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9 Night Woollinn Adventure, Dublin, Cavan, Derry & Donegal

Tour Date:

12th June 2020

(One Date Only, Limited Availability)

Tour Overview

Woollinn, Ireland's popular festival of yarn returns to Dublin in June 2020 and knittingtours.com will be there! Join our 9 Night tour which will include the first two days at the show with an exclusive knitting class with Carol Feller at the event! Your package for Woollinn includes a two day pass to the event, granting access to the marketplace and all associated "bonus" events such as demonstrations, exhibitions and social get-togethers and a ticket to the evening Woollinn Dinner on Friday Night. You will also be entitled to a 10% discount off any of the classes that you would like to book.

We will spend three days in the Dublin area to enjoy the show and see some of the regions best attractions, including Russborough House and Glendalough. After some time in the Boyne Valley at the Old Mellifont Abbey and a tapestry workshop with Aine Dunne, we will stop over in Cavan for two nights, often referred to as Ireland's Lakeland County, the region is dotted with many stunning lakes and hills. Here we meet Sandra from Crafts of Ireland for an Irish Crochet Rose Motif workshop as well as spinning and sock knitting demonstration on an antique sock knitting machine. We will also meet Jess from Olann.ie who produces beautiful hand dyed yarn from her hub in Cavan for a short dyeing demonstration.

For the final leg of our journey we travel to Donegal where our exploits will be a trip to Studio Donegal in Kilcar, visiting the stunning Slieve League Cliffs and the quaint folk village at Glencolmcille. In Derry City we will have an Aran knitting workshop with one of our most loved knitting instructors, Edel MacBride and we will explore some of the local attractions including Derry's Medieval Walls.

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
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 9 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 3 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 5 lunches
- 1 dinner social at Woollinn on Friday 14th June
- 1 Farewell Meal at your final hotel

- Entrance to the following attractions: Russborough House, Glendalough, Old Mellifont Abbey, Glencolmcille Folk Village, Slieve League Cliffs, The Ulster American Folk Park
- Derry City Guided Walking Tour
- Belleek pottery Factory Tour
- Carrickmacross Lace Demonstration

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- Two-day passes to Woollinn (Fri 12th and Sat 13th June), granting access to the marketplace and all associated "bonus" events such as demonstrations, exhibitions and social get-togethers (details TBC)
- A ticket to dinner social at Woollinn on Friday 12th June
- A voucher code for 10% off any three-hour workshop at Woollinn, note you would book the workshop yourself when the workshops go on sale likely in late November. We will provide you with booking information.
- An exclusive knitting workshop with Carol Feller at Woollinn on the topic of short rows
- An Aran knitting workshop with Edel MacBride in Derry
- Irish Crochet Rose Motif, Spinning Demonstration & Antique Sock Machine Knitting Demonstration with Sandra from Crafts of Ireland
- Short Dyeing demonstration by Jess from Olann.ie
- Aine Dunne spinning demonstration

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

Overnights for this Tour

- Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, 3 Nights (this is also the venue for Woollinn)
- The Farnam Estate, Cavan, 2 Nights
- The Mill Park Hote, Donegal, 2 Nights
- The Maldron Hotel, Derry, 1 Night
- The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin Airport, 1 Night

Optional Pre Night Package

Optional pre-night packages available should you wish to spend a night or two extra in Dublin before the tour starts, please see pricing section for details. Please note, Dublin hotels are very busy during this week due to the UEFA European Football Tournament. Pre-night package hotels subject to availability at time of booking.

Itinerary

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

Day 1: Dublin Sightseeing/Woollinn Dublin or optional Dublin Tour & Woollinn Welcome Dinner

Your Woollinn Knitting tour begins in Dublin Airport with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 11am on start day of tour). Entrance fees are included for you to explore Woollinn at your leisure. Your pass will grant you access to the marketplace and all associated "bonus" events such as demonstrations, exhibitions and social get-togethers. You will also receive a 10% discount off any three-hour workshop that you would like to book. Please note that workshops at Woollinn are not included in this package and we do not book people into workshops, we will provide you with the information on how to book directly with the organisers as soon as this information is available to us. Please note, spaces at the workshops are available on a first-come first-served basis and that neither KnittingTours.com or Woollinn can be responsible if you do not manage to secure a place at your chosen workshop. Please book your classes directly on the Woollinn website <http://woollinn.com/> - you are entitled to a 10% discount if you book this tour. Once you have booked, a discount code will be sent to you as soon as it is available to us.

