



**10 Night Aran Islands, Donegal & Causeway Coast
Knitting Tour**

Tour Dates:

14th May 2022

27th August 2022

08th October 2022

Real Knitting Tours.

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Tour Overview

Your 10 night knitting tour begins with a visit to Trinity College Library and the Book of Kells followed by a visit to Dublin Castle and a pre-dinner talk with Vawn Corrigan, Author of 'Irish Aran, History, Tradition and Fashion.' On the second day of this tour, you will meet with Lisa Sisk for a workshop on the Moebius Knitting technique. The tour continues to the west of Ireland to Inis Mór, the largest of the Aran Islands. Here you will enjoy a cultural and traditional knitting and crafts experience with well known knitting instructor – Úna McDonagh. In County Mayo, we visit to the Museum of Country Life to meet with Ciara Ní Reachtnín for another workshop. The Northern part of this tour includes a visit to the magnificent Slieve League Cliffs, Studio Donegal – a hand-weaving and clothing manufacturing company, Glencolmcille Folk Village and a workshop with Irish designer, Edel MacBride. This tour takes you on a discovery of the Causeway Coast, the Giant's Causeway and Dunluce Castle. In Belfast, a visit to the Titanic Belfast Visitor Experience is included as well as a trip outside Belfast to Mourne Alpacas. As we travel back to Dublin, we stop at the Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn for a guided tour and experience a spinning and tapestry workshop with Áine Dunne.

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 10 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 5 dinners
- 5 lunches
- 1 Farewell Dinner in Dublin restaurant
- Entrance to the following attractions: Trinity Library and the Book of Kells, Dublin Castle, The Guinness Storehouse, Tullamore D.E.W Distillery, Dún Aonghasa, Slieve League Cliffs, Dunluce Castle, The Giant's Causeway and Titanic Belfast
- Return Ferry to Inis Mór, Aran Islands

- Inis Mór Guided Tour
- Mourne Alpaca Farm Visit
- Museum of Country Life

Workshops/ Knitting Activities Included:

- Pre-Dinner Talk with Textile Heritage Author, Vawn Corrigan
- Workshop with Lisa Sisk from This Is Knit
- Knitting Workshop with Ciara Ni Reachtnín
- Knitting Workshop with Edel MacBride from Knitfield
- Studio Donegal Weaving Demonstration
- Spinning & Tapestry Workshop with Áine Dunne
- Aran Island Workshop with Una McDonagh

(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, 2 nights
- Aran Islands Hotel, Inis Mór, 2 nights
- Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, 1 night
- Mill Park Hotel, Donegal, 2 nights
- Grand Central Hotel (or similar), Belfast, 2 nights
- Camden Court Hotel (or similar), 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 the Book of Kells

Your knitting tour of Ireland begins with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10.30 am) where you will meet for a tour introduction. Your first visit will be to Trinity College Library and the Book of Kells followed by some free time to wander around the Grafton Street area in the heart of Dublin before you explore the State Apartments of Dublin Castle. This evening you will have a talk and meet and greet with Vawn Corrigan, Author of Irish Aran, History, Tradition and Fashion, before you enjoy your welcome dinner.

Overnight Dublin, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: This is Knit Workshop with Lisa Sisk and the Guinness Storehouse

After breakfast, we visit This is Knit Yarn Store for a workshop with Lisa Sisk on the Moebius Knitting style followed by a workshop on the Glenties Cowl pattern which was designed by Lisa. You will work with Soft Donegal yarn from the mills of Studio Donegal in Kilcar for this class. In the afternoon, we will travel to Dublin's Guinness Storehouse for a guided tour. St. James' Gate Brewery has been the production site home to the Guinness Brewery since 1759 when Arthur Guinness first signed a 9000 year lease for the brewery. This evening is free for you to check out one of Dublin's many restaurants and bars.

Overnight in Dublin, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 3: Tullamore D.E.W & the Aran Islands

Today we leave Dublin and head west. We stop at Tullamore D.E.W. Heritage Centre where we hear about how Daniel E. Williams went from stable boy to distillery manager to creating the renowned whiskey which still bears his initials today. There will be a brief stop in Galway city for lunch (not included) before we continue to Rossaveal in Galway to catch your ferry to Inis Mór, the largest of the three Aran Islands in Galway Bay. Meet with locals on arrival where you will be introduced to Aran life and hear all about the history of Dun Aonghasa. Dinner will be served at your hotel followed by a traditional Irish dancing lesson!

Overnight Inis Mór, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast.

Day 4: Inis Mór

Your morning on Inis Mór includes a knitting workshop where you will be instructed on traditional methods and stitches associated with the Aran Island way. Tour the island with a local guide and learn about over 50 different monuments of pre-Christian and Christian history. Visit the impressive fort of Dún Aonghasa with its three terraced walls surrounding an inner enclosure containing a platform on the edge of a 300 ft high cliff. It's important to note that there's a sharp incline as you walk to the fort and suitable footwear should be worn. It is not recommended for those who may have walking difficulties. The views from the top are quite breathtaking looking out over the Atlantic Ocean. You will also have the opportunity to visit some local knitwear shops on the island and enjoy a lunch (included) at Teach Nan Pháidí!

Overnight on Inis Mór, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast.

