

Art & Spirit Workshops & Retreats

by Dan Cooney

Painting en Plein Air, Working Retreat, Charente Maritime, France 10 days / 9 nights June 11 - June 20, 2011

Travel Tips and Suggestions:

1. Book your flight early and check with a number of booking options. For example:

<http://www.cheap-hotels-airline-tickets.com/cgi-bin/links/add.cgi>

<http://www.onetravel.com/>

2. Consider alternate routes: for example, instead of flying direct to Paris have your travel agent look at these possible options:

Boston - London - La Rochelle

Boston - Shannon, Ireland - La Rochelle

Boston - Iceland - Paris

Boston - Madrid - Paris

Boston - Amsterdam - Paris

San Francisco - New York - Bordeaux

3. Once in Europe, you can find your way to La Rochelle via plane, train or automobile. Decide which works best for you.

4. Consider purchasing a travel protection insurance policy just in case. They generally cost between \$50. -150. depending on age, destination, etc.. If your travel plans get interrupted or change it is good to be protected. Most policies include the following: trip cancellation, trip interruption, travel delay, lost baggage and travel documents, medical, hospital and dental expenses. Emergency assistance, accidental death and even rental car protection.

Check out these sites for more information: <http://insuremytrip.com/> , <http://www.quotewright.com/>

5. Learn about Paris and France before you go.

Here are a few places to start:

<http://www.justfrance.org/>

<http://www.discoverparis.com/>

6. If you are staying in Paris, find a comfortable place to stay, preferably close to the train station you will be using to go South; Gare Montparnasse.

This site might help: <http://www.paris-hotels.redflag.info/>

7. If you are bringing your own oil paints with you be prepared to tell anyone at the airport who asks that they are vegetable oil based and have no solvents. Do not bring any solvents. You might also consider buying oil paints while you are there. I have friends in La Rochelle who sell art supplies out of their home including custom stretched canvases and brushes.

8. I encourage most people who plan to do plein air painting with oil or acrylic paint to bring a French easel designed for outdoor transportation. A half box size takes up a lot less room. A knock-off brand full box size French easel can be purchased from Job Lot for around \$50.

9. Call me with any additional travel questions and I will do my very best to help find the answer.

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