



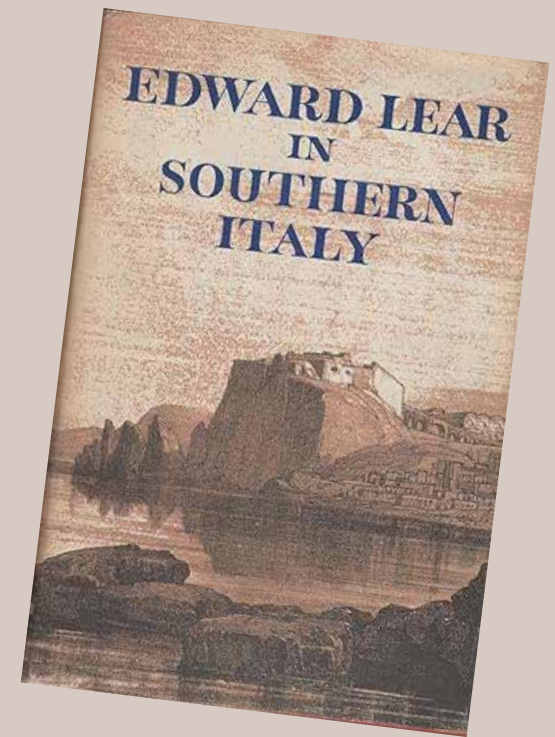
DRAWING IN GREEK CALABRIA



A basic and advanced watercolour experience following in the footsteps of Edward Lear

Bova, Greek Calabria, Italy | 5 - 11 October 2026

This “Edward Lear Experience” aims to offer a new way of discovering Greek Calabria through the art of pen, ink and watercolour. By retracing the places described and depicted in the 19th century during the Grand Tour by Edward Lear in his travel journal “Journals of a landscape painter in Southern Calabria”, you will not only discover the natural and splendid landscape of Greek Calabria but also come into contact with the community of the Greeks of Calabria, whose traditions and language have remained intact over time.



Due to its characteristics, watercolour is a very suitable technique for capturing the nuances of light and the natural beauty of the landscapes of Greek Calabria, and allows one to convey more than can be expressed in words. The technique was used by 19th-century travelers to illustrate their descriptions of the places and people with images. Now it's up to you, just like Edward Lear in his book, to capture and immortalize the enchanting landscapes with pen, ink and watercolor paint. Five workshops in a week full of culture and nature will leave you with a beautiful sketchbook full of memories.



In short:

Itinerary (independent travel):

7 days/6 nights, meeting point on the afternoon at 5 pm of the first day at Reggio Calabria railway station or Reggio Calabria airport.

Location: Bova, an ancient village in Greek Calabria

Accommodation: B&B in Bova in rooms with en-suite bathrooms: twin/double/single. The property has 8 rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Therefore, 8 beds are available if all participants wish to have a single room. However, the number of beds increases if participants wish to share a twin or double room.

Group: 6–8 people, maximum 16

Costs:

The cost per person for accommodation in a double room for single use is €1.250,-.

The cost per person staying in a twin or double room (i.e. 2 people sharing a room) is €1.130.

Included:

- 1 transfer from Reggio Calabria to Bova
- 1 transfer from Bova to Reggio Calabria
- 6 nights accommodation in a B&B in Bova
- 6 international breakfasts
- 6 light packed lunches with drinks included
- 5 x 3 hour drawing - watercolour workshops

- 1 guided tour of the village of Bova with a tour guide
- 1 full day in the mountains to explore Aspromonte and the ancient Grecanic villages with an official park guide
- 1 workshop making maccarruni the traditional way and dinner
- 1 evening with dinner and traditional music

For the drawing- and watercolour course are included:

- sketchbook with watercolour paper 12 x 18 cm
- basic set watercolour paint, pen and waterbrush
- a handout about urban sketching and Edward Lear

When you bring your own material, you will get a discount of €50,-

Not included:

- 4 dinners at a farmhouse/traditional restaurant, but we can make suggestions and dinner-dates (in general, you can get a good meal in Bova for 25 euros p.p.)
- traveling to Reggio Calabria
- all extra drinks and snacks (bring some cash for that)

Language:

The course will be given in English or Dutch. Alessandra speaks Italian, English and French.

Make a reservation:

Contact [Heleen](#) and make sure you pay €800,- advance payment.

By paying, you are sure of participation, and you agree with the terms and conditions. You can find them at the end of this document.

At July 1 you will hear if there are enough participants for this experience. If not, you will get your money back.

