

Romania



Icon Painting Course & Tour of Painted Monasteries

5-13 October 2024

Join us for a three-day icon painting course in the historic Manor House of Valeni, Romania, and visit the painted monasteries of Bukovina, a World Heritage site. You'll learn too the intricacies of Ukrainian egg painting.

Valeni is situated in the rolling countryside of Moldavia, Romania, from where you can see the Carpathian Mountains. Strip farming still exists as does some ploughing with horses.

The Manor House is a traditional Moldavian style building dating back to the late 1700s. The house has been completely restored and renovated using traditional materials and incorporating modern facilities. Full details can be found at www.valenimanor.com.

The Styrcea family acquired the Manor House and estate in 1878. It was passed down the family line until confiscation by the communist regime in 1948 when the building was converted into the village school. In 2007, Romania joined the EU, one of the conditions being that expropriated property could be restituted to its former owners.

After a long and complex process, the Manor House, forest and some agricultural land were restored to the family in 2010. Since then, the current owner, Michael de Styrcea, has embarked on a process of restoring and renovating the buildings and land to their former glory.



Itinerary

Day 1: afternoon flight from Luton Airport to Bacau and transfer by minibus to Valeni. See over page for flight details.

Days 2, 3 & 4: icon painting workshop in the restored hot house at Valeni Manor House. You will paint Saint Parascheva of the Balkans, pictured above.

Day 5: travel to and visit the [painted monasteries](#) of Bukovina, a World Heritage site; stay overnight in hotel.

Day 6: painted monasteries tour continues; travel back to the Manor House.

Day 7: egg painting workshop.

Day 8: visit nearby [Agapia](#) and [Bistrita](#) monasteries.

Day 9: full day in Valeni prior to transfer to Bacau airport and flight back to Luton. Time to complete your Ukrainian egg and attend Valeni church where you will receive a warm welcome from Fr George who will be blessing your icon.



Where you will stay and paint

The accommodation at Valeni Manor House is of an extremely high standard. The luxury bedrooms are spacious and all have ensuite facilities. They have wifi but no televisions. The house has a large drawing room with views on to the park.

The studio space you will use for icon and egg painting is a restored hot house, well lit, warm and comfortable.

Jackie Hunt BA who will be teaching the icon workshop is a trained artist and iconographer and has run icon painting workshops in the UK for many years. Jackie teaches in a Byzantine style and you will be taught how to gild using 23 carat gold leaf and how to paint using egg tempera.



Left: Jackie pictured in her studio in Hampshire. Above: exquisite Ukrainian eggs.

You will paint an icon of Saint Parascheva (pictured over page) of the Balkans, a 10th Century female saint whose relics lie at Trei Ierarhi Monastery in Iași.

Jilly Wise runs Ukrainian Egg Painting workshops in the UK and has been painting eggs for 30 years. Jilly will teach you how to paint an egg in the traditional way using hot wax and dyes.

The package (5-13 Oct 2024)

- 7 nights full board at Valeni Manor House plus 1 night in a hotel in Bukovina
- All tuition and materials (for both icon and egg painting workshops)
- All transport from/to Bacau airport and to/from monasteries

£1,550 + flights

Flights to be booked by individual travellers at their own cost. Carrier: Wizz Air. **Early booking advisable!**

Outward flight departs London Luton Airport at 15:35 hrs on Saturday 5th Oct, arriving George Enescu International Airport, Bacau, at 20:50 hrs local time. Flight duration: 3 hrs 15 mins. Romania is 2 hrs ahead of UK time.

Return flight departs Bacau at 21:30 hrs on Sunday 13th Oct, arriving Luton 22:55 hrs UK time.

Interested? Contact Jackie Hunt at jack@swallow2.plus.com or call 07940 649691