



*Patty Lyons 9 Night Knitting & Crafts Tour  
of Scotland*

*Tour Date:*

**6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Real Knitting Tours.

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### *Included in This Tour*

- Transfers on arrival and departure (on tour start and finish date); arrive no later than 11:00 am on tour start date.
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver and accredited guide
- Accommodation in 4 Star Hotels for 9 nights
- Scottish breakfast daily
- 7 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 4 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Edinburgh Restaurant
- Afternoon Tea at the Old Course, St. Andrews
- Tea with a Naughty Sheep Experience
- Scotch Whiskey Experience
- Exclusive Scottish-themed dinner Cooking class
- Entrance to the following attractions: Stirling Castle, Stirling Old Town Jail, Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier, Oban Distillery, Edinburgh Castle

### *Workshops & Knitting/ Fibre Related Activities Included in This Tour*

- Patty Lyons Knitting Workshop
- Gansey Knitting Workshop with Di Gilpin
- Lace Stitch Pattern Workshop with Karie Westernman
- Waulking with Wool performance at Auchindrain
- Achpopuli Farm visit and needle felting or peg loom weaving demonstration *(TBC)*
- Visit to Prickly Thistle, Dovecot Studio and V&A Design Gallery
- Scottish Textiles Experience
- General Admission Ticket to Scottish Yarn Festival in Perth (workshops not included)

*(Wool and patterns are included in all workshops, just bring your own needles and sizes will be advised)*

### *Not Included in this Tour*

- Travel to and from Scotland
- Items of a personal nature such as wines, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Meals not specified on the itinerary
- Any pre or post tour arrangements
- Tips & Gratuities

### *Overnights for this Tour*

- Apex Grassmarket Hotel (or similar), 3 nights
- Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa (or similar), Dundee, 1 night
- Kingsmills Hotel (or similar), Inverness, 2 nights
- Knipoch Hotel (or similar), Oban, 1 night
- Maldron Hotel Glasgow City (or similar), Glasgow, 1 night
- DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh City Centre Hotel (or similar), Edinburgh, 1 night

## Itinerary

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

### Day 1

Arrive at Edinburgh Airport (*prior to 11:00 am*) and transfer to your city centre hotel to meet the rest of the group before starting your tour with a visit to **Dovecot Studio** to view the weaver's at work (lunch included here). Please note that rooms may not be ready for check-in, but hotel will store your luggage safely. Next, travel to the nearby **Scottish Textiles Showcase** store for a taster of what's to come and a chance to see some of the glorious yarns and textiles on offer – all located right in the heart of Edinburgh! Your first night includes a welcome dinner with your fellow travel companions.

*Overnight Edinburgh, Lunch and Dinner Included*

#### **Non Knitters: Explore on your own (not included in the tour price)**

- *Royal Yacht Britannia* - former floating palace of Queen Elizabeth II
- *Museum of Scotland* - explore Scottish history, art, science and technology, design and fashion, all under one roof
- *Palace of Holyroodhouse* – official residence of the late Queen Elizabeth and now King Charles III
- *Edinburgh Gin Distillery* – enjoy behind the scenes tour followed by gin tasting (pre-booking is highly recommended)



## Day 2

After breakfast, board your coach and journey to the *Scottish Yarn Festival* in Perth, which brings together independent yarn dyers, producers of single original wool, inspirational tutors and lecturers, and all fibre crafters.

*Overnight Edinburgh, Dinner Bed & Breakfast Included*

### **Non-Knitters: Explore on your own while in Perth (not included in the tour price)**

- *Perth Museum* – heritage and world-class cultural attraction which will re-open in 2024 after a £26.5 million redevelopment project. It will house the Stone of Destiny, which is still used to crown kings and queens of the United Kingdom today.
- *Black Watch Castle & Museum* - immerse yourself in the extraordinary history of The Black Watch which has played many pivotal roles in Scotland's military history.
- *Perth Food Tour* – join a walking tour of Perth to enjoy local history and fun facts while stopping at specially selected venues for a taste of Scotland. (pre-booking is highly recommended)

## Day 3

Today travel to the historical market town of Stirling, also known as “Gateway to the Highlands”. Enjoy a walking tour to include a visit to the medieval *Stirling Castle* located on a craggy volcanic rock and *Old Town Jail*, which takes a step back in time to showcase the history of crime and punishment in the Royal Burgh. Return to Edinburgh in the early afternoon to freshen up before taking part in an exclusive Scottish-themed dinner cooking class where you will make some local Scottish delicacies before enjoying the fruits of your labour!