Why this experience, this is our story:

It started in February 2026

Heleen traveled by train to Calabria, to get some rest after a stressful job she just had finished. She wanted to draw and paint a lot. Mountains and the sea nearby is always a perfect combination for her. It's the recipe for beautiful hikes with amazing views.

She rented Alessandra's B&B in Bova and so it all started. She was impressed by the rich history of Greek Calabria and the adventures of Edward Lear. There was also a little accident with a dog and a visit to a hospital, but actually that helped Heleen and Alessandra to get to know each other and work out the idea for this 'Edward Lear Experience'.

Heleen is an art teacher and has given lots of workshops in all kind of art disciplines. She works with children and adults and 'having fun' is for her more important than the results. Heleen is also a professional courtroom artist and works for newspapers and television. When traveling, drawing helps her to remember the places she visited and she loves sharing her tips and tricks. She loves to help people get rid of their inner critic by giving playful exercises and encouraging support.

Heleen, your workshopleader

krebh.nl



Alessandra, your host

Alessandra is a local development expert who works to promote the social, cultural and economic development of Greek Calabria, and in particular Bova, the ancient Greco hamlet where she lives with her family, drafting urban regeneration, cultural and social projects for public and private sectors, funded by EU grants.

Before moving to Calabria, she lived in Genoa and Como and travelled the world. When she arrived in Bova, it was love at first sight with this hamlet where time has stood still and the people have remained 'authentic'. In Bova Alessandra met Pietro, who became her husband, and here their daughters Marina and Sofia were born.

bb-kalos.it

Pietro, your guide

Pietro is a Greek man from Calabria who loves his homeland and, above all, its unique landscapes: woods, forests, rivers, monoliths. He knows an incredible amount about the local flora and fauna and about the history and culture of the Greeks of Calabria and their mountain villages. Pietro cannot live without nature.



His love for the land where he was born led him to become an environmental and hiking guide and an Official Guide of the Aspromonte National Park, so that he can accompany anyone who wishes to discover the Greek Aspromonte.

ParcoNazionaleAspromonte.it

BOVA AND GREEK CALABRIA

Bova is an ancient and picturesque Calabrian village perched on a rock at an altitude of 900 metres. It is easy to reach as it is situated near the city of Reggio Calabria, one of the most beautiful cities in Southern Italy, well connected to the rest of Italy and Europe via Reggio Calabria Airport and the nearby airports of Lamezia Terme and Catania, as well as by rail. In Reggio Calabria, you can see something that exists nowhere else in the world and is difficult even to imagine... the 'Riace Bronzes', two statues of ancient Greek warriors recovered from the sea.

Alessandra says Bova is the guardian of the Magna Graecian and Byzantine roots that, over time, have helped define the fundamental aspects of Italy's Greek historical and linguistic minority. It preserves an ethnographic cultural heritage with a distinct Magna Graecian influence, the spiritual depth of the Byzantine world, and the architectural elegance typical of the hilltop villages of the southern Apennines. It is currently regarded as the cultural capital of the Grecanica Area, a region that captivates visitors with its culture and history and preserves the language of the Greeks of Calabria – the ancient tongue of the poet Homer – but also a region that fascinates with the nature, biodiversity and geology of the Aspromonte National Park, which, since April 2021, has been designated a UNESCO Geopark and included in the 'Global UNESCO Geoparks' network.



Bova is located in the center of an area where the bergamot, a special citrus fruit, thrives. Bergamot is not well known to everyone, but the essential oil extracted from the peel is used in flavoring earl grey tea. In autumn, the slopes of Aspromonte are green in all its nuances and dotted with the white of sheep and goats. While some plants are still flowering, many fruits are ready to harvest.

Bova overlooks the Ionian Sea; the view is unique because it faces Sicily on the other side of the sea – especially Taormina and Mount Etna, whose lava colors the landscape red during small eruptions. The sea seems so close that you can almost touch it with your finger, and sometimes it merges with the sky when it is reflected in it and takes on a single shade. The orchards of centuries-old olive trees draw lines in the landscape, while the smoking Etna draws gray stripes in the sky.



Alessandra says that from the late 1990s to the present day, Bova has carried out a significant and meticulous programme of conservation and restoration of public and private architectural heritage, which has restored the medieval layout of the village to its former glory, triggering a genuine process of local development with the emergence of restaurants, B&Bs and tourist services. Today, Bova is a destination much loved by both domestic and international tourists. In 2018, the American giant Google Street View named it one of the six places to visit at least once in a lifetime.

