort is tucked away, and surrounded by vegetation. It is a 15 min walk to the beach, or poets can borrow one of the many cycles to go exploring.

GETTING HERE:

There are two airports in Goa

- MOPA (1 hr 15 min away)
- Dabolim Airport (20 mins away)

Closest train station

- Madgaon Railway Station (30 mins away)

Cabs

- Prepaid taxi from the airport
- Goa Miles app



Mentors



Shaun Williams draws from his rich 20-year experience having trained under senior drama professionals such as Prabhat Bhaskaran, Sankar Venkateswaran, and Heisnam Tomba. Whether it is Improv Comedy or Kalaripayattu, Butoh or Clowning, ensemble theatre or physical theatre, they have all shaped his knowledge and expertise in acting as well as teaching.



Vinita Agrawal has authored six books of poetry. She is the recipient of the Jayanta Mahapatra National Award for Literature 2024, the Proverse Prize Hongkong 2021, the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2018 and the Gayatri GaMarsh Memorial Award for Literary Excellence, USA, 2015. She co-edits the Yearbook series of Indian Poetry in English. She was former Poetry Editor with Usawa Literary Review. She is on the Advisory Board of the Tagore Literary Prize.



Rochelle Dsilva is a Spoken Word poet based in Goa. She has performed at numerous literary festivals and on stages across India, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Nepal. She has three spoken word albums and a solo collection of poems, 'When Home Is An Idea'. She founded 'The Poetry Retreat' in Goa in 2019, to provide mentorship to poets serious about writing. Rochelle is also a trained mental health counsellor.

Registration

The Poetry Retreat is open to anyone who is interested, on a first-come basis. We believe anyone should be able to attend and benefit from the residency.

Fill [this form](#) to register.

Cost of the Residency

- Rs 55,000/- incl GST for Indian residents.
- USD 800/- incl GST for International poets.

If you need to avail of a payment plan - a deposit of 22,000 INR or 300 USD will have to be paid to reserve a spot.

*The balance amount will have to be paid by 10th March. 100% of the deposit is retained if the booking is cancelled after 6th March.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Poets who are just starting out, or experienced poets who need the space to write.
- Poets who are working on a manuscript.
- Those who need to hone their writing skills.
- Anyone looking for a community of peers and the opportunity to learn from skilled mentors.
- Those who have not yet experienced the transformative experience of a residency.



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