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10 Night South of Ireland with the Aran Islands (2021)

Tour Dates:

18th April 2021

11th July 2021

19th September 2021

Tour Overview

This knitting tour of Ireland will help you experience craft in Ireland, especially knitting. Your tour will include time in Dublin, Galway, Inis Oírr and Killarney; while you travel you will partake in knitting workshops, craft demonstrations and craft sightseeing as well as general sightseeing. Your tour begins in Dublin where we pay a visit to the National Museum of Decorative arts, here you can catch a glimpse of how Irish people in the past lived through their clothing and textiles. The next day in Dublin we will have a 'knitting with wire' workshop and visit one of Dublin's best yarn stores, the Constant Knitter. Leaving Dublin, we will head for Connemara in the West of Ireland. Connemara is characterised by coastal coves and bays, fishing villages and by its vast expanse of mountainous scenery. Before we leave Galway we will enjoy a knitting workshop with Anne O'Maille of Ó'Máilles of Galway, established in 1938, this shop became famous in the 1950s for outfitting the entire cast of the film *The Quiet Man*. The next two days of your trip will be spent Inis Oírr (Inisheer), one of the famous Aran Islands located at the mouth of Galway Bay. You will enjoy knitting and dyeing workshops learning the traditional methods and stitches the Aran Island way! Your time on the islands will include sightseeing and even a bit of Irish music and dance! The next part of the tour takes places in the south of Ireland where we visit the famous Ring of Kerry with its stunning ocean vistas and we will enjoy a knitting workshop with either Carol Feller or Liz Spillane. Return to Dublin via the famous Blarney Castle where legend has it if you kiss the stone you will never be lost for words and have as the Irish say, 'the gift of the gab'!

Included in This Tour

- Transfers on arrival and departure (for arrivals prior to 10:30am on tour start day and for those with pre-night packages)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver and accredited guide
- Accommodation in rooms with private bathroom facilities for 10 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 5 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 4 sit down lunches
- 1 Farewell Dinner
- Entrance to the following attractions: National Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Christ Church Cathedral, Kylemore Abbey, Glen Keen Sheep Farm, The Cliffs of Moher, Blarney Castle.
- Return ferry to Inis Oírr, Aran Islands

- Inis Oírr Guided Tour
- Aran Island Baking & Butter Making Demonstration
- Partial Ring of Kerry Guided tour
- Connemara Guided Tour
- Kerry Woollen Mills Factory Tour
- Basket weaving demonstration with Ciaran Hogan

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- Knitting with wire workshop at Winnies Craft Cafe in Dublin
- Knitting Workshop with Anne O'Maille in Galway
- Aran Island Knitting Workshop with Una McDonagh
- Aran Island Spinning & Dying workshop
- Knitting Class with Carol Feller in Killarney (including a copy of Carol's book on Irish knitting)
- Traditional Knitting with Liz Spillane
- Meeting with local designer at the Constant Knitter

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

Overnights for this Tour

- Camden Court Hotel (or similar), Dublin, 1 Night
- Ardilaun Hotel (or similar), Galway, 3 Nights
- Quality en-suite B&B on Inis Oírr, Aran Islands 2 Nights,
- Lake Hotel (Woodland View), Killarney or similar, 3 Nights*
- Camden Court Hotel (or similar), Dublin, 1 Night

*Lake view supplement available, see pricing section for information.

Itinerary

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

Day 1: Dublin Sightseeing

Your tour begins in Dublin Airport with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 11am on start day of tour). At 1pm, meet at hotel reception and begin your day with a visit to the National Museum of Decorative Arts & History where you catch a glimpse of how Irish people in the past lived. Recreated rooms show typical furniture styles from the 17th century through to the high style of the 19th century. Of particular interest to you may be the textile exhibition 'The Way We Wore' which displays typical Irish clothing and jewellery worn from the 1760s onwards. After your visit, it's onto Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's oldest building, for a guided tour. The remainder of the day will be free before meeting back at the hotel for your welcome dinner.

