



Workshops in *Wild Places*

PAINTING ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

Orkney Island Retreat

April 29 – May 10, 2024

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

WorldwideQuest
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This journey to the magical isle of Orkney in Scotland, is a unique combination of travel and retreat, painting and walking, nature and archaeology. It is an immersion in one of the world's most inspirational landscapes, with an 8500 year-old history of human occupation, older than the pyramids, older than Stonehenge We'll stay on Mainland, meeting up in Kirkwall where we'll spend 4 nights, going on excursions to visit some of the best known Neolithic sites: Maeshowe, Skara Brae Neolithic Village, Ring of Brogdar. Then we'll head to Birsay in the north of Orkney to stay at the remote Linkshouse, a recently renovated artist residency right on the North Sea for 7 quiet days of painting, visiting the nearby tidal island, the Brough of Birsay. We'll take time off to visit the town of Stromness, the other major town on Orkney. It has always been known as a safe harbour in Viking times, the town boomed in the late 17th century when whaling fleets and ships from the Hudson Bay Company regularly anchored. We'll spend some time at the Pier Arts Centre which houses an important collection of British Art.

Along the way, we'll be gathering inspiration from the earth and sea around us, recording impressions in our journals and sketch books, doing walking meditations, painting exercises and having deep discussions about connecting to the earth, creating paintings from that connection.



WORKSHOP LEADER

Janice Mason Steeves has an MA in Clinical Psychology from the University of Manitoba. Leaving the field of Psychology, in her 30s, she became a visual artist and later a painting instructor, training at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. She has exhibited her work widely in Canada and the US and has paintings in collections in Canada, the US, the UK, Iceland and Ireland. She has taught painting workshops across Canada and the US, Iceland, Spain Scotland, and Lapland in Sweden. Inspired by personal travels and connection with place, in 2018, she founded Workshops in Wild Places, where she takes groups of artists to remote locations in the world to connect with nature and then, through a contemplative process, teaches them to translate that connection into abstract paintings.

“I knew I had no future with someone who didn’t feel the lure of the islands, their peculiar blend of Scottish present and Norse past, the volatile sky, the ever-present sea.”

— Victoria Whitworth, *Swimming with Seals*

Linkshouse



ITINERARY

Monday, April 29: Arrive in Kirkwall

Meet Janice and workshop participants our hotel in Kirkwall. Join Janice for an afternoon briefing before dinner together this evening.

Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms

Meals: Dinner

Tuesday, April 30: Kirkwall

Orkney is acknowledged as one of the world’s ‘thin’ places: a liminal place where the veil between this world and the others is particularly permeable. Enjoy a full day excursion with our local guide viewing some of the islands’ 5,000-8,5000-year-old neolithic sites.

Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

“Silver Darlings” room at Shorehouse



Wednesday, May 1: Kirkwall

The day is at leisure for you to explore the town of Kirkwall. Kirkwall’s name comes from the Norse ‘Kirkjuvagr’, meaning ‘Church on the bay’, and a Viking spirit still runs through the town, focused on the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral. Stroll the high street, named Scotland’s Most Beautiful, and the harbourfront. Enjoy a gin tasting at a local distillery.

Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms

Meals: Breakfast

Thursday, May 2: Kirkwall

A full day excursion takes us to the ‘high island’ of Hoy. With almost mountainous moorland and glacial valleys, it’s an incredible landscape to explore. We’ll see the Dwarfie Stane, a 5000-year-old rock cut tomb and the remote beach of Rackwick overlooked by a towering sandstone cliff.

Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, May 3 - Thursday, May 9: Workshop

During our stay we’ll have an excursion by coach to the town of Stromess, the only other large town in Orkney. Known for its safe harbour and for whaling, famous explorers and ships stopped in at Stromess to trade and to recruit employees for the Hudson’s Bay Company. Now, its known for the Pier Arts Centre, which owns and renovated Linkshouse Artist Residency where we will stay.

Overnight: The Linkshouse

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner daily

Friday, May 10: Depart Orkney

Transfer to the Orkney Airport for departure flights.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): Approx. C\$5995 / US\$4409

Single supplement: C\$1,100

(1 room for single occupancy available)

Based on seven workshop participants.

Group Size: Limited to 7 workshop participants.

What's Included:

- Accommodation, based on double occupancy at The Storehouse and at Linkshouse.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Two full day excursions with private guide and transportation from Kirkwall
- One half day excursion from Linkshouse during the Workshop
- Transfer from Linkshouse Studio to Kirkwall Airport on departure
- All gratuities
- Full five-day Workshop with Janice Mason Steeves

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Transfer from airport to hotel on arrival
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals
- Art supplies: A Materials List will be provided
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "tour cost includes" above

Payment Details

A non-refundable deposit of C\$750 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of C\$2000 is due six months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

We will have opportunities to walk and spend time outdoors during our stay.

Accommodation

The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms is a renovated historic listed building dating from 1880. Originally a Herring and Pork curing station, it still retains its original timbers, some of which were salvaged from wrecked tall ships. All guestrooms have en-suite facilities, bathrobes, and free WiFi.

Linkshouse has 4 bedrooms available (3 rooms with 1 king bed or 2 beds and 1 room with 1 double bed for single occupancy). All bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms except one of the king/twin rooms has a private bathroom opposite on a private landing. The house has a comfortable living room and kitchen as well as a large garden. All meals will be catered by a local cook at Linkshouse.

Weather

Expect temperatures around 12°C (55°F) during the day and 5°C (40°F) overnight. Be prepared for all kinds of weather!

Travel Documents

You will require a passport. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return home.

Travel Advice

Before booking, please refer to the Canadian government website to obtain travel advice for the destination(s) you are visiting: www.travel.gc.ca

Please contact Janice Mason Steeves before registering: janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com

How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office to secure your booking.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666 | travel@worldwidequest.com



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