

Textile Taster -Europe and UK

20 Aug– 6 September, 2010.

Fiona Wright and Dijanne Cevaal will lead this creative journey; during our travels we will work with you on developing a travel journal and design ideas; with our enthusiastic group of travel companions we are sure to have an inspiring time!

When plotting and planning for this trip the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement seemed a good place to start. Their philosophy was based on practical beauty and the work of the hand was especially valued, think of the ideals of John Ruskin, the designs of William Morris and the wonderful contemporary examples we will see in the textiles and crafts at the Festival of Quilts.

Our groups are full of enthusiastic participants from many places, so there is always lots of opportunity for discussion, sharing and learning. This is a chance to experience some of the textile and cultural delights of Europe and the UK. There is the opportunity to develop a creative journal of our inspirations, visit many amazing locations and the chance to spend time discussing our findings and musing over creative possibilities. The tour is fully escorted from the moment you arrive at Birmingham International Airport until you depart Brussels International Airport.

The tour cost includes workshop fees and the supply of materials all you need to bring is a small sewing kit, perhaps few pencils....

- let's discuss that as we start to pack for the trip

For travel we have tried to choose options that are cost effective and reliable... so we will use a mini-bus in the English countryside and take advantage of the wonderful rail systems of UK and Europe [good views and no traffic hold-ups], tube, metro and taxi cabs from time to time. A suitcase on wheels will facilitate the movement onto and off the Eurostar to Paris, otherwise travelling will be pretty easy. Accommodation is very comfortable mid-range hotels on a twin share basis, private bathrooms.

Creative Arts Safaris tours are – art and culture based with a hands-on, get out and about type attitude.

- all inclusive utilising good quality mid-range up to flash accommodation and excellent dining experiences – *we look for atmospheric places to stay [off the beaten tourists trails where possible] always good, clean bathrooms, friendly service and comfortable rooms.*

- groups of 8-14 participants

These trips are not traditional package tours, rather it is hoped we can travel as a group of friends; Creative Arts Safaris have done the research, our tutor handles the artistic side and a host makes sure it runs smoothly; we all share our observations and knowledge along the way. [any info you pick up in preparation is easy to share with the group via the internet and helps you 'meet' the others too]

Day 1- Fri, 20 Aug,2010. Home/Birmingham, UK.
Arrive at Birmingham, UK. W will meet at our hotel –

Cost – Au \$6995 -twin share

[all inclusive except your shopping]

Single supplement Au \$1560

Deposit \$1000 to book today

Deposit Deadline 13 May, 2010

Full payment due 28 June, 2010

Email fiona@creative-arts-safaris.com

or phone +91 97 84 77 37 49

address supplied when booking completed

Day 2- Sat, 21 Aug,2010.

Birmingham

Festival of Quilts-this is a huge event full of Traditional and Contemporary Quilts, fabulous exhibitions and a wonderful assortment of vendors. Welcome Dinner in the evening.

[inc breakfast, dinner]

Day 3- Sun, 22 Aug, 2010

Birmingham

This morning The Festival of Quilts will need more of our time, then in the afternoon we will be heading out into the countryside of Shropshire to our Edwardian Country House. Westhope College will be our home for the next few days. We will arrive in time to gather over a sherry before dinner.

[inc breakfast, dinner]

Day 4- Mon, 23 Aug, 2010

Westhope College

Starting a 2 day workshop; Dijanne Cevaal and Fiona Wright will start you off on your Textile Artist's Travel Journals. Whilst we are at the college we have use of their wonderful studio space, today we will start with developing designs for assembling a journal, a spot of sketching in the lovely grounds [I call it making diagrams so I don't feel nervous] then look at turning the idea into a design for printing [check out Dijanne's blog she is a master of block print], colouring pages and all the structure of the journal to be utilized during our travels. As time and inspiration strikes you can continue to work during our stay. The base materials for the journals will be supplied and we discuss journal ideas in the lead up to the trip, the Festival of Quilts will be a great source of materials to individualise your work.

[inc breakfast, dinner]

Day 5- Tues, 24 Aug, 2010

Westhope College

Today is a social day at Westhope College, many local textile enthusiasts visit to socialize and share what they are working on, mini exploration type workshops are set up throughout the college studios.

Please bring some of your work to show others if you like.[inc breakfast, lunch and dinner]

Day 6- Wed, 25 Aug, 2010

Westhope College

Sightseeing Stokesay Castle a fortified Manor House, then onto Ludlow a very picturesque old town full of black and white framed timber buildings, lovely shopping centre and the very atmospheric Ludlow Castle. Perhaps we will have time for a quick pint at the local pub [we are trying to soak up the local culture after all!] before we head home to our Country house and dinner

[inc breakfast, lunch and dinner]

Day 7- Thurs, 26 Aug, 2010

Westhope College

The workshop continues [breakfast, lunch and dinner]

Day 8- Fri, 27 Aug, 2010.

Westhope College/Avesbury/ Salisbury/London

Travelling via mini-bus to Avesbury. Lunch will be in the local thatched-roof pub "Wagon and Horses," the place where Charles Dickens wrote the Bagman's Tale of the Pickwick Papers. We then travel to Salisbury Cathedral– home to ancient treasures like the Magna Charta and contemporary ecclesiastical textiles. Then catch the train down to London for the next few days.

