



9 Night Best of Scotland Knitting Tour

Tour Dates:

08th May 2022

19th June 2022

09th October 2022

Real Knitting Tours.

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Tour Overview

Scotland is renowned for its natural beauty, history and craft and this Best of Scotland knitting Tour won't disappoint! Set against a backdrop of the beautiful Highland landscape and historic Edinburgh, this tour with an emphasis on knitting, includes visits to heritage sites such as Edinburgh Castle, New Lanark Mill, Sanquhar, known for its unique knitting pattern and the port city of Glasgow. We travel from the shores of Loch Lomond to Auchindrain Township where you will experience a 'waulking with wool' performance. This tour also features a visit to a mill - Johnstons of Elgin and a visit to the ancient Stonehaven on the northeast coast of Scotland. We journey to Fife to visit Kinaldy farm, close to St. Andrews, to learn about how goats, sheep and Alpacas are reared to produce the finest Scottish wool. This is a working farm where you will meet sheep dogs in action in their beautiful natural environment. In Dundee, we visit the V&A Museum and Verdant Works. This tour includes three half day knitting workshops with Scandinavian-Scottish knitting designer and tutor - Karie Westermann, in Edinburgh, then in Elgin enjoy a class with sustainable knitwear design-house ERIBÉ and in Fife, Gansey specialist Di Gilpin and her team will host a class. Finally, no tour of Scotland would be complete without a visit to a whisky distillery!. Your tour includes a visit to a Speyside Distillery located in Scotland's famous whisky producing area.

Included in This Tour-

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private 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 9 nights
- Scottish breakfast daily
- 6 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 Kinaldy Farm in Fife

Workshops/ Knitting Activities Included:

- Introduction to Scottish Textiles with Kitty Bruce-Gardyne
- Lace Stitch Pattern Workshop with lace designer Karie Westermann
- 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

- Radisson Blu (or similar), Edinburgh, 1 night
- MacDonald Crutherland House and Spa Hotel (or similar), East Kilbride, 1 night
- Apex City of Glasgow Hotel (or similar), Glasgow, 1 night
- Royal Hotel (or similar), Oban, 1 night
- Mansefield Hotel (or similar), Elgin, 2 nights
- Apex City Quay & Spa (or similar), Dundee, 1 night
- Radisson Blu (or similar), Edinburgh, 1 night

Optional Pre Night Package

Optional pre-night packages available should you wish to spend a night or two extra in Edinburgh 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: Edinburgh Sightseeing

Begin your tour with a transfer from Edinburgh Airport to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30 am). Meet with your group at the hotel reception before embarking on a sightseeing panoramic tour of Edinburgh City. We take some time to visit one of Edinburgh's best known knitting shops, McAree Brothers where you will have time to browse through their vast array of yarns. Our next stop will be to the historic Edinburgh Castle which once residence of Scottish monarchs and overlooks Edinburgh City from a volcanic crag called Castle Rock. On return to our hotel, Scottish Textiles expert, Kitty Bruce-Gardyne will give an introductory talk on Scottish textiles and this will be followed by your welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Edinburgh, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: Lace Workshop and Sanquhar

After breakfast we meet with experienced lace designer Karie Westermann where you will learn to de-mystify how lace works and design your own project in just a few hours! Together you will look at lace stitch patterns and how to incorporate a lace stitch pattern into a design of your own. You will learn how to draw lace charts and how to calculate projects. Karie will guide you through your own design process whether you wish to design a scarf or a shawl and give you hands-on advice about designing repeats and motifs that really work. Our next visit of the day will be to the village of Sanquhar, home of the historic Sanquhar pattern. This is a traditional geometric-style pattern and the most popular pattern is known as the Duke, named after the Duke of Buccleuch. Lunch (included) will be followed with a visit to the AThe Airts Centre for a presentation on this pattern. You will also have the opportunity to view a demonstration of hand-knitting of Sanquhar gloves and see how the pattern is made on their knitting machines and finished as garments.

Overnight East Kilbride, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: New Lanark Mill and Glasgow

Today we begin our tour with a visit to New Lanark Mill, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This mill is a unique 18th century cotton mill which has been beautifully restored to a living

community. Explore more of mill life and the Gateway to the Falls of Clyde. After your visit we travel to Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, where the evening is free for you for some personal sightseeing and shopping.

Overnight Glasgow, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Glasgow Sightseeing and Paisley

This morning, we set off on a sightseeing excursion around Glasgow and our first stop will be to the Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel. This award-winning museum displays a huge collection of the city's transport and technology collections which have played an important role throughout the world through its contributions to industries like shipbuilding, train manufacturing and engineering. A highlight of this museum is to walk down an old cobbled Glasgow street with re-created shop fronts dating from 1895 to the 1980s. We will also visit George's Square, home to Glasgow City Council and showcases an impressive collection of statues and monuments dedicated to famous Scots such as Sir. Robert Peel, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. Alternatively, take an optional tour to Paisley with a rich history in textiles, famous for the Paisley Shawl. Visit the Sma' Shot Cottages, where you will see how a typical weaving family lived and worked during this important time in the 18th century in Paisley's history.

