



## Eight Places Certified Bookworms Should Visit for World Book Day

April 17, 2019

Tour these renowned authors' hometowns

SINGAPORE, April 17, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Books can take one to new and exciting places—completely new worlds, even. This World Book Day (23 April 2019), [Agoda](#) highlights eight places to go for a literary adventure. Trace the roots of these famous authors by stopping by their hometowns -- some of which have inspired their most seminal works.



### Here are some must-visit spots for book-lovers roaming around Asia...

#### 1. Kobe, Japan

*Literary Hero:* Haruki Murakami

*Notable works:* "Kafka on the Shore" and "1Q84" available from Shinchosha

*Must-see attractions:* Ikuta Shrine, Arima Onsen, Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge

Murakami grew up in Kobe, where a few of his stories, such as his debut novel "Hear the Wind Sing", are set. Murakami's works have surreal elements, often with melancholic themes which in some ways, is reflective of the quiet beauty to be found in the many serene shrines and breathtaking nature scenery in the small seaside city. Internalize the relaxing minimalist side of Kobe when you stay at [Arimakoyado Hataya Ryokan](#).

#### 2. Camarines Norte, Philippines

*Literary Hero:* Ricky Lee

*Notable works:* "Para kay B" available from Philippine Writers' Studio Foundation

*Must-see attractions:* Calaguas Islands, Apuao Grande Island, Bagasbas Beach

More than his novel "Para kay B," Ricky Lee's body of work encompasses screenwriting and playwriting. He has worked with revered Filipino directors like Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal and has even published a screenplay manual called "Trip to Quiapo" which has since been a staple resource for communication colleges in the Philippines.

Visit Lee's hometown of Camarines Norte in the central Bicol region of the Philippines and enjoy its beautiful beaches like those on Apuao Grande Island and the Calaguas group of islands. Keep comfy by making [One Platinum Hotel](#) your home base while in the area.

### If you're in the Americas, head to...

#### 3. New York, USA

*Literary Hero:* Jenny Han

*Notable works:* "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" available from Simon & Schuster

*Must-see attractions:* Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Broadway

Though Han originally came from Virginia, her time in New York shaped her career as a young adult fiction writer. Book the cozy [Jun New York Midtown III](#) apartment, and feel right at home when you take a break from all of that sight-seeing.

#### 4. Aracataca, Colombia

*Literary Hero:* Gabriel García Márquez

*Notable works:* "One Hundred Years of Solitude" available from HarperCollins, "Love in the Time of Cholera" available from Penguin Classics

*Must-see attractions:* Casa Museo, Casa del Telegrafista

The municipality of Aracataca is built along the river of the same name and boasts Nobel Prize winner for literature Gabriel García Márquez as one of its sons. The village of Macondo in García Márquez's celebrated novel, "One Hundred Years of Solitude" is fashioned after Aracataca. Take a day trip out to explore García Márquez's reconstructed childhood home-turned-museum and the Casa del Telegrafista, then settle down at the [charming Agoda Home in Parque Los Novios](#) in the nearby city of Santa Marta, where you can also visit Colombia's famous Tayrona National Natural Park.

**If you're venturing to Europe, then consider visiting...**

#### **5. Edinburgh, Scotland**

*Literary Hero:* J.K. Rowling

*Notable works:* The "Harry Potter" series available from Bloomsbury

*Must-see attractions:* Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Dynamic Earth, Underground Edinburgh, The Scotch Whisky Experience

Potterheads, unite! While Rowling was born in Yates, England, it was during her time in Edinburgh that she wrote most of the Harry Potter books. Check out the cafes where she was said to have spent her time writing, and check in at the stylish [Radisson Collection Hotel, Royal Mile Edinburgh](#).

#### **6. Florence, Italy**

*Literary Hero:* Dante Alighieri

*Notable works:* "The Divine Comedy" and "Vita Nuova" available from Penguin Classics

*Must-see attractions:* Church Santa Margherita dei Cerchi (Dante's church), Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria and Loggia dei Lanzi

Considered to be the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence is the capital of Italian culture, and where poet Dante met the love of his life, Beatrice. She had inspired some of his greatest works including "Vita Nuova" and "The Divine Comedy". Tour this romantic Tuscan City, and perhaps you can find your muse too!

[Domux Home Repubblica](#) offers accommodations that balance modern living with that classic Italian charm.

**And if you're going on holiday in the Middle East, then don't forget to add these to your itinerary...**

#### **7. Istanbul, Turkey**

*Literary Hero:* Orhan Pamuk

*Notable works:* "Snow" and "The Museum of Innocence" available from Faber & Faber

*Must-see attractions:* Museum of Innocence, The Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Museum

Pamuk was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006 and holds the prestige of being the first Turkish Nobel laureate. His stories are very much grounded in Turkish culture and politics. He also established an actual Museum of Innocence based on his eponymous novel. For a truly delightful Turkish stay, book your room at [Fer Hotel](#).

#### **8. Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

*Literary Hero:* Mohammad Al-Murr

*Notable works:* "Dubai Tales" and "The Wink of the Mona Lisa" available from Motivate Publishing

*Must-see attractions:* Burj Khalifa, Palm Jumeirah

Born in Dubai, award-winning short story-writer Mohammad Al-Murr has published over 10 collections of his short stories. The aptly titled "Dubai Tales" is one such compilation that captures life in Dubai—one that toes the line between modern thinking and a strong sense of pride for tradition. This [gorgeous 2BR apartment at The Residences by Emaar](#) features a majestic view of the Burj Khalifa in all its over 2,700-foot glory and will make for the perfect accommodation choice while you're in Dubai.

#### **About Agoda**

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