Day 5: Knitting Workshop with Ciara Ní Reachtnín at the Museum of Country Life

After breakfast we take the ferry back to the mainland and travel through beautiful Connemara to the Museum of Country Life in Mayo. Lunch (included) will be followed by a workshop with Ciara Ní Reachtnín. Ciara draws elements of Irish and Celtic mythology in her work. She will focus on 'An Bradán Feasa' also known as 'The Salmon of Knowledge'. Ciara will demonstrate how to create simple slip stitch cables using two complementary yarn colours while only working with one colour at a time and also how to incorporate beads into the design. There will also be time to demonstrate an optional advanced closed cable motif which the more adventurous knitter might like to include in their project. Our final destination of the day will be Sligo to check into your hotel for the night.

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

Day 6: W.B. Yeats' Grave, Donegal Yarns and Studio Donegal

Today, we travel towards Donegal on Ireland's northwest coast. We stop en route at the grave of W.B. Yeats at Drumcliffe Cemetery. Explore the final resting place of this great poet as well as the high cross and St. Columba's Church. We visit Donegal Yarns in southwest Donegal which is steeped in centuries of tradition of tweed yarns spun in locally in Donegal. Donegal Yarns operates a vertical production process from raw wool to a finished multi-coloured fleck yarn. Our next stop is at Studio Donegal where a hand-weaving and clothing manufacturing business is committed to preserving and promoting traditional Irish hand-weaving. Enjoy seeing the process of hand-weaving from beginning to end including spinning, warping and weaving of the wool.

Finally, arrive in Donegal town where you can spend the afternoon sightseeing or shopping where you will find many craft shops including Magee Tweed for you to pursue.

Overnight in Donegal, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 7: Edel MacBride Knitting Workshop, Slieve League Cliffs and Glencolmcille Folk Village

After breakfast one of Ireland's finest knitwear designers, Edel MacBride, will host you for an Aran knitting workshop. Participate in a core workshop including yarn pack working the best of Irish moss, cable and Edel's favourite – Aran stitches. After the workshop, take time for lunch (included) before setting off to Slieve League Cliffs. These cliffs are the highest accessible cliffs in Europe offering stunning views out over Donegal Bay. We travel further along the Donegal coast to Glencolmcille Folk Village where you will see a cluster of several small cottages called a 'clachán' which gives you a glimpse of early Irish living. Located in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area) of South West Donegal, this folk village was built and maintained by the local people and is considered one of Ireland's best living history museums. This evening is free for you to enjoy Donegal town, listen to some traditional music, dine in one of the restaurants or take it easy back at your hotel.

Overnight in Donegal, Lunch and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 8: The Causeway Coast and Belfast

Check out of your hotel and board your coach to embark on one of the top road trips worldwide – the Causeway Coastal Route. The road travels around a narrow strip of coastline with stunning sea views and majestic high cliffs. Our first stop is at the Giant's Causeway where over 60 million years ago, three great lava flows were laid down, cooling the basalt plateau into interlocking basalt columns. We will also visit the remains of Dunluce Castle perched on a dramatic headland which plunges directly down into the sea. Finally, we arrive in Belfast city where the rest of the day is free for you to check out the local pubs and restaurants.

Overnight in Belfast, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 9: Titanic Belfast and Mourne Alpaca Farm

Today we travel just outside Belfast to visit Mourne Alpacas, a family-managed herd of Alpaca and pedigree angora goats. High quality fleeces are produced and their motto at the farm is "we breed for heat, not for meat". Enjoy some time with the alpacas, take photos and feel free to ask questions about the fleece. Enjoy a cup of tea and browse through the quality alpaca yarns and some blend

yarns on sale at the farm. Yarns in many natural colours of the alpaca and some stunning seasonal colour ranges, created from natural dyes are on display here. Mourne Alpaca fleeces are processed professionally at a dedicated mill but raw fleeces are also available here for purchase for anyone interested in home spinning. When we return to Belfast, we visit the Titanic, Belfast, built on the site of the former Harland & Wolff shipyard where the Titanic was originally constructed. This popular museum contains many galleries where scenes were reconstructed of Belfast at the time the ship was constructed, the launch, its maiden voyage, the sinking and aftermath. This is an interactive museum where technology brings the story of each scene to life. The rest of the evening is free for you to take in the sights of Belfast.

Overnight in Belfast, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 10: Irish Linen Centre and Spinning & Tapestry Workshop

Historically, linen was a very important industry in Northern Ireland, so much so that Belfast was fondly known as 'Linenopolis'! Your day begins with a visit to the Irish Linen Centre at the Lisburn Museum. This is a guided tour where you will hear about the history of linen production in the province of Ulster. We continue our journey down south to Drogheda to meet tapestry weaver and artist, Áine Dunne. Based in the Boyne Valley, Áine and her team will host a spinning and tapestry workshop where you will be introduced to hand spinning sheep's wool by using a drop spindle. Have a go at weaving a sample piece on a four-sided tapestry frame loom! Return to Dublin and enjoy a farewell dinner with your group at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Dublin, Dinner (at a local restaurant) and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 11: End of Tour

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

Prices

14th May 2022:	€3,550 per person sharing/€840 supplement if single room required
27th August 2022:	€3650 per person sharing/€840 supplement if single room required
08th October 2022:	€3550 per person sharing/€820 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.