

The Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing 2026

Terms and Conditions

1. THE AWARD

1.1 The Award consists of a Prize of £10,000 to be awarded by Sherborne Literary Society to the author, meeting the entry conditions and eligibility criteria, whose book is judged to best meet the Prize Criteria (as set out in term 3.1).

1.2 The Prize of £10,000 will be presented to the author at the closing event of the 2026 Sherborne Travel Writing Festival.

1.3 As a condition of receiving the Prize the winning author agrees to give a public talk on their book at the 2026 Sherborne Travel Writing Festival.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The Award is open to British and European nationals and residents. Proof of nationality and/or residency may be requested of shortlisted writers.

2.2 Only non-fiction (including creative non-fiction) travel books published for the first time in English in 2024 or 2025 will be accepted.

2.3 Entries may be submitted by the author's publisher or literary agency only. No more than two entries per publisher's imprint and only one per literary agency will be accepted.

2.4 No more than one book per author may be submitted.

2.5 "Publisher" or "literary agency" means an established publishing house or agency that publishes or represents different authors and - in the case of publishers - that produces titles with an ISBN and distributes them through established retail outlets.

2.6 Self-published books are not acceptable.

2.7 Submitted books must, and by submission of the Entry Form is warranted to: (i) be original and entirely the author's own work; (ii) not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party; (iii) not be defamatory of any living person or corporate body.

2.8 By submitting the Entry Form the entrant warrants that they or the book submitted will not bring the Sherborne Literary Society into disrepute. Breach of any of this warranty will result in disqualification of the entry.

2.9 A book that was published and/or is entered posthumously will not be eligible for the Award.

2.10 The use of generative AI tools to create or develop any part of an entry is not permitted and will lead to disqualification.

2.11 Sherborne Literary Society acts on behalf on an anonymous donor as administrator for the Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing.

2.12 Sherborne Literary Society accepts no responsibility for liability or any consequence arising from disregard by entrants of these Terms and Conditions.

2.13 Entrants agree to indemnify the Society against any claim by any third party from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.

3. JUDGING

3.1 The judges of the Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing will be looking for the best work published for the first time in English in 2024 or 2025 which encourages understanding between peoples and across societies. As well as the boldness of the author's ambition and the quality of writing, emphasis will be placed on books that enable readers to cross borders and so to draw together – on the page at least – our divided worlds.

3.2 All eligible entries will initially be read and judged by readers against the prize criteria and guidelines set by the Award team. Readers will be from a mixture of backgrounds, with literary expertise. A long-list of up to 25 books will then be put forward to the judging panel.

3.3 In early 2026 a shortlist will be published.

3.4 The winning author will be notified by email once the judges' decision has been reached.

3.5 The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

3.6 The judging will be fair and independent. The judging panel will be appointed by the Award team. All judges will be required to declare any personal and/or financial interests in relation to any entrants.

4. COPYRIGHT AND TERMS OF USE

4.1 Copyright remains with the author (and/or publisher/agent).

4.2 Authors agree that their name and photograph may be used for publicity purposes around the Award.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION

5.1 To enter, an Entry Form must be completed online at www.sherbornetravelwritingprize.com **no later than 30th September 2025**. Hand-delivered or posted entries will not be accepted. The accompanying entry fee of £50 per book must be paid to Sherborne Literary Society in accordance with the Entry Instructions for value **on or before 30th September 2025**.

5.2 Three (3) copies of submitted books are to be posted or couriered at the submitter's expense to the Sherborne Prize for Travel Writing in accordance with the Entry Instructions at the address stated therein to arrive **no later than 30th September 2025**.

5.3 All entries shall be acknowledged electronically on submission. Apart from that, the Award team will not acknowledge receipt of entries, entry fees or submitted books and does not accept any responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt. If possible, entrants should use a form of recorded delivery for submitted books.

5.4 The Award team may undertake social media checks of entrants to the Award. Entrants warrant they have not acted or omitted to act in a manner that will bring Sherborne Literary Society into disrepute.

5.5 In submitting a book, the author's publisher or agent confirms that they have secured the author's agreement that the author will attend the Award ceremony in Sherborne, Dorset on **12th April 2026** (date is subject to change), and will also undertake a mutually acceptable limited programme of activities to promote the Award particularly immediately after the announcement.

5.6 The winner will be reimbursed for reasonable travel costs, associated with attending the Award ceremony, from their normal place of residence and provided with one night's accommodation in Sherborne. No fee or other amounts shall be paid.

5.7 The entrant agrees that they will contribute to publicity and promotional activities, including events, for all media in perpetuity.

5.8 The Award team and Sherborne Literary Society reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions and/or cancel the Award at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. In such an event, books will not be returned and entry fees will not be refunded.

5.9 The Award team reserves the right to refuse entry to the Award for any reason at its absolute discretion.

5.10 References throughout to "the Award team" refer to such persons as are appointed by Sherborne Literary Society to administer the Award.

5.11 These rules and the entry submitted in accordance with them shall constitute a contract governed by the exclusive laws and the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

5.12 Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this Award.

6. OTHER

6.1 Sherborne Literary Society is a charitable organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under number 1168489 and based in Sherborne, Dorset, UK.

6.2 The Sherborne Travel Writing Festival is an annual literary festival organised by Sherborne Literary Society and held at The Powell Theatre, Abbey Road, Sherborne. **The dates for 2026 are 10th-12th April** (subject to change if considered necessary by Sherborne Literary Society.)