

# FRANCE THROUGH YOUR LENS

Join VIRGINIA JONES in a two-week adventure of travel photography through beautiful France.

July 19—August 2, 2009

La Bonne Etoile Artist Retreat, Fontaine-Fourches FRANCE

Learn to compose, capture, and enhance your travel photos during this two week photo-journaling workshop. The workshop is designed to assist amateur photographers improve their skill while touring and photographing the beautiful regions of Champagne and Bourgogne . The course will wrap up with a wonderful 3 day visit to Paris.

Armed with photo assignments, Virginia's helpful instruction and your digital camera, each day will bring new confidence and creativity to your photography.

Every photo day will be followed with a day in the studio learning to critique and enhance your work through various photo software programs.

But, that isn't all....you will learn firsthand how to share your art form in blogs, photo books, and framed displays.

A beautiful photo book of your individual photos and another with the collective photos of the group will be published and delivered to you upon your return. A general understanding of your personal digital camera is the only experience necessary.

*Virginia Kelsner Jones is emerging as one of Birmingham's finest chroniclers of every day life and hidden beauty in Alabama's largest*

*city. In addition to devoting time to the community, Ms. Jones, a retired school teacher, is the writer and*

*photographer of a daily blog—Birmingham, Alabama Daily Photo—chronicling life in the Pittsburgh of the South.*

*View more of Virginia Jones' work with the following links:*

<http://www.virginiajonesphotography.com/>

<http://paristhroughmylens.blogspot.com/>

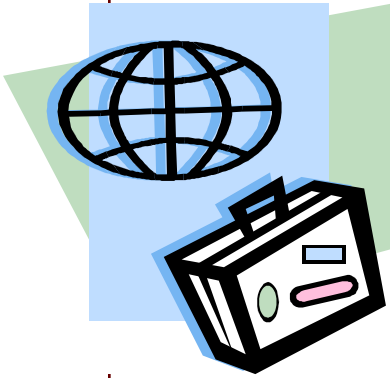
<http://birminghamalabamadailyphoto.blogspot.com/>



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To enhance your workshop studies, the in-home and restaurant dinners, as well as all the excursions have been chosen to help you experience the local flavors of France that are not evident from a tour bus. This particular region of France, while a very big French tourism destination, isn't as highly visited by English speaking tourists, so, guides will be added to our group from time to time. The cities chosen are not so large that anyone who chooses to slip away and wander will not feel intimidated.



Whether you return to the states exhausted, having taken part in every class, excursion, and every extra minute in the studio or balance your stay with rest and relaxation as top priority, our hopes are that you leave La Bonne Etoile inspired. Inspired in your heart and your spirit, having acquired new skills in creativity and foreign travel

The all-inclusive land package price of 3250 Euros covers the following:

- 14 nights of lodging – 12 Nights La Bonne Etoile, 2 Nights Paris
- All meals, drinks, and gratuities
- Instruction by Virginia Jones, preparation, touring, and post production
- A host from La Bonne Etoile will accompany your group for the duration of your stay
- All ground transportation costs, including airport transfers, excursions, and shuttles to lodging for off-site guests
- All admissions to museums and sites
- En plein air excursions in the beautiful French countryside
- Internet access and access to laundry facilities.
- Much more....

Camera, camera accessories, and air transportation not included.

Just a few of the highlights and excursions include:

**Provins** - *The ancient fortified city of Provins sits atop a ridge overlooking the Seine valley and the Champagne chalklands, roughly equidistant from both Paris and Troyes. The town has a famous outline, dominated by a tower and the dome of Eglise St-Quiriace. Provins' role as an important*

*center of commerce was confirmed in the 12C when it became one of the two capitals of the County of Champagne.*

**Troyes** - *is a charming, medieval city. We will begin the day with a guided walking tour with an English-speaking tour guide. You have a choice to explore the numerous museums and churches in the ancient city or to sketch within helping distance of the instructor.*

