

*A Creative Travel Experience
in Southern France,
October 1 – 11th, 2016*

A ten-day art and creative experience in the beautiful and picturesque villages and countryside of Southern France.

Hosted by Kindrie Grove and Renée Matheson in
collaboration with local residents of Montagnac,
Sallie and Malcolm Johnson.



Kindrie Grove, Weekly Painting: Carcassonne



Malcolm Johnson, French Village

Dear Martin Street Gallery Friends,

May 5th, 2016

Kindrie and I have created an excursion in the South of France for October 1st through to October 11th 2016. The idea came about because of a serendipitous meeting with Malcolm and Sallie Johnson. Malcolm is one of our artists represented by the Martin Street Gallery. His pen and ink and watercolour paintings of buildings and French landscapes are so inspiring that I hung them in our own Paris Café and Lounge. Malcolm is a retired architect and now a prolific artist. He and Sallie own two homes in Southern France and rent them out during certain times of the year. They spend at least six months a year there enjoying their French lifestyle.

I had mentioned how much fun it would be to visit them one day and paint in the small villages they frequent. Well, our creative energy was spiked and with their enthusiasm, we have organized a trip to explore, eat, drink, paint, journal, photograph, shop, laugh and enjoy the fruits of France over a ten-day period. Sallie is a master hostess and has organized the logistics of the ground tour in France. We decided to limit our group to a maximum of 12 people, allowing us to fully enjoy the experience. If your pleasure is art, there will be lots of one on one creative mentoring time with Kindrie, Malcolm and myself.

Malcolm and Sallie have arranged 2 private vehicles to take us to their favourite places. If we rendez-vous or travel together to France they will pick us up at the airport and then take us for a welcoming French meal in their home. Their home town of Montagnac has grocery shopping, cafés, bistros and wonderful sights and sounds within walking distance. We are very excited about this magical travel and creative opportunity and are so grateful to Malcolm and Sallie for their generous hospitality and tour coordinating. Attached you will see our suggested itinerary

We have recently had a cancellation due to health reasons and now have a room available for a couple or two people sharing.

Our tour will be 10 days long, exploring the area and enjoying the many wonderful experiences that we have planned. Included in the exploration: visits to a 6 mile-long beach, fishing villages, a famous street market, quiet courtyards and alleys, a beautiful village of doors, picnics in the countryside, art galleries and

museums, tapas, music and a happy joyful time. You can participate in as much or as little as you wish.

Please read the following details about this fantastic trip where we will live like the French and truly experience their culture. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible at (250) 488 4999 or email me at aurorareneematheson@gmail.com. I have many great photos of some of the places we will be visiting and would be happy to forward them to you.

Best wishes,
Renée Matheson



“Creative Travel Experience in Southern France”

- Art Mentoring by Kindrie Grove and Malcolm Johnson
- Experience local culture, food, wine, markets, historical villages and sites, museums and art galleries
- Painting, pen and ink and watercolour, (or any medium of your choice.) Photography, scrapbooking, writing, journaling, touring, exploring.
- This is a rare opportunity to explore Southern France in a small group with a wonderful couple who live there 6 months of the year and know intimately where to find the best food and local gems.
- A casual and relaxed itinerary is lined up for us to visit and enjoy several of the surrounding villages and the country side with all transportation taken care of so you can sit back and enjoy traveling creatively.

Dates: October 1st to October 11th, 2016 (arrangements can be made to extend your stay)

Investment:

- The total cost of the workshop is \$3,280.00 per person plus GST

Payments:

Includes:

- All accommodations.
- All transportation for the local touring experience. (entry fees and tickets for museums and galleries not included)
- Tour of local villages and areas. (See attached PDF)
- A welcome dinner upon arrival, a lunch on October 3rd and a farewell dinner on October 10th.
- Pick up from the airport as a group on the 1st of October around noon.
- Transportation to the airport as a group at the end of the trip.
- We will do our best to accommodate personal requests.

This creative experience also Includes the following:

Pre Trip:

- A creative group consultation including a basics drawing lesson (if you are interested) with Kindrie Grove at the Martin Street Art Gallery. Discussions and suggestions of supplies and ways to creatively enhance your experience of the trip. (**Saturday, September 10th from 1 to 5 pm.**)
- Visit and farm tour at Covert Farms hosted by Diana Covert. This is another great opportunity for the participants to meet and get to know each other. This is a very relaxed day to walk, sketch paint outside, photograph or just sit by the pool and enjoy an appetizer pot luck with everyone. Very Casual! (**Sunday August 14th from 10 am to 5 pm**) come all day or just for a while.
- We had a wonderful meet and greet on Saturday June 25th at Sallie and Malcolm's home in Peachland. Where they shared maps and brochures of the Langudoc area and discussed the proposed itinerary.

Post Trip Celebration at Martin Street Gallery:

- Invite your friends and family to share the France experience! Share your creative experience with paintings, photographs, scrapbooks, journals, slide show and stories hosted and organized by the gallery. (date to be decided)

Transportation:

- Airfare is not included. (Help with coordination of these flights can be facilitated if you wish) There are different options from Kelowna and Vancouver.
- Airport pick up and drop off in France included. This is based on the majority of people traveling together or all arriving on October 1st by 12:00 pm noon.
- All local transportation to touring locations is included. 2 private vehicles.
- All touring coordinated by your hosts.

Accommodation:

- 1 room (2 spots) left.
- 10 days of accommodation is included.
- Centrally located very comfortable with private kitchenettes as well as common kitchens for us to cook meals together.
- Sleeping arrangements – there are a variety of rooms and beds for singles and doubles if you are traveling with a spouse or friend. (Please let Renée know your preference ASAP) To guarantee a single room there will be an additional cost of \$185 in total.
- A short walk to local markets for groceries and cafés.

Meals:

- 3 hosted meals. A full welcome dinner upon arrival, a lunch on October 3rd, as well as a farewell dinner on October 10th hosted by Malcolm and Sallie included.
- There is a lovely café nearby for morning croissant and espresso.
- All other meals are not included. There are kitchens in the homes for self catering. We will also be cooking together if you wish in the common kitchens.
- There will be a few arranged meals in the villages for special times that will be a reasonable cost per person. (France is a very inexpensive place to wine and dine.)

Art and Creative Mentoring:

- Art and Creative Mentor: Kindrie Grove.
- Art Mentor and Host: Malcolm Johnson.
- Trip Coordinator and Creative Mentor: Renée Matheson.
- Hostess: Sallie Johnson will be mentoring the fine art of shopping, eating and drinking.