



TRAVEL

For more information please contact :



Room 13 HQ
PO Box 7043
Fort William
Scotland
PH33 6WL

www.room13scotland.com
management@room13scotland.com
+44 (0) 7788740257

PAINTING HOLIDAYS
ARTISTS' EXPEDITIONS
CULTURAL TOURS

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On a painting holiday you will have time to relax and enjoy your favourite creative pursuits while touring in the company of like-minded companions. You will be introduced to the local arts and culture by your experienced and enthusiastic Room 13 guide.

PAINTING HOLIDAYS & CULTURAL TOURS

The Eight Cities of Delhi

Experience the magic of the sprawling and wonderful city of Delhi.

After many requests, we have scheduled this trip to coincide with the UK school holidays. Although it may seem strange to visit the city in the pre-monsoon heat, it can be an enchanting time to see Delhi. It is warm, certainly, but when the monsoon breaks the days are clear and the rain washes the smog from the air, leaving us free to explore this ancient and modern city at a time when there are not many other tourists around.

Delhi & North India

A unique chance to visit the towns and villages that cling to the foothills of the Himalaya.

Travelling north from Delhi, our journey will take us through the lush agricultural plains of the Punjab, then climbing steeply into the foothills of the Himalaya. From the Tibetan enclave of Dharamasala, home of the Dalai Lama, and Amritsar, one of the most important cities in Sikh history, to the old British outpost of Shimla there is a rich and diverse landscape to explore. Finally we will travel south to Agra to see the incomparable Taj Mahal.

'Friendly Trek' in Darjeeling

There is no finer place than Darjeeling to steep yourself in the grandeur and beauty of the towering snow-capped mountains. This is a fascinating region where you can see Buddhist monasteries, visit a tea plantation to see how the tea is processed, spend time hunting for bargains in colourful markets and handicraft shops or simply enjoy spectacular views and some gentle trekking.

This trip progresses at a relaxed pace and is particularly suitable for families.

Kathmandu Valley

Kathmandu is a town of paradox and contradiction, where ancient & modern cultures nestle together, encircled to the north by some of the world's wildest and most spectacular mountains and to the south by rippling hills. Centuries of political and geographical isolation have shaped and protected a unique culture. With over 20 years experience of travelling and guiding in the Kathmandu Valley, our artist-guides take pleasure in sharing their passion for this beautiful and richly cultured region.



A detailed prospectus of any expedition or holiday is available on request.

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Active, curious and creative individuals looking for an unforgettable close encounter with a different culture should consider joining an Artists' Expedition. You will venture off the beaten track with an experienced guide for a unique experience, adventurous travel and exploration.

ARTISTS' EXPEDITIONS

India Overland

A unique expedition which offers an epic Indian adventure. We begin by exploring **Delhi**, then set off to the **Pink City of Jodhpur** and on to **Agra** - no journey across India would be complete without a visit to the **Taj Mahal**. We then journey east via **Varanasi**, described by Mark Twain as "older than history, older than tradition, older than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together" to the **extraordinary elephant sale at Sonapur**, known to be the largest animal fair in all Asia.

A riot of colour, culture and excitement – this is a once in a life-time experience which ensures total immersion in the Indian way of life.



Trekking in the Himalayas

Guided trips into the Himalayan regions.

We offer two classic treks: you can choose to venture into the upper **Khumbu Valley** and the lakes of Gokyo or explore the **Langtang Valley** north of Kathmandu - or we can help you arrange a bespoke itinerary to suit your group.

Our guides have 20 years experience of trekking and guiding in the Himalayas and are skilled artists and photographers. They are thrilled to share their love of the mountain culture and ensure a wonderful experience.

Tibet, Tibet

A rare opportunity to visit the magical and wonderful region of Tibet. Departing from Kathmandu, this tour takes us to Lhasa and into the breathtaking mountain landscapes that make up the 'roof of the world' culminating in a visit to Rongphu Monastery and Everest Base Camp.



Oman Painting Expedition

Experience the Sultanate of Oman with a tailor made itinerary suited to give you a flavour of this jewel in the Middle East.

From the busy city of Muscat, its souqs and architecture, travelling up into Western Hajar into the Jebel Akhdar Mountains with hidden villages and fantastic gorges, then into the Wahiba sands, the Omani desert. Oman has a tremendously diverse landscape and culture. This expedition, accompanied by experienced guides, will allow you to enjoy Oman in a relaxing and visually inspiring way.



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Why Travel with Room 13?

Journeys with Room 13 are unique.

On each trip, the group travelling with us will be encouraged to influence and adapt the basic itinerary according to their particular interests. With guidance and advice from experienced Room 13 expedition leaders, and the benefit of knowledgeable local guides, we invite you to customise your personalised travel experience.

With Room 13, your journey begins long before you set off!

On receiving your booking, we will send you a detailed location guide and introduce you to the artist who will lead your trip. In the run up to the trip, you will receive a regular newsletter or personal correspondence with him or her and will have the opportunity to gain advice on practical issues regarding the trip, as well as a great deal of background information on the area you will be travelling to, its customs and culture. Our intention is give you a positive sense of anticipation, while ensuring that you feel prepared. We also want to make you aware of all the possible things that you might choose to see and do, so that you can be sure to get the most out of the experience!

Our trips are formulated specially, though not exclusively, for artists.

This means we will readily facilitate time for participants to work in sketchbooks and journals at places of interest along the way. Not for us the rigid coach party timetables! If everyone is enjoying themselves and wants more time at a particular place, we'll simply stay!

We aim for a relaxed atmosphere and our guides will happily conduct the trip at a pace that suits you.

We find the destinations we travel to fascinating, and we want to give you adequate time to look around and get a feel for the places that interest you. We look forward to a thorough discussion of the days' experiences over dinner each evening, and always enjoy the opportunity to share drawings and observations.

Room 13 trips are led by practicing professional artists.

Each of our artists has a special interest in the history and culture of the regions in which they work and travel. During the trip, your guide will be delighted to share cultural insights and local knowledge gained through years of leading expeditions in the area. Our guides possess a variety of creative skills and will be happy to offer instruction or advice in aspects of painting, drawing or photography.

The trips and expeditions on offer are ones that our guides have first hand experience of running. The hotels we use are clean and comfortable - many of the owners know us well and the local agencies with which we work are long time associates of Room 13.

For the comfort, safety, and overall enjoyment of everyone involved we only travel with small groups.

Maximum numbers are variable depending on the types of vehicle required and the terrain, but we would anticipate a group size of no more than 12 people, including driver and guides. All trips run subject to a minimum number of bookings, which will vary in each case.

We offer more than just a holiday.

Room 13 International is a charitable organisation, and your participation in our courses, holidays or events actively supports and funds the provision of Room 13 studios in schools and places of education worldwide. Some trips will include the option of visiting the site of a local Room 13 studio or project. Many of our guests want to spend some of their time contributing to the work of Room 13 in one of these local centres, and we are delighted to facilitate this. For others, it is enough to enjoy a simply inspiring holiday which has added benefits for the community and local young people.

Whether you would like a painting holiday and cultural tour in a beautiful and unusual location, an adventurous expedition, or a hands-on experience in an arts or educational project, journeys with Room 13 are designed to captivate and inspire.