



*A return Journey to Ireland with Mary Penxa
& Sawmill Creek Fiber Events
23rd September to 05th October - 2025*

Tuesday 23rd Sept: Depart USA for Dublin - Ireland

Depart on your overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland. Be sure to have your up-to-date passport valid for **6 months** beyond date of travel, and allow a minimum of **3 hours** for check-in for your International flight.

Wednesday 24th Sept: Arrive Dublin - Donegal - 2 Nights

Arrive Dublin! After clearing customs & immigration meet your driver/guide in the arrivals hall at Dublin airport. Continue on to Donegal traveling through Longford, Carrick-on-Shannon and up through Sligo home of William Butler Yeats for check-in at your hotel. You will stop for lunch in route. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening and meet your fellow travelers. **Lough Eske Castle Hotel - Lough Eske - Co Donegal (D)**

Thursday 25th Sept: Donegal - Slieve League - Glencolumbkille Folk Village

Today enjoy a day tour of west Donegal, heading out to Slieve League, said to be the highest and finest marine cliffs in Europe. Continue on to visit the [Glencolumbkille Folk Village](#) and meet with local knitters and have lunch. The folk village is a cluster of several small cottages called a "clachan" overlooking the sandy curve of Glen Bay Beach. The folk village is one of Ireland's best living-history museums. Return to Lough Eske with the evening free to relax have dinner at either Lough Eske or Harvey's Point and knit. **(B,L)**

Friday 26th Sept: Donegal - Studio Donegal for a Mill Tour - Donