



## **9 Night South of Ireland Knitting & Craft Tour Mountain Hollow Farm Shop 30 September – 09 October 2018**

This knitting tour of Ireland will help you experience craft in Ireland, especially knitting. Your tour will include time in Dublin, Galway, Inis Oírr and Killarney; while you travel you will partake in knitting workshops, craft demonstrations and craft sightseeing as well as general sightseeing.



### **Day 1: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Dublin Sightseeing**

Your tour begins in Dublin Airport with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 11am). At 1pm, meet at Hotel reception and begin your sightseeing with a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Visit the National Museum of Decorative Arts & History where you catch a glimpse of how Irish people in the past lived. Recreated rooms show typical furniture styles from the 17th century through to the high style of the 19th century. Of particular interest to you may be the textile exhibition 'The Way We Wore' which displays typical Irish clothing and jewellery worn from the 1760s onwards. After your visit, the remainder of the day will be free for you to explore the city at your leisure before meeting back at the hotel for your welcome dinner. Overnight at the Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included

### **Day 2: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018: Winnie's Craft Café, Constant Knitter & Travel to Galway**

Another day in Dublin starts with a trip to the Constant Knitter where you will meet a local craftsperson for a demonstration and informal chat about their craft topic which will either be knitwear design or Irish Lace crochet depending on designer availability. After your visit, travel the short distance to Winnie's Craft Cafe, an oasis of calm and colour for those interested in knitting, crochet and beading. Here we meet resident knitting teacher Pauline Gallagher who will give you a short knitting with wire workshop. All materials will be provided and by the end of the class you should have knit yourself a nice wire leaf pendant which you can take home with you as a souvenir of your time here in Ireland! The craft shop will also be open which stocks a wide range of yarns, books, patterns and accessories. After lunch (included) board your touring coach and travel to Tullamore D.E.W. Heritage Centre where you will discover how Daniel E. Williams went from stable boy to distillery manager to creating the whiskey which still bears his initials today. After sampling some of this fine whiskey continue to the vibrant city of Galway and check into your hotel. Overnight at the Galway Bay Hotel, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included

### **Day 3: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018: Anne O'Maille Workshop**

This morning enjoy an intensive Knitting Workshop with one of Ireland's best known Aran knitters and designers, Mrs. Anne O'Maille of Ó'Máilles of Galway. Established in 1938, this shop became famous in the 1950s for outfitting the entire cast of the film The Quiet Man and has done a fabulous business ever since in Irish tweeds, knitwear, and Aran knits. After the workshop the remainder of the day will be free for independent sightseeing, shopping and dining..

Overnight at the Galway Bay Hotel, Bed & Breakfast included

#### **Day 4: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018: Craft in Connemara**

Set off for a tour of Connemara this morning. Situated on the most Westerly part of Ireland, Connemara is one of the most beautiful unspoilt landscapes around. Your first stop will be the Spiddal Craft & Design Centre where you will enjoy a demonstration of traditional Irish willow basket weaving techniques and an introduction to modern basket designs with traditional basket maker, Ciaran Hogan. You might also enjoy visiting other craftspeople at the centre including traditional hand weaver, Máire Ní Thaidhg. Stop also at the famous Kylemore Abbey which is one of the most visited attractions in Ireland. Thousands visit Kylemore to see the outstanding Abbey and to experience the natural beauty of Kylemore's Woodland and Lakeshore walks and Victorian walled garden. Finally visit Glen Keen Farm where you will enjoy a sheep herding demonstration followed by home baked scones and tea or coffee. Return to Galway where the evening is your own. You might decide to head into town and catch a traditional Irish Music session in any one of Galway's many pubs or simply relax in your hotel. Overnight at the Galway Bay Hotel, Bed & Breakfast included

#### **Day 5: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Inis Oírr (Inisheer), Aran Islands**

Depart your hotel in time to get the morning ferry to Inis Oírr (Inisheer), one of the famous Aran Islands, located at the mouth of Galway Bay off the west coast of Ireland. On arrival you will be met by your Aran Island Knitting Instructor Una McDonough and taken on an island tour which will culminate with lunch. Then travel the short distance to Aras Eanna arts & craft centre where you will enjoy a Knitting Workshop and learn traditional methods and stitches the Aran Island way. In your class you will learn the Sharry Chain Link Stitch. The Sharry family, like many of the island families, has a long standing connection with the sea and the women of the family celebrate that connection in their choice of stitches when they knit traditional Aran sweaters. After checking into your B&B accommodation there will be time to relax and get to know your hosts. Your hosts can cater for most dietary needs, so please be sure to let us know of any special requirements in advance of travel. You will be collected this evening and taken to a local restaurant for a sumptuous meal. Overnight Inis Oírr, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included

