



6 Night Northwest Ireland Luxury Knitting Retreat

Tour Dates:

10th October 2021

(One Date Only, Limited Availability)

Tour Overview

Luxury Knitting Retreat in the Northwest of Ireland with Instructor Edel MacBride -

While our knitting tours are hugely popular, a lot of our previous knitters said they would like to come back to Ireland to simply relax and knit! So here it is, our Luxury Donegal Knitting Retreat. When you arrive at Dublin airport we will take you to the award winning GPO Witness History Visitor Centre followed by a visit to This is Knit, one of Dublin's best yarn stores in the beautiful surroundings of the Powerscourt Townhouse. The next day, head for Donegal on the Northwest coast and meet your host and famous Donegal Knitter, Edel MacBride. You will spend four days with Edel in the luxury 5 Star Lough Eske Castle Hotel. We will have optional touring throughout the four days, should you wish to take in some of the local crafts! Award winning Lough Eske Castle has a long history which is wrapped in the story of Co. Donegal and Ireland. It is a story of being carved piece by piece from local stone carried by Clydesdale horses along specially constructed roadways. It is a tale of being won, lost, ruined and restored. Powerful 14th century clans of Donegal the O'Donnells had their seat here, wealthy landowners ruled from here and Edwardian glamour was played out. In 1861 the new Lough Eske Castle, as we know it today, was built on the site of the old Brooke Mansion. Always a place for entertaining international guests since 1861, Lough Eske Castle remains full of warm Donegal hospitality today as it did over 150 years ago.

Included in This Tour

- Transfers on arrival and departure (for arrivals prior to 10:30am on tour start day and 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 6 nights
- Visits to: This is Knit, The GPO Museum, The Ulster American Folk Park, Studio Donegal Weavers, Slieve League Cliffs, Rossan Knitwear and Swallows Studio.
- Carrickmacross Lace Demonstration
- The company of your knitting host Edel MacBride for 4 days.
- Knitting workshops as described in the itinerary including yarn and patterns
- Accommodation in rooms with private bathroom facilities for 6 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 3 Lunches
- 5 hotel table d'hote dinners
- Afternoon Tea in Lough Eske Castle
- Cheese and Wine Event at Lough Eske Castle

- Optional touring as described in the itinerary

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- Knitting workshops as described in the itinerary including yarn and patterns
- Visit This is Knit Yarn Store
- Spinning & Dyeing Demonstration with Mary from Markree Woolcraft
- Knitting with the locals at Glencolmcille Folk Village
- Studio Donegal Weaving Demonstration

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

Overnights for this Tour

- Hyatt Centric Hotel (or Similar), Dublin, 1 Night
- Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Donegal, 4 Nights
- Hyatt Centric Hotel (or Similar), Dublin, 1 Night

Itinerary

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

Day 1: Dublin Arrival, Dublin City Tour, the GPO Museum & This is Knit

Begin your knitting retreat with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30am). Visit the GPO Witness History Museum; located in one of Dublin's most famous buildings the museum tells the story of the 1916 Rising in Dublin through special effects, soundscapes and stories from real Irish people. Next stop is the This Is Knit which is one of Dublin's best yarn stores in the beautiful surroundings of the Powerscourt Centre. Return to your hotel where you will have time to relax or take a walk around Dublin City before your evening welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at the Hyatt Centric Hotel, Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included.

Day 2: Donegal via Swallow's Studio

Today we leave Dublin, stopping along the way at Swallow's Studio, where Liz Christy creates beautiful handwoven products on a traditional loom and inspired by her favourite artists, Monet, Gauguin and Edward Hopper. Continue onto Donegal and meet your host, one of Ireland's finest knitwear designers, Edel MacBride. You will spend a lot more time with Edel and her team over the few days spent in Donegal, so this evening is an informal get together and 'get to know each other' session with some informal knitting thrown in for good measure!

Overnight at Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: Knitting Workshop with Edel MacBride – Spinning & Dyeing Demonstration with Markree Wool Craft

Throughout your knitting retreat Edel will be helping you along with your project which you will start today. Both projects have been designed by Edel especially for this knitting retreat and you will choose your preferred project based on your knitting proficiency, the options will include the Swan Lake Cowl or Peggy's Taepot (We haven't spelled that wrong, it is done the Irish way!). The Swan Lake Cowl Pattern is medium to difficult but with options to work an equally lovely beginner version and involves travelling cables and optional colour work. The Taepot is a wonderful Aran based tea cosy with quite a story behind the inspiration, it involves cables and simple lace work. Both projects are worked in Edel's custom designed Sliabh Liag Yarn and Momer her new merino-mohair blend. Yarn and patterns are included to complete your chosen project, you will need to bring your own needles and we will advise the size requirements in advance. This afternoon partake in a Cheese and Wine event at the hotel, followed by a Spinning & Dyeing Demonstration with Mary from Markree Woolcraft who will demonstrate traditional Irish spinning techniques on

a Donegal Spinning Wheel and talk to you about how she dyes her yarns using hedgerow plants and lichens. All year round you can enjoy the magnificent landscape that surrounds your hotel on the shores of Lough Eske, overlooked by the beautiful Blue Stack Mountains. This evening, why not take a walk around the lake or further afield.

Overnight at Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Optional Donegal Craft Tour: Glencolmcille Region & Slieve League Cliffs

Today if you prefer to stay at Lough Eske Castle Hotel you can do that or join us for a tour of Western Donegal. If you do decide to tour with us, bring your knitting as Edel will be touring with you! 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. Travel onward to Glencolmcille Folk Village and spend some time knitting with the locals. Knitting was an integral part of the income of families in Glencolmcille. Spinning, weaving and dyeing of wool also played a huge part in the lives and culture of the locals. Glencolmcille was very much a fishing community and the Aran sweater was both a necessity and second nature to the people. Afterwards, enjoy a short visit to Rossan Knitwear and see three generations of the McNellis family hand looming knitwear. The Rossan collection is produced at Glencolmcille Woollen Mill which looks out upon the end of the Celtic trail. The Rossan collection of knitwear carries both modern and traditional designs, much of which reflect the Donegal landscape. This evening meet back at Lough Eske Castle Hotel for dinner.

Overnight at Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Edel Workshop, Afternoon Tea at Lough Eske Castle and Castle Tour

Today enjoy a relaxing workshop with Edel and a chance to look at some of her amazing work! Enjoy a delightful Afternoon Tea in Lough Eske Castle Hotel followed by a tour of the castle itself. Spend the afternoon relaxing and absorbing your tranquil surroundings before dinner.

Overnight at Lough Eske Castle, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: Travel to Dublin via Carrickmacross Lace & Ulster American Folk Park

Board the coach and relax as you begin your journey back to Ireland's capital city, stopping along the way at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. The 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. Continue your journey and visit 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 Dublin where there will be time for personal sightseeing or shopping before dinner. This evening your final farewell dinner will be served at the hotel.

Overnight at the Hyatt Centric Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 7: End of Tour

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

10th October 2021 €2999 per person sharing/€769 supplement if single room required

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 (Hyatt Centric Hotel or similar)
- Arrival Transfer
- Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €382

Supplement if single room is required €254

Package B

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

Per person sharing one room €237

Supplement if single room is required €128

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.