*Overnight Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast Included*

## Day 4

Our day begins with a knitting workshop instructed by **Di Gilpin** on Gansey knitwear. Di starts her workshop with a brief presentation on the history of Gansey knitting in Scotland, which is supported with samples of traditional pieces as well as some contemporary designs from the studio. Her workshop explores different gansey patterns in either blanket squares or a long sampler. Next, we travel to St Andrews in time for lunch in the style of Afternoon Tea. The last stop before travelling to the hotel in Dundee, is the **V&A Design Gallery** – Scotland’s first dedicated design museum. This design gallery, situated at Dundee waterfront, features exhibits from various collections across Scotland as well as pieces brought north from the V&A in London.

*Overnight Dundee, Breakfast and Dinner Included*

### **Non Knitters: Explore on your own (not included in the tour price)**

Travel to the old university town of St. Andrews, famed for its status as the home of golf. On arrival, take in sites such as the Old Course, the world’s most famous golf links, along with St. Andrews Castle and the local cathedral ruins and St. Andrew Museum.

## Day 5

Meet with experienced lace designer **Karie Westermann** where you will learn to de-mystify how lace works and design your own project in just a few hours! Together you will look at lace stitch patterns and learn how to incorporate a lace stitch pattern into a design of your own. You will learn how to draw lace charts and how to calculate projects. Karie will guide you through your own design process whether you wish to design a scarf or a shawl and give you hands-on advice about designing repeats and motifs that really work. After lunch (included), journey onwards to **Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier** who is a twice winner of the World Gold at the International Chocolate Awards for his unique velvet truffles! Whilst here, sample the unique range yourself while Iain himself introduces you to the unique flavour combinations and incredible textures. Finally continue to your hotel in Inverness in time for dinner.

*Overnight Inverness, Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Included*



***Non-Knitters: Explore on your own while in Dundee (not included in the tour price)***

- *Discovery Point and RRs Discovery* – home to the world famous Royal Research Ship which took Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica in 1910.
- *Verdant Works* – restored mill housing interactive displays telling story of local jute production.

## Day 6

After breakfast, enjoy a knitting workshop with top knitting teacher, designer and author **Patty Lyons** at your hotel. After lunch (included), visit **Prickly Thistle**, an artisan tartan design and textile studio & mill that was established almost 6 years ago by Clare Campbell. Return to Inverness to enjoy some free time before dinner.

Overnight *Inverness, Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Included*

***Non-Knitters: Explore on your own while in Inverness (not included in the tour price)***

Travel to *Culloden Battlefield or Highlanders' Museum and Fort George*, the mightiest artillery fortification in Britain, providing insight into the 18th century military life with garrison buildings, artillery defences, cannons, and an incredible collection of arms. The Museum tells the story of the Highland Regiments from just after the Battle of Culloden to the present day. Alternatively, visit *Tomatin Distillery*, to fill your own bottle of a single malt Scotch whiskey from one of their Tawny Port cask (pre-booking is highly recommended).



### Day 7

Today travel south skirting the beautiful Loch Ness for a craft demonstration of either peg loom weaving or needle felting (TBC) at **Achpopuli Farm**, a small business located in the village of Abriachan situated on the western shore of Loch Ness. After a tour of the farm to meet the sheep, enjoy some free time to browse their shop for homemade yarn and skincare products. Next, it's onto Fort Augustus, a stunning village which lies on the Caledonian Canal on the Great Glen Way. Whilst here, why not meander around and watch the boats go through the locks while enjoying some shopping too! The last stop before heading to the hotel is **Oban Distillery**, one of Scotland's oldest sources of Single Malt Scotch Whisky, nestled beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban.

