




Artistic **Adventures**



As an artist, when it comes to organising the perfect holiday, the last thing you want to do is paint by numbers. Choose a getaway that stands out from the rest, giving you a chance to relax, rejuvenate and find new inspiration. Arrange your own itinerary, and paint and draw in your own time, or opt for a package that includes tuition and an opportunity to enhance your technique and learn new skills.

Close to Home:

St Ives, Cornwall & Pembrokeshire, Wales

A scintillating blend of old and new in a single location, St Ives is the destination of choice for artists looking for a short break in the UK. This seaside town dates to ancient times, but the arrival of new generations of artists in the twentieth century – including sculptor Barbara Hepworth and painter Alfred Wallis – made it a community uniquely associated with bold and pioneering yet elegant forms of art.

Pack up your easel and brushes, and rent a cottage for the week, or book into any of the resort's dozens of guest houses and bed and breakfasts. Breathe in the fresh sea air as you let the rugged coastal landscape and the charm of an English seaside town take hold of your artistic imagination. Take time to visit the destination's abundance of art galleries and studios, including the Tate St Ives.

Doris Lindemann of Ultramarine Studio tailors her St Ives artists' workshops to suit your abilities as an artist, whether you're a beginner or well on your way to being a pro. A three-day course costs £145 for tuition, five days £240. Materials are provided and you're encouraged to experiment with all the available resources.

Elsewhere in the UK, courses with artist Maggie Brown, of Indigo Brown, in Wales, last from three to five days between March and November. Perfect your technique in watercolour and other media in the rustic surroundings of a traditional Pembrokeshire farmhouse. Prices start at £355 per person, based on two people sharing full board for three days, including tuition.

Paint Your Way to Spain and Beyond

Go further afield with Joe Daisy Painting Holidays. A five-day course in the Mediterranean resort of Marbella, Spain, with tutor Caroline Hulse (Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts) costs £400, including materials, with accommodation upwards of €30 per night.

Authentic Adventures offers yet more for the artist who wants to broaden her creative horizons with a trip abroad.

Destinations include Greece, India, Italy and Cuba, where you can experience first-hand the sights that have stirred the imagination of artists for centuries.

Let the vineyards, lush greens and rolling hills of Tuscany – the Italian region that gave the world Michelangelo, Donatello and Leonardo Da Vinci – enchant you. With the historic town of San Quirico d'Orcia as your base, you'll explore the rural Tuscan landscape, its villages and the rich heritage of its residents. Your tutor during the tour will be Royal Watercolour Society President David Paskett (September 2011). The £1,389 price tag includes seven nights' hotel accommodation, all meals, inland transport and tuition. Book your flights through Authentic Adventures and you receive a discount of up to 15%.

Or fly from Gatwick to Havana. While in Cuba, you'll sample every aspect of the culture, with its unique Caribbean and Latin American flavour, from art and architecture to local industry and agriculture. Travelling south to the city of Trinidad, document the trip of a lifetime with the guidance of expert tutor Christine Russell. For £2,945 (January 2012) or £3,145 (November 2012), the package includes flights, 10 nights' accommodation, all meals, tuition and travel once in Cuba.

Check out the following websites to start gathering ideas for your artists' getaway:

Authentic Adventures

Indigo Brown

Joe Daisy Painting Holidays

St Ives Society of Artists

Ultramarine Studio: St Ives

David Rattigan