



Wild Horses & Lavender

Country

France

Region

Provence

Instructor

Jonathan Maher

Dates

07 Jul > 15 Jul 09

Price

£1870.00

Overview

The Provence Workshop will centre around the beautiful region of Southern France and will offer a wide variety of different locations and photographic opportunities. Provence's unique appeal combines the charm and beauty of ancient towns and villages with a landscape famously decorated with its fields of lavender. The workshop runs during July so as to coincide with important dates and moments in the Provence calendar. In July, Provence's many fields of lavender blossom before being harvested, and we take full advantage of this by visiting and photographing some of the more beautiful fields and villages.

For the latter part of the workshop we transfer a little further south to the coastal area of Camargue. The Camargue is an area that in many ways seems more like Argentina or Spain. Famous for its wild white horses that roam the area, its bulls, flamingoes and other wildlife, the area is a haven for any lover of the wild. We wanted our workshop also to coincide with the Camargue Horse Festival, a time when the towns are full of shows or horsemanship, white horses running through the streets and flamenco dancing until the early hours. This trip combines the very best that Provence has to offer as well as a very wide variety of photographic opportunities. Whether your passion is photographing people, architecture, wildlife, events or landscape, this workshop has something for you.

Itinerary

What is Included

- Seven full days of tuition & all image critiques
- Eight nights of accommodation with en suite bathroom (no single room supplement required)
- Breakfasts
- Welcome dinner on first night
- Farewell dinner on last night
- Transfer to and from Marseille airport on the specified pick-up and drop-off time and date
- Transportation around Provence and Camargue during

What is Not Included

- International air travel into France
- Transfer to and from airports other than Marseille
- Transfer to and from Marseille airport at times other than those specified by us
- Lunches & dinners except first and last night
- Photographic materials & processing



Workshop
Entrance to the Park Ornithologique

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Calendar

Tuesday 7 July 2009 - ARRIVAL DAY

Meet VSP contact at Marseille Airport at 5pm & drive to hotel in Gordes
Welcome dinner and first taste of the delicacies of Provence

Wednesday 8 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 1

Introductory talk by your instructor - your Workshop explained.
Visit to the medieval town of Gordes, classified as one of the most beautiful villages of Provence
Lunch in Gordes
In the afternoon we will head towards the town of Sault surrounded by infinite fields of fragrant lavender. We will walk from field to field to capture the diversity of shapes and shades of blue.
Dinner together in Sault

Thursday 9 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 2

Image review session
Visit to the colourful and picturesque village of Roussillon for market day. The colours, shapes and delicious smells will become the subject of your photography whilst trying to capture a typical French day in the village.
Afternoon visit and shoot at the impressive and vivid ochre park in Roussillon. We will photograph the ochre as the sun inflames their colour and the black shadows become alive design on the red peaks. Perched on a small hill Roussillon red and orange houses form a wonderful scene together with the colours of the ochre.
Dinner together.

Friday 10 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 3

In the morning we will shoot the 12th century Cistercian abbey Notre-Dame-de-Senanque and its surrounding lavender fields
Back to hotel for relax
Lunch together
In the early afternoon we will drive to the town of Avignon where our senses will be awakened by the artists and performers roaming the cobblestone streets as we coincide our visit with the annual theatre festival. The street photography will be amazing.

Saturday 11 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 4

You instructor will demonstrate & talk in preparation for the change of scenery of the latter part of the Workshop in Camargue.
Before leaving Provence we will visit and have lunch in a village that with Gordes and Roussillon is part of 'the most beautiful villages in Provence' - Lourmarin.
Make journey down to Camargue region
Check-in new hotel in town of Aigues Mortes
After some time to relax we will meet and head out to dinner together

Sunday 12 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 5

This morning we will meet by the sandy beaches of the Camargue region where our famous white horses will be guided to run towards us and in front of us making sure we come away with great action shots.



Lunch in Aigues Mortes.
Back at the hotel for an image review session
Street photography & projects in Aigues Mortes
Dinner together

Monday 13 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 6

Visit Les Saintes Maries de la Mer for the annual Horse Festival. We will see bulls, camarguise cowboys and horses roaming the street. The squares and street are full of flamenco dancers and music.
Lunch in Les Saintes Maries de la Mer and opportunity to sample Paella and the best seafood.
In the late afternoon we will visit the biggest Ornithological Reserve of the Camargue. We will take a picnic dinner and wait for sunset amongst the flamingos and other birds

Tuesday 14 July 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 7

Return to Les Saintes Maries de la Mer for annual Horse Festival.
Lunch in Les Saintes Maries de la Mer
Back at the hotel and final image review session & workshop conclusions
Farewell dinner & good-byes with the 14th of July festivities, dances and fireworks

Wednesday 15 July 2009 - DEPARTURE DAY

On the day of your departure we will transfer all participants to Marseille at a fixed time so that you can move onto your homeward journeys. Usual arrival at Marseille airport 11am

Accommodation

The Provence Workshop is situated in two regions. The first half of the workshop is spent amongst the lavender fields in the Provence region. For the second half of the workshop you will be transferred south to the Camargue region. For the first part of the workshop the hotel will be 'Mas de la Senancole'. Situated in the heart of the Luberon, near Gordes, a picturesque village perched on a hill, one of the most desired locations, the Mas de la Senancole offers relaxation and luxury. Fresh afternoons in the shade of a three hundred year old olive tree in a beautiful garden.
Mas de la Senancole (<http://www.mas-de-la-senancole.com/>)

For the second part of the workshop the hotel will be 'Hotel Les Templiers' situated in Aigues Mortes. In this hotel, the decoration is out of ordinary, out of any fashion. The atmosphere is warm and rustic; stone walls, secondhand and antique dealer furniture and accessories mix harmoniously with contemporary and modern art features. This charming place blends eclectic and exotic together. The 2 owners, Igor and Anne, aimed at creating a living place where their personal objects and furniture and their travel souvenirs can be displayed, a place where one can feel like at home. The hotel rooms reflect the nature of the hotel: diversity and aestetism. All rooms are different, standardization has been kept to a minimum. The rooms will be allocated randomly.
Hotel Les Templiers (<http://www.hotellestempliers.fr/>)

Travel

For this workshop you will need to fly into the main international airport at Marseille
For the pickup on arrival day (7 July) you will need to be at Marseille airport at 5pm. For the drop-off, we will return all

participants to Marseille airport on 15 July at 10am.

