



Summer 2017 Natural Dye Workshops

here in the foothills of the Pyrenees in the Ariège, France.

August 21-25th 2017

The plan below will tell you what we hope to achieve in this time. You will be putting skeins/ hanks of 10 or 25gms into each vat. You can bring your own wool already prepared or order wool in advance to buy from us on arrival. We would like that the skeins are prepared for mordanting and dyeing before you arrive thus saving considerable learning time when you are here. You will be given instructions on how to do this and the quantities to bring. Those buying wool from us, we will prepare most of it for you and will leave you a few hanks to wind so you can learn how to do it. Your learning will be mainly hands on doing, I provide handouts of the main processes.

Sketching out the 5 days

Monday: Mordanting and Red

Making individual schemes for your wool pile so we all understand what to mordant and what not to mordant.

Preparing your wool,

Health and safety.

Mordanting with Adriaan, with the wood fired vat.

Madder one-bath method.

Modifiers.

Instructive tour of the dye garden.

Solar dyeing.

Set up weld, madder and cochineal for next day.

Yes this seems a lot on the first day which is why you really need to prepare your hanks before arrival.

Tuesday: Red and Yellow

Mordanting (yes again! We can only mordant 7 kgs at a time.!)
Weld bath and 1st Exhaust
Cochineal and madder bath
Set up organic indigo stock solution .

Wednesday: Blue Greens and Purples

Fresh Woad and / or Japanese Indigo from the garden
Greens, Turquoise and Purples
Cochineal exhaust.

Thursday: Browns

Oak, Cutch and Madder.
Indigo vats revived

Friday : Greys:

Oak and Sumac galls, logwood
Indigo vats revived

A word about the yarn you bring

Unspun wool tops easily felt, especially when put together in the same vat with yarn and for this reason we are sorry but the workshop is restricted to spun yarn only although we will be able to talk about top dyeing during the workshop. I ask that your wool is prepared in advance into 10gm or 25 gm hanks/skeins. You will be sent instructions on how many hanks to bring and how to prepare them.

You will be working in groups of two or three . If the baths are not used up and the vats are not needed the next day they can be re-used.

Costs

The cost of the workshop will be €400 for the 5 days. That includes dyestuffs etc but not wool bought from her, which needs to be paid as an extra. Places are secured on the workshop with a €100 non-returnable deposit the remaining €300 to be paid on arrival. You can [download the booking form here](#)



Accommodation.

This year I have organised accommodation at le Petit Potager in the tiny hameau of Canterate (www.lepetitpotager.net) about 2 kilometres away on a plateau above lac du Montbel. Here you can have a choice between sharing with one or 2 other people, having a single room or even coming with your spouse. Here is the [price list for accommodation](#) Transport to and fro will be provided if necessary. More details on request.

There is also a [small reasonably priced camping](#) within easy walking distance where you can camp or there are a few mobile homes available.

Such arrangements can make it possible for partners to come to enjoy the lake, local castles and mountains while you are slaving over dye vats!

We will work from 9.30 to 17.30 and the evenings will be free to do as you like. There is the lake nearby with a small guinguette that has a small organic menu. We will have a marquee in the garden to use for lunch and social space. Those of you who have worked with me before will know that my health is not 100% (I have ME) but that I am fine as long as I watch what I eat and pace my energy. For this week my energy will be directed to launching a group of new natural dyers onto the world.

I doubt if you will see much of me in the evenings, sorry, I really regret this!