



**10 Night South of Ireland Knitting Tour with Aran
Islands**

Tour Dates:

24th April 2022

10th July 2022

18th September 2022

Real Knitting Tours.

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Tour Overview

This South of Ireland Knitting Tour is a must for any knitting enthusiast! This tour takes you to Dublin, Killarney, Inis Oírr (Aran Islands) and Galway. In Dublin, we visit Christ Church Cathedral and the National Museum of Decorative Arts and History. Throughout your tour, take in the beautiful scenery while also enjoying wonderful knitting workshops and craft demonstrations such as basket weaving, baking and butter making, and the best of Irish hospitality. Knitting workshops include time with Pauline Gallagher, Carol Feller, Anne Ó'Máille, Una MacDonagh and Liz Spillane. During your time on the Aran Islands with Una, you will learn about historical Aran clothing, from the traditional Aran Sweater which we all know and love to the lesser known Crios woven belt & the heavy woollen shawls which were once commonplace. Visit the majestic Cliffs of Moher, Connemara as well as beautiful Killarney, renowned for its lakes and National Park. Enjoy some free time in Killarney and Galway to relax and soak up the atmosphere – this tour has it all!

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
- 4 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in a Dublin restaurant
- Entrance to the following attractions: National Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Christ Church Cathedral, Kylemore Abbey, Glen Keen Sheep Farm, The Cliffs of Moher and Blarney Castle
- Ferry to Inis Oírr, Aran Islands
- Inis Oírr Guided Tour
- Aran Islands Baking & Butter Making Demonstration

- Partial Ring of Kerry Guided Tour
- Connemara Guided Tour

Workshops/ Knitting Activities Included:

- Knitting with Wire Workshop with Pauline Gallagher
- Knitting Class with Carol Feller in Killarney (including a copy of Carol's book on Irish Knitting)
- Traditional Knitting Workshop with Liz Spillane
- Aran Islands Knitting Workshop with Úna McDonagh
- Knitting Workshop with Anne Ó'Máille in Galway
- Aran Islands Spinning & Dyeing Workshop
- Basket Weaving Demonstration with Ciarán Hogan
- Meeting with Local Crafter for informal talk
- Store visit to Springwools

(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
- Hardiman Hotel (or similar), Galway, 3 nights
- Quality En-Suite Bed B&B on Inis Oírr, Aran Islands, 2 nights
- Lake Hotel- Woodland View (or similar), Killarney x 3 nights (Lakeland View Rooms available at a supplement)
- 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 Sightseeing and Christ Church Cathedral

Transfer from Dublin Airport to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30am on start day of tour). Meet with your guide and group for an introduction and embark on your first part of the tour with a visit to the National Museum of Decorative Arts and History. Discover how Irish people lived in the past as you wander the recreated rooms showing typical furniture styles from the 17th century right through to high styles of the 19th century. The textile exhibition may be of special interest where 'The Way We Wore' section displays typical Irish clothing and jewellery from 1760s onwards. Our next stop is at Christ Church Cathedral for a guided tour of one of Dublin's oldest operational buildings – over 1000 years old! The remainder of the day will be free for you to relax and refresh before your welcome dinner at your hotel.

Overnight in Dublin, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: Knitting with Wire Workshop with Pauline Gallagher and Springwools

Pauline Gallagher will join you in your hotel for the first workshop of your tour: Knitting With Wire. First you will discover the connection between knitted wire and Ireland's cultural treasures then you will be initiated in the techniques of wire knitting. You will have the joy of creating 'Irish Rain,' a delicate leaf pendant with a crystal drop, a reminder of our soft Irish rain, to take home with you as a souvenir of your time here in Ireland! Afterwards, enjoy an informal talk from Aoibhe Ni Shuilleabhain, an Irish crafter before heading onwards to Springwools, one of Ireland's leading wool stores for almost 30 years. Next, we travel on towards the 'City of Tribes' – Galway to check-in at your hotel. Enjoy lunch (included) en route.

Overnight Galway, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast

Day 3: Connemara Craft and Kylemore Abbey

After a hearty breakfast, we travel out to Connemara, one of the most beautiful and un-spoilt landscapes in the west of Ireland. We visit Spiddal Craft & Design Centre where you will be met by Ciarán Hogan. Ciarán will demonstrate traditional Irish willow basket weaving techniques and also introduce you to some modern basket designs. There will also be other local crafts people at

the centre including traditional hand weaver, Máire Ní Thaidhg. Our next visit will be to see Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden, surrounded by mountains and lakes, the Abbey is also a renowned place of spirituality and education. Our last visit of the day will be to Glen Keen Farm for a sheep herding demonstration. Enjoy tea, coffee and scones before returning to Galway for a free evening. Take this time to visit the vibrant streets of Galway with its eclectic mix of shops, pubs, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Overnight Galway and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Workshop with Anne Ó'Máille

Today we walk a short distance for a knitting workshop with one of Ireland's best known Aran knitters and designers - Mrs Anne Ó'Máille of Ó'Máilles of Galway. This shop was established in the 1938 but became well known because in 1951, the film 'The Quiet Man' was filmed at Ashford Castle and many of the costumes were tailored by the Ó'Máille family. The shop now stocks Irish tweeds, knitwear and Aran Knits. Soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant city, shop or check out the pubs and restaurants, all which make Galway such a popular destination.

