



KNIT AND NATURE IRELAND

7 Nights

Tour Date:

12 October 2024

Real Knitting Tours.

info@knittingtours.com ✉

www.knittingtours.com 🌐

UK FreeFone: 0 800 088 5516 📞
USA & Canada: +1 800 913 1135
International: + 353 69 77686

Tour Overview

The Emerald Isle may be forty shades of green, but in the autumn, many of those green hues turn to warm, rich, earthy and vibrant tones. Our **7 night Knit and Nature Ireland** tour will take you on a journey of discovery across the Irish landscape, exploring the connections between land and fibre, autumn colours and textures. Begin with a welcome brunch and tour of **Airfield Estate**, an environmentally sustainable farm and gardens in the heart of Dublin! Visit **This Is Knit**, Dublin's top yarn store and receive a very special welcome gift! Join **Carol Feller of Stolen Stitches** for two days of in-depth garment knitting, working on a pattern you will love! Be inspired by fleece to fibre farm experiences including iconic **Galway Wool Safari** and **Ériu** of County Wicklow. Stay in new locations, with a memorable lakeside manor stay in Killarney with exclusive use of **Loch Lein Country House**, and the brand new **The Chancery** hotel in the heart of Dublin, contemporary design with natural materials. Stay in the **Limerick Strand** hotel on the banks of the iconic River Shannon, where you will enjoy a talk and pop up shop with **Ballyhoura Yarns** – a collection inspired by the lands around us! A **yarn dyeing workshop** in the heart of rural Ireland, a **jaunting car ride** and **lake cruise** to discover the flora and fauna of **Killarney National Park**, idyllic **The Swiss Cottage** and the **Museum of Style Icons and Newbridge Silverware** will inspire your colour palettes further. Visits to **Kerry Woollen Mills** to see the 300-year-old mill in action, **Hedgehog Fibres** and a **Knit and Sip experience at Ahascragh Eco-Distillery** make this a unique and sustainability inspired tour, where you really do get back to nature and knitting.

Included in This Tour-

- Complimentary private transfers on arrival and departure*
- Luxury coach with an experienced driver
- Experienced Guide/Tour Manager – Anne Marie Hayes
- All your Knitting and Craft workshops including materials
- Four star luxury accommodation
- Irish breakfast daily
- 5 Dinners
- Farewell Sparkling Afternoon Tea
- Traditional Irish Music Session
- Irish breakfast daily
- 4 lunches

- Airfield Estate – Dublin’s sustainable farm and garden hub
- Ériu Farm meet the family, farm tour, river walk
- Glendalough Monastic Site and Lake
- Ahascragh Eco-Distillery tour, whiskey, cheese and chocolate tasting and Knit and Sip with a cocktail
- Jaunting Car Ride and Lake Cruise in Killarney National Park
- Sheepdog Demonstration at Kissane Sheep Farm
- The Swiss Cottage Visit – an idyllic fantasy of country life!

Your Knitting Activities

- 2 days in-depth garment knitting with Carol Feller of Stolen Stitches!
- Natural dyeing workshop with Malú Colorin
- Ériu farm Kingfisher palette show and tell, including free accessory pattern & skein
- This Is Knit store visit with welcome gift of Fishbone Mittens kit with Ériu Yarn
- Galway Wool Safari
- Visit to Hedgehog Fibres
- Ballyhoura Fibres talk with pop up shop
- Kerry Woollen Mills Experience

(Wool/patterns are included in all workshops - just need to bring your own needles and sizes will be advised)

Overnights for this Tour

- The Chancery, Dublin, Dublin City Centre, 2 nights
- Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick City, 1 night
- Loch Lein Country House, Killarney, County Kerry, 3 nights (exclusive)
- The Chancery, Dublin, Dublin City Centre, 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, Airfield Estate and This Is Knit!

