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Gourmet Yarns – Shetland Islands Knitting Tour

Tour Dates:

17th May 2019 – 26th May 2019

One Tour Date Only in 2019-Limited Availability



9 Night Best of Shetland Islands and Scotland Knitting Tour

Tour Overview

Your tour starts in Edinburgh where you will check out the sights and sounds of the city and visit Dovecot Studio and pay a visit to Edinburgh Castle, one of Scotland's busiest tourist attractions and a must see for first time visitors to Scotland! After a night in Edinburgh and some time to get to know the other tour participants, we make our way North to Aberdeen to take the overnight ferry to the Shetland Islands. During your five days in Shetland we will travel all over the island from Jamieson & Smith in Sandness on the far West Coast to the heritage site of Jarlshof on the most southerly tip!

During your five days in Shetland you will visit Jamieson Wool Brokers, The Shetland Textile Museum, Shetland Museum and Archives to name but a few attractions. We will have knitting workshops with Hazel Tindall (Scotland's fastest knitter!) and Elizabeth Johnson!

Included in This Tour-

- Transfers on arrival and departure by private coach (for arrivals prior to 11am on tour start day)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary in a luxury coach with an experienced driver and accredited guide
- Accommodation in rooms with private facilities for 9 nights
- Cooked Breakfast daily
- 6 hotel table d'hote dinners
- 4 lunches
- 1 Farewell Dinner
- Entrance to the following attractions: Edinburgh Castle, RRS Discovery Museum, V&A Dundee, Shetland Museum & Archives, The Croft House Museum, Jarlshof, Scone Palace,
- Return ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick, Cabin Accommodation (breakfast & dinner included)
- Uradale Farm Visit

Workshops/Textile Activities Included in This Tour

- Fair Isle Yolks with Hazel Tindall
- Shetland Lace Class with Elizabeth Johnson
- Dovecot Studio Tour
- V&A Design Gallery Tour
- Shetland Textile Museum Tour
- Jamieson & Smith Wool Brokers Visit
- Shetland Designer Studio Visit

- Burra Bears Studio Visit
- Neilanell Studio Visit
- Jamiesons of Shetland Mill Tour
- New Lanark Mill Tour

Overnights for this Tour

- The Courtyard by Marriott, Edinburgh, 1 night
- Northlink Ferries – Aberdeen to Lerwick, 1 night
- Shetland Hotel, Lerwick, 4 nights
- Northlink Ferries –Lerwick to Aberdeen, 1 night
- Doubletree by Hilton, Edinburgh, 2 nights

Itinerary

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

Day 1: Edinburgh Sightseeing; Edinburgh Castle & Dovecot Studio

Begin your knitting tour of Scotland with a transfer to your hotel (for arrivals prior to 10:30am), then set off on your tour. Enjoy a panoramic guided tour of Edinburgh and visit **Dovecot Studio**, an innovative centre for modern art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry studio. After free time for lunch visit **Edinburgh Castle** which stands majestically upon the basalt core of an extinct volcano. After our guided tour continue to your hotel where we will enjoy a welcome dinner together. Overnight in Edinburgh, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 2: Travel to Aberdeen via Dundee

Today we make our way to Aberdeen in order to get the overnight ferry to the Shetland Islands. Along the way, we will explore the city of Dundee visiting The V&A Dundee and the RRS Discovery. The **V&A Dundee**, is Scotland's first dedicated design museum and newly opened in September 2018. At the heart of the museum, the Scottish Design Gallery features more than 300 exhibits from all over Scotland, including knitwear and other textiles. After time for lunch we will walk to the adjacent **RRS Discovery and Discovery Point Museum**; this prize-winning visitor attraction tells the story of the RRS Discovery from her beginnings in Dundee, her remarkable Antarctic expedition with Captain Scott and his team and her voyages thereafter. Continue to Aberdeen where we take the overnight ferry to Shetland. Although the ferry crossing takes about 9 hours, the journey is comfortable; cabin accommodation will be provided and there is a bar, lounge and restaurant as well as a shop selling souvenirs, gifts, travel products and snacks. Overnight Northlink Ferries, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included. N.B. Only overnight luggage is allowed on board the vessel and your main luggage will remain securely on the coach.

Day 3: Shetland Island Welcome, Shetland Textile Museum & Shetland Museum and Archive

Today your knitting tour of the Shetland Islands begins in earnest! We arrive in Lerwick early morning and after a leisurely breakfast and time to pack your belongings, we are off to explore the island! First stop is the **Shetland Textile Museum** which is run by a dedicated bunch of people many of whom are also very heavily involved in the famous Shetland Woolweek. On display at the museum you will find Shetland Lace Fair Isle knitting, Shetland Taatit rugs and other woven tweeds. There are also tools associated with the production of Shetland textiles, as well as historic papers and patterns. Staff will be on hand to tell us about their displays and do some interesting demonstrations. After your visit we continue to the **Shetland Museum and Archives**. The museum galleries are arranged in an easy to follow trail which takes you through Shetland Islands history from the early beginnings and people, through social, domestic and industrial developments and into the more contemporary

oil era changes. Our entry fee includes a guided tour and your guide will pay particular attention to the knitting related history! After exploring the museum, the remainder of the day is free for you to relax in the hotel. Overnight Shetland Islands, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 4: Jamieson and Smith Wool Brokers, The Croft House Museum & Shetland Designer