Overnight Galway, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Inis Óírr, Aran Islands

This morning we travel west to catch a ferry to Inis Óírr, the smallest of the Aran Islands located in Galway Bay. Úna MacDonagh, your Aran Island knitting instructor will meet you at Café Úna where you will receive a warm, Irish welcome with tea/coffee and homemade scones. Una will instruct on traditional methods and stitches of the Aran Island such as the Sharry Chain Link Stitch. The Sharry family were an Island family whose connections to the sea are evident in their choice of stitches used in knitting traditional Aran sweaters. During your time with Una, you will learn about historical Aran clothing, from the traditional Aran Sweater which we all know and love to the lesser known Crios woven belt & the heavy woollen shawls which were once commonplace. In the afternoon, we take a guided tour of the island before checking into your B&B accommodation. You will be collected this evening and taken to a local restaurant for dinner.

Overnight Inis Óírr, Aran Islands, Lunch, Dinner, and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: Another day on Inis Óírr and Traditional Music

We begin our day with a baking demonstration of brown bread and scones as well as some homemade butter making. Enjoy tea/coffee with scones – the fruits of the demonstration! This

will be followed by a spinning and dyeing workshop using local plants and lichens in the traditional manner of the Aran. Lunch (included) will be followed by some traditional music. Return to your B&B in time to freshen up for dinner.

Overnight Inis Óírr, Aran Islands, Lunch, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast

Day 7: Cliffs of Moher and Killarney

We depart the Aran Islands after breakfast and take the ferry to Doolin in County Clare. We travel to the Cliffs of Moher to admire one of Ireland's most visited natural attractions stretching for 5 miles as the crow flies along the Atlantic Coast of County Clare. We stop off briefly in Adare, one of Ireland's prettiest villages before continuing our journey to County Kerry. Before arriving at our hotel, we visit Kerry Woollen Mills, located in a 17th century building where fabrics and yarn from wool have been crafted for over 300 years. Finally arrive in Killarney in time for dinner at your hotel.

Overnight Killarney, Dinner and Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 8: Knitting with Carol Feller

Today, we begin with a knitting workshop hosted with well-known Irish knitter and author of the book 'Contemporary Irish Knits', Carol Feller. Carol trained initially as a textile artist and then as a structural engineer. While both of these backgrounds are very different the influences can be seen in her design work which is well-shaped, flattering to wear and enjoyable to knit. After lunch (not included), the afternoon is free for you to visit Killarney town centre. Killarney is located in the National Park, so take some time to visit Killarney House & Gardens, enjoy some shopping and soak up the atmosphere of this picturesque town.

Overnight Killarney, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 9: Knitting with Liz Spillane and partial Ring of Kerry Tour

Liz Spillane resides just south of Kenmare in Bonane where she will welcome you to her knitting workshop. Liz's workshop involves creating your very own colourful and textured yarn for hand knitting. Using locally spun 100% pure new wool yarns together with exciting yarns, in the studio store, she will teach some very simple techniques. Discover and learn some more traditional Aran knitting stitch structures to add to your repertoire. Then, combine the two and create your own unique accessory. In the afternoon, take a partial tour of The Ring of Kerry including Molls Gap and Ladies View.

Overnight Killarney, Bed & Breakfast

Day 10: Blarney Castle, Blarney Woollen Mills and Return to Dublin

We journey south today to visit Blarney Castle and Blarney Woollen Mills Store. This medieval castle was built nearly 600 years ago by Cormac MacCarthy, a great Irish Chieftain. Many of course want to see the Blarney Stone – known to grant the gift of eloquence if you kiss this stone! Blarney Woollen Mills was built in 1823 and originally known as O'Mahoney's Mills. Today it is one of Ireland's largest Irish gift and craft stores. After lunch (included) we travel towards Dublin for your final evening in Ireland. Your farewell dinner will be at a local restaurant in Dublin.

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

Day 11: Tour Ends

Transfer to Dublin Airport after breakfast in time for check-in and some last minute duty-free shopping.

Prices

24th April 2022: €3,600 per person sharing/€900 supplement if single room required

11th July 2022: €3,650 per person sharing/€990 supplement if single room required

18th September 2022: €3,750 per person sharing/€990 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.