**Sens** - *This rather small town was important well before Caesar came to Gaul. The Cathedral St-Etienne is Sens' outstanding glory. Begun before 1140 it is the oldest of the great Gothic cathedrals and the attached museum houses the most outstanding Gallo-Roman collection in France.*

**Epernay or Reims** - *It will be the decision of the group whether to spend the day touring the champagne region around Epernay or visit the Cathedral in Reims with the memorable smiling angel.*

**Château de Vaux le Vicomte** - *This beautiful château is the precursor of Versailles and is a favorite of those that know French history. Rick Steves rates it in the top ten of the most underrated sites in Europe. We will continue our day to Moret sur Loing where Thomas Sisley painted and enjoy a dinner at La Palette, a wonderful restaurant.*

**Brocantiing** - *During the summer months, France's countryside is filled with local festivals and small brocantes. These are a combination flea market/ garage sale/ festival with a mixture of local citizens and professional merchants. Going to the brocantes every weekend seems to be a French tradition; you will see Parisians out for the weekend and locals, all looking for the treasures to be found. This is a real treat that is always a hit with Americans though probably not on any tours.*

**Market Day** - *The weekly market in Bray-sur-Seine will be scheduled for those that would like to browse and take pictures. This particular market is a real treat, even for those familiar with European open-air markets.*

**Paris** - *This three-day excursion will be the wrap up for the workshop. You name it, we will plan to see it, do it, and photograph it!!*

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*Please feel free to visit our website [www.labonneetoile.com](http://www.labonneetoile.com) and the director's personal website [www.kippyhammond.com](http://www.kippyhammond.com) to get a great sense of the adventure that we are planning for you.*

**3250 Euros per student** The price in US \$ will be frozen at the exchange rate on the date when final balance is due. The exchange rate as of 12/9/2008 yielded a US \$ amount of \$4095

### **Special notes concerning air transportation**

In making your air travel arrangements do remember that your **departure date from the states will be Saturday, July 18, 2009, arriving at Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris on Sunday, July 19, 2009.**

Your departure date from Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris is Sunday August 2, 2009 from Paris, arriving in the states on the same day.

All flights into CDG airport from the states arrive in the AM. Because we will be using a commercial bus company for your shuttle, we request that you try and schedule your arrival time approximately between 9:00 and 12:00 AM and your departure in the late morning or early afternoon. With that said, be assured that whatever hour you arrive and depart, we will accommodate your ground transportation

**Trip Price does NOT include:** Painting supplies except for banned liquids, airfare, airport transfers outside of scheduled trips for group, excess baggage fees, forwarding of baggage, baggage loss, charges for inoculations, medical expenses, travel insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, optional trips, meals away from the group, special arrangements, and airport taxes.

### **How do I make reservations?**

Contact us immediately via email to reserve your space, [khstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:khstudios@yahoo.com)  
We will send you the General Trip Agreement.  
Fill in your personal information and sign  
Include check or money order made payable to Kippy Hammond for \$1500.00  
Mail signed agreement and deposit to: Kippy Hammond, PO Box 767130,  
Roswell, GA 30076 within five days of initial reservation.

### **What is the method and scheduling of the remaining balance?**

The balance is due May 19, 2009.

Because the balance due is to be calculated with the daily exchange rate as of May 19, 2009, you will need to recalculate the foreign currency exchange

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for the total of 3250 Euros into US Dollars and deduct the 1500 deposit to obtain the remaining balance.

This payment may be paid in the equivalent dollar amount by check or money order, payable to: Kippy Hammond, PO Box 767130, Roswell, GA 30076. Any additional charges during your stay will be only upon your request and approval. This amount must be paid before departure from La Bonne Etoile.

Copies of paid invoices will be supplied on request. Please indicate the name you wish to be invoiced under if it is different from the name on your checks,  
[khstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:khstudios@yahoo.com)