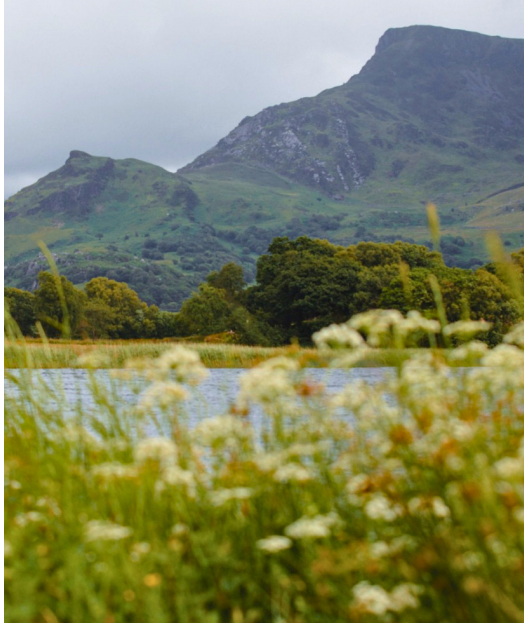




*Workshops in Wild Places*

PAINTING, STORY, AND PLACE IN ERYRI
(SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK)

# Retreat to the Hinterland of Wales

**May 8 – 16, 2027 | 9 Days**

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

WorldwideQuest
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Tucked into the mountains of Snowdonia, Trigonos is a place that begins working on you before you even arrive. The journey itself is part of the experience—winding roads through green valleys, stone walls, and wide, open skies that seem to stretch endlessly.

On our way, we'll stop at Bryn Celli Ddu, an ancient Neolithic burial chamber on Anglesey. It's a quiet, powerful place—simple, spare, and deeply rooted in the land. It offers a gentle threshold into the week, an invitation to arrive not just physically, but inwardly as well.

From there, we continue on to Trigonos, a retreat centre, where we'll spend five days painting, immersed in a landscape that feels both ancient and quietly alive. The rhythm of our days will be simple and nourishing: time in the studio, and time outdoors. Meals are vegetarian, much of the food coming directly from Trigonos' organic garden—fresh, seasonal, and quietly reflective of the place itself.

During the week, participants will also have the opportunity to work with artist and bookmaker Julie Brogan, creating simple handmade books to gather sketches, paintings, observations, and reflections inspired by the week.

Midway through our time together, we'll step into a different kind of exploration. We'll be joined by storyteller Fiona Collins and outdoor guide Mia Walker for a day of connection with the land through story and direct experience. Their invitation is to engage with the landscape not simply as scenery, but as a living presence with its own stories to tell.

This workshop isn't about producing perfect work. It's about attention, presence, and allowing the land to work on you.



## 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

### Saturday, May 8: Arrive in Manchester

Meet today at our Manchester hotel. Please plan to arrive by 3PM to join Janice and the group for an orientation meeting prior to dinner together this evening.
*Overnight: Townhouse Hotel, Manchester*
*Meals: Welcome Dinner*

### Sunday, May 9: Trigonos

After breakfast this morning, we set off west by coach into Wales and our home at Trigonos. Trigonos sits in the quiet village of Nantlle, near Caernarfon, with sweeping views of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon). Set within Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park, it's perfectly placed for dark, star-filled nights in this International Dark Sky Reserve. Nantlle also lies within UNESCO's Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales (2021), a living reminder of a trade that once "roofed the 19th-century world." Trigonos itself was once home to the quarry master of Pen-yr-Orsedd Quarry.

Artists have long been drawn here. In the 18th century, painters such as Richard Wilson RA and J.M.W. Turner came to capture Snowdon and the Nantlle Lakes. And the stories run deep: the valley is central to Welsh mythology and the Fourth Branch of the Mabinogi, where Math fab Mathonwy, Lleu Llaw Gyffes, Blodeuwedd, and Gwydion are woven into the very places you'll explore.

Our route today takes us first to Bryn Celli Ddu (the 'Mound in the Dark Grove', an early Neolithic tomb beneath a mound measuring 85ft/26m in diameter.

We arrive to Trigonos in the late afternoon and settle in before dinner together.
*Overnight: Trigonos*
*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### Monday May 10 – Saturday May 15: Workshop and activities

Janice conducts her workshop during these six full days at Trigonos, typically with morning and afternoon sessions daily. We have a dedicated private studio for painting with direct access and lots of opportunity to get out on the 18 acres of gardens and woods of the retreat centre. We will be doing outdoor walking meditations, Earth Walks, listening exercises and others. On Wednesday, we are joined by Fiona Collins and Mia Walker for a day of storytelling and experience on the land.
*Overnight: Trigonos*
*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner daily*

### Monday, May 16: Depart Manchester

After a final breakfast, we depart Trigonos, arriving back in central Manchester at noon. The tour concludes with a single included transfer from Wales 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$5200
*Includes all taxes and gratuities*

**Single Supplement:** C$695

**Group Size:** 9 – 10 participants

## What's Included:

- Transfer from Manchester to Trigonos, Wales on Day 2
- Single bus transfer from the hotel to central Manchester on departure day
- Accommodation, based on double occupancy
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- 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 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$2500 is due eight months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## Arrival: Saturday, May 8

Guests make independent arrangements to meet at our Manchester hotel. Please plan to arrive by 3:00 PM to join the orientation meeting at 5:00 PM local time.

## Departure: Monday, May 16

The tour concludes with a single included transfer from Wales 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. 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 one hour on uneven ground.

## Weather

Expect temperatures around 15°C (63°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. You will require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) to travel to the United Kingdom. You must apply for this online in advance of your trip. We will send additional details about the ETA closer to the tour start date.



Trigonos landscape

## Accommodation

**Trigonos** is a guest house and biodynamic farm set in 18 acres within the beautiful Nantlle Valley. The tranquil accommodation offers simple, comfortable bedrooms with private facilities. Each room is thoughtfully furnished with a warm, uncluttered feel, offering a home-from-home atmosphere. Food is harvested everyday from Trigonos' homegrown biodynamic farm. Our group is staying in the main house, Plas Baladeulyn, overlooking the lake, mountains, and gardens. There are two rooms available for double occupancy and five rooms available for single occupancy.

*Please note that Trigonos offers exclusively vegetarian meals.*





## Please contact Janice Mason Steeves before registering:

janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com

**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?

## 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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