

**PAINTING HOLIDAY IN AKROTIRI, SANTORINI
WITH CHRISTINE RUSSELL, Thurs. 3rd – 10th OCTOBER, 2019**



Following our 4 highly successful painting holidays in the Greek islands over the last 3 years, we are now planning a return visit to Santorini in early Oct. 2019.

Santorini (Thera) is the remnant of a volcanic caldera, which forms the southernmost member of the Cyclades group of islands and may have been the inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis.

Evidence of the ancient Minoan civilization, destroyed by a devastating volcanic eruption some 3,500 years ago, may be seen at the

site of extensive archaeological excavations on the edge of Akrotiri. These remains have been compared to those at Pompei.

Today, the views from the caldera cliffs are stunning and it is possible to see from one end of the island to the other, with La Oia to the north and the Akrotiri lighthouse to the south.

At less than an hour from Santorini (Thira) airport, the sea here is crystal clear; life is unhurried and the people are warm, friendly and very hospitable. We will stay in the 3-star, family-run Hotel Mathios, on the outskirts of the ancient village of Akrotiri.

On your arrival at Santorini airport, I and my friend and colleague, Davy Johnston, will be there to meet you. We will then travel in the air-conditioned vehicles to our hotel.

Every day we plan to visit a different location, each one chosen to provide a variety of subject matter and inspiration, from where you will spend the day painting *en plein air*. We will paint rocky shorelines, pretty villages, blue-domed churches, boats bobbing on the clear waters and the vista across the caldera to Santorini's sister islands. I will provide tutorials, critiques, demonstrations and one-to-one tuition. My aim is for you to gain as much as possible from your painting holiday and it is for this reason that, unlike many other painting tutors, I do not paint for myself during *your* holiday! You get plenty of good painting done - *and* have lots of fun! There will be a **MAXIMUM** of 10 people (ex. any non-participating partners), so you can expect plenty of individual attention. I tailor each holiday to suit all levels of experience, including beginners.



Davy, will liaise with the hotel and restaurants, drive for us, act as our guide and will be on hand to help whenever he is needed. You will find him very good company.



For our evening meals we will sample Santorini food and hospitality in the local family-run tavernas, as well as in our hotel. Wherever we dine, our meals, with wine, will be very informal and convivial affairs.

In early October, we can be fairly certain of good, warm weather, however, as with all small islands, it can sometimes be breezy. Bring light clothing, which may be layered, a sun hat and plenty of sun-screen. It also makes sense to bring a fleece, jacket, or wrap, as the evenings are sometimes cool. We always aim to find locations with enough shade to paint comfortably.

The costs (ex. flights) are as follows:

Part a) For the combined services of myself, Davy, transport hire and running costs: **Total £500. I will require a deposit of £100 at time of booking, cheque made payable to Christine Russell. A further payment of £400 will be payable 5 weeks prior to the holiday.**

(Non-participating partners are welcome at a reduced rate).

Part b) Accommodation costs ***IN EUROS*** are as follows: **7 nights BED AND BREAKFAST (inc. taxes) at the Hotel Mathios in a Standard SHARED DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM 307€/p, or in a Standard DOUBLE/SINGLE USE ROOM 563€.** Superior rooms are also available (larger accommodation and bathroom). Please add 12€/room/night.



Evening meals, with wine, will cost approx. 25 EUROS, depending on where we eat. Davy will organize picnics and refreshment breaks during the day, as required. He usually operates his very efficient and economical 'tab' system for buying food and drinks, which is calculated and divided equitably at the end of the week!

Flights to Santorini are from London Gatwick with Easyjet.

If you would like to join us, or would like further information, I can be contacted by telephone, either at the studio: 01454 269268, at home: 01454 416326 (evenings/weekends), or by email: christinerussell61@gmail.com