



9 Night Best of Scotland Knitting Tour with the Highlands

Tour Dates:

24th March 2019

12th May 2019

01st September 2019

13th October 2019

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 two woollen mills, Johnsons Mill in Elgin, Scotland's only remaining vertical mill and Knockando which operates on a smaller scale and you can see a traditional Victorian loom in action! 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 with Sarah Berry of North Child (**Tours 12th of May, 1st of September & 13th October**) and in Fife you will take part in a workshop with Di Gilpin and her team. On the **24th of March tour** you will get to partake on a knitting workshop with Donna from ERIBÉ working with a different range of yarns and colours and develop your own colour story.

Of course no tour of Scotland is complete without visiting a whisky distillery! Your tour includes a tour of the Dalwhinnie Distillery with a whisky tasting.

If you wish to visit the **Edinburgh Yarn Festival** prior to your Knitting Tour starting 24th of March, we have a pre night package available. Please see the pricing section for more information.

Note – [For full details on the tours see the full tour itinerary below](#)

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 Highlands Folk Museum, New Lanark World Heritage Site, Provand's Lordship, The Riverside Museum, Verdant Works Dundee
- Johnsons Of Elgin Guided Factory Tour
- Knockando Woolmill guided tour
- Visit to see the sheep and alpacas at Claddach Farm
- Guided tour of Dalwhinnie Distillery

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- Emily from Tin Can Knits for a knitting workshop following Tin Can Knits 'Anthology' pattern.
- Sanquhar Pattern Demonstration in Sanquhar
- Gansey Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin
- Knitting workshop with Donna from ERIBÉ (for tour date 24th of March)
- Fair Isle knitting with naturally-dyed yarn with Sarah Berry (for tour dates 12th May, 01st Sept, 13th Oct)
- Waulking with Wool performance at Auchindrain

Overnights for this Tour

- Apex Grassmarket Hotel (or similar), Edinburgh for 1 Night
- New Lanark Mill Hotel (or similar), New Lanark for 1 Night
- Marriott Hotel (or similar), Glasgow for 2 Nights
- Perle Hotel (or similar), Oban for 1 Night
- Mansefield Hotel, Elgin for 2 Nights
- Apex City Quay &* Spa (or similar), Dundee for 1 Night
- Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel (or similar), Edinburgh for 1 Night

Edinburgh Yarn Festival 2 Night Pre-Tour Package

If you wish to visit the **Edinburgh Yarn Festival** prior to your Knitting Tour starting 24th of March, we have rooms available 22nd - 24th March. The package will include transfers from Edinburgh Airport to the Apex Grassmarket Hotel (or similar), 2 nights' accommodation in rooms with private facilities on a bed and Scottish breakfast basis and a 24 hour Hop-on, Hop-off sightseeing bus ticket. The cost for this package will be £240 per person sharing a twin or double

room & £440 per person in a single room.

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. We will do a quick stop at **McAree Brothers Knitting and Crafts Shop** where you can see their great selection of quality Scottish and British yarns. Next visit **Edinburgh Castle** which stands majestically upon the basalt core of an extinct volcano. Following a guided tour and some free time 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 following Tin Can Knits 'Anthology' pattern. The class will feature stranded colourwork, yarn sizing and each participant will get started knitting a swatch. 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 Inbhirchluaidh**' 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 & Dalwhinnie Distillery

Today we make our way to Elgin from Oban, stopping along the way at the Highland Folk Museum and Dalwhinnie Distillery. 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 lunch travel onward to **Dalwhinnie Distillery** for a distillery tour and whisky tasting. The tour offers you a sensory introduction to the entire process of whisky-making in a modern distillery. You will have the opportunity to see how Scottish Whisky was made in the 1900's and you will have the

opportunity to see racked casks of slowly maturing malts in a traditional bonded warehouse and before you leave enjoy a whisky tasting. Continue to Elgin and check into your hotel. Overnight in Elgin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 7: Knitting Workshop with Donna from ERIBÉ & Johnsons of Elgin Mill Tour (24th March Tour)

Today's workshop will be with **Donna from ERIBÉ**. ERIBÉ meaning the "The Art of Scottish Knitting". During the workshop you will enjoy working with a range of yarns and colours, learn how to develop your own colour story and explore how knitwear can make you look and feel younger. 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.

Alternative Day 7: Knitting Workshop Sarah Berry & Johnsons of Elgin Mill Tour (12th May, 1st Sep, 13th Oct Tours)

We start the day by meeting with Sarah Berry 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: Knockando Woolmill & The Verdant Works

Today we make our way from Elgin to Dundee, stopping along the way at Knockando Woolmill. **Knockando Woolmill** sits beautifully in the Spey Valley, on the same site that the mill has occupied for over 230 years. Here contemporary designs are woven alongside traditional tweeds and classic woollen blankets. At Knockando you will be able to see many elements of the production process first hand including a working Victorian loom. After your visit we will continue on our journey, stopping once more on route for lunch. This afternoon before checking

into your hotel we will pay a visit to the **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 the stories of the mill workers, see how they lived and worked in an industry which enveloped Dundee. 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.

Prices

24th March 2019 £2399 per person sharing/£479 supplement if single room required **Note**
- (Optional 2 Night Edinburgh Yarn Festival add-on package also available - please see details and price supplement below)

12th May 2019 £2499 per person sharing/£545 supplement if single room required

01st September 2019 £2499 per person sharing/£575 supplement if single room required

13th October 2019 £2499 per person sharing/£529 supplement if single room required

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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:

- 4 weeks or longer prior to start date deposit will be forfeit and non-refundable.
- 4 weeks - 2 weeks prior to start date 50% is forfeit
- 2 weeks or less prior to start date 100% of all money paid is forfeit

Postponements:

Should you wish to change your tour to one of our other tours or to a different date, an amendment fee of GBP250 per person will apply. However, within 4 weeks of the tour commencement date cancellation fees will apply and postponements will not be possible.