Join your group in the lobby of The Chancery Hotel and meet with your wonderful tour guide, **Anne Marie Hayes** and your new companions! After a brief introduction, board your coach for the short journey to **Airfield Estate**, a 38 acre period house, farm and gardens in the heart of Dublin! Home to the Overend family since 1894, Airfield Estate was left in trust to the people of Ireland by Letitia and Naomi Overend in 1974. These trailblazing sisters realised the importance of being self-sufficient and sustainable in every aspect of their lives. That passion is carried through with the Airfield team today. Enjoy a tour of the house and gardens and have lunch sourced from the estate (included). Meet the lovely farm animals before enjoying a farewell Irish Coffee or Airfield Hot Chocolate!

Return to Dublin city centre and the exquisite Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, home to the fabulous **This Is Knit** Yarn Store. After browsing and chatting with the experts, you will be presented with a **Fishbone Mittens Knitting Kit** complete with Ériu yarn! Finish the day with a **welcome dinner** in your hotel.

Overnight The Chancery Hotel, Dublin - lunch and dinner included.

Day 2: Ériu Farm to Yarn, River Walk and Talú Earth Dyeing Workshop

Today, we leave Dublin and venture into the Garden of Ireland! Zoe and Lionel of **Ériu Farm to Yarn** are dedicated to working with selected breeds and blends to produce quality Irish wool as a sustainable, natural resource. Ériu is the Irish goddess of fertility, sovereignty and abundance. They are situated in the wild Wicklow mountains at the foot of Lugnaquilla - stunning and October when the trees turn golden. The area is surrounded by fairy rings and stone circles so there is a particular magical element to this part of Ireland.

This morning enjoy tea and scones on arrival, with a farm tour, river walk and be the first to see the Ériu woollen mill under construction! Have lunch on the farm (included) and learn about the new Kingfisher yarn colour palette. Come away with your own gift of an accessory pattern and a skein!

Take part in a **Talú Earth natural dyeing workshop** with Malú Colorin. With a background in graphic design and fine arts, in 2018 she began her experimentations and research into natural dyes and studied with master

dyers in Mexico, Ireland, the US and Japan. Her work draws inspiration from the traditional garments of her native Mexico, while embracing the rich heritage of Irish textiles. She connects with each of her natural dye sources, as well as the land where they grow.

Meander back to Dublin with a stop at the ancient monastic site of **Glendalough**, a tranquil oasis, draped in the colours of autumn. This evening is yours to enjoy Dublin or simply relax in your hotel.

Overnight The Chancery Hotel, Dublin – breakfast and lunch included

Day 3: Galway Wool Safari and Ahascragh Eco-Distillery Knit and Sip

This morning travel towards the mid-west of Ireland and the edge of County Galway. Join the **Galway Wool** co-operative to discover the magic of Pure Bred Galway Sheep and the making of authentic Native Irish Wool. Get up close to this adorable breed and see the wool being handspun into yarn!

Just a short distance, arrive at **Ahascragh Distillery**, a state of the art zero emissions distillery, full of the warmth of community and built from an old stone mill. Enjoy lunch on arrival (included) and discover the story of the couple who created the sustainable process, the heritage of the building and the whiskey making process. Take part in a premium tasting experience, before relaxing with your knitting and sip of an Ahascragh cocktail in the Old Mill café.

Continue to the Viking city of Limerick, where the River Shannon meets the Wild Atlantic Way. Check into your riverside hotel for the night, overlooking medieval King John's castle. Enjoy dinner in your hotel this evening.

Overnight Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick - breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 4: Ballyhoura Fibres Talk and Trunk Show and Knitting with Carol Feller of Stolen Stitches

This morning enjoy a **breakfast talk and trunk show** with Cierra, founder of **Ballyhoura Fibres**. Originally from Denver, Colorado, Cierra has made Limerick her home and dyes her own exquisite yarn collections, inspired by nature, the landscape and her travels.

Leave Limerick for 'The Kingdom' of Kerry and the fabulous Killarney town, surrounded by Killarney National Park, stopping for a quick lunch bite on the way (included). Arrive at **Loch Lein Country House**, where we have the whole location to ourselves! Meet your hosts Paul and Annette for a warm welcome to their lakeside hotel with award winning restaurant. This hidden treasure, rests on the north shore of Killarney's great lake, Loch Lein, with magnificent views of the McGillicuddy Reeks.

