



May 27th-June 6th - new for 2009

- an extended week which offers three extra days to the normal course to discover the Loire Valley and its history.

Visiting Angers, Chinon, Fontevraud Abbey, and Saumur, these days out will give the opportunity to visit interesting galleries and Chateaux, but also to experience French city life, with plenty of cafes, shops, and other places of interest to keep you occupied.

The cost for the holiday will be £795

- Wed.27th Arrive and relax with a glass of wine (or two) and a meal after your journey
- Thurs 28th Batik on tissue paper - experiment with wax, bleach and dyes - you will be amazed by the effects you can achieve - you may not want to try anything else!
- Fri 29th Batik on fabric -building on skills learnt yesterday
- looking at traditional and more modern techniques
- using tjantings, brushes and other methods of applying wax, create samples and larger pieces of work.
- Sat 30th A day visit to Angers ,wandering the boulevards of this elegant French city where it will be possible to visit to Galerie David d'Angers ,the tapestries "of the Apocalypse" at the Chateau, Musée des Beaux Arts, the twelfth century Cathedral of Saint-Maurice (a national monument of France).
- Sun 31st Site-seeing in Saumur with its beautiful Chateau, returning via a visit to the 'methode champenoise' houses of Bouvet-Ladubay

or Gratien & Meyer following the road alongside the river Loire passing the troglodyte mushroom producers, maybe time for the mushroom museum, calling at the 11th-13th C Romanesque abbey church of Cunault on to Gennes then home via Doue la Fontaine through Loire Valley countryside.

- Mon 1st Silk painting - learn basic skills - such as use of gutta, salt, wet on wet techniques, and other experimental techniques, using stencils. Create samples and other larger pieces of work.
- Tues 2nd Work in the studio in the morning then take lunch at the Restaurant du lac in Argenton les Vallees .
- Wed.3rd Machine embroidery/ fabric collage - create small samples and larger pieces using fabric scraps, possibly working onto a piece of silk painting or batik, and using machine embroidery, or simple stitches to embellish the work. Try also reverse appliqué by layering, stitching and cutting into the fabric.
- Thurs 4th A picturesque drive to Chinon and the Chateau of the English kings then on to Abbey Fontevraud where King Henry, who died in Chinon castle, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their son King Richard the Lionheart were all buried.
Return via troglodyte settlements on the east side of Saumur and back through the countryside and small villages.
- Fri 5th A visit to the local town of Thouars and its excellent market followed by an afternoon in the studio to complete your work
- Sat.6th Depart after breakfast at your leisure