Bova attracts cultural, nature and hiking tourists thanks to its beauty, which has remained intact over the centuries, its natural surroundings, and the cultural identity of the Greeks of Calabria, expressed through music, traditions, food and wine, language, respect for nature, the pursuit of beauty and the promotion of the common good.



But above all, it attracts the experiential tourist thanks to its Greek-style hospitality, known here as *Filoxenia*, which makes visitors to Bova feel as though they are at home, or in that place they have always longed for but never found... Indeed, in Bova and in Greek Calabria, there are communities where a chance encounter is often celebrated by sharing food, wine and stories, and the 'stranger' is regarded as a 'god', thanks to that Homeric hospitality – *Filoxenia* – the love for the stranger, just as the ancient Greeks understood it.

And right here in Bova, in a small community in Southern Italy that has seen its inhabitants emigrate over the centuries in search of better living conditions, and which has therefore experienced first-hand just how important it is to be welcomed by the local people, *Filoxenia* becomes the ultimate expression of hospitality, a fundamental ethical principle for distinguishing the 'savage and unjust' man, as Ulysses put it, from the 'hospitable and just' one.

WATERCOLOUR COURSE

'just look and draw'

Heleen: "You do not need to be an artist, but you need a little bit of courage. Laughing at your own 'wonky' lines is allowed. Drawing is about looking carefully and that is possible for everyone from about 6 years old."

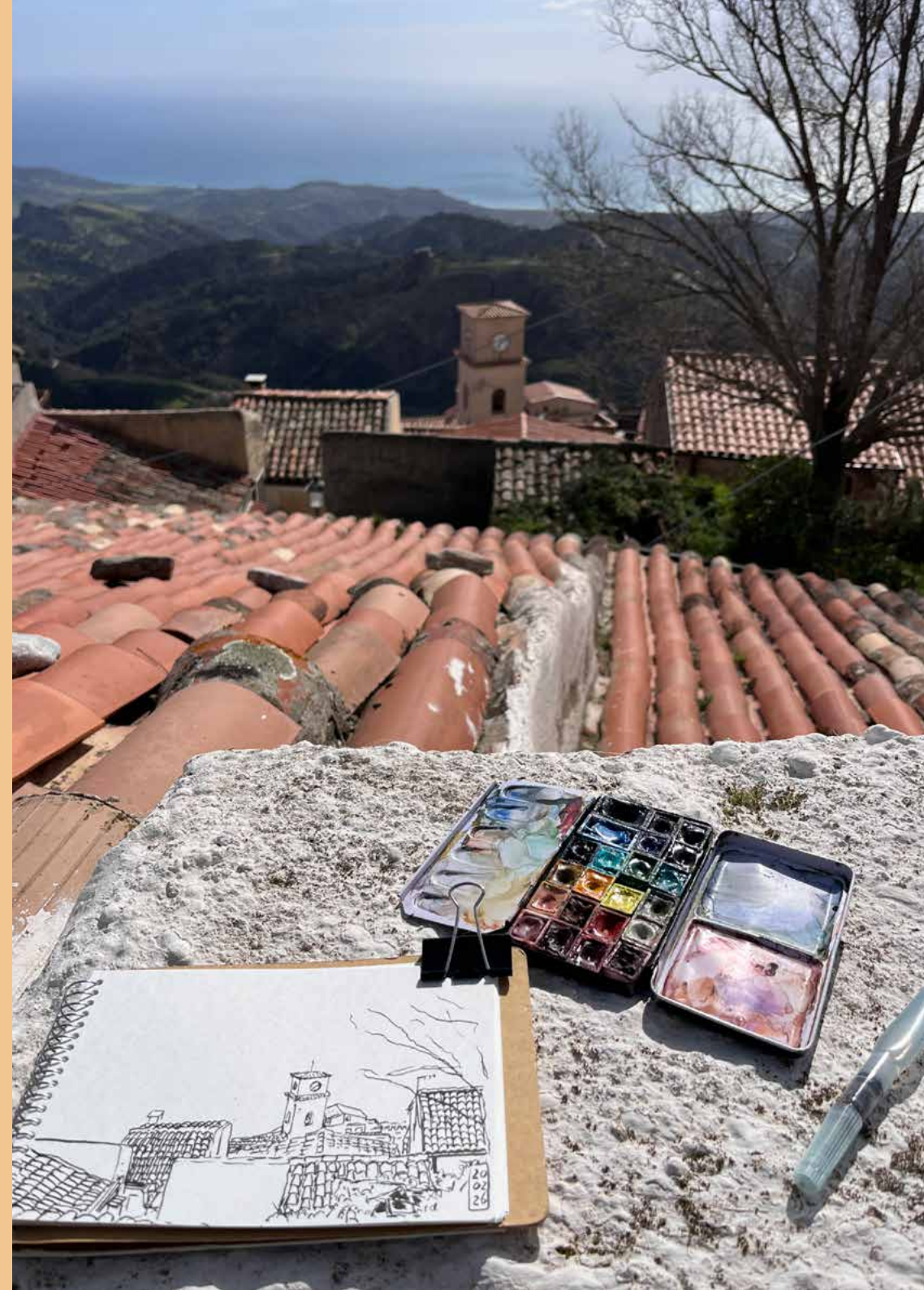
In Bova, every corner, every view asks to be drawn. We will start together with some fun drawing exercises to warm up every morning. The basic materials are: pen and watercolour. But we also use colour pencils, crayons or even markers. Heleen brings some equipment to try out and borrow. If you do not bring your own material, you will receive a basic set from her.