Overnight Camden Court Hotel or similar, Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: Winnie's Craft Café, Constant Knitter & Travel to Galway

Another day in Dublin starts with a trip to the Constant Knitter where you will meet a local craftsperson for a demonstration and informal chat about their craft topic which will either be knitwear design or Irish lace crochet depending on designer availability. After your visit, travel the short distance to Winnie's Craft Cafe, an oasis of calm and colour for those interested in knitting, crochet and beading. Here we meet resident knitting teacher Pauline Gallagher who will give you a short knitting with wire workshop. All materials will be provided and by the end of the class you should have knit yourself a nice wire leaf pendant which you can take home with you as a souvenir of your time here in Ireland! The craft shop will also be open which stocks a wide range of yarns, books, patterns and accessories. Travel to the vibrant city of Galway and check into your hotel.

Overnight Ardilaun Hotel or similar, Galway, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: Craft in Connemara

Set off on a tour of Connemara this morning. Situated on the most Westerly part of Ireland, Connemara is one of the most beautiful unspoilt landscapes around. Your first stop will be the Spiddal Craft & Design Centre where you will enjoy a demonstration of traditional Irish willow basket weaving techniques and an introduction to modern basket designs with traditional basket maker, Ciaran Hogan. You might also enjoy visiting other craftspeople at the centre including traditional hand weaver, Máire Ní Thaidhg. Stop also at the famous Kylemore Abbey which is one of the most visited attractions in Ireland. Thousands visit Kylemore to see the outstanding Abbey

and to experience the natural beauty of Kylemore's Woodland and Lakeshore walks and Victorian walled garden. Finally visit Glen Keen Farm where you will enjoy a sheep herding demonstration followed by home baked scones and tea or coffee. Return to Galway where the evening is your own. You might decide to head into town and catch a traditional Irish music session in any one of Galway's many pubs or simply relax in your hotel.

Overnight Ardilaun Hotel or similar, Galway, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Anne O'Maille Workshop

This morning enjoy an intensive Knitting Workshop with one of Ireland's best known Aran knitters and designers, Mrs. Anne O'Maille of Ó'Máilles of Galway. Established in 1938, this shop became famous in the 1950s for outfitting the entire cast of the film *The Quiet Man* and has done a fabulous business ever since in Irish tweeds, knitwear, and Aran knits. The remainder of the day will be free to explore Galway and its surrounding areas at your own pace.

Overnight Ardilaun Hotel or similar, Galway, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Inis Oírr (Inisheer), Aran Islands

Depart your hotel in time to get the morning ferry to Inis Oírr (Inisheer), one of the famous Aran Islands located at the mouth of Galway Bay off the west coast of Ireland. On arrival you will be collected by your Aran Island Knitting Instructor Una McDonough and taken to Café Una where you will be welcomed with tea or coffee and scones. Enjoy a Knitting Workshop where you will learn traditional methods and stitches the Aran Island way. In your class you will learn the Sharry Chain Link Stitch. The Sharry family, like many of the island families, has a long standing connection with the sea and the women of the family celebrate that connection in their choice of stitches when they knit traditional Aran sweaters. After some time to enjoy the Art Exhibition at the centre take a guided tour of the Island. This afternoon check into your B&B accommodation with time to relax and get to know your hosts. Your hosts can cater for most dietary needs, so please be sure to let us know of any special requirements in advance of travel. You will be collected this evening and taken to a local restaurant for a sumptuous meal.

Overnight Inis Oírr, Aran Islands, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: Another day and night on Inis Oírr (Inisheer)!

Today enjoy a baking demonstration of island brown bread and scones along with home-made butter making. Following the demonstration enjoy tea or coffee with the scones! Next participate in a spinning & dyeing workshop using local plants & lichens in the traditional manner. This will continue into the afternoon before you will enjoy some local traditional music before dinner. This evening return to your B&B accommodation and after having some time to relax, you will be collected and taken for another delicious meal.

Overnight Inis Oírr, Aran Islands, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 7: Aran Islands to Killarney

Check out of your accommodation after breakfast and take the early morning ferry directly to Doolin in County Clare. Take a scenic drive around Clare to the Cliffs of Moher to admire the astonishing views. Travel onwards to Kerry via the charming town of Adare to Kerry Woollen Mills. This 17th century establishment has been crafting fine fabrics and yarn from wool for over 300 years and on your tour, you will see truly skilled craftspeople at work. Afterwards, check into your hotel in Killarney where the remainder of the day until dinner will be free for personal sightseeing.

