

Icon Painting Course & Tour of Painted Monasteries



Valeni, Romania

27 September to 5 October 2025

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: morning flight from Luton Airport to Iasi and transfer by minibus to Valeni. See over page for details.

Days 2, 3 & 4: icon painting workshop in the restored hot house at Valeni Manor. 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; overnight stay locally.

Day 6: painted monasteries tour continues; travel back to Valeni.

Day 7: egg painting workshop.

Day 8: visit nearby [Bistrita](#) and [Agapia](#) monasteries, and folk art museum.

Day 9: morning in Valeni prior to transfer to Iasi airport and flight back to Luton.

Icons will be blessed in Valeni church by Fr George (pictured above at the 2024 icon blessing service).



"Exceeded my expectations!"

(2024 course participant)



www.valenimanor.com

Where you will stay and paint

The accommodation at Valeni Manor House is luxurious. The bedrooms are spacious and all have ensuite facilities, wifi but no televisions. The main house, vaulted entrance hall and one of the bedrooms (r) are pictured above.

The studio space you will use for icon and egg painting is a restored hot house for over-wintering plants, well lit, warm and comfortable. Participants on the 2024 course are seen at work in the background photograph above.

Jackie Hunt BA, working in the Byzantine style, will lead the icon workshop. She is a trained artist and has run icon painting workshops for many years. Course participants will assist gild using 23 carat gold leaf and paint using egg tempera.



Above: Jackie pictured in her studio in Hampshire. Left: painted monastery.

You will paint an icon (pictured over page) of Saint Parascheva 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 eggs in the traditional way using hot wax and dyes.

If you are interested in joining us in Valeni in 2025, please contact Jackie Hunt at jack@swallow2.plus.com or call 07940 649691.

The package

(27 Sept to 5 Oct 2025)

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

£1,850 + flights

Flights to be booked by individual travellers at their own cost. Carrier: Wizz Air.

Outward flight departs London Luton Airport at 08:15 hrs on Saturday 27th Sept, arriving Iași at 13:30 hrs local time. Flight duration: 3 hrs 15 mins. Romania is 2 hrs ahead of UK time.

Return flight departs Iași at 18:45 hrs on Sunday 5th Oct, arriving Luton 20:10 hrs UK time.

"I wish I was back in Valeni"

(2024 course member)