After starting together, we each will look for a place to sketch and we will agree on a time to get together again. We will exchange experiences and enjoy our lunch. If you have questions about the course, do not hesitate to contact Heleen.

We will work on:

- look and draw, following our eyes, the continuous line
- approaches for a complex scenery
- creating depth
- drawing with limitations
- telling a story by drawing a journal

[mail Heleen](mailto:heleen@bova.com)



"It was a great experience! Hope I will start drawing more often!" - Dina

"I have been touched again in my pleasure in painting, it tastes like more!" - Claar

"It was such a wonderful course. I can now see the region here again with new, fresh eyes and all the beauty." - Annette

drawing course in Greece 2024

TOOLS TO GET STARTED

It is hard to give any advice for the 'perfect' art supplies. You have to try and play with them and decide for yourself what size (and price) of sketchbook, brushes, pens, pencils and watercolour paint you want.

Heleen: *"I started with Micron fineliner pens because they are waterproof and easy to combine with watercolor paint. But pens that do sprout can give a nice effect. Bic ballpoint pens are great too. Sometimes I use a white Sakura gel pen, which is ideal for highlights. I now also like to draw with a fountain pen."*

My favourite brands for watercolour paint are Schmincke and Daniel Smidt, but also Derwent has a beautiful line and wash paint pan set. My preferences change over time but I think that is part of the fun!"

Tips: use clamps or hair clips to prevent turning pages and wear a sweatband around your wrist to wipe your waterbrush. A waterbrush is a brush with a water reservoir; super handy for drawing outside. You may want to bring a small stool to sit on. You will receive a more extensive list of materials after registration.





PROGRAM

*Note: we will have to move with the weather, that applies to all parts of the program.
Some flexibility is needed.*



Monday, October 5

Arrival day. We will meet at 5 PM at the airport or trainstation in Reggio Calabria. In Bova we check in and we will meet for a "apericena" (aperitif-dinner) and a word of welcome.

Tuesday, October 6

We start in the morning at 10.00 AM with the drawing workshop. At 1.00 PM we have lunch and siesta, free time to relax. In the afternoon we have a guided tour in Bova,

Wednesday, October 7

We start in the morning at 10.00 AM with the drawing workshop. At 1.00 PM we have lunch and siesta, free time to relax. In the afternoon we join the workshop 'Calabrian Maccarruni Cooking Experience' and have dinner together.

Thursday, October 8

In the morning we leave for Bova Marina. We have our drawing workshop and visit the market. Perhaps you also would like to go for swim?

Friday, October 9

We visit National Park Aspromonte and we take our drawing equipment with us, so we will have the workshop during the day.

Saturday, October 10

We start in the morning at 10.00 AM with the last workshop of the week. After lunch free time, for a hike or more drawing. In the evening we have diner together with 'traditional music', also a nice opportunity for drawing.

Sunday, October 11

Day of departure.



The Calabrian Maccarruni Cooking Experience takes place in the afternoon and allows you to learn, alongside an expert in traditional cuisine, the art of making "Calabrian maccarruni". We start by learning about the ingredients, then learn how to knead the dough in the "maidda" (an ancient wooden container used by farmers to knead flour, also known as a madia) and finally shape the maccarruni, giving them their distinctive twisted shape using a stick made from "cannici", a local wild plant. The maccarruni will then be cooked in boiling water and eaten together, topped with tomato sauce and sprinkled with salted ricotta.

