



## Workshops in *Wild Places*

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

PAINTING ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

# Orkney Island Retreat

May 15 – 26, 2023

**WorldwideQuest**  
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This journey to the magical isle of Orkney in Scotland, is a unique combination of travel and retreat, painting and walking, nature and archaeology. It is an immersion in one of the world's most inspirational landscapes, with an 8500 year-old history of human occupation, older than the pyramids, older than Stonehenge. We'll stay on Mainland, meeting up in Kirkwall where we'll spend 4 nights, going on excursions to visit some of the best known Neolithic sites: Maeshowe, Skara Brae Neolithic Village, Ring of Brodgar. Then we'll head to Birsay in the north of Orkney to stay at the remote Linkshouse, a recently renovated artist residency right on the North Sea for 7 quiet days of painting, visiting the nearby tidal island, the Brough of Birsay. We'll take a day off to drive to the Yesnaby cliffs along the west coast of Orkney for a stunning walk along the cliffs.

Along the way, we'll be gathering inspiration from the earth and sea around us, recording impressions in our journals and sketch books, doing walking meditations, painting exercises and having deep discussions about connecting to the earth, creating paintings from that connection.



## 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.

“I knew I had no future with someone who didn’t feel the lure of the islands, their peculiar blend of Scottish present and Norse past, the volatile sky, the ever-present sea.”

— Victoria Whitworth, *Swimming with Seals*

Linkshouse



## ITINERARY

### Monday, May 15: Meet on Orkney

Meet Janice and workshop participants at Kirkwall Airport on the island of Orkney and transfer to our hotel in Kirkwall. Join Janice for an afternoon briefing before dinner together this evening.

*Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms*

*Meals: Dinner*

### Tuesday, May 16: Kirkwall

The day is at leisure for you to explore the town of Kirkwall. Kirkwall’s name comes from the Norse ‘Kirkjuvagr’, meaning ‘Church on the bay’, and a Viking spirit still runs through the town, focused on the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral. Stroll the high street, named Scotland’s Most Beautiful, and the harbourfront. Enjoy a gin tasting at a local distillery.

*Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms*

*Meals: Breakfast*

“Silver Darlings” room at Shorehouse



### Wednesday, May 17: Kirkwall

Orkney is acknowledged as one of the world’s ‘thin’ places: a liminal place where the veil between this world and the others is particularly permeable. Enjoy a full day excursion with our local guide viewing some of the islands’ 5,000-8,500-year-old neolithic sites.

*Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### Thursday, May 18: Kirkwall

A second day of excursions with our guide immerses you in the stories of the island’s Viking heritage along some of the nearly six hundred miles of coastline.

*Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

### Friday, May 19 – Thursday, May 25: Workshop

Travel by coach to our workshop studio in the town of Birsay on the north coast of the island. We’re staying at Linkshouse – Orkney Arts Residency for the week. Our days at The Linkshouse will be filled with inspiration! Join Janice for six days of workshop in our exclusive private studio. During our stay, we’ll have an excursion by coach to Yesnaby, one of the most spectacular stretches of coastline in Orkney, a wild location with stunning sea views.

*Overnight: The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner daily*

### Friday, May 26: Depart Orkney

Transfer to the Orkney Airport for departure flights.

*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):** Approx. C\$5395 / US\$3999

Single supplement: C\$1,100

(1 room for single occupancy available)

*Based on seven workshop participants.*

**Group Size:** Limited to 7 workshop participants.

### What's Included:

- Accommodation, based on double occupancy at The Storehouse and at Linkshouse
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Transfer from/to Orkney airport on arrival and departure
- Two excursions with private guide and transportation
- All gratuities
- Full five-day Workshop with Janice Mason Steeves
- Small group of maximum 7 participants

### Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- 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\$500 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

### Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

We will have opportunities to walk and spend time outdoors during our stay.

### Accommodation

**The Storehouse Restaurant with Rooms** is a renovated historic listed building dating from 1880. Originally a Herring and Pork curing station, it still retains its original timbers, some of which were salvaged from wrecked tall ships. All guestrooms have en-suite facilities, bathrobes, and free WiFi.

**Linkshouse** has 4 bedrooms available (3 rooms with 1 king bed or 2 beds and 1 room with 1 double bed for single occupancy). All bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms except one of the king/twin rooms has a private bathroom opposite on a private landing. The house has a comfortable living room and kitchen as well as a large garden.

All meals will be catered by a local cook at Linkshouse.

### Weather

Expect temperatures around 12°C (55°F) during the day and 5°C (40°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.

### Travel Advice

Before booking, please refer to the Canadian government website to obtain travel advice for the destination(s) you are visiting: [www.travel.gc.ca](http://www.travel.gc.ca)

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

## How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office to secure your booking.

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