



## 9 Night Wool Lovers Knitting Tour of Ireland

**Tour Date:**

5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Real Knitting Tours.

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## Tour Overview

This 9 night knitting and craft tour features visits to Kilkenny, the Burren area in County Clare including the Cliffs of Moher, the Aran Islands and scenic Killarney in County Kerry. Your tour begins with a panoramic tour of Dublin City followed a visit to Epic Ireland, the Irish Emigration Museum. On day two, we visit Kilkenny and meet Helena Kelly Maye for a knitting workshop. Also, while in Kilkenny, we stop at Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm along with Cushendale Woollen Mill. Cushendale Textile Mill has a proud history which began back as far as 1778. The current mill building was established in 1925 however it was part of a monastic mills which dated from 1204! We travel on to Killarney stopping off at the Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills store along the way. While in Kerry, we visit the designer and teacher, Liz Spillane for a workshop where Liz will teach you how to make your own yarns and demonstrate techniques to build texture and colour. This tour also includes the Lakes of Killarney, Molls Gap and Sleah Head on the Dingle Peninsula. We visit County Clare and the Cliffs of Moher and spend a day on the Aran Islands for a knitting workshop with Una McDonagh. A visit to the Aran Islands may well be the highlight of your tour! This distance to the mainland has meant that many traditions that are now lost in much of the rest of Ireland are alive and well here. Many traditional farming and crafts can still be seen on the island and the people speak Irish as their first language.

### 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
- Irish breakfast daily
- 5 dinners
- 4 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Dublin

- Entrance to the following attractions: Kilkenny Castle, Epic Ireland, Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle, The Cliffs of Moher and Tullamore D.E.W Heritage Centre.
- Dingle Peninsula Guided Tour
- Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm Visit

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

- Visit to This is Knit Yarn Store
- Aran Knitting Workshop on the Aran Islands with Una McDonagh
- Knitting Workshop with Helena Kelly Maye in Kilkenny
- Cushendale Woollen Mill Tour
- Yarn Development & Knitting Workshop with Liz Spillane in Kerry
- Kerry Woollen Mills Tour
- Visit Irish Fibre Crafters

**(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
- River Court Hotel (or similar), Kilkenny, 2 nights
- Lake Hotel (or similar), Killarney – 3 nights
- Lahinch Golf & Leisure Hotel (or similar), Lahinch, 2 nights
- Camden Court Hotel (or similar) , Dublin, 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 and Epic Museum**

Transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30am on start day of tour) and meet with your group. Epic, the Irish Emigration Museum has been voted Europe's leading tourist attraction for 2019 and 2020 and is your first visit of your tour. Wander through twenty themed galleries and delve into the history of emigration in Ireland and the impact the Irish have had around the world to date. If time allows, we will also visit This is Knit, an independent, family-owned yarn store at the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre where you will find a large selection of quality, natural fibre yarns from Irish and International producers.

Overnight in Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 2: Kilkenny and Workshop with Helena Kelly Maye**

Your tour takes you south to Kilkenny today. Kilkenny is also known as the Marble City and is well renowned as Ireland's Medieval Capital. The city has a rich medieval heritage which is obvious from the narrow streets to its historical buildings and landmarks. This wonderful city is easy to explore on foot and is also full of contemporary shops, design galleries, cafes, restaurants and pubs. At the hotel you will be met by Helena Kelly Maye who will introduce her workshop activities. Her knitting techniques include the honeycomb, blackberry, diamond and cable stitching. She will explore some of the very traditional aran stitches and look at how these stitches have evolved into new and modern stitches. Your workshop will continue after lunch (included) where Helena will instruct on designing and sizing your own Aran pattern. There will be some free time late afternoon to wander around the city or refresh and relax before dinner.

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

### **Day 3: Kilkenny crafts, Cushendale Mill and Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm**

Today, we visit Kilkenny Castle, a 12th century castle set in extensive parklands in the heart of Kilkenny. The Kilkenny Design Centre located nearby offers a fantastic opportunity to view some Irish handcrafted gifts including knitwear, jewellery, Celtic gifts and contemporary design pieces.



We leave the city to visit Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm where you will meet Suzanna Crampton and her family who breed Zwartbles Sheep. We take a tour of the farm, and meet the sheep and Suzanna will inform us about their unique yarn which can be purchased directly from the farm. After lunch (included), your final visit of the day will be to Cushendale Mill where you might see some wool from the sheep at Suzanna's farm! See where products made on site are crafted using natural-fibre textiles made with mohair, Irish wool and merino lambs wool. A tour of the mill is also included in your visit. Finally, return to your hotel where the evening is free for you to explore Kilkenny's restaurants and pubs.

Overnight Kilkenny, Lunch and Bed & Breakfast.

