



## *Workshops in Wild Places*

PAINTING IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES

# Retreat to Uig Lodge, Isle of Lewis

March 20 – 29, 2025 | 10 Days

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

**WorldwideQuest**  
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Connect with the rugged landscapes and millennia-old history of human habitation on this retreat to the Isle of Lewis at the northwestern reaches of Scotland's Outer Hebrides. The largest island in this fabled archipelago is generally considered two islands — Harris and Lewis — even though it is a continuous stretch of land. Following an introductory two-night stay in the artsy community of Stornoway, we venture out into the wilds of Lewis to visit the Calanais Standing Stones, older even than Stonehenge. Our home base for the workshop is Uig Lodge on the western edge of Lewis overlooking the white Uig Sands (where the famous Uig Chessmen were discovered), and Uig Bay, with views of the rugged hills of Harris to the south. We have the lodge entirely to ourselves for seven nights, where we enjoy owner Elly Green's home-cooked Scottish meals and an evening with a local storyteller. Otherwise we have time to paint, to wander, and to dream.

The focus of the workshop is on connecting with the land and painting from that experience. Through exercises, walking, meditations, videos, and tours, we experience various ways of connecting with the Earth and then discuss how to paint that connection using acrylics. I encourage the development of silence, spaciousness, and simplicity in artwork and how to achieve that. I invite participants to put aside their current (or established) ways of working and to be open to new ideas. Perhaps the land itself will offer up some ideas.



## 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

### Thursday, March 20: Arrive in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Meet Janice and workshop participants at Stornoway Airport on the Isle of Lewis. It's about a 10-minute taxi ride to our hotel, where we meet for a briefing before a special Welcome Dinner.

*Overnight: Royal Hotel, Stornoway*

*Meals: Welcome Dinner*

### Friday, March 21: Stornoway

Our first full day on Lewis is devoted to getting to know Stornoway, the island's largest community, with all points of interest within easy walking distance. As we stroll past the harbour, anglers bring in their fresh catches, which draw the attention of local seals. Our main point of interest is Lews Castle, whose sweeping grounds cover 270 hectares, including parkland, woods, and gardens. A recently-built modern extension of the castle houses the Museum nan Eilean where we get to gaze deeper into the history of the Outer Hebrides. Enjoy some time at leisure this afternoon and evening.

*Overnight: Royal Hotel, Stornoway*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### Saturday, March 22: To Uig Lodge

Following breakfast, our bus driver picks us up to transfer us west across the island to our home base for the workshop at Uig Lodge. It's less than an hour's drive, but we plan to stop at the Calanais Standing Stones. This site with its ancient monoliths, including one reaching almost five metres in height, is steeped in mystery. The stones are believed to have been erected about 5000 years ago (pre-dating Stonehenge) and to be oriented toward the major lunar standstill, where every 18.5 years, the moon reaches its southernmost point and appears to stand still. March of 2025 happens to be one of those times. There are two other stone circles nearby where we get to spend time, too:

Calanais 2 and 3, smaller and quieter, but still filled with energy. Weather-permitting, we can enjoy our packed lunches here before continuing on to Uig, our home for the next seven nights.

*Overnight: Uig Lodge*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Sunday, March 23 – Friday, March 28: Workshop at Uig Lodge

Janice conducts her workshop during these six full days at Uig. With the lodge entirely to ourselves, we can really get settled in to this home away from home amid the dramatic landscapes of the Uig Sands and the oceanic waters of Uig Bay. Lodge owner Elly Green has specially put aside a dedicated space for our art-making. We have also planned for a visit from a local storyteller, who meets us at the lodge and weaves his narrative magic to take us deeper into the stories and lore that bring these remote lands to life.

*Overnight: Uig Lodge*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner daily*

### Wednesday, March 29: Depart Uig / Transfer to Stornoway

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Uig Lodge as our bus driver returns to transfer us to Stornoway Airport.

*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):** C\$5595

*Includes all taxes and gratuities.*

**Upgrade to room at Uig Lodge with ensuite washroom (per person):** C\$400 (3 rooms available)

*Note: Everyone has a single room at Uig Lodge. Due to limited rooming options at Royal Hotel, we cannot offer single accommodations there.*

**Group Size:** Limited to 8 workshop participants.

### What's Included:

- Taxis from the airport to the hotel on arrival day
- Bus transfer to the airport on departure day
- Bus transfers to/from Uig Lodge/Stornoway
- Accommodation, based on double occupancy at Royal Hotel and Uig Lodge  
Shared washroom at Uig Lodge (unless upgrading to room with ensuite washroom)
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- A session with a local storyteller
- Gratuities for guides, driver, and included meals
- All taxes
- Full six-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 not travelling as per the group itinerary
- 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.

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

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### Arrival: Thursday, March 20

This tour begins upon arrival at Stornoway Airport on the Isle of Lewis. A taxi ride (~10 minutes) to our hotel is included, and we will do our best to take the taxi as a group. If you take your own taxi ride, we will reimburse you. Please ensure that you arrive at the group hotel lobby by 5:00pm local time.

### Departure: Saturday, March 29

The tour concludes with a single included transfer to Stornoway 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.

### Accommodation

**Royal Hotel** is perched beside the harbour with views of Lews Castle just on the other side. It is Stornoway's most historic hotel, and a well-provisioned one with modern amenities as well as the Boatshed Restaurant and HS-1 Café-Bar. All of the major points of interest are within short walking distance.

**Uig Lodge** really does feel like it's in the middle of nowhere — that is, until you start connecting with the lands and sea during the workshop days. Owner and host Elly Green is known for her warm hospitality, and she is excited to make the lodge our exclusive home for a week. The ground floor has a sitting room with an open fire, a dining room, and a small sitting room. Each room has its own character and view to the surrounding wilds. WiFi is available on-site, though you may well wish to disconnect for a few days. The food is exceptional, especially the salmon, which are caught in nearby streams.

### Weather

Expect temperatures around 9°C (46°F) during the day and 3°C (37°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.

## 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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