For non knitters or those that want to do some Dublin sightseeing today, there will be an optional tour of Dublin included. At 1pm, meet at Hotel reception and begin your sightseeing with a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Visit the National Museum of Archaeology. The Museum of Archaeology is home to the Irish Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland which is the national repository for all archaeological objects found in Ireland. It holds in trust for the nation and the world a series of outstanding archaeological collections spanning millennia of Irish history and also holds extensive collections of non-Irish antiquities. The museum houses artefacts ranging in date from 7000 B.C. to the late medieval period and beyond. Return to your hotel in time for dinner which includes a sit-down meal and entertainment, with some of the Woollinn Special Guests in attendance! Dinner will be included for knitters and non-knitters. Overnight in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: Woollinn/Free Day in Dublin

For those that want to spend another day at Woollinn, the option is there for you. Otherwise there will be return transfers to/from Dublin included so that you can do your own personal sightseeing. Overnight in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: Exclusive Knitting Class with Carol Feller at Woollinn – Local Sightseeing, Russborough House & Glendalough

This morning meet with **Carol Feller** for an exclusive KnittingTours.Com three hour workshop at Woollinn. Carol's popular class on Short Rows works students through several different ways of creating short rows until they find the method that perfectly suits them. Once the short rows have been perfected you will explore innovative ways to use your short rows and incorporate them into your work! After time for lunch on your own, we will take a tour - visiting Russborough House & Glendalough. **Russborough House** is a stately house situated near the Blessington Lakes in County Wicklow and is reputed to be the longest house in Ireland, with a frontage measuring 210 m/700 ft. It is an example of Palladian architecture, designed by Richard Cassels for Joseph Leeson, 1st Earl of Milltown and built between 1741 and 1755. Your visit will include a tour of the house and there will be time for you to walk around its pretty gardens and perhaps visit one or two of the local craft makers operating in the west courtyard. After your visit to Russborough we take a quick visit to **Glendalough** a glacial valley located a short distance from Russborough and renowned for both its Medieval monastic settlement and stunning mountain vistas. Overnight in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Aine Dunne, Olann Dyeing Demonstration & Old Mellifont Abbey in The Boyne Valley

Leaving Dublin we travel to Drogheda to meet **Aine Dunne** a tapestry weaver and artist, resident and working from the Boyne Valley. With Aine and her team, you will enjoy a tapestry workshop and try your hand at weaving a sample piece on a four-sided tapestry frame loom. During your time with Aine you will gain insight into her designs, weaving methods and work schedule. Today, we will also meet Jess from Olann.ie who produces beautiful hand dyed yarn from her hub in Cavan for a short dyeing demonstration. For non-knitters we will arrange a trip to nearby Drogheda where places of interest include Oliver Plunketts Head at St. Peter's Church! After lunch nearby (included), we will all head off to tour the Boyne Valley. The Boyne Valley is one of Ireland's most historic regions. We will enjoy a guided tour of **Old Mellifont Abbey** the first Cistercian monastery in Ireland, founded in 1142 by Saint Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh. In 1603 the famous Treaty of Mellifont was signed at Mellifont Abbey between the English Crown and Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. Overnight in Cavan, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Crochet Rose Workshop, Sock Knitting and Spinning Demonstration at Crafts of Ireland.

Today we partner with Sandra at **Crafts of Ireland** some craft activities. Non-knitters or those that prefer to do some touring can do some additional Boyne Valley sightseeing including a visit to the Heritage town of Trim and Trim Castle. The group at Crafts of Ireland will learn how to Crochet a traditional Irish Rose motif that often adorns Irish knitwear, see a spinning

demonstration as well as a sock knitting demonstration on an antique sock knitting machine. For non-knitters we will arrange a trip to the heritage town of Trim and a tour of Trim Castle. After the craft workshops continue to your hotel in Cavan for some leisure time. Overnight in Cavan, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: Travel to Donegal via Belleek Pottery and Donegal Castle

Set off early, traveling along the Northwest coast to the Belleek Pottery Centre, stopping en route at the Butter Market in Enniskillen where the early 19th century buttermarket buildings have been beautifully restored and house such diverse crafts as pottery, fly-tying, ceramics, handmade jewellery, textiles, picture framing and original art. At **Belleek Pottery Centre**, take a guided tour takes you through all aspects of pottery production which has been in operation since the 1800's. Continue to Donegal where time will be allowed for you to have lunch on your own or simply walk around town. In the afternoon we will visit **Donegal Castle**, the castle consists of a 15th-century rectangular keep with a later Jacobean style wing. The complex is sited on a bend in the River Eske, near the mouth of Donegal Bay, and is surrounded by a 17th-century boundary wall. There is a small gatehouse at its entrance mirroring the design of the keep. Most of the stonework was constructed from locally sourced limestone with some sandstone. The castle was the stronghold of the O'Donnell clan, Lords of Tír Conaill and one of the most powerful Gaelic families in Ireland from the 5th to the 16th centuries. Overnight in Donegal, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 7: Studio Donegal, Slieve League Cliffs and Glencolmcille