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 9- Sat, 28 Aug, 2010

London

We will start the day at the Victoria and Albert Museum. This museum has an extraordinary collection- its former director Sir Roy Strong described it as a "extremely capacious handbag" with over 7 miles of corridors displaying items from the most ancient up to cutting edge modern. Wander at your leisure and see what you discover [take a map to find your way out] or

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

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head off to an area of your choice. We will meet in the William Morris Room after lunch and then visit Liberty's of London. Just the beautiful building that is Liberty's is an embodiment of the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement and their oriental rugs room is nearly as good as being in Marrakech! We have a very English afternoon tea in their Tea Rooms before free time to wander London at your leisure. Using the internet before our trip you might like to book seats at a West End Show— now we are here everything is easy to get to.

[inc breakfast, afternoon tea] Evening at your leisure.

Day 10- Sun, 29 Aug, 2010.

London

A visit to the bustling Spitalfields Market to start our day, lunch at Jamie Oliver's 15 Restaurant and then a wander across the River Thames to Zandra Rhodes Fashion and Textile Museum. We can head over towards Southbank and find somewhere to watch the crowds and have dinner before returning home. [inc breakfast, lunch]

Day 11- Mon, 30 Aug, 2010

London

The William Morris Gallery is our port of call this morning— then taking time to discuss his design ideas and how we can use this inspiration for our own interests.

[inc, breakfast, lunch] Evening at your leisure.

Day 12- Tues, 31 Aug, 2010

London/Paris

Eurostar to Paris. Upon arrival at our hotel and dropping our bags we can take a little stroll of the local area to get orientated then an afternoon at your leisure— we can give directions to some of the best shopping areas for people gazing as well as window shopping or even going inside and...! [inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 13- Wed, 1 Sept, 2010

Paris

An early start to beat the queues to the Musee Quai Branley and their wonderful collection of items from all around the world, housed in a brand new architectural delight of a museum. This collection represents art produced from all the peoples of the world in its many and varied forms. I came out thinking "How wonderful is the ingenuity of mankind— oh, and I am one of them too!"

Afternoon for exploring at your leisure. Perhaps you would like to check out the artists' studios near our hotel, vintage clothes shops in our area, the wonderful department stores of Paris, more museums Perhaps we can meet together in a local café for a glass of wine and to share our discoveries at the end of the day... chat, watch the people go by, a very French sport!

[inc breakfast]

Day 14- Thurs, 2 Sept, 2010

Paris

Let's stroll down to Notre Dame Cathedral, then on across the Seine to the Cluny Museum housing the tapestries known as "The Lady and the Unicorn" and other medieval treasures. If you get a chance you might enjoy reading "The Lady and the Unicorn" by Tracy Chevalier, an imaginative novel of what might be the story behind the tapestries. We can then catch the metro up to Montmartre and check out the fabric shops and street artists in the area. Dinner this evening will be on the river Seine as we watch the city float by on our river cruise.

[inc breakfast, dinner and cruise]

Day 15- Fri, 3 Sept, 2010

Paris/ Bruges

Train to Bruges in Belgium- this medieval town is often referred to as the Venice of the North. It is very picturesque and famous for beer, chocolates and lace; or is that chocolate, beer and lace? No we are

textile people it must be lace, chocolates and beer! Explore the old city centre, the Markt [not a typo! Flemish for Market place] in the afternoon.

[inc breakfast, dinner.]

Day 16- Sat 4 Sept 2010

Bruges

A day wandering the town together, taking a local walking tour and visiting some of the wonderful museums of this city. This lovely little town has so much atmosphere to just soak up. Do you fancy a canal boat ride this afternoon?

[inc breakfast, dinner]

Day 17- Sun 5 Sept, 2010

Bruges

A visit to the Lace museum and spending some time working on design ideas from what we have seen...there is one piece a delicate lace that is alive with people and creatures if you look at it very closely— amazing workmanship! A little time for finishing touches on our journals, a final and a farewell dinner tonight and an evening stroll through this medieval city...

[inc breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 18- Mon 6 Sept, 2010

Bruges/Home

Transfers to Brussels International Airport for our flights home. [inc breakfast]

Preparations

You might like to read up on William Morris, The Arts and Crafts movements, Zandra Rhodes, history of England, Paris, Bruges- the possibilities are endless and any research adds to the richness of your experience.

"The Lady and the Unicorn" by Tracy Chevalier is an excellent read and wonderful imagination to add to viewing the superb tapestries in the Cluny Museum.

Creative Arts Safaris tours include:

- departures last day of tour
- accommodation from the evening of Day 1 up to and including the night of our Farewell Dinner

Our accommodation is generally mid-range. All places are clean and friendly, it is ambiance and friendliness we are looking for.

- all transportation for the tour
- all breakfasts and many other meals

Food is a reflection of the culture and we are pleased to say we will sample a range of good dining experiences.

- sightseeing entrance fees [which covers the use of a still camera]

- all tuition fees

You need to cover:

- some meals
- laundry
- the one expense that we can't 'guestimate' for you is shopping! *[this is not a shopping expedition but you will see some amazing things and you will probably want to indulge!]*

- **airfares**

- **travel insurance**

- **visa** [where necessary]

Notes

Weather – At this time of year should be warm in the daytime but evenings and mornings can be cool, a cardigan and socks appreciated. A raincoat or umbrella is sensible to have at all times.

Clothing – light weight layers of clothing is good. It can be quite cool sometimes.

Shoes – sensible walking shoes such as sneakers or strapped sandals are the best options. Something a bit dressy for evenings?

Money – ATMs are everywhere so you can use a travel card, visa debit or credit advance easily. If you plan to use a card overseas **DO** warn your bank to expect overseas activity – some will freeze the card wondering what is happening.

Camera – we have a laptop so can download your pictures onto a memory stick [don't forget your connection leads and a big enough stick or two.

Power – 240 volts, European and British adaptor plugs..

Step lightly on our environment, be frugal in water use, turn off power switches. **Say NO to Plastic!**

Please bring a cloth carry bag.

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