



## 7 Night Southwest Ireland Luxury Knitting Retreat

**Tour Date:**

25 September 2022

Real Knitting Tours.

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## Tour Overview

We start your tour in Dublin where you will enjoy some time to explore Ireland's capital city and visit one of Dublin's well known knitting shops, the Constant Knitter. Travel south to County Kerry to Parknasilla Resort Hotel where you will spend the next four days with one of Ireland's well known knitting designers, Carol Feller. Carol is a knitwear designer and teacher and author of several knitting books. She has been teaching for KnittingTours.com from the very beginning and our knitting groups have always loved her classes. With Carol, you will learn short row and grafting techniques as well as seamless cable knitting in the beautiful surroundings of the Parknasilla Resort hotel on the stunning Ring of Kerry. Also included in this tour will be some optional tours for you to explore the stunning scenery of the southwest of Ireland.

## Included in This Tour-

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private luxury coach (for arrivals prior to 10:30am 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 7 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 6 dinners
- 1 dinner followed by traditional music session at Parknasilla Resort Hotel
- 4 lunches
- An evening of Irish Whiskey and Chocolate tasting at Parknasilla Resort Hotel
- Optional tours as described in your itinerary

### **Workshops/ Knitting Activities Included:**

- Knitting workshops, including yarns and patterns as described in the itinerary
- Constant Knitter yarn store visit
- Sheep's Head Peninsula knitting workshop
- Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm visit
- Cushendale Woollen Mill visit

***(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 City, 1 night
- Parknasilla Resort Hotel, County Kerry, 4 nights
- Lyrath Estate (or similar), County Kilkenny, 1 night
- Hyatt Centric Hotel (or similar), Dublin City, 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.

## Itinerary

**Important Note:** Attractions, workshops and demonstrations may change according to availability and scheduling

### **Day 1: Dublin Arrival, City Tour of Dublin and Constant Knitter**

On arrival to Dublin, we begin your retreat with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30am). Your guide will meet the group at your hotel and introduce the tour. Your first visit will be to The Constant Knitter, a well-known knitting shop in the heart of Dublin. Here you will meet with a local craftsperson for an informal discussion and demonstration about their craft topic. This will be either knitwear design or Irish Lace crochet, depending on the designer available. We then visit the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology, which is one of Ireland's most important cultural institutions. Established in 1877, this building is the primary repository of the nation's archaeological treasures including the Ardagh Chalice and the Tara Brooch, dating from the 12th and 8th centuries respectively. The exhibits on display show connections with our pagan past and Christian culture at the time and are of major importance in early European Culture. Enjoy some time in your hotel to relax before your evening welcome dinner with your tour group.

Overnight in Dublin, Dinner, and Bed & Breakfast Included.

### **Day 2: Cahir Castle and Travel to County Kerry**

Today, we leave Dublin and head south via Cahir Castle, one of Ireland's best preserved castles which sits on a rocky island over the river Suir. Built in the thirteenth century, Cahir Castle's keep, tower and defensive structures remain intact. Following lunch (included), we continue on our journey south while enjoying the scenery en route to your retreat hotel, Parknasilla Resort Hotel, where you will meet with your host, Carol Feller, one of Ireland's well-known knitting designers. Enjoy an informal dinner in the company of Carol and don't forget to bring your knitting along!

Overnight Parknasilla Resort Hotel, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 3: Knitting, Whiskey & Chocolate Tasting and Traditional Music**

Begin your day in the company of Carol Feller where you will start work on Carol's cabled hat and cowl patterns. Over the next few days, these patterns will provide a fantastic learning experience where you knit from side-to-side using some useful techniques. Carol will teach you how to do a provisional cast-on, cables without a cable needle, short rows in pattern and also grafting in

pattern. Carol will guide you through every step of the project during your time with her at Parknasilla and she will also teach you how to tighten up loose cables and fix cable mistakes. Take a virtual tour of the Irish Mills with Carol and learn how to choose the right size garment to knit. In the afternoon, enjoy a Whiskey and Chocolate Tasting gathering where your experienced connoisseurs will talk to you about the history of whiskey in Ireland and discuss the pairing of whiskey with the perfect flavoured chocolate. Enjoy comparing and contrasting the various flavours of both or either! Dinner this evening will be followed by a Traditional Music Session in your hotel.