Companions

Photography is a passion that touches millions of people, but that doesn't always mean that it is shared throughout your family! A great many of our participants choose to travel with their husbands, wives or partners, and we make every effort to make them just as welcome as everybody else. Should you wish to attend with your partner and require a double room upgrade, please contact us for a quote and further details.

Please note that a non-participant will need to have their own transportation for the duration of the workshop as space in our vehicles is limited.

The Photography

Photography

What makes our Provence Workshop so very unique is the variety and breadth of subject matter for the photographer. The regions we visit are not only spectacularly beautiful, but they offer a vast range of opportunities. Starting in the Provence region, the first few days of the workshop focuses on the incredible fields of lavender that blossom at this time of the year. The countryside comes alive with colour and perfume, which are both a real joy to witness and photograph. There will also be visits to some of Provence's most picturesque villages and towns, including Gordes, Roussillon and Avignon. There will be chance to photograph the Provencal way of life, the markets, the locals, and naturally plenty of opportunity to sample the food and wine.

For the second part of the workshop, we transfer south to the Camargue region by the coast. The Camargue has been likened to Argentina or Spain, with its strong tradition of working with horses and bulls. Some of the photographic highlights of Camargue will be a private photo shoot in the early morning light of the region's famous white horses, running through the water. The workshop also coincides with the annual 'Festival du Cheval', an event that sees the town of Les Saintes Maries de la Mer come alive with bulls being run through the streets by the 'Guardians', flamenco dancers and other equestrian events and shows. We also visit a bird reserve in the late afternoon where there are hundreds of flamingos and other wild birds to photograph. An incredibly varied trip with some truly unique photographic experiences.

Teaching

Teaching will be in the form of out-in-the-field hands-on practice, talks and demonstrations, and image review sessions. During the summer months we tend to use the brightest part of the day to sit down and review the previous days work. Reviews are done on laptops, which we recommend you bring. Out in the field, the teacher will introduce each shoot, make any necessary demonstrations, and always be nearby to assist you whilst you are shooting. Review sessions are conducted on most days and are one of the most important parts of our teaching process.

Is this for me?

Our Provence offering is what we call a 'Workshop'. This means that it is open to all skill levels. Our Workshops involve critique sessions on most days, and our emphasis is on the photography first and foremost. We try to strike a balance between showing our participants important places and landmarks, whilst avoiding going down the route of a 'tour' company. Travel is very often an integral part of workshops, and when we design our itineraries, we keep this in mind. We design our days to be full so that for those with the energy - they will never be bored - and those who wish to adopt a slower pace - they can do so by opting out of certain activities.



Our passion is photography, and we welcome all of you that share this love. One of the great benefits of learning in a group, is the knowledge you also gain from those around you. New ideas, shared critiques and a good sense of camaraderie are ingredients we actively try to encourage in all of our trips.

Inspiration

Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down.

Photographers

Denis Stick
Gerard Sioen

Books

Photography Books
"Provence Memories" Dennis Stock (magnum)
"Provence 500 Photos" Gerard Sioen
"Provence des Lavandes" Gerard Sioen

Movies

"Jean de Florette" directed by Claude Berri with Gerard Depardieu, Yves Montand (1986)
"Manon des Sources" directed by Claude Berri with Yves Monatrd, Daniel Auteuil, Emmanuel Beart (1986)
"A good year" directed by Ridley Scott with Russel Crowe, Freddie Highmore, Albert Finney (2006)
"Bienvenue au gite" directed by Claude Duty with Marina Fois, Philippe Harel (2003)
"Ronin" John Frankenheimer with Robert De Niro, Jean Reno (1998)

Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on Wild Horses & Lavender Workshop (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1222957011/0#0>)

Testimonials



"Your Workshop was fantastic - beneficial to the novice as the seasoned veteran. A wide variety of shooting opportunities and activities. Daily critique session were incredibly helpful, seeing what other photographers, hearing what everyone thought of other's photos. I would recommend the VSP Workshop to anyone who wants "total immersion" experience in photography"
Nancy, USA, 2007

"Well, "the experience of a life-time" doesn't even come close to describing this workshop. The planning that went into it must have been immense and intense; the result was simply "The Best".
Richard, UK, 2006

"I came away with much more than you can imagine. You literally opened my eyes to a new world. I will never look through a camera viewfinder again in the same way as before. You set your students at ease, clearly state your objectives and fairly assess the outcome"
James, USA, 2004

"Not only did I go home with by far more excellent shots than expected, I even met a lot of friends and it was a pleasure being able to share my time with all of them. Hope I'll be able to attend one of VSP's workshops in the future.."
Josef, Germany, 2005

"I run my own company and I know how demanding it is to offer good customer service and how important it is to provide it. Every VSP Workshops I so far attended has always been better than I expected. I could learn a lot about customer service from VSP as it always exceed its participants expectations.
Witek, Spain, 2006

"Excellent value! Learned a lot - enjoyed the relaxed environment. Very much appreciated the personal attention. Great organization. Looking forward to more workshops. VSP works for me! Thank you."
Dan, USA, 2007