



## *Workshops in Wild Places*

# Connecting With The Land-Earth Pigments On The Camino

October 30 – November 9, 2023

Connect to the Earth creatively through a deep experience of place. Discover the Camino and its treasures in an immersive way. Experience how nature's forms take centre stage in prehistoric, traditional crafts and sacred art. Richly coloured soils will be collected and ground to make earthen pigments that we will use in our artwork. Our main focus is to connect with place, translating that experience into abstract paintings that we will share with our small group of like-minded souls..

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

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

**WorldwideQuest**  
ENRICHING LIVES  
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## WORKSHOP LEADERS



**Janice Mason Steeves** has an MA in Clinical Psychology from the University of Manitoba. 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. 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.



**Basia Goodwin** and **Bertrand Gamrowski**, authors, teachers, and owners of the retreat centre, Flores del Camino, will give us an introduction to sacred geometry. Sacred geometric patterns can be seen in the cathedrals, churches, and petroglyphs on the Camino and they exist all around us, creating the fundamental structure and templates of life in the universe. We'll visit some examples of sacred geometry in 4000-year-old petroglyphs, a museum of Roman Mosaics, and in the mystical geometric and biomorphic designs carved into a 7th C Visigothic monastery. We'll gather experiences with the earth, collect pigments, and put it all together in a 5-day workshop with Janice Mason Steeves to paint with a deeper sense of place.



# ITINERARY

## Monday, Oct 30: Meet in Madrid and transfer to Castrillo de los Polvazares

Participants meet at the Madrid Airport at 12:00 noon. A private minibus is waiting at the airport to take you to Castrillo, a drive of about four hours.

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Dinner*

## Tuesday, Oct 31: Castrillo

“Where heaven and earth meet – Orienting ourselves on the Camino”

Join Basia and Bertrand for a full day immersion through poetic presentations on The Camino de Santiago and the Archetype of Pilgrimage”. We will explore the structure of sacred geometric forms as the language of nature and introduce earth pigments and their preparation as a meaningful part of the creative process.

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Wednesday, Nov 1: Excursion to the Petroglyphs

Watch the sun rise on Samhain over some 4000-year-old petroglyphs set in a breathtaking landscape.

Samhain hailed the end of summer, and the end of the harvest season. It also signaled the beginning of winter, which was associated with death. On this day, the Celts believed the veil between the living and the dead was especially thin. On site geometry session to explain the connection between the designs and the land. Spend some time meditating there. Breakfast afterward on the road. After breakfast, we'll collect pigment at various sites and spend the afternoon processing it into paint.

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Thursday, Nov 2: Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

Morning: Presentation on Sacred Geometry in preparation for our visit to San Miguel de Escalada and the Roman mosaics of La Olmeda.

Afternoon: More on pigment processing

*Overnight: Flores del Camino*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Friday, Nov 3 – Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

Full day of painting with the earth pigments we have prepared.

*Overnight: Flores del Camino*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Saturday, Nov 4: Excursion to San Miguel de Escalada and La Olmeda

Visit the 9th century Monastery of San Miguel de Escalada, founded by a group of monks from Cordoba. A beautiful example of Mozarabic splendor, the simple church set on an isolated hilltop is notable for its Islamic inspired horseshoe arches. View the ancient Roman mosaics at La Olmeda, one of the most important archaeological sites in the Spanish Roman world. This palatial villa is extensively decorated with marvelous polychrome mosaics. We'll be drawing and studying geometry at both sites.

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Sunday, Nov 5: Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Monday, Nov 6: Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Tuesday, Nov 7: Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Wednesday, Nov 8: Castrillo

Workshop at Flores del Camino

*Overnight: Castrillo de los Polvazares*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## Thursday, Nov 9: Depart Madrid

Say goodbye after breakfast and depart by minibus to the Madrid Airport. Please note there is a single transfer from Castrillo to Madrid Airport. **Please do not make any flight arrangements before verifying the time of this transfer.**

*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):** C\$4295 per person / US\$3250 per person (approx) in single occupancy rooms  
*Based on nine workshop participants.*

**Group Size:** Limited to 9 workshop participants.

### What's Included:

- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodation based on single occupancy at Flores del Camino or Casa Coscolo
- Meals as noted in the itinerary
- Wine included for all dinners at Flores del Camino
- Transportation by air conditioned coach for two excursions
- All activities and entrance fees to sites visited with the group
- Gratuities for drivers, hotel, and group meals
- Applicable Taxes at time of writing
- Workshop with Janice Mason Steeves

### 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
- Visa fee (not required for Canadian passport holders)
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "tour cost includes" above

### 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

### Joining Instructions

This tour begins with your arrival in Madrid Airport on **October 30, 2023**. There will be a single transfer to the workshop location, tentatively set to depart Madrid Airport at 12:00 noon. The tour concludes with a single complimentary transfer to the Madrid airport on **November 9, 2023**. **Please contact us prior to making any flight arrangements.**

### Level of Difficulty: Easy

This tour includes walking during excursions. Should you have any questions about your ability to take part in this tour, please give us a call.

### Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated in rooms for single occupancy at **Flores del Camino** (5 rooms) and at **Casa Coscolo** (5 rooms). All rooms have private bathrooms. Meals are served at Flores del Camino. Casa Coscolo rooms have coffee machines and snacks provided. The two properties are 150 metres (about 150 yards) apart.

### 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)**



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