*Overnight Oban, Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Included*

### Day 8

Today we make our way to **Auchindrain Township** which gives a taste of what life was once like in the Scottish Highlands. Discover the byres, stables and fields to understand how groups of families would have once worked the common lands. At Auchindrain we will also meet the group locally known as 'Sgioba Luaidh InbhircLuaidh' which translates to the **'Inverclyde Waulking Group'**. Waulking is a method of finishing newly woven tweed by soaking and thumping it steadily to shrink and soften it. The group sings waulking songs as they work! Thereafter, it's onto Beccy for **Tea with Naughty Sheep!** Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea here (in the company of some hilarious pet sheep) whilst taking in the panoramic views of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Finally for today, continue to Glasgow for a stop at the Love of Yarn for shopping and a yarn dyeing demonstration.

*Overnight Glasgow, Dinner Bed & Breakfast Included*

### Day 9

This morning, return to Edinburgh and explore the well-renowned Royal Mile. Gain insights into famous landmarks such as the spectacular St. Giles' Cathedral, the National Galleries of Scotland and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the late Queen Elizabeth and now, King Charles III. After a tour of the iconic **Edinburgh Castle**, afternoon is free to explore. This evening, enjoying the **Scotch Whiskey Experience** and a farewell dinner in Amber Restaurant in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle.

*Overnight Edinburgh, Breakfast and Dinner Included*



## Day 10

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your return flight.

## Prices

**GBP 5,595.00 per person sharing / GBP 1,531.00 additional supplement if a single room is required.**

All pricing is in British Pounds Sterling- you may choose to be charged in GBP 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 GBP 200!**

### Pre Tour Arrangements (Optional/Additional)

#### Package A

1 x Pre-Nights at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Per person sharing one room     **£177**     Supplement if single room is required     **£158**

#### Package B

1 x Pre-Night at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Arrival Transfer

Hop-On Hop-Off One Day Sightseeing Ticket

Per person sharing one room     **£247**     Supplement if single room is required     **£228**

### Post Tour Arrangements (Optional/Additional)

1 x Pre-Nights at Edinburgh City centre hotel

Per person sharing one room     **£162**     Supplement if single room is required     **£155**

## *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 Policy:

- 60 days or more prior to itinerary start date – Full deposit forfeit
- 59 days to 31 days prior to itinerary start date - 50% of total paid is forfeit
- 30 days or less - 100% of total paid is forfeit

## *Travel Insurance*

We urge you to purchase cancellation insurance & supplemental medical coverage (which covers pre-existing conditions). This is a smart way to safeguard against life's surprises.

Also it is important to note that a certain amount of walking is encouraged on our tours. All tour members must be able to mount steps into the coach and walk unaided at a reasonable pace from coach to hotel and coach to visitor attractions/events on possibly uneven ground. Passengers must be able to handle their own luggage. Coach driver's and guides that are employed by The Irish Tourism Group cannot provide individualized help for walking, getting on and off motor coaches, ferries or other personal needs.

## *Additional Information*

### **Baggage**

When portorage of baggage is included in a programme, it is based upon a maximum of 1 piece of standard airline baggage per person. Passengers bringing baggage in excess of this amount may incur a surcharge. For the sake of passenger comfort, it is recommended that passengers limit baggage to 1 suitcase per person plus 1 carry on.

### **Items Not Included**

Our tours do not include items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service, telephone charges or other hotel extras. All passengers are responsible for settling any such costs incurred before checking out of each hotel.

### **Gratuities**

Gratuities are not included to the coach driver and tour guide. These are at the participant's discretion.

### **Safety**

It is the responsibility of each individual client to ensure that they do not behave in such a way as to cause offence or danger to themselves or others, or which risks damage to property. Each client shall be responsible for any injury or damage caused by their failure to behave in a safe and proper manner.