



Battenkill Fibres Knitting Tour of Scotland

October 23rd 2020 – November 2nd 2020

Tour Overview

This Scottish knitting tour will help you experience craft in Scotland with an emphasis on knitting. Your tour will include a tour of panoramic tour Edinburgh and along with free time on your arrival day to take in some of the local sights which include the iconic Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and her Majesty's famous yacht, the HMY Britannia. Visit Stirling Castle where you will be treated to a special recreation of 'waulking with wool' before heading north via the beautiful landscape that surrounds Loch Lomond and Glencoe. Next, it's onto the scenic Outer Hebridean islands of Lewis and Harris where you will visit craft based sites before journeying back to the mainland via the scenic Isle of Skye for a Dorset Button Workshop. On this tour we will visit two woollen mills; Carloway and Knockando where you can see a traditional Victorian loom in action! There will also be other site visits dotted throughout including Culloden Battlefield, the Highland Folk Museum and Blair Atholl Distillery.

On this tour meet with Emily from Tin Can Knits in Edinburgh for a morning workshop on her Strange Brew pattern and in the afternoon, she will give a talk on mixing yarns, colours and sizing. Also, on this tour you will meet Bev at The Handspinner Having Fun in Armadale for your Dorset Button Workshop.

Included in This Tour

- Transfers on departure by private coach (tour end date)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver and accredited guide (where applicable according to pricing)
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 10 nights
- Scottish breakfast daily
- 5 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 1 restaurant dinner
- 4 lunches
- 1 Farewell Meal in Edinburgh
- Pre-dinner talk with Lucy Hague
- Natural dyeing demo at Loch Ness Knitting
- Visit to Donald John Mackay
- Ferry travel between Ullapool and Stornoway
- Ferry travel between Tarbert and Uig
- Entrance to the following attractions: Stirling Castle, Sgioba Luaidh Waulking, Carloway Mill, Culloden Battlefield, Highland Folk Museum, Blair Atholl Distillery

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

Workshops/Knitting Activities Included in This Tour

- Tin Can Knit's 'Strange Brew' workshop which is in the Fair Isle style and second workshop on mixing yarns, colour and sizing.
- Dorset Button Workshop at The Handspinner Having Fun

Itinerary

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

Day 1

Arrive at Edinburgh Airport and make your own way in to your city centre hotel. Today is free to explore or relax after your long haul flight. This evening, meet the rest of your group and experience a pre-dinner talk with **Lucy Hague**, a well-known pattern designer and author, who will discuss her design inspiration and processes along with conducting a book signing. Afterwards, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

Overnight **Radisson Blu Hotel**, Edinburgh, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Basis

Day 2

After breakfast, board your coach and journey west towards the city of Stirling to visit the iconic **Stirling Castle**. The current castle dates from the late 14th to 16th century when it was a favoured residence of the Stuart monarchs. Strategically, Stirling was politically crucial from early to medieval times and it was always said that "whoever controlled Stirling, controlled Scotland". During your visit, enjoy a guided tour of the castle, particularly focusing on the tapestries exhibit. Here, you will learn how the tapestries were made along with seeing some of the equipment used in putting together these master works of art. After lunch on your own at the Castle Café, you will also meet the group locally known as '**Sgioba Luaidh Inbhichluaidh**' which translates to the 'Inverclyde Waulking Group' for a waulking session in the castle followed by afternoon refreshments. Return to Edinburgh where the remainder of the afternoon is free to explore the many pubs and restaurants on offer to enjoy dinner. There will also be an option this evening to be dropped off at Kathy's Knits on the way back to your hotel.

Overnight **Radisson Blu Hotel**, Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast Basis

Day 3

This morning, travel through **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park**, stopping along the way to admire the views and take some photographs of the stunning scenery. Enjoy a short visit to the picturesque conservation village of **Luss** which sits on the western shore of Loch Lomond. Next, it's onto the village of **Glencoe** which is one of the most beautiful and other-worldly places in Scotland. The best approach is from the south on the A82, one of the major routes through the Highlands. The road climbs over the bleak expanse

of Rannoch Moor and drops down between the steep scree-strewn sides of Glencoe. Awesome mountains such as Buachaille Etive Mor and the Three Sisters loom on either side, with riverine scenery at the bottom of the glen. The name Glencoe means 'Valley of Weeping', and has a melancholy air thanks to it being the site of the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692. After lunch (included) nearby, board your coach once again and continue your journey north skirting the shores of Loch Ness. On the way, make a stop in the charming village of Drumnadrochit and visit **Loch Ness Knitting**, a small family owned business, that offers a selection of unique gifts made from their own hand dyed yarn. Whilst here, enjoy a natural dyeing demo which involves an introduction to plant and food waste dyeing along with a showcase of preparation techniques and display of yarn being dyed. Afterwards, continue north to the city of Inverness.

