







# Le Sojourn



...a perfect excuse to explore the world and your creative mind at the same time.

...an experience designed to open your eyes to the particular nature of French sensations—the city, the landscape, the light, the food, the wine, and the pace—and refract that experience into your painting.

Travel with insider and artist/Francophile Nancy Willis, who knows where to stay, where to eat, and when it is time to paint. Take advantage of her French connections and follow her path as you feed your own artistic spirit and indulge your creative longings.

## Thursday, April 20 | Friday, April 21

#### All of Paris Awaits you...

**DAY ONE:** Check into our three-star charming hotel in the très chic 6th arrondissement. Take a little nap or step out your door into the pulse of Paris. We will stroll to dinner to a local's Left Bank favorite. (included)

Visuals: le très jeune mode, aromatics from florist stands, best Italian gelato, art galleries and bustling cafes, cobblestone, Caillbotte steel blue tin roofs.







DAY Two: Meet après breakfast before heading to the Museé D'Orsay passing notable artistic landmarks along the way. On your way back, you can pick up supplies at Sennelier like Berthe Morisot did or take a little afternoon repose at the hotel. We will picnic like an Impressionist along the Seine, painting the flow of life at twilight.

Visuals: Young and old love strolling the banks. Willow trees lounge and sway in the breeze. Sounds of moving current and big sighs from the Pont Neuf.







### Saturday, April 22 | Sunday, April 23

#### Liberté and the Artist

**DAY THREE:** Savor your Saturday with trip to Louis Vuitton Foundation or an adventurous day trip out of the city. The day is structured to be curated and designed closer to departure.

**DAY FOUR:** Sleep in and have an extra chocolate croissant. We are going to *THE* hottest new museum in the center of Paris, Le Bourse de Commerce which houses the Francois Pinault collection. We will enjoy our last night in Paris, having dinner on the right bank (included) before strolling back to the left.









### Monday, April 24 | Tuesday, April 25

Needs a little salt or another anchovy...

**DAY FIVE:** We will take a high-speed train (TGV) and head to the Mediterranean, welcoming the decompression of southern France. We will stay in a 4-star coastal hotel with views of Collioure and the harbor. After settling in, we shall stroll along the water's edge into town for dinner. (*included*)

**DAY SIX:** Derrain, Picasso and Matisse all painted here and you will see why. We will meet in the morning at our hotel art studio for a painting demo. This gorgeous port city is rich in atmosphere, restaurants and anchovies. The afternoon is yours to stroll along the waterside path into town and discover and sketch its charm. We will reconvene for an apero (*included*) and toast our first day of painting like a Fauve.

















Visuals: windswept landscape peppered with terraced vines and kiwi trees. Open-air markets/brightly colored textiles and fishing boats, terra cotta roofs and cool pink and violet skies.

### Wednesday, April 26 | Thursday, April 27

#### The Mediterranean Good Life Continues

#### **DAY SEVEN:** Ceret

The area is rich with the history of art. We will take a road trip, heading up into the hills to Ceret. There is a stellar small museum there (*tickets included*) and it is easy to imagine Picasso and Signac drinking it up in the street side cafes.

**DAY EIGHT:** Explore the town through the eyes of Matisse, and see color as a Fauve. The jetty, fort and seafront will inspire you with new forms. Create your own still life at a cafe or paint from one of the hotel terraces.

ADD ON OPTION: Dinner in the hotel's superb Michelin Starred restaurant.







### Friday, April 28 | Saturday, April 29

#### I think I could live here... shopping, day tripping & painting

**DAY NINE:** Saturday brings purveyors of delicious goods and artisan products for Market Day. We have options; Head around the coast to Banyuls-sur-mer, think harbor with boats, a little glass of Banyuls to help inspire the sketching. Or who is up for a 2-hour field trip to Montpellier, painting in the formal gardens of Chateau Flaugergues, sipping their stellar wines.

**DAY TEN:** The day is yours to delight in the beauty and artistic life of Collioure. Capture the color of the sea and pop into town for some last-minute shopping. We will meet to review our accomplishments and talk about what comes next with your painting. We will take one last stroll along the coastline for a light dinner in town. (*included*)











### Sunday, April 30

#### Tearful goodbyes and smiles of fulfillment

**DAY ELEVEN:** We will take you to Perpignan, where you can catch a train to Spain, Paris or St. Tropez. Most flights back to the USA are am flights so we recommend you spend one last night in Paris for ease of travel back.

- Sketchbooks filled
- ✓ New ideas for the next painting
- Hearts and minds open and ready for what is next
- Trip of a lifetime



<sup>\*</sup>additional shuttle fees may apply for early morning trains.

### Sleet your Tour Insider

### Nancy Willis

Artist Nancy Willis is a painter/printmaker in the Napa Valley. In her paintings and works on paper, she explores themes of intimacy and social connection by representing domestic scenes and exterior surroundings. She began her Path of an Artist painting tours to France, after annual trips to French friends' vineyards and the beauty she found painting the landscape.

Willis' work has been featured at the Startup Art Fairs in Houston, Chicago and LA. In 2019, she presented a solo exhibition, Savor the Moment which was an homage to the resiliency of Paris after the 2015 terrorist attacks. Willis was awarded a residency at Chateau Orquveaux in 2021, where she created a series about the verdant French landscape. Recently she received two YBCA grants for her community-based art projects.





Cell (detail), Oil on Canvas 2019



"The path of an artist is a path of delights—visual, sensual, shared. Whether sketching as a group on a drizzly terrace over the Mediterranean or by yourself in a sunny allee, time invested in rediscovering yourself on Nancy's tour is time well spent and time you'll never forget. You and your comrades in art will forever be bonded in light and laughter. (And speaking of laughter, you will never laugh so much, often or hard as you will on this trip.) Just say "oui!" —Caroline Siemers, LA/Oakland

"Nancy's skill as a painting teacher combined with her passion for France and her personal contacts there made this a matchless experience for me." —Allie Timar, Napa

"I rarely give myself the freedom to paint, sketch, eat and laugh as I did on this trip. I was ready to go again as soon as I got back."
—Sue Bradford, Napa



Price includes 4 nights, 3 star accommodation in Paris, six nights 4 star accommodation in Collioure, 5 dinners, one lunch, 2 aperos, full breakfast daily, welcome goodie bag, 2 museum entries, painting demonstrations, car service from CDG to Paris, train to Perpignan, transportation to Perpignan for return to the US, taxes and most gratuities. Just say oui!

\$5400\* double occupancy. \$850\* single supplement \$650 deposit due to hold your place, RSVP Balance due February 15, 2023 or by arrangement

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