#### **Day 4: Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills and Killarney**

Check out of our Kilkenny hotel and travel south towards Killarney with a few stops along the way. The Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary is one of Ireland's most significant and visited heritage sites. This is a collection of medieval ecclesiastical buildings set on an outcrop of limestone overlooking the Golden Vale. Your onward journey takes you to Blarney Castle where you will have the opportunity to view its stone of eloquence which attracts thousands of visitors each year. Legend has it that if you kiss the stone you will be granted the gift of eloquence! Also, located here is Blarney Woollen Mills, where you will have the opportunity to browse through an amazing array of quality Irish gifts and crafts. Finally, board your tour bus where a warm Irish welcome awaits you at your Killarney hotel.

Overnight Killarney, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

#### **Day 5: Knitting Workshop with Liz Spillane at Inwood and Kerry Sightseeing**

After breakfast, we travel to Bonane, just south of Kenmare, to meet knitwear designer, textile artist and teacher, Liz Spillane. Liz has enjoyed over 30 years teaching knitting classes and has worked as a tutor at the Limerick School of Art & Design. In her workshop, Liz will instruct on creating textured yarns, using a single smooth yarn as a base and a variety of techniques to build texture and colour. Use standard knitting needles to then knit the yarn. After Liz's class, your coach will take you to the picturesque town of Kenmare in time for lunch (included) and there will also be time to explore the town at your leisure. We continue our journey back to Killarney via Molls Gap, taking time to stop at Ladies View, where you can see views of the 3 Lakes of Killarney as well as the majestic mountain ranges which are all part of Killarney National Park - internationally renowned for both for its scenic natural beauty and scientific interest.

Over night in Killarney, Lunch, and Bed & Breakfast included.

**Day 6: Kerry Woollen Mills and Dingle & Sleah Head**

Today, we travel to Dingle and visit Kerry Woollen Mills en route. This 17th century establishment is one of the last surviving woollen mills in Ireland. Set in a rural location, this mill has been crafting fine fabrics and yarn from wool for over 300 years and this tour will show you how today's mill incorporates up-to-date weaving technology while marrying tradition with contemporary styling for its customers. Continue on to Dingle where you will have some time to wander around this coastal town and enjoy lunch at your leisure. In the afternoon, we explore The Dingle Peninsula and Sleah Head where you will enjoy views of sandy beaches, craggy cliffs, rolling hills and mountains. Return to Killarney where the evening is free for you to rest or spend the evening in Killarney town centre.

Overnight Killarney, Bed & Breakfast included.

**Day 7: Adare, Doolin and the Cliffs of Moher**

Bid farewell to Killarney and travel to County Clare via Adare in County Limerick. Adare village, founded in the 13th century is known as one of Ireland's prettiest villages with its quaint shops and thatched cottages. After some free time exploring the village we journey to the dramatic, vertical Cliffs of Moher, looking out over the Atlantic Sea at the South Eastern edge of The Burren. We take some time in the village of Doolin renowned as the capital of traditional music in Ireland. Check in to your hotel in time for dinner.

Overnight Burren area, Dinner, and Bed & Breakfast included.

**Day 8: Day trip to Aran Islands**

This morning, we set out early to travel to Inis Oirr (Inisheer), the smallest of the Aran Islands in Galway Bay off the west coast of Ireland. Una McDonagh, your Aran Island knitting instructor will meet you and welcome you with tea/coffee and scones. Una's workshop will teach you all about the Aran Island way where you will learn traditional methods and stitches such as the Sharry Chain Link Stitch. The Sharry family, one of the island families, has a long-standing connection with the sea and this connection is celebrated in their choice of stitches they use when knitting traditional Aran sweaters. Following your instruction, enjoy a guided tour of this westerly island. Return via ferry back to the mainland to your hotel.

Overnight Burren Area, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

**Day 9: Irish Fibre Crafters, Tullamore D.E.W Heritage Centre and Dublin**

We leave County Clare and journey back to Dublin today. We stop at Irish Fibre Crafters where you will find a selection of creations made by local crafters. At Tullamore D.E.W Heritage centre, you will discover all about the unique techniques used in making Tullamore Whiskey in an old Bonded Warehouse in Tullamore, County Offaly. Finally, we continue your tour to Dublin where the afternoon is free for you to sightsee or shop! This evening, we re-group at the hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight Dublin, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

**Day 10: Tour Ends.**

After breakfast, depart your hotel for Dublin Airport arriving in time to check-in and some last-minute duty-free shopping.

## Prices

**05<sup>th</sup> June 2022:** €3,350 per person sharing/€805 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 €375

Supplement if single room is required €125

#### **Package B**

1 x Pre-Night at Dublin City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €233

Supplement if single room is required €68



## 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 unable to run as a result of Covid19.