



## Workshops in Wild Places

PAINTING IN YR WYDDFA (SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK)

# Retreat to the hinterland of Wales

September 14 – 23, 2025 | 10 Days

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

**WorldwideQuest**  
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH TRAVEL | Since 1970

“Wildness is the divine creative energy flowing through every atom and cell and star.”  
~ Scott Russell Sanders

Wales is a land of music, rich history, and captivating myths set against a breathtaking backdrop. For eight nights in September, 2025, we’ll call the picturesque village of Betws-y-Coed our home — a gateway to Yr Wyddfa. Nestled in a cozy hotel along the River Conwy, just a short stroll from the heart of the village, we’ll embrace the tranquility of long, uninterrupted days of painting.

Our adventure includes a day of hiking at the foot of Eryri (Snowdon), immersing ourselves in the natural beauty of the landscape. Another highlight will be a driving trip across the National Park to a retreat centre, where we’ll spend the day creating outdoor art with natural materials, surrounded by an awe-inspiring setting. On one of our last evenings, we’ll sit by an open fire in the hotel, as a Welsh-speaking storyteller enchants us with myth and legend.

While a short visit cannot fully unveil the spirit of a place, our workshops focus on creating art inspired by the land. Through guided exercises, nature walks, meditations, and tours, we will explore techniques to deepen our bond with the Earth and express that connection through abstract painting using acrylics. You’ll be invited into conversation with place or an aspect of place. This workshop asks you to embrace fresh perspectives, encouraging silence, openness, and simplicity in your artistic process, to put aside your traditional ways of thinking and working for 10 days, and to challenge yourself to work in a different way. It is a unique opportunity to reconnect with yourself and your creativity, drawing inspiration from the stunning landscapes of northern Wales.

Here are four captivating and heartfelt short videos that showcase the language and culture of Wales, offering a glimpse into the essence of this remarkable country: <https://snowdonia.gov.wales/discover/culture-language-and-community/the-arts/>

Come along with me on this artistic journey, inspired by the breathtaking landscapes of northern Wales.



## 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.

## ITINERARY

### **Sunday, September 14: Arrive in Manchester, England**

Arrive today in historic Manchester and make your way independently to our hotel in the city's lively downtown core. Plan to meet the group in the hotel lobby at 5:00pm local time prior to a briefing and special welcome dinner.

*Overnight: ABode Manchester*

*Meals: Welcome Dinner*

### **Monday, September 15: Transfer to Betws-y-Coed village, Wales**

Following breakfast, we'll check out of the ABode and meet our bus driver for a transfer overland into northern Wales and the village of Betws-y-Coed where our hotel hugs the banks of the the River Conwy. The approximately two-hour drive provides a great opportunity to start getting acquainted with the hilly landscapes that will be our context for the next nine days. We'll arrive at the hotel in time for lunch. In the afternoon. Get to know the immediate surroundings, including the gardens of this lovely 18-acre property.

*Overnight: Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Betws-y-Coed



### **Tuesday, September 16 – Monday, September 22: Workshop at Craig-y-Dderwen**

Janice conducts her workshop during these seven full days at Craig-y-Dderwen. We have a dedicated private room for painting and lots of opportunity to get out on the hotel grounds and into the surroundings countryside. As noted above, we have arranged for a special day trip across the National Park to an upland retreat centre to paint using natural materials sourced locally by two artists. This follows a day of leisurely exploring the base of Eryri (Snowdonia), where the hardy, alpine vegetation is a cornucopia of attractive hues at this time of year. A visit from a local Welsh-speaking storyteller is a rare treat on one of the evenings.

*Overnight: Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch daily, Dinner on September 15 & 22*

### **Tuesday, September 23: Depart Craig-y-Dderwen / Transfer to Manchester**

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Craig-y-Dderwen as our bus driver returns to transfer us back across the moody landscape to Manchester 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.*

## TOUR DETAILS

**Tour Cost (per person):** C\$5995\*

*Includes all taxes and gratuities*

**Upgrade to Riverview Superking Room at Craig-y-Dderwen (per person):** C\$695 (3 rooms available)

\*Cost based on 9 participants

**Group Size:** Limited to 9 workshop participants

### What's Included:

- Single bus transfer to the airport on departure day
- Accommodation, based on single occupancy
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Day of hiking with two local artists
- Day of painting at alpine retreat
- A session with a local storyteller
- Gratuities for guides, driver, and included meals
- All taxes
- Full seven-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 on arrival day
- 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: Sunday, September 14

This tour begins upon arrival at the ABode Manchester hotel. Please ensure that you arrive at the hotel lobby by 5:00pm local time.

### Departure: Tuesday, September 23

The tour concludes with a single included transfer to Manchester 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. This landscape is famously rugged, with often uneven ground and some steep inclines, so sturdy walking shoes are necessary.

### Weather

Expect temperatures around 14°C (57°F) during the day and 8°C (46°F) overnight. Over the course of the stay, you can expect a mix of sun and cloud and likely some rain. It's typically slightly warmer in Manchester.

### Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. 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.



### #SafeTravels

Worldwide Quest has been awarded the World Travel and Tourism Council's #SafeTravels Stamp for adopting health and hygiene global standardized protocols. [Learn more.](#)



## Accommodation

**ABode Manchester** combines the aesthetics of a 19th-century building with stylish and modern interior décor, including bright accent colours. The location is terrific, just a few blocks from Piccadilly Station and many top pubs and restaurants. Enjoy excellent attention to detail during on-site meals.

**Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel** is our home for all but the first night of the tour. Janice carefully selected it as our base for the painting workshop due to its proximity to wild spaces (Yr Wyddfa, in particular), cozy riverside setting, and beautiful grounds that cover 18 acres. The main building is a Victorian house that maintains its historic charm while being suitable for contemporary visitors. It is quaint, comfortable, and authentic. Most of our meals take place here, and we have a dedicated space all to ourselves for painting.

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**Please contact Janice Mason Steeves before registering:**  
[janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com](mailto:janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com)



Hotel ABode Manchester



Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel



Craig-y-Dderwen Riverside Hotel room

## HOW TO BOOK

Contact the Worldwide Quest office to secure your booking.

**1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666 | [travel@worldwidequest.com](mailto:travel@worldwidequest.com)**

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