After a leisurely breakfast we take a short journey to **Jamieson & Smith Wool Brokers**. Jamieson & Smith purchase Shetland wool from over 700 of Shetland's crofters and farmers, and transform it into high-quality Shetland wool products including yarns, knitwear, blankets and carpets. At the centre, one of the staff will show us around, speak to us about the fleece, how it is spun and what type of garments are made from the different grades of wool. Afterwards continue to Wilma Malcolmson's studio, **Shetland Designer**. Wilma's innovative studio has an enviable reputation for its skilfully blended Fair Isle knitwear. Wilma captures the natural hues and rich contrasting colours of Shetland, producing original knitwear in all-natural fibres. After lunch we pay a visit to the **Croft House Museum**, a mid-nineteenth century Shetland croft, which was lived in until the late 1960's. A typical family unit included grandparents, parents and children. Smell the peat fire, discover the box beds and try to set the traditional Shetland mouse trap. Return to Lerwick. Overnight Shetland Islands, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 5: Fair Isle Knitting Workshop with Wilma Malcolmson, Uradale Farm Visit & Burra Bears

Today we meet with Island native and expert fair isle knitter, **Hazel Tindall** for a half day workshop on '**Fair Isle Yolk Construction**'. Learn about knitting Fair Isle yokes by studying examples and knit a section of yoke to experiment with colour and learn about the shaping. The instructor's handout gives information to design your own yoked sweater. After the workshop we continue north towards Burra where the first stop is with Ronnie at **Uradale Farm**. Uradale Farm consists of 2000 acres of naturally challenging land where sheep graze right from the hill tops down to the shores. We will meet some of the sheep and learn about Uradale Organic Knitting Yarns which reflect the colours of the flock. Your final stop today before returning to your hotel is Burra Bears & the Adjacent Red Houss Gallery. **Burra Bears** is a lovely local business that makes beautiful handmade teddy bears mostly out of old Fair Isle sweaters and waste panels from local knitwear factories. We will have a quick tour of the studio where the bears are made and learn more about this fabulous sustainable product. Down the road from Burra Bears is **Red Houss Gallery** where we will also pay a visit. Here Mike has watercolour paintings, hand printed images and stunning silver jewellery, many of which have fair isle motifs incorporated into their design. Return to Lerwick and enjoy dinner with your group. Overnight Shetland Islands, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 6: Shetland Lace Knitting with Elizabeth Johnson, Nielanell & Jarlshof

We start the day with a **Shetland Lace** class with **Elizabeth Johnson**. You will leave the class having gained the skills to plan your own Shetland inspired lace designs! Next its on to **Neilanell** for a quick visit. Niela Kalra of Nielanell is a textile designer specialising in contemporary knitwear, homeware and accessories. Finally, after

some lunch we travel to the very south of the island to visit **Jarlshof** which is the best known prehistoric archaeological site in Shetland, Scotland. Discoveries made here include oval-shaped Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age brooch and wheelhouses, Norse long houses, a medieval farmstead and a laird's house dating from the 1500s. The views from the section of the island are amazing! Overnight Shetland Islands, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 7: Last day in Shetland – Jamieson's Mill & BAKKA

Today our knitting tour of Shetland draws to a close, however as the ferry does not leave until the evening, we have time to do some additional sightseeing! Today we make the journey out to Sandness on the West of the island. The scenery here is ruggedly beautiful and there are amazing views looking out towards the island of Papa Stour. First stop is a tour of **Jamieson's of Shetland** mill. Jamieson's is a family owned business, which has specialised in wool from the native Shetland sheep for five generations. Recognising the potential for woven fabrics using these unique colourful yarns, Jamieson's installed weaving looms and now make an extensive range of genuine Shetland Tweeds and blankets. Return to Lerwick where there will be time for some last minute sightseeing or shopping. You may wish to visit **BAKKA** who we understand will have a stall set up near the pier. BAKKA's garments are a modernisation of traditional Fair Isle knitwear. Only the oldest 'heritage' patterns and traditional colours are used, but the chosen yarn is not Shetland wool. Instead, BAKKA uses luxury 100% superfine merino yarn. Overnight Northlink Ferries, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 8: Arrival in Aberdeen – Scone Palace & Perth

After a leisurely breakfast on the ferry, we make our way to Perth. Along the way we stop for a tour of the famous **Scone Palace**. Scone Palace has an exciting and colourful history as one of Scotland's most important stately homes. Fifteen hundred years ago it was the capital of the Picts. In the intervening centuries, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of the Kings of Scots, including Macbeth and Robert The Bruce. Continue to Edinburgh where the remainder of the day is free for your own personal sightseeing or shopping. Overnight in Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast included.

Day 9: New Lanark Day Trip

After breakfast we travel to **New Lanark Mill**, a unique 18th century mill and UNESCO heritage site. The mill was founded in 1786 and taken over in 1800 by Robert Owen, an influential social reformer. In Owen's time over 2,500 people lived and worked at New Lanark, many from the poorhouses of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Owen improved the lives of these workers by introducing previously unheard of social welfare programmes and a school for the children. Today, visitors can see recreated millworkers' homes, historic functioning machinery and the adjacent 'Falls of Clyde' waterfalls. Return to Edinburgh where this evening we enjoy a delicious meal in a city centre restaurant. Overnight in Edinburgh, Bed & Breakfast Included

Day 10: End of Tour

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

Prices

The price for the tour will be **£ 3250** per person sharing a twin or double room. Should a single room be required please add **£ 949** per person. All payments will be collected in Pound Sterling (GBP).

Note: Because of its location there are times that the ferries have to be postponed or cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. If a ferry cancellation does happen, we will make every effort to make alternative arrangements but this would be considered a Force Majeure and as such we will not be responsible for any loss, damage, expense, cost or compensation caused by such a change.