*Overnight **Kingsmills Hotel**, Inverness, Dinner Bed & Breakfast Basis*



Day 4

Today, journey north west to the ferry terminal in Ullapool where you will board your ferry to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. On arrival, check in to your hotel before enjoying some free time to explore Stornoway town centre in search of local yarn and book shops (to be advised by KnittingTours.com). There will also be a chance this afternoon to pay a visit to the **Calanais Standing Stones** which form one of the most complete circles in Britain. Enjoy dinner in a local restaurant this evening.

*Overnight **Cabarfeidh Hotel**, Stornoway, Bed & Breakfast Basis*

Day 5

This morning, travel the short journey to The Carloway Mill for a tour. The mill is one of three working Harris Tweed textile mills in the world which produces the renowned Harris Tweed fabric. After lunch (not included), it's on to Donald John Mackay's studio, a well-known Harris Tweed weaver who has been making Harris tweed in his own shed. John reigns from the small village of Luskentyre in the Outer Hebrides and the art of weaving goes back a long way in his family. Enjoy some free time in the village of Tarbert before heading back to your hotel in Stornoway in time for dinner.

*Overnight **Cabarfeidh Hotel**, Stornoway, Dinner Bed & Breakfast*

Day 6

The first half of today is free to relax before journeying to the ferry port of Tarbert to board a ferry to Uig on the Isle of Skye. On arrival in Skye, travel the short distance to the charming town of Portree to check in to your hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

*Overnight **Cuillin Hills Hotel**, Portree, Dinner Bed & Breakfast Basis*

Day 7

This morning, check out of your hotel and travel south to the town of Armadale for a visit to **The Handspinner Having Fun** for a Dorset Button Workshop. The group will be split in two for this workshop and the other half of the group will be taken to Armadale Castle, Gardens & Museum. After lunch (not included), the two groups will be switched once again and one will take part in the workshop while the other visits the local castle and grounds. In the late afternoon, travel onwards back to the mainland stopping at different intervals for photo opportunities. One such example is Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most evocative castle's which has long been associated with the 'picture-perfect' postcard of Scotland itself.

*Overnight **Kingsmills Hotel**, Inverness, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Basis*

Day 8

This morning, visit **Knockando Woollen Mill** for a tour and talk. The wool mill sits beautifully in the Spey Valley, on the same site that the mill has occupied for over 230 years. Here contemporary designs are woven alongside traditional tweeds and classic woollen blankets. At Knockando you will be able to see many elements of the production process first hand including a working Victorian loom. Afterwards, travel back to the village of Culloden where firstly, you will have some free time for lunch before making a stop at the **Culloden Battlefield**, the scene of the 1746 Battle of Culloden between the Jacobite and the British armies. As the last battle being fought on British soil, Culloden marks the beginning of the dismantlement of the structures of Highland society. In the aftermath of the battle, kilts and tartans were banned. It was here that the Jacobite army fought for a Stuart king in order to reclaim the throne of Britain from the Hanoverians. Today, 250 years on, Culloden is still a site that connects us intimately with Britain's past. Find out why this battle lasted only one hour but still changed the course of Scotland's history. Next, it's onto **Clava Cairns**, a well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery complex of passage graves; ring cairns, kerb cairns and standing stones, where were used as a shooting location for the television series Outlander.

*Overnight **Kingsmills Hotel**, Inverness, Bed & Breakfast Basis*



Day 9

Today, check out of your hotel and begin your return journey back to Scotland's capital. On the way, visit the **Highland Folk Museum** which gives visitors a sense of how Highland people lived and worked from the 1700s up until the 1960s. Your tour will pay special attention to traditional crafts like spinning, knitting and weaving and you will enjoy a special textile talk from the museum's curator. Next, continue your journey south towards the city of Edinburgh stopping at the **Blair Atholl Distillery** for a tour and tasting en route.

Overnight **Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast Basis**

Day 10

After breakfast, meet Emily from **Tin Can Knits** for a knitting workshop following Tin Can Knit's 'Strange Brew' pattern which is in the Fair Isle style. The class will cover colour choices; yarn sizing and yoke construction and each participant will get started designing their own yoke and / or knitting a swatch depending on their comfort level. After lunch (included), transfer to your nearby hotel for check-in. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore before a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight **Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast Basis**

Day 11

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your return flight.