



9 Night Best of Scotland Knitting Tour 2021

Tour Dates:

2nd May 2021

20th June 2021

10th October 2021

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 and 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 Johnstons Mill in Elgin, Scotland's only remaining vertical mill! In Fife we will visit Kinaldy 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 ERIBÉ 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 (for arrivals prior to 10:30am on tour start date or on 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 9 nights
- Scottish breakfast daily
- 6 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 6 lunches
- 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
- Johnstons of Elgin Guided Factory Tour
- Tour of a Speyside Distillery
- Visit to see the sheep and alpacas at Kinaldy Farm

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- 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
- The 'Art of Scottish Knitting' Workshop with ERIBÉ

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

Overnights for this Tour

- Edinburgh City Centre Hotel, Edinburgh for 1 Night
- New Lanark Mill Hotel (or similar), New Lanark for 1 Night
- Apex City of Glasgow Hotel (or similar), Glasgow for 2 Nights
- Perle Oban 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
- Edinburgh City Centre Hotel, 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 and a visit to one of Edinburgh's oldest knitting shops, McAree Brothers. Visit Edinburgh Castle which stands majestically upon the basalt core of an extinct volcano. Return to your hotel for an introductory talk on Scottish Textiles with Scottish Textiles Expert Kitty Bruce-Gardyne, followed by your welcome dinner.

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. 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. 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, where you can step back in time with a visit to Sma' Shot Cottages.

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. Enjoy some free time in the village of Inveraray which has an 18th Century Castle and the interesting Inveraray Jail Museum. On arrival in Auchindrain we will visit the Auchindrain Township which gives a taste historic rural life 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 InbhircLuaidh’ 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! 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 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 ERIBÉ & Johnstons of Elgin Mill Tour*

We start the day by meeting with ERIBÉ for a half day workshop on the topic of the Art of Scottish Knitting. 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. Using colour as our focus, we can inspire with images of nature, paintings, mood-boards and knitted fabrics. Learn how the ERIBÉ designers colour their collections. In the afternoon 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 in the beautiful coastal town of Stonehaven. Enjoy a visit to Baa! The venue of designer and tutor Janice Anderson and a hub of inspirational hand-selected wool and luxury yarns from Scotland and beyond. 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: Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin & Kinaldy Farm

Start the day with Di Gilpin and 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. In the afternoon we visit Kinaldy Farm in St. Andrew's and explore farm life, walking the Alpacas, seeing the cattle, sheep and sheep dogs in action! Continue to Edinburgh and check into your hotel and relax before this evening's final farewell dinner in your hotel.

Overnight in Edinburgh, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

Day 10: Say Goodbye to Scotland

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your return flight.

Prices

2nd May 2021: £3199 per person sharing/£799 supplement if single room required

20th June 2021: £3299 per person sharing/£899 supplement if single room required

10th October 2021: £3089 per person sharing/£709 supplement if single room required

Please note we charge in GBP for this tour.

Optional Pre Tour Arrangements (Additional Cost Applies)

Package A

- 2 x Pre-Nights at Edinburgh City centre hotel
- Arrival Transfer
- Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

	2nd May 2021	20th June 2021	10th October 2021
Per person sharing one room	£348	£434	£348
Supplement if single room is required	£206	£292	£200

Package B

- 1 x Pre-Night at Edinburgh City centre hotel
- Arrival Transfer
- Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

	2nd May 2021	20th June 2021	10th October 2021
Per person sharing one room	£220	£262	£220
Supplement if single room is required	£103	£146	£100

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.