



Workshops in *Wild Places*

PAINTING IN THE LAND OF THE MINOANS ON WESTERN CRETE

Retreat to Elia Hotel & Spa

May 23 – June 3, 2025 | 12 Days

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

WorldwideQuest
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Our adventure begins in the captivating city of Chania, where centuries of history unfold through its enchanting Old Town. Wander through its maze-like alleys, discovering beautifully preserved Venetian mansions, elegant fountains, and ancient churches. Each step through this historical labyrinth offers a glimpse into the diverse civilizations that have flourished here, making Chania a living testament to Crete's storied past.

Our journey continues to the City of Knossos, a marvel of Minoan civilization dating back 10,000 years. As Europe's first advanced society, the Minoans left behind a legacy of intricate art and enigmatic scripts, such as Linear A. Exploring Knossos, you'll uncover the roots of these ancient achievements and delve into legendary tales of King Minos, the Minotaur, and Theseus. Our home for eight days will be the Elia Traditional Hotel, a beautifully restored 200-year-old villa nestled in the hills of western Crete. Surrounded by an olive grove and overlooking the sea, this serene retreat is a perfect sanctuary to connect with nature. The hotel's peaceful ambiance will provide the ideal setting for relaxation and reflection, allowing you to unwind amidst the timeless beauty of Crete's landscape.

During our stay, we will immerse ourselves in a unique art workshop focused on painting from the land. Through guided exercises, walks, meditations, and tours, we will explore various methods to deepen our connection with the Earth and translate that connection into artistic expression using acrylics. This workshop encourages you to embrace new ideas and approaches, fostering a sense of silence, spaciousness, and simplicity in your artwork. This is your time to rediscover yourself and your creativity, inspired by the breathtaking surroundings of Crete.



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. Janice has recently written an inspiring book called *Bloom: On Becoming An Artist Later in Life*, a wonderful mix of anecdotes about the author's own personal journey as a visual artist, the stories of the women and men she interviewed, and her research into creativity and aging.

ITINERARY

Friday, May 23: Arrive in Chania, Crete

Meet Janice and workshop participants at Chania International Airport Ioannis Daskalogiannis on Crete. It's about a 25-minute taxi ride to our hotel, where we meet for a briefing before a special welcome dinner where you have your first chance to enjoy delicious Cretan cuisine.

Overnight: Porto Veneziano Hotel, Chania

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Saturday, May 24: Chania and the Archaeological Museum

You have a chance to bond with your fellow artists today during a guided walking tour of Chania's Old Town, which is about a five-minute walk from our seaside group hotel. The Old Town really is a special place: a cornucopia of cultural artifacts from the Ottomans, Arabs, and Venetians and some of the most aesthetically appealing streets and buildings in all of Greece. It's bright; it's colourful; it's full

of life. A leisurely stroll along the Mediterranean coast takes us to the Archaeological Museum of Chania, whose innovative modern design harkens to the archaeological treasures that have been excavated from around the historic city. Here, you can find evidence of the earliest human presence in Chania as well as a bevy of pieces that collectively paint the picture of Cretan traditions through the millennia. Enjoy the evening at leisure in preparation for tomorrow's explorations.

Overnight: Porto Veneziano Hotel, Chania

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday, May 25: Knossos and Herakleion Archaeological Museum

Our guide returns for today's bus tour eastward along the north coast. At Knossos, Minoan civilization is reincarnated through buildings dating from 1600 to 1400 BCE during the Bronze Age. Human habitation of the area goes back much further, perhaps as far as 10,000 years before present when residents lived an agricultural lifestyle. Thanks to excavations that began in 1900, you can now wander among the stone walls of the Minoan Palace and visually examine the many frescoes that have been given new audience. At the nearby Herakleion Archaeological Museum, see many more examples of Minoan art as well as pieces from the Neolithic period to the age of the Romans. Upon returning to Chania, enjoy a group dinner at one of the many fine restaurants in town.

Overnight: Porto Veneziano Hotel, Chania

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Streets of Chania Old Town





Monday, May 26: To Elia Traditional Hotel

Before heading to Elia later in the afternoon, the balance of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure in Chania. There's plenty to do in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. It's just a 30-minute drive westward to Elia Traditional Hotel, our home for the next eight nights. As Janice's workshop begins tomorrow, you have the rest of the day to familiarize yourself with the hotel and its surroundings.

Overnight: Elia Traditional Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, May 27 – Monday, June 2: Workshop at Elia Traditional Hotel

The tranquil grounds of Elia are the setting for Janice's workshop. Olive groves as well as what's believed to be the world's oldest living olive tree are in the immediate vicinity. Being situated on a hill means you have views of the Mediterranean Sea. Spring blossoms adorn the various fruiting trees that have been planted on the especially rich soil, which is invigorated by underground streams. The vine-festooned terrace where we paint each day has plenty of space. We have the place all to ourselves, and host Efi is looking forward to welcoming you and making Elia feel like home.