This week is about drawing the landscape as you experience it. It is about making memories visible in your sketchbook, making your own 'Edward Lear' journal of Greek Calabria.

If you do not feel like participating in an activity, that is perfectly fine!



How to get there:

By train:

If you like slow traveling or do not want to fly, Heleen recommends traveling by train, via Rome or Milan. For the train journey, including night train, you need two days. René (Dutch) can arrange everything for you. You can contact him via [Europa-express](#).

By airplane:

There are several options.

The low-cost airline [Ryanair](#) connects various European and Italian cities. It is possible to reach the city of Reggio Calabria not only by landing at Reggio Calabria airport but also by landing at Lamezia Terme (Calabria) or Catania (Sicily).

Those wishing to extend their trip to Italy by a few days can spend some time in Sicily and therefore fly into Catania, visit Taormina, go on an excursion up Mount Etna and cross the Strait of Messina (a beautiful stretch of sea, the crossing takes just 30 minutes but is unforgettable) and arrive at Reggio Calabria station.

Those wishing to visit Tropea and Scilla before arriving in Reggio Calabria can fly into Lamezia Terme. For any information on how to travel from Catania or Lamezia Terme airports to Reggio Calabria, please feel free to write to Alessandra, who will provide you with all the details.

[ITA](#) also flies to Reggio Calabria Airport, whilst [Easyjet](#) also flies to Lamezia Terme Airport. Catania Airport is larger, so other airlines also fly there.

[mail Alessandra](#)

Important:

The area is beautiful, but for a walk you need good shoes. The walk in the park Aspromonte is about 6 km, without many altimeters. We regularly take walks in and around Bova where steep paths and stairs are unfortunately unavoidable. For this reason, the trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility and poor fitness. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Cash

Although contactless payments can be made almost everywhere, it is useful to take some cash with you.

Dietary requirements

If you are vegetarian, vegan, or have any allergies or intolerances, please let us know. We will pass this information on so that an alternative can be prepared for you.





Terms & conditions:

Participation is voluntary. You are free to opt out of the program, but that does not entitle you to a refund or to a replacement session or activity.

Prices do not include travel insurance, health insurance, cancellation insurance, baggage insurance, or other personal expenses.

After payment of the reservation amount €800, your booking is final. You will receive an agreement and an invoice from Heleen by email for the remaining amount, after July 1. It has to be paid within 10 days. For bookings made after August 1, the participation fee must be paid in full immediately.

July 1 we decide if the Edward Lear Experience has enough participants, if not, you get your reservation amount back. Because it is a huge risk for Heleen, being not an official travel agency, you cannot receive a refund after July 1.

If you cancel before July 1 by sending an email to info@krebh.nl, you will receive 50% of your payment back. If you arrange a replacement (possible until October 1) you will get a full refund minus €50,- administration costs.

You do not have the right to cancel within 14 (fourteen) days free of charge and without providing a reason, pursuant to Article 6:230p(e) of the Dutch Civil Code. This exception applies to services related to leisure activities where the agreement specifies a particular time or period of fulfilment. This exception applies to this Edward Lear Experience.

We reserve the right to cancel for valid reasons, including but not limited to insufficient participants or if we fall ill.

In the event of cancellation, you are entitled to a full refund of payments made but cannot claim compensation or damages.

In cases of force majeure, we may terminate the agreement without liability for damages. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to, war, natural disasters, political unrest,

shortages, strikes, or similar situations.

We and third parties engaged by us are not liable for indirect damages attributable to them.

We accept no liability for damages covered by travel, health, or cancellation insurance.

You are responsible for assessing whether you are physically fit to engage in activities included in the Edward Lear Experience. Physical or mental health concerns must be discussed with a qualified medical professional before the Experience.

Participation in the Edward Lear Experience is at your own risk. We are not liable for:

- a. Injuries or health issues during your stay;
- b. Loss, damage, or theft of personal belongings;
- c. Missed transportation or additional costs outside the Edward Lear Experience.

You must arrange suitable travel and cancellation insurance and ensure such policies cover a trip of this nature.

The B&B accommodations are non-smoking. Drug use and excessive alcohol consumption are prohibited.

You are expected to respect fellow participants, the organisers, facilitators and the environment at all times.

Sharing photo, video or audio recordings on social media during the Edward Lear Experience are only allowed with prior consent from us as organisers and the other participants.

***“Yes, I’ve read everything
and I’ll join you!”***

[book your spot](#)