



## Your Knitting Tours Rep in Ontario:

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## Tour Dates:

8<sup>th</sup> July 2018

19<sup>th</sup> August 2018



## 7 Night Kerry & Kilkenny Irish Knitting and Craft Tour

### Tour Overview

For this 7 night knitting and craft tour, the focus of your itinerary will be historic Kilkenny and scenic Killarney in county Kerry. Your exploits will include a panoramic tour of Dublin where you will pay a visit to Epic Ireland, one of Dublin's newest museums. The next day we travel to Kilkenny and meet Anita Marnell and Helena Kelly Maye for an intensive knitting, spinning and felting workshop. Your touring in Kilkenny does not end there however as we will also visit Zwartables Ireland Sheep Farm and Cushendale Woollen Mill. Continuing to Killarney you will visit two historic Castles on route, the impressive Cahir Castle and the famous Blarney Castle & Woollen Mills store. In Kerry we undertake another knitting workshop, this time with experienced designer and teacher, Liz Spillane. Ann will teach you how to make your own fancy/textured yarns and a variety of techniques to build texture and colour. Before you leave Kerry we will explore the Lakes of Killarney, Molls Gap and the magnificent Dingle Peninsula, visiting Kerry Woollen Mills along the way. We return to Dublin via the pretty town of Adare in county Limerick, arriving in time for some personal sightseeing or shopping before meeting again for our final farewell dinner

## *Included in This 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 and accredited guide, entrance fees included if applicable.
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 7 nights
- Irish breakfast daily
- 3 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 3 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Dublin
- Entrance to the following attractions: Epic Ireland, Cahir Castle, Blarney Castle & Kilkenny Castle
- Dingle Peninsula Guided Tour

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

- Zwartables Ireland Sheep Farm Visit
- Cushendale Woollen Mill Factory Tour
- Kerry Woollen Mills Factory Tour
- Visit Hedgehog Yarns and This is Knit Yarn Stores
- Knitting, Spinning & Felting Workshop with Anita Marnell and Helena Kelly Maye in Kilkenny
- Yarn Development & Knitting workshop with Liz Spillane in Kerry

## *Overnights for this Tour*

- Camden Court Hotel (or similar), Dublin, 1 Night
- Hotel Kilkenny(or similar), Kilkenny, 2 Nights
- Lake Hotel (or similar), Killarney, 3 Nights
- Camden Court Hotel (or similar), Dublin, 1 Night

## Itinerary

**Important Note:** *Attractions, Workshops and Demonstrations May Change According to Availability and Scheduling*

### **Day 1: Dublin Sightseeing**

Begin your knitting tour of Ireland with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 11am). At 2pm enjoy a panoramic guided tour of Dublin and visit Epic Ireland. One of Ireland's newest museums, at Epic Ireland you can make your way through twenty themed galleries and find out why people left Ireland, how they influenced the world around them, and experience the connection between their descendants and Ireland today. If time permits we will also pay a visit to This is Knit, an independent, family-owned yarn shop where the shelves are filled with high quality, natural-fibre yarns, from top Irish and international brands. Overnight in Dublin, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 2: Travel to Kilkenny, Knitting, Spinning & Dyeing Workshop with Anita Marnell and Helena Kelly Maye**

Check out of your hotel and board your touring coach. Travel to Kilkenny to Anita Marnell's studio where the day starts with tea and coffee and an Introduction to different Fleeces both raw and washed, followed by discussion of different Natural fibres which are used in Yarns. Anita and Helena will also introduce you to carders for wool and learn how to comb Wool Bats and Rolags in preparation for Spinning. Next it's on to the spinning wheel! Learn how to draft and prepare fibres and then spin them into wool ready for making your knitwear creations. Your day at the studio also includes some knitting techniques where the honeycomb, blackberry, diamond and cable stitch are learned, practiced and perfected. After lunch nearby (included), you will learn how to felt a flower using Merino fleece and decorating it with silks, to create a Stunning Brooch. After almost a full day at the studio, we travel onward to Kilkenny and check into your hotel. Long renowned as Ireland's Medieval Capital, the city's origins date back more than 1,500 years. Kilkenny, from the Gaelic "Cill Ceannaigh", derives its name from a 6th century monk called Saint Canice. Characterised by beautifully restored old buildings and covered slipways, Kilkenny City is small and compact enough to explore on foot, yet full of fascinating, historical buildings, and contemporary shops, design galleries, cafés and restaurants. Overnight in Kilkenny, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 3: Craft in Kilkenny – Cushendale Mill & Zwartables Farm**