Overnight: Elia Traditional Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner daily

Tuesday, June 3: Depart Elia / Transfer to Chania for departure

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Elia as our bus driver transfers us to Chania International Airport Ioannis Daskalogiannis.

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.



Elia Traditional Hotel
Workshop venue

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person):

Standard Room at Elia (2 spaces): C\$5495

Superior Double Room at Elia (1 space): C\$5695

Superior Triple Room at Elia (1 space): C\$5815

Deluxe Double Room at Elia (2 spaces): C\$5995

Deluxe Quatable Room at Elia (3 spaces): C\$6175

Includes all taxes and gratuities.

Note: Everyone has a single room throughout the tour.

Group Size: Limited to 9 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 Elia Traditional Hotel/Chania
- Bus transportation to Knossos and Herakleion
- Accommodation, based on single occupancy at Porto Veneziano Hotel and Elia Traditional Hotel
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Entrance fees and local guides
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and included meals
- All taxes
- Full seven-day Workshop with Janice Mason Steeves

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Fuel surcharge (if applicable)
- Airport departure taxes (if applicable)
- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers if arranging independent plans prior to or following main tour
- Alcoholic beverages with meals
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Art supplies: A Materials List will be provided
- Items of a personal nature
- 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: Friday, May 23

This tour begins upon arrival at Chania International Airport Ioannis Daskalogiannis. A taxi ride (~25 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 6:00pm local time.

Departure: Tuesday, June 3

The tour concludes with a single included transfer to Chania International Airport Ioannis Daskalogiannis. **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. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended, especially during the day trip to Knossos and Herakleion. Please note that there is no elevator at Elia Traditional Hotel, so you will have to use the stairs to access rooms and the terrace.

Weather

Late May/Early June is a wonderful time of year to visit Crete. Daytime highs are usually in the mid-20s °C, with morning lows in the mid- to high teens °C. Skies are mainly sunny, and the chances of rain are low. A gentle breeze keeps things fresh.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to Greece. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home.



#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

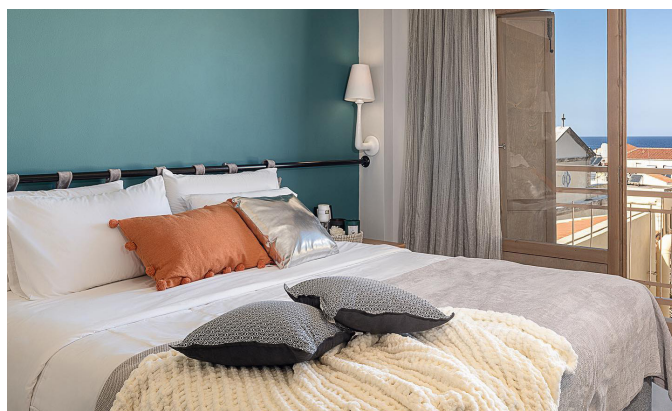
Porto Veneziano Hotel is at the waterfront of Chania's Old Venetian Harbour and a very short walk from the centre of town. The bright, modern rooms are nicely appointed with a broad range of amenities. Enjoy a Greek breakfast made from fresh ingredients.

Elia Traditional Hotel has just 10 rooms, so we have the whole place to ourselves. Each room has an ensuite washroom. Antique furniture adorns the living and sleeping spaces of this 200-year-old Venetian house. Host Efi and her staff are excited to welcome us and provide us with comfortable beds, delicious Cretan meals, and space to conduct the art workshop over the course of our eight-night stay. The vine-covered veranda overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, and olive groves and orchards surround the grounds.

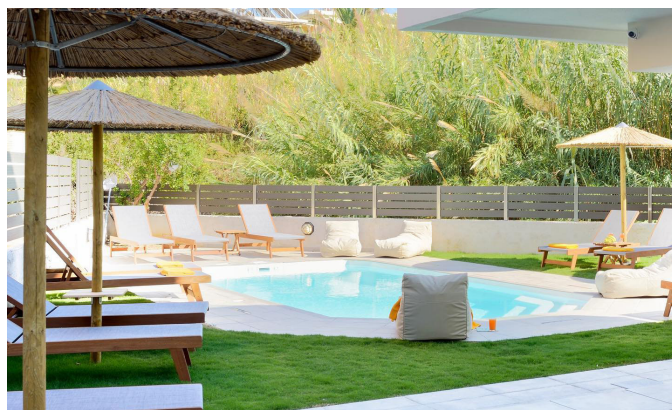
Please contact Janice Mason Steeves before registering:
janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com



Room at Porto Veneziano Hotel



Room at Elia Traditional Hotel



Pool at Elia Traditional Hotel

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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