#### **Day 6: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Another day and night on Inis Oírr (Inisheer)!**

Today take a break from knitting and learn how to make bread and butter from one of the islanders. After lunch (included) enjoy a St Bridget's Cross Making Workshop & learn about "Brideog", a doll traditionally fashioned out of straw and dressed in white usually a First Holy Communion dress and veil. This evening return to your B&B accommodation and after having some time to relax, you will be collected and taken for another delicious meal. Overnight Inis Oírr, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included

### **Day 7: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Aran Islands to Killarney.**

Check out of your accommodation after breakfast and take the early morning ferry directly to Doolin in County Clare. Take a scenic drive around Clare to the Cliffs of Moher to admire the astonishing views. Travel onward to Kerry visiting Kerry Woollen Mills along the way. This 17<sup>th</sup> century establishment has been crafting fine fabrics and yarn from wool for over 300 years and on your tour you will see truly skilled craftspeople at work. Afterwards, check into your hotel in Killarney where the remainder of the day until dinner will be free for personal sightseeing. Overnight in Lake Hotel, Killarney, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Included

### **Day 8: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Ring of Kerry & Carol Feller Knitting Class**

After breakfast enjoy a Knitting Workshop with Carol Feller, popular Irish knitter and author of the book Contemporary Irish Knits. After lunch (included) take the Ring of Kerry Tour. The road winds between the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, Ireland's highest mountains, and the varied Atlantic coast. You will be amazed at the breath-taking views and you will stop for photos at the most dramatic scenes. On the return pass through the colourful village of Sneem and pause at Moll's Gap to view the Three Lakes of Killarney before returning to Killarney. Overnight Lake Hotel, Killarney, Lunch, Bed & Breakfast Included

### **Day 9: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Blarney Castle & Return to Dublin**

Check out of your accommodation and travel to County Cork to visit Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills Store. Cormac MacCarthy, a great Irish chieftain constructed Blarney Castle nearly 600 years ago and since then this remarkable fortress and its 'stone of eloquence' has been attracting thousands of curious visitors every year. Legend has it that if you kiss the stone you will never be lost for words and have as the Irish say, 'the gift of the gab'. Built in 1823, Blarney Woollen Mills was originally known as Mahoney's Mills and provided valuable employment to the people of Blarney and nearby areas. Today Blarney Woollen Mills is Ireland's largest Irish Gift & Craft Store. Next travel to Hedgehog Fibres, an Irish artisan yarn and fibre dyeing studio located in Co. Cork. The studio was started by Beata Jezek after she saw a gap in the market for soft yarns in vibrant colours. Staff will be on hand to talk to you about the yarn and you may purchase some if you wish before we move on. Travel onward to Dublin stopping along the way for lunch (included). On arrival in Dublin the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own personal sightseeing. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner and say your goodbyes to new friends. Overnight at the Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel, Lunch, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included

### **Day 10: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Tour Ends**

After your final Irish breakfast depart the hotel for Dublin airport arriving in time to complete check-in formalities and that last minute duty free shopping

## Pricing

The price for the above tour is **Euro 2372** per person sharing a twin or double room. Single rooms will be an additional **Euro 499** per person.

## How To Book

There are two stages to make a booking.

1. Complete the booking form and e-mail to [groups@knittingtours.com](mailto:groups@knittingtours.com)
2. Submit your credit card details (Visa or MasterCard) via our secure site <https://www.d-ireland-bookings.com/booking-confirmation-form.php>. In the section titled “Booking Agent” insert “Mountain Hollow Farm Shop”. Please note that although we accept American Express for payment there will be a 2% administration charge.

Once we receive the above details we will debit your card with the initial deposit of 20% (Euro 475) per person. The balance will be taken automatically 42 days prior to the tour start date (19 August 2018) from the same card unless we are advised of an alternative method of payment. Please note that our secure site will not automatically debit your card – this is actioned in our office in Ireland.

### **Included in the cost of the tour**

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private coach (for arrivals prior to 11am)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver/guide or driver and licensed guide
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 9 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 5 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 5 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Dublin
- Entrance to the following attractions: National Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Kylemore Abbey, Glen Keen Sheep Farm, National Museum of Country Life (optional), The Cliffs of Moher, Blarney Castle.
- Flight or Ferry to Inis Oírr, Aran Islands
- Inis Oírr Guided Tour
- Ring of Kerry Guided tour
- Connemara Guided Tour
- Kerry Woollen Mills Factory Tour
- Basket weaving demonstration with Ciaran Hogan

### **Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour**

- Knitting with wire workshop at Winnies Craft Cafe in Dublin
- Knitting Workshop with Anne O'Maille in Galway
- Aran Island Knitting Workshop with Una McDonagh
- Bread & Butter Making
- Knitting Class with Carol Feller in Killarney (including a copy of Carol's latest book)

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