

It is a good idea to check the weather conditions a few days before travelling and to bring clothes suitable for the likely conditions. When painting outdoors, layers that include a showerproof coat are usually the best option. A hat is essential, both as general sun protection but also to keep the sun out of your eyes when painting and make sure you use a suitable sun protection cream or lotion. Even in the warmest climates, evenings can be cool so bear this in mind. Even if painting equipment is available I would recommend that if possible you should bring along your own materials that you are familiar with. The rest of this guide lists the materials that I use in the demonstrations but you must not feel that you have to use the same materials. It is more important that you are comfortable with your painting materials. If travelling by air, I suggest that you pack your paints and equipment in your hold luggage. Technically, all watercolour equipment should be permitted in cabin baggage but as this is up to the interpretation of the individual security operative, you could be taking a risk.

I always use artist's quality tubes from a reputable manufacturer. Like most people, I love a bargain but please avoid the really cheap sets of paint that cost the same as a tube of decent stuff - they are horrible and completely useless even for practice. Colours are very personal - use what you like - but in case you are interested I use:

BLUES: Ultramarine (warm), Phthalo Blue GS (cool), occasionally Cobalt

REDS: Pyrrol (Winsor) Red (warm) or Cadmium Red, Quinacridone Magenta (cool)

YELLOWS: Cadmium Yellow (warm) Aureolin (cool)

SPECIALS: Quinacridone Gold - A lovely warm yellow/gold.

Burnt Sienna - A dull orange that is a great mixer, dulling too bright greens reds and blues.

Neutral Tint - A good strong dark, but beware of depending too much on it or your darks will lack character. Mix it with something else for variety.

White Gouache - Perfect for highlights and limited mixing but use in moderation.

I use a variety of brushes, mainly round squirrel mops and size 10 and 7 round sables. I also use a swordliner and a 30mm hake type brush for the initial wash. Alternative brushes will suit just as well as long as they are capable of laying on a gentle wash and at least one is well pointed. I use a variety of paper but most of the demonstrations will be painted on either Bockingford 200lb NOT (cold pressed) paper or Millford 140lb NOT . I may also use Bockingford 140lb HP (hot pressed) for pen and wash sketches.

My easel is a compact camera tripod with a home made attachment to hold a board. I also have a clip on tray that holds my brushes and water. This means that I can get all of my equipment including quarter sheet paper fitted into an Amazon Basics SLR camera backpack. Now all I need is some good weather!!