

Silk Painting in France Tour

written by Pam Baker



It's very cool to finally have some leisure time to explore your creative side. But if you've yet to decide on which creative outlet best suits your nature and talents, try this very chic tour to France for beginner's hand-painted silk lessons. Designer and artiste Carol Gardyne has a studio in San Diego where she makes beautiful scarves and clothing with custom hand painted silk designs. Although she often circles the globe in search of fine and unique silks, she makes one special trip to France each year for inspiration - and she takes a few budding artists with her. You can be one of those budding artists! You do not need to have any previous art background or painting experience to participate. In Fall 2008, Carol and her small group will immerse themselves in the gorgeous surroundings of a chateau in Burgundy, France: a nineteenth century castle situated on the rolling hills of the Morvan. The castle is situated on its own 18-acre parklands just a few miles away from the charming village of Autun.

Carol plans interesting days, beginning each morning with painting lessons in the studio in the castle, followed by afternoons spent visiting beautiful cathedrals, fabulous museums, centuries-old historic buildings, and the natural wonders of the Morvan Natural Park and the Cote D'Or, the world's leading wine region. There is also plenty of time to explore and shop on your own and meet the charming locals. From open-air markets to some of France's most sophisticated boutiques, the shopping is some of the best in the world. When it comes to food, you'll think you're in heaven, from generations-old family bistros to four-star restaurants and evening meals served at the castle, each meal is a culinary experience all its own.

TIP #1: Watch Conversion Rates

The value of the U.S. dollar has dramatically decreased against the Euro, the currency in which most expenses are paid. Nonetheless, you can pay for the 2008 trip in U.S dollars. Since currencies fluctuate constantly around the world, it may be necessary to adjust the cost of the tour if significant increases occur before departure. You will find this rule holds true for most trips abroad these days.

TIP #2: Make Sure You Are Physically Fit for This Trip

There is no elevator in the Chateau; rooms are located on the 2nd and 3rd floors with dining on the main floor. Walking is required during tours of the various sites for considerable distances and wheelchair access is not common. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. In France, as is the case in most of Europe, blue jeans and tee shirts are considered unacceptable attire. Casual clothing refers to slacks and sports coats for men and pant suits or conservative dresses for women.

TIP #3: Meet Your Group Before You Leave the Country

Pre-trip orientation sessions and reading materials will be sent to all participants in Spring 2008. A wonderful part of each year's experience has been for participants to meet and get to know one another before arriving in France. All efforts will be made to introduce participants and share background on activities, culture and the setting of the trip. By the time you arrive in France, the intimacy of the group will already be established and you'll feel at home with new friends!

Story Link: http://boomster.com/learn/Adventures/Silk_Painting_in_France_Tour/content

2008 Copyright Boomster. All rights reserved.