We start the day with a visit to Kilkenny Castle, a 12th century castle remodelled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands. There will also be time to visit Kilkenny Design Centre which offers a fantastic selection of Irish handcrafted gifts including Jewellery, Knitwear, Celtic Gifts, China & Crystal, Pottery & Glass, Home & Fashion Accessories and contemporary design pieces. Next we travel outside Kilkenny city and stop at Zwartables Ireland Sheep Farm to meet Suzanne and her family who breed and rear Zwartables Sheep. Tour the farm, meet the sheep and chat with the family who will tell you all about their unique yarn which you can buy direct from the farm if you wish. After lunch (included), your final stop for today is Cushendale Mill where products made on site are crafted using natural-fibre textiles made with mohair, Irish wool and merino lambswool. Enjoy a tour of the mill and see the spinning mule in action. You might even spot some of the wool from the sheep at Crampton farm! Return to Kilkenny where the remainder of the evening is free. Dinner is not included tonight so that you can sample one of Kilkenny's many fine restaurants if you wish. Overnight in Kilkenny, Bed & Breakfast included.

### **Day 4: Cahir Castle, Hedgehog Fibres & Blarney Castle and Woollen Mills Store**

Today we make our way to Killarney with a few stops along the way, the first one being Cahir Castle in county Tipperary. Cahir Castle, one of the largest castles in Ireland, is sited on an island in the river Suir. It was built from 1142 by Conor O'Brien, Prince of Thomond. After a tour of the castle board your coach and travel to Cork. Next, a quick stop at Hedgehog Fibres; an Irish artisan fibre and yarn dyeing studio located just outside the city. 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 to Blarney Castle. 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. Continue to Killarney and check into your hotel where dinner will be waiting for you. Overnight in Killarney, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

### Day 5: Knitting Workshop with Liz Spillane & Kerry Sightseeing

After breakfast travel to Kenmare to meet knitwear designer and textile artist, Liz Spillane. Liz has over 30 years' experience teaching knitting classes and even worked as a tutor in the fashion department in the Limerick School of Art & Design. Your workshop with Liz will include creating fancy/ textured yarns, using a single smooth yarn as a base and a variety of techniques to build the texture and colour. The yarn is then knitted with standard knitting needles. After your class we will travel to Kenmare for lunch (included) and afterwards you will have some time to explore Kenmare at your leisure. We return to Killarney via the mountain road to Moll's Gap and Ladies View where you will be treated to unrivalled views of the Killarney Valley. With its three famous lakes and majestic mountain ranges, Killarney has been the inspiration of poets and painters over many centuries. The Killarney National Park is internationally renowned both for its scenic beauty and scientific interest. Overnight in Killarney, Bed & Breakfast included.

### Day 6: Kerry Woollen Mills & Dingle

After breakfast travel onward to Dingle visiting Kerry Woollen Mills along the way. This 17th 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. Continue to Dingle where after a few hours to explore the town and have lunch at your leisure we will explore the peninsula. The peninsula itself is ringed by sandy beaches and craggy cliffs and Inland you will find rolling hills and mountains, including the 952m Mount Brandon which towers overhead. Return to Killarney where the remainder of the evening is free for your personal sightseeing or shopping. Overnight in Killarney, Bed & Breakfast included.

### Day 7: Return to Dublin

After breakfast board your touring coach and travel to Adare in County Limerick. Situated in the south west of Ireland, Adare is one of Ireland's prettiest and most picturesque villages and is a haven for those wishing to escape and unwind, taking in its medieval surroundings. Today, Adare village is an architectural wealth of scenic beauty. The mix of centuries is blended into everyday life as some of the thatched cottages are home to arts and crafts shops. The main street of Adare is punctuated with beautiful stone buildings, medieval monasteries and ruins and the picturesque village park. Continue to Dublin where the afternoon is free for your personal sightseeing or shopping. This evening meet back at the hotel and we will travel together to a local restaurant for a final farewell dinner in a local Dublin restaurant. Overnight in Dublin, Bed & Breakfast included.

### Day 8: 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.

## Prices

#### 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018:

€1799 (\$2680 CAD) per person sharing/€399 (\$595 CAD) supplement if single room required

#### 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018:

€1799 (\$2680 CAD) per person sharing/€399 (\$595 CAD) supplement if single room required

**Note:** The CAD Dollar rate is an indication only and is based on the rate of exchange Euro 1.00 = CAD Dollar 1.49. All payments will be taken in Euro.

## 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. Mastercard and Visa accepted with no additional charges.

Cancellation Policy:

- 29 days or longer deposit will be forfeit and non-refundable.
- 28 days to 15 days 50% is forfeit
- 14 days or less 100% of all money paid is forfeit.