With fabulous local produce serviced in the panoramic restaurant, workshop view inspiration, spacious rooms, a cosy bar, library, picture window lounge and plenty of comfortable areas for knitting, this really is a sanctuary for the next few nights!

Join **Carol Feller of Stolen Stitches for 2 days of in-depth garment knitting!** We will go through the process of knitting a garment that you love. Starting with good body measurements and swatching and moving into possible modifications. Bring a garment pattern you would love to work on with yarn and needles for swatching or alternatively work with Carol to find a pattern that works for you during the retreat. Swatching yarn will be provided and additional yarn available at Carol's pop up shop.

When you are ready to put down your needles, enjoy dinner and relax for the evening, enjoying the sun setting over the lake and mountains.

Overnight Loch Lein Country House Hotel, Killarney - breakfast, lunch and dinner Included

Day 5: Knitting with Carol, Horse and Carriage Ride and Lake Cruise!

Continue **knitting with Carol Feller** and working on your project this morning! Enjoy a spot of lunch, before exploring the wonders of Killarney National Park, flora, fauna and heritage. Arrive at Ross Castle and board the **Lily of Killarney for a cruise on Loch Lein!** On land, take a **jaunting car ride (horse and carriage)** through the beauty of the national park. Return to Loch Lein for dinner and a relaxing evening.

Overnight Loch Lein Country House Hotel, Killarney - breakfast, lunch and dinner Included

Day 6: Kerry Woollen Mills, KISSANE Sheepdog Farm, Killarney and Traditional Irish Music!

This morning visit **Kerry Woollen Mills**, one of Ireland's oldest working mills, established over 300 years ago! While holding on firmly to their to heritage, the weaving is the perfect union of tradition and contemporary style and you will experience it first hand! With the stunning backdrop of Moll's Gap, enjoy a visit to **KISSANE Sheep Farm** and watch the **sheepdogs** in action over the mountain terrain.

Return to **Killarney for a free afternoon** to shop, explore, enjoy refreshments or simply relax at your hotel. This evening will be fun filled with **traditional Irish music and dining on local produce!**

Overnight Loch Lein Country House Hotel, Killarney – breakfast and dinner Included

Day 7: Hedgehog Fibres, The Swiss Cottage and Sparkling Afternoon Tea in Newbridge!

Say farewell to Loch Lein and begin your journey back to Dublin. We stop in Cork and visit the home of Hedgehog Fibres before continuing to The Swiss Cottage, just outside of Cahir. Designed by the famous architect John Nash, as a hunting lodge styled as an idyllic country cottage! As part of a restoration project, renowned fashion designer Sybil Connolly, was responsible for the interior décor.

Arrive at Newbridge Silverware for some discounted shopping and a chance to explore the Museum of Style Icons with collections including outfits from Audrey Hepburn and Princess Grace of Monaco, to Marilyn Monroe and Diana, Princess of Wales. Finish with a Sparkling Afternoon Tea in Newbridge's 'The Silver Restaurant!'

Arrive back to your Dublin hotel and relax for the evening with your new friends.

Overnight The Chancery Hotel, Dublin - Breakfast and Afternoon Tea 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

12 October 2024: €3,799 per person sharing
€4798 Single room (1 person)

All pricing in Euros - you may choose to be charged in Euros or you own local currency.

If you have friends or family that want to join you but do not knit, we offer a special **non-knitter discount of €200!**

Pre Tour Arrangements (Optional/Additional)

Package A

2 x Pre-Nights at The Chancery Hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €499

Single Room (1 person) €799

Package B

1 x Pre-Night at The Chancery Hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room €310

Single Room (1 person) €479

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 (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 or less – 100% of total paid is forfeit

Postponements:

As long as you are not within cancellation terms, you may transfer to another available tour or to a different date, subject to tour availability. An amendment fee of EUR500 per person 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.