

Workshops in Wild Places

REWILDING YOUR SENSES

Art, Nature, and Nightingales in Sussex

May 18 – 27, 2026 | 10 Days

In an extraordinary 20-year environmental restoration endeavour, Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell transformed 3,500 acres of barren farmland into a thriving wilderness. This groundbreaking rewilding project has captured imaginations far and wide, making the Knepp Estate in Sussex a beacon of ecological hope. Today, it offers not only breathtaking wildlife safaris but also hands-on rewilding classes for those inspired to follow in their footsteps. We'll immerse ourselves in this transformative vision, witnessing nature's triumphant return.

Adding to the enchantment, Sussex is home to another magical experience: Singing with Nightingales, an initiative led by celebrated folk musician Sam Lee. By night, we'll join him and a small group to venture into the forest, where music harmonizes with the ethereal songs of nightingales. This intimate, once-in-a-lifetime encounter blends human artistry with the wild, a poetic exchange under the starlit canopy.

Inspired by these remarkable experiences, we will express our response to this rewilded landscape through painting. In a nearby village, renowned as the most picturesque town in Sussex, we'll let the beauty of nature and the charm of the town guide our creativity. It's an opportunity to translate the magic of Sussex into our own artistic visions, creating lasting memories and connections to this extraordinary place.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

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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, with paintings in collections in Canada, the US, the UK, Iceland, and Ireland. Janice has taught painting workshops across Canada, the US, Iceland, Spain, Scotland, and Lapland in Sweden. Inspired by personal travels and a deep connection with place, she founded Workshops in Wild Places in 2018, leading groups of artists to remote locations around the world to connect with nature and, through a contemplative process, translate that experience into abstract paintings.

Her recent book, *Bloom: On Becoming an Artist Later in Life*, is a wonderful mix of anecdotes about the author’s own personal journey as a visual artist, the stories of the men and women she interviewed, and her research into creativity and aging. “An inspiring read for anyone thinking it’s too late to indulge their long-ignored creative impulses, as an artist in any field.” — Review by Kathy Stinson, author of *A Tulip in Winter*.

ITINERARY

Monday, May 18: Arrive in London, England / Drive to Sussex

Arrive this morning at London Gatwick Airport for a single group transfer to the Castle Inn Hotel in the South Downs region of Sussex where rolling chalk hills are interspersed with farmland, grassland, and forest. Take some time to explore the English gardens of the inn before a special welcome dinner this evening.

Overnight: The Castle Inn Hotel, Sussex
Meals: Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, May 19 – Tuesday, May 26: Workshop and outings

Janice conducts her workshop during these eight full days in Sussex. Though the painting workshop occupies the majority of our time, we will seek inspiration from the surrounding landscapes (and its wild denizens) through two visits to Knepp Wilding as well as the immersive Singing with Nightingales experience early in our stay.

Nightingales’ melodious night-time songs have captured imaginations for millennia, and during folk musician



©SWM

Sam Lee’s ethereal forest experience, a guest musician enters into a sort of reciprocal musical relationship with the nocturnal songsters following a fireside dinner and storytelling session.

We have two separate visits to Knepp Wilding, starting with a dawn safari to see the estate’s wildlife at daybreak. On the second visit, learn about the ecology of rewilding during a guided walk. On both days we’ll have lunch at the Knepp Wilding Kitchen, situated within a restored 18th-century barn on the estate grounds.

Overnight: The Castle Inn Hotel, Sussex
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch daily, Dinner on May 20 & 26

Wednesday, May 27: Drive to London / Departure

After a final breakfast, we leave the gentle landscapes of Sussex and board the bus for a single group transfer to London Gatwick Airport.

Meals: Breakfast

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



©Knepp Wilding

Knepp Wilding

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): C\$6595, includes all taxes and gratuities

Note: *This workshop is priced slightly higher than others due to the expenses of the 'safari' adventures and the Singing With Nightingales program, but it offers an inspiring and uplifting education in what can be achieved.*

Group Size: 9 – 11 participants

What's Included:

- Single bus transfer from London Gatwick Airport to the hotel on arrival day
- Single bus transfer from the hotel to London Gatwick Airport on departure day
- Accommodation, based on single occupancy
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Two visits to Knepp Wilding
- The Singing with Nightingales experience
- Gratuities for guides, driver, and included meals
- All taxes
- Full eight-day Workshop with Janice Mason Steeves

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Airport transfers if arranging independent plans prior to or following main tour
- Alcoholic 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 "What's Included"

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

Arrival: Monday, May 18

This tour begins upon arrival this morning at London Gatwick Airport whence the group is driven in a single bus transfer to our home base at the Castle Inn Hotel in West Sussex. **Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.**

Departure: Wednesday, May 27

The tour concludes with a single included transfer to London Gatwick Airport. **Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.**

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

We have many opportunities to walk and spend time outdoors during our stay. Sussex is a low-lying area with gently rolling hills, so sturdy walking shoes are useful when outside exploring the land. As a general rule, you should be able to walk unassisted for up to three hours on uneven ground.

Weather

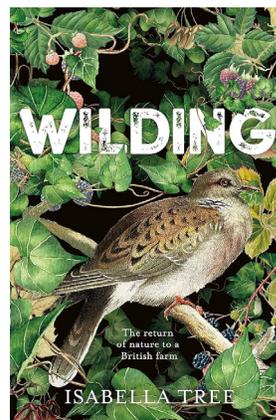
Expect temperatures around 15°C (59°F) during the day and 9°C (48°F) overnight. Over the course of the stay, you can expect a mix of sun and cloud and likely some rain.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home. As of January 2025, you require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) to travel to the United Kingdom. You can apply for this online in advance of your trip. We will send additional details about the ETA closer to the tour start date.

Recommended Reading

Wilding by Isabella Tree (2018)



Accommodation

The **Castle Inn Hotel** is our home for all nine nights of the tour. As always, Janice has carefully selected it for its décor, grounds, proximity to wild spaces, and suitability for an art workshop. Less than two kilometres from the centre of Steyning village, this family-run inn combines historic charm with modern comforts, including ensuite washrooms. Hanging baskets of carefully selected plants adorn the exterior, and the English garden will be in full spring bloom. Enjoy breakfast and many lunches during our stay.



Castle Inn Hotel

A Note from Janice:

My workshops call for participants who can embrace flexibility. While I thoroughly research the locations, poring over numerous online reviews and gathering firsthand insights, I don't visit the sites in advance. I can't guarantee perfect weather, stunning bedrooms, exceptional food, or ideal studio conditions. It's an adventure for me as much as it is for you. Perhaps it will rain every day. Maybe strong winds will drive us indoors. Perfection isn't the goal here — adventure is. Are you ready to join the journey?

Please contact Janice Mason Steeves before registering:

janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com

HOW TO BOOK

Contact the Worldwide Quest office to secure your booking.

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



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