Overnight Glasgow, Lunch and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Auchindrain – Waulking with Wool and Loch Lomond

We start our day in the Loch Lomond area where you will experience some amazing scenery—perfect for photo opportunities. We stop at Inverary, overlooking the waters of Loch Fyne to allow you some free time to check out Inverary Castle, the family home of the Dukes of Argyll or visit the Inverary Jail and courthouse, now an award-winning museum. We enjoy lunch (included) at a local restaurant. Our next visit will be to Auchindrain situated on the shores of Loch Lomond. Auchindrain Township is a step back in time where you will explore the barns, houses and fields and see how people lived and worked in the Highlands from medieval times up until the 1960s. Auchindrain is also home to 'Sgioba Luaidh Inbhurchluaidh' which translates to the 'Inverclyde Waulking Group' with whom we shall meet. Waulking is a method whereby newly woven tweed is finished by soaking and thumping it steadily to shrink and soften it. This group sings waulking songs as they work.

Overnight Oban, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: The Highland Folk Museum, Speyside Distillery and Elgin

Today, we leave Oban and make our way towards Elgin. We stop en route at the Highland Folk Museum where we view traditional crafts such as spinning, knitting and weaving while also enjoying a textile talk from the museum's curator. This museum depicts Highland domestic and working conditions from the 1700s to the present day. We journey on to a Speyside Distillery and take a whisky tour. An introduction to the entire process of whisky-making is yours to enjoy including a whisky tasting before you leave. Finally, we continue on to the cathedral town of Elgin where there will be some time to relax before dinner.

Overnight Elgin, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast.

Day 7: ERIBÉ workshop and Tour of Johnston's Mill in Elgin

Today we meet with Eribé for a half-day workshop. The topic – the 'Art of Scottish Knitting', is about working with a range of yarns and colours where you will learn how to develop your own colour story and explore how knitwear can make you feel and look younger. Eribé designers use colour as their focus and can inspire with images of nature, paintings, mood-boards and knitted fabrics in their collections. After lunch (included), enjoy a tour of Johnston's Mill in Elgin. Johnston's of Elgin have been making cashmere clothing, accessories and fabric since 1797. This is now the last operating vertical mill in Scotland where all processes are carried out on site. See for yourself where the cashmere is dyed, teased, carded, spun and hand-finished by the current Elgin craftsmen. There are lots of sights to see in the town of Elgin such as Elgin's cathedral and the Elgin Museum, for those who do not wish to take part in the workshop or visit the mill.

Overnight Elgin, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 8: Verdant Works and V&A Design Gallery

Depart Elgin after breakfast and travel to the beautiful coastal town of Stonehaven where we visit Baa! This is the venue of designer and tutor, Janice Anderson, which is a hub of activity for knitting enthusiasts offering a wide range of yarns from all over Scotland, patterns, books and knitting tools. Enjoy some free time for lunch (not included) in one of the local restaurants or pubs. We continue our travels towards Dundee where we visit Verdant Works – a world-class visitor attraction which tells the story of Dundee's industrial textile heritage located in a beautifully restored mill building. Our next stop will be at the V&A Design Gallery – Scotland's first dedicated design museum. This design gallery, situated at Dundee waterfront, features exhibits from various

collections across Scotland as well as pieces brought north from the V&A in London. Finally continue to your hotel in Dundee in time for dinner.

Overnight Dundee, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 9: Gansey Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin and Kinaldy Farm

Our day begins with a knitting workshop instructed by Di Gilpin on Gansey knitwear. Di starts her workshop with a brief presentation on the history of Gansey knitting in Scotland which is supported with samples of traditional pieces as well as some contemporary designs from the studio. Her workshop explores different gansey patterns in either blanket squares or a long sampler. We then travel to Kinaldy Farm in St. Andrew's in time for lunch (included) followed by a tour of the farm to walk the alpacas, and check out the sheep dogs in action with cattle and sheep. Continue on to Edinburgh in time to refresh before your farewell dinner at your hotel.

Overnight Edinburgh, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 10: End of Tour

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport after breakfast for your return journey home.

Prices

08th May 2022: £3,450 per person sharing/£845 supplement if single room required

19th June 2022: £3,539 per person sharing/£879 supplement if single room required

09th October 2022: £3,450 per person sharing/£845 supplement if single room required

Please note we charge in Sterling

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 Edinburgh City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

08th May 2022

Per person sharing one room	£391	Supplement if single room is required	£249
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19th June 2022:

Per person sharing one room	£434	Supplement if single room is required	£292
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09th October 2022

Per person sharing one room	£348	Supplement if single room is required	£200
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Package B

1 x Pre-Night at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

08th May 2022

Per person sharing one room	£241	Supplement if single room is required	£125
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19th June 2022:

Per person sharing one room	£262	Supplement if single room is required	£146
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09th October 2022

Per person sharing one room	£220	Supplement if single room is required	£100
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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 GBP250 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 unable to run as a result of Covid19.