Overnight Lake Hotel or similar, Killarney, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included

Day 8: Carol Feller Knitting Class

After breakfast enjoy a Knitting Workshop with Carol Feller, popular Irish knitter and author of the book Contemporary Irish Knits. Enjoy a free afternoon to take in what Killarney has to offer. Options include venturing to the nearby Killarney National Park or perhaps, enjoy some shopping in the vibrant town itself. Overnight Lake Hotel or similar, Killarney, Bed & Breakfast Basis

Day 9: Liz Spillane Knitting Class & Ring of Kerry Tour (partial tour)

Travel to Bonane, just outside Kenmare on the beautiful Ring of Kerry to Liz Spillane for a knitting workshop. During your workshop with Liz you will experience the joy of creating your very own colourful & textured yarn for hand knitting, using locally spun 100% pure new wool yarns together with existing yarns in the studio store and some very simple techniques. You will also discover and learn some of our many traditional Aran knitting stitch structures. Then, combine the two and create a unique wearable accessory! Afterwards, enjoy a partial tour of the scenic Ring of Kerry.

Overnight Lake Hotel or similar, Killarney, Bed & Breakfast Included

Day 10: Blarney Castle & Return to Dublin

Check out of your accommodation and travel to the neighbouring county of Cork to visit Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills Store. Cormac MacCarthy, a great Irish chieftain constructed Blarney Castle nearly 600 years ago and since then this remarkable fortress and its 'stone of eloquence' has been attracting thousands of curious visitors every year. Legend has it that if you kiss the stone you will never be lost for words and have as the Irish say, 'the gift of the gab'. Built in 1823, Blarney Woollen Mills was originally known as Mahoney's Mills and provided valuable employment to the people of Blarney and nearby areas. Today Blarney Woollen Mills is Ireland's largest Irish Gift & Craft Store. This afternoon travel onward to Dublin. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a nearby restaurant and say your goodbyes to new friends.

Overnight Camden Court Hotel or similar, Dublin, Lunch, 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

18th April 2021: €3310 per person sharing/€659 supplement if single room required

11th July 2021: €3459 per person sharing/€850 supplement if single room required

19th September 2021: €3459 per person sharing/€850 supplement if single room required

Optional Room Supplements: Lake Hotel Killarney, Lake View Supplement €60 per room for 2 Nights

Please note we charge in Euro for this tour.

Optional Pre Tour Arrangements (Additional Cost Applies)

Package A

- 2 x Pre-Nights at a Dublin City Centre Hotel (Camden Court Hotel or similar)
- Arrival Transfer
- Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

	18 th April 2021	11 th July 2021	19 th September 2021
Per person sharing one room	€328	€357	€357
Supplement if single room is required	€86	€86	€86

Package B

- 1 x Pre-Night at a Dublin City Centre Hotel (Camden Court Hotel or similar)
- Arrival Transfer
- Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

	18 th April 2021	11 th July 2021	19 th September 2021
Per person sharing one room	€210	€224	€224
Supplement if single room is required	€43	€43	€43

Booking Requirements & Cancellation Information

Please read our full terms & conditions on our website here:

<https://www.knittingtours.com/terms-conditions/>

An initial deposit of 20% of the total tour price is required to secure your booking and this is due once we receive your booking form.

Final payment is due 60 days before the tour departure date. Failure to pay final balance by this date may result in the cancellation of your place.

Cancellation Penalties:

- Cancellation more than 60 days or more prior to itinerary start date – Full deposit is forfeit.
- Cancellation 59 days – 31 days prior to itinerary start date – 50% of total paid is forfeit
- Cancellation 30 days – 15 days prior to itinerary start date – 75% of total paid is forfeit
- Cancellation 14 days or less – 100% of total paid is forfeit

Note: Day one of the tour is the day of arrival. Cancellation charges will also apply to any extra services pre and post tour.

Postponements and Amendments

- Should you wish to change your tour to one of our other available tours or to a different date, you can do so subject to tour availability. An amendment fee of EUR250/GBP250 per person will apply.
- Within 59 days of the tour commencement date the cancellation penalties set out in section 5 will apply and postponements will not be possible.