



9 Night Best of Scotland Knitting Tour with Highlands

Tour Dates:

26th April 2020

30th August 2020

4th October 2020

Tour Overview

This Scottish knitting tour will help you experience craft in Scotland with an emphasis on knitting. Your tour will include a tour of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Castle. Visit New Lanark Mill, a famous world heritage site, the village of Sanquhar known for its unique Sanquhar knitting pattern. You will spend time in Glasgow, a port city on the River Clyde and the largest city in Scotland, from here we will travel along the shores of Loch Lomond to Auchindrain Township where you will be treated to a special recreation of 'waulking with wool'. On this tour we will visit Johnsons Mill in Elgin, Scotland's only remaining vertical mill! In Fife we will visit Claddach farm and learn more about the Scottish sheep, goats and Alpacas that are reared to produce the finest Scottish wool.

There will be three half day workshops on this tour: we will meet with Emily from Tin Can Knits in Edinburgh, in Elgin we will enjoy a workshop on our April tour with ERIBE and our August and October tours with Sarah Berry of North Child and in Fife you will take part in a workshop with Di Gilpin and her team.

Of course no tour of Scotland is complete without visiting a whisky distillery! Your tour includes a tour of a Speyside Distillery with a whisky tasting in Scotland's famous whisky producing area.

Included in This Tour-

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private coach (for arrivals prior to 11am on tour start date and departures on tour end date)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver and accredited guide, entrance fees included if applicable.
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 9 nights
- Scottish breakfast daily
- 6 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 6 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Edinburgh
- Entrance to the following attractions: Edinburgh Castle, Auchindrain Township, The Highland Folk Museum, New Lanark World Heritage Site, Provand's Lordship, The Riverside Museum, V&A Dundee Design Gallery and Verdant Works Dundee
- Johnsons Of Elgin Guided Factory Tour
- Tour of a Speyside Distillery
- Visit to see the sheep and alpacas at Claddach Farm

Workshops/ Knitting Activities Included:

- Introduction to Scottish Textiles with Kitty Bruce-Gardyne
- Tin Can Knits Fair Isle Style colourwork blending Workshop using a trademark Tin Can Knits Pattern
- Sanquhar Pattern Demonstration in Sanquhar
- Gansey Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin
- Fair Isle knitting with naturally-dyed yarn with Sarah Berry (except for April departures which will be ERIBÉ and the 'Art of Scottish Knitting' Workshop)

(Wool and patterns are included in all workshops (you need to bring your own needles, sizes will be advised))

Overnights for this Tour

- Doubletree by Hilton Hotel (or similar), Edinburgh for 1 Night
- New Lanark Mill Hotel (or similar), New Lanark for 1 Night
- Glasgow Principal Grand Central Hotel (or similar), Glasgow for 2 Nights
- Royal Hotel (or similar), Oban for 1 Night
- Mansefield Hotel (or similar), Elgin for 2 Nights
- Apex City Quay &* Spa (or similar), Dundee for 1 Night
- Doubletree by Hilton Hotel (or similar), Edinburgh for 1 Night

Itinerary

Important Note: Attractions, Workshops and Demonstrations May Change According to Availability and Scheduling

Day 1: Edinburgh Sightseeing

Your tour begins in Edinburgh Airport with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 11am). At 1pm, meet at Hotel reception and begin your sightseeing with a panoramic tour of Edinburgh City. Visit Edinburgh Castle which stands majestically upon the basalt core of an extinct volcano. Continue on to an introductory talk on Scottish Textiles with Scottish Textiles expert Kitty Bruce-Gardyne. Return to your hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight. Overnight in Edinburgh, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included

Day 2: Tin Can Knits Workshop & New Lanark

After breakfast we meet Emily from *Tin Can Knits* for a knitting workshop with Emily Wessel centring on Fair Isle style colourwork blending, during which time you learn the intricacies of stranded colourwork and begin your own small project using one of Tin Can Knit's trademark patterns. After your class we travel to New Lanark Mill, a unique 18th century mill and UNESCO heritage site. Overnight in New Lanark, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: New Lanark World Heritage Site & Sanquhar Knitting Demonstration

After breakfast you will have more time to explore New Lanark, learning more about its history. The mill was founded in 1786 and taken over in 1800 by Robert Owen, an influential social reformer. In Owen's time over 2,500 people lived and worked at New Lanark, many from the poorhouses of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Owen improved the lives of these workers by introducing previously unheard of social welfare programmes and a school for the children. Today, visitors can see recreated millworkers' homes, historic functioning machinery and the adjacent 'Falls of Clyde' waterfalls. After time to explore the site, we travel to the small village of Sanquhar which is famous for a traditional geometric-style pattern named after its founding village. After lunch (included) we will visit the A' The Airts Centre for a presentation on the traditional Sanquhar pattern. You will enjoy a demonstration of hand-knitting of Sanquhar Gloves and see how the pattern is made on their knitting machines. After your visit continue to Glasgow where the remainder of your evening will be free for personal sightseeing or shopping. Overnight in Glasgow, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Glasgow City Sightseeing