Begin your day with a visit to **Studio Donegal**, a hand-weaving and clothing manufacturing business committed to preserving and promoting traditional Irish hand-weaving. Here you will see the process of hand-weaving including the spinning, warping and weaving of the wool. Beautifully tailored vests, jackets and homeware products are made on site from their own fabrics. Studio Donegal's soft Merino yarn is dyed and spun in the region and sold on site. Next stop is the stunningly beautiful **Slieve League Cliffs** some of the highest and finest marine cliffs in Europe and the inspiration for Edel's locally spun Sliabh Liag wool; we will have a quick bite to eat before we continue with the tour. Travel onward to **Glencolmcille Folk Village**, a collection of several small cottages, called a 'clachan', resting on a hillside that overlooks the stunning Glen Bay Beach. Designed, constructed and conserved by local people, the Folk Village is one of Ireland's longest running living-history museums. Overnight in Donegal, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 8: Workshop with Edel MacBride & Derry City Walking Tour

After breakfast travel to Derry to meet one of Ireland's finest knitwear designers, **Edel MacBride** for a core workshop including yarn pack, working the best of Irish moss, cable and Edel's favourite Aran stitches. After your workshop and lunch, take a **Walking Tour of Derry City** which will include some of the local attractions including Derry's Medieval Walls, Information on The

Bogside, The Peoples Gallery (Murals) The Bloody Sunday Story, The History of the Apprentice Boys, The Marching Season Traditions. Finish up with some free time to explore Derry city at your leisure & tonight dinner is not included so you can check out one of this city's superb restaurants. Overnight in Derry, Bed & Breakfast Included

Day 9: Return to Dublin via The Ulster Folk Museum

Check out of your hotel and return to Dublin via the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. The **Ulster American Folk Park** explores the historical link between Ulster and America, focusing particularly on the lifestyle and experiences of those immigrants who sailed from Ulster to America in the 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular interest to you may be the weaver's cottage where you will see an authentic handloom which would have been used to weave tweed or linen by the man of the house while his wife spun the flax fibres into yarn and the children carded and combed the flax in preparation for the spinning wheel. Staff here will give you a demonstration on the spinning wheel and tell you all about traditional yarn dyeing methods. Your final stop today will be **Carrickmacross Lace** to see the fine lace masterpieces that have been produced in the region since the early 1800's. Enjoy a demonstration where staff that are passionate about the beauty of this meticulously created craft will show you the intricate needlework involved with creating the finished pieces. Continue to your hotel at Dublin Airport and check-in. The remainder of the day is free for personal sightseeing or shopping before our final farewell dinner tonight. Overnight Dublin Airport Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 10: Tour Ends

After your final Irish breakfast depart the hotel for Dublin airport arriving in time to complete check-in formalities and that last-minute duty free shopping.

Prices

12th June 2020: €2899 per person sharing/€729 supplement if single room required

Friends or family that want to come but they don't knit? We can offer a special **non knitter discount of €200** per non knitter! A chance to explore Dublin city at your leisure, see the Museum of Archaeology, Temple Bar, Phoenix Park are some of the options you have. Also chance to discover Oliver Plunketts Head at St. Peter's Church, the heritage town of Trim and a Castle tour. Where possible, we have arranged alternative activities for non-knitters, please read the day by day itinerary for further details on these.

Pre Tour Arrangements (Optional/Additional)

Package A

2 x Pre-Nights at Radisson Blu Golden Lane or similar

Arrival Transfer from Dublin Airport to Dublin City & transfer to Royal Marine Hotel for Woollinn

2 Day Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €456

Supplement if single room is required € 229

Package B

1 x Pre-Night at Radisson Blu Golden Lane or similar

Arrival Transfer from Dublin Airport to Dublin City & transfer to Royal Marine Hotel for Woollinn

1 Day Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €309

Supplement if single room is required € 114

Please note, Dublin hotels are very busy during this week due to the UEFA European Football Tournament. Pre-night package hotels subject to availability at time of booking. Book your pre-night package early to avoid disappointment. Limited pre night packages available.

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 €250 per person will apply. Within 4 weeks cancellation fees will apply.