Overnight Parknasilla Resort Hotel, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

#### **Day 4: Optional Tour: Ring of Kerry and Kenmare**

The choice is yours today! Opt to stay at Parknasilla for the day to enjoy some of the facilities this resort has to offer and pamper yourself at the hotel's spa surrounded by the stunning natural woodlands, mountains and views. Alternatively take in a round of golf at the nearby course, or, join your group for a partial tour of the Ring of Kerry. This tour will take you to Kenmare, Sneem, Molls Gap & Ladies View. Return to your hotel where there will be time to relax and catch up on some knitting before dinner.

Overnight Parknasilla Resort Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Basis.

#### **Day 5: Optional Tour: Sheep's Head Peninsula with Knitting Workshop**

It's your choice again today! Stay at Parknasilla for the day or join us for a tour of The Sheep's Head Peninsula in West Cork. Be sure and take your knitting along if you decide to join the tour for the day. We travel through the Cahaba Pass via Glengarriff where we will take in some of the country's best views. There will be a number of viewing stops along the way for you to get out and enjoy for some photo opportunities. In the village of Kilcrohane we meet with Niamh and some organisers of the annual Sheep's Head Yarn festival. Niamh will instruct on the topic of travel sock knitting or textured stitches depending on your preference. Following this workshop and lunch (included) we will take in some more of the beautiful scenery this area has to offer. We then return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Overnight Parknasilla Resort Hotel, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included

### **Day 6: Kilkenny, Zwartbles Farm & Cushendale Mill**

Today, we bid farewell to Parknasilla and travel towards the city of Kilkenny, also known as the 'Marble City', stopping for lunch (included) along the way. We visit a sheep farm where we meet Suzanna and her family who breed and rear Zwartbles sheep. Chat with the family, tour the farm and meet the sheep. Learn all about their unique yarn and here you can also make some purchases if you wish. We also visit Cushendale Mill where a bespoke range of sustainable textiles are made with mohair, Irish wool and merino lamb's wool. Take a tour of the mill which has been on site since 1204 and see how they uniquely craft Irish fleece into quality yarns and textiles. Finally we continue on to our hotel with some free time to refresh before dinner.

Overnight Kilkenny, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 7: Kilkenny Castle & Dublin**

Check out of our hotel and we start our morning with a visit to the 12th century Kilkenny Castle. This castle was built for defence over 800 years ago in Norman times and was remodelled in Victorian times. This castle is set in extensive parklands in the heart of Kilkenny City. Following our visit, there will be time to visit Kilkenny Design Centre which offers a vast selection of Irish handcrafted gifts including jewellery, knitwear, Celtic gifts, china, pottery, glass, home & fashion accessories as well as contemporary design pieces. Return to Dublin in the afternoon where there will be some free time to sightsee, shop or relax before your farewell dinner at your hotel.

Overnight Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 8: End of tour**

Depart your hotel following breakfast and travel to Dublin airport in time for check-in and some last minute duty free shopping prior to departure.



## Prices

**25 September 2022:** €3,450 per person sharing/€799 supplement if single room required

**Please note we charge in EURO**

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!

## Pre Tour Arrangements (Optional/Additional)

### Package A

2 x Pre-Nights at Dublin City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €397

Supplement if single room is required €269

### Package B

1 x Pre-Night at Dublin City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €243

Supplement if single room is required €137

## **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 Penalties:**

- Cancellation 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

### **Postponements:**

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 per person will apply.

Within 60 days of the tour commencement date, cancellation penalties will apply.

### **Terms & Conditions:**

Our full terms & conditions for booking are set out on our website at

<https://www.knittingtours.com/terms-conditions/> - We recommend that you print these for your own information.

### **A Note on Covid:**

Any 2020/2021 tour participants that were affected by a tour change related to COVID-19 were offered the opportunity to transfer 100% of any money paid to another tour or given a gift voucher for use on any future tour with no time limit. We will continue to honour this policy should we find that any of our future tours are un-able to run as a result of Covid19.