Today we will spend a leisurely morning sightseeing around Glasgow. We will start by visiting the Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel, an award winning museum which displays more than 300 objects that tell a story of Glasgow's past, from vintage cars to prams and even powerful locomotives! One of the highlights of the museum is to walk down an old cobbled Glasgow street with recreated shops dating from 1895 to the 1980s. We will see George's Square with its ornate city chambers and pay a visit to Provand's Lordship, Glasgow's oldest buildings which dates from 1471. The afternoon is free for personal sightseeing or shopping or you can simply return to your hotel and relax if you wish. The names and addresses of Glasgow's main knitting shops will be featured in your itinerary so that you can visit if you feel like it. Some recommendations will include the Queen of Purls & the Yarn Cake! Alternatively, you can take an optional tour to Paisley which is famous the Paisley Shawl which was produced here in droves up until the 19th century. Overnight in Glasgow, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Waulking with Wool at Auchindrain & Loch Lomond

Today we make our way to Auchindrain along the shores of Loch Lomond, stopping along the way to admire the views and take some photographs of the stunning scenery. On arrival in Auchindrain we will visit the Auchindrain Township which gives a taste of what life was once like in the Scottish Highlands. Discover the byres, stables and fields to understand how groups of families would have once worked the common lands. At Auchindrain we will also meet the group locally known as 'Sgioba Luaidh Inbhurchluaidh' which translates to the 'Inverclyde Waulking Group. Waulking is a method of finishing newly woven tweed by soaking and thumping it steadily to shrink and soften it. The group sings Waulking Songs as they work! Following lunch at Auchindrain, time permitting, there will be some free time in the village of Inveraray which has an 18th Century Castle and the interesting Inveraray Jail Museum. Continue to Oban and check into your hotel for the night. Overnight in Oban, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 6: The Highland Folk Museum & Speyside Distillery

Today we make our way to Elgin from Oban, stopping along the way at the Highland Folk Museum and one of Speyside's famous distilleries. The Highland Folk Museum gives visitors a sense of how Highland people lived and worked from the 1700s up until the 1960s. Your tour will pay special attention to traditional crafts like spinning, knitting and weaving and you will enjoy a special textile talk from the museum's curator. Following your visit and free time for lunch travel onward to a distillery tour and whisky tasting. The tour offers you a sensory introduction to the entire process of whisky-making in a historic distillery and enjoy a whisky tasting before you leave! Continue to Elgin and check into your hotel. Overnight in Elgin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 7: Knitting Workshop with Sarah Berry & Johnstons of Elgin Mill Tour

We start the day by meeting with Sarah Berry (ERIBE for April departures) for a half day workshop on the topic of Fair Isle Knitting with naturally-dyed yarn. Sarah will introduce stranded-knitting techniques, whilst those with more experience would be able to design a repeating border pattern and knit up a sample with plant-dyed yarn. After lunch we will take a Tour of Johnston's Mill. Johnston's of Elgin have proudly been making the finest cashmere clothing, accessories and fabric in Scotland since 1797. They are now the last operating vertical mill in Scotland which means all processes are done on site. Watch for yourself as the cashmere is dyed, teased, carded, spun and hand finished by the latest generation of Elgin craftsmen. For those not interested in the mill tour or the knitting workshop there is lots to see in the town of Elgin including the ruins of Elgin cathedral and Britain's oldest museum, the Elgin Museum. Overnight in Elgin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 8: Verdant Works and the V&A Design Gallery

Today we make our way from Elgin to Dundee, stopping for lunch along the way. This afternoon before checking into your hotel we will pay a visit to Verdant Works in Dundee. Verdant Works is a world class visitor attraction which tells the story of Dundee's industrial textile heritage in the

impressive setting of a beautifully restored Mill building. Listen to the stories of the mill workers, see how they lived and worked in an industry which enveloped Dundee. Continue onto the V&A Design Gallery. The V&A Dundee is Scotland's first dedicated design museum and the Design Gallery features more than 300 exhibits from all over Scotland. After your visit, continue to your hotel and check in. Overnight in Dundee, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 9: Claddach Farm & Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin

We start our day with a visit to Claddach Farm! Attendees will get the chance to meet their specialist, pedigree and rare-breed animals, including various commercial sheep breeds; Cheviot, Texel and Bluefaced Leicester whose fleeces will be used to create Di Gilpin's exciting Fife Blend wool. After your visit we continue to Di Gilpins for a knitting workshop. Di will start the programme with a short presentation on the History of Gansey Knitting in Scotland. This will be supported with samples of both traditional pieces and the more contemporary designs from their studio. Next follows a workshop exploring different gansey patterns in either Blanket Squares or a long sampler. Continue to Edinburgh and check into your hotel and relax before this evening's final farewell dinner. Overnight in Edinburgh, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Day 10: Say Goodbye to Scotland

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your return flight.

Prices

26th April 2020: £2899 per person sharing/£899 supplement if single room required

30th August 2020: £2999 per person sharing/£949 supplement if single room required

4th October 2020: £2799 per person sharing/£819 supplement if single room required

Please note we charge in Sterling

Pre Tour Arrangements (Additional)

Package A

2 x Pre-Nights at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room £529

Supplement if single room is required £249

Package B

1 x Pre-Night at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket	
Per person sharing one room	£319
Supplement if single room is required	£129

Booking Requirements & Cancellation Information

A deposit of 20% of the total tour price is required to hold your booking. The balance of the tour is due 60 days before arrival and can be made in instalment payments on request.

Cancellation Policy:

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| ➤ 4 weeks or longer | Deposit will be forfeit and non-refundable. |
| ➤ 4 weeks & 2 weeks | 50% is forfeit |
| ➤ 2 weeks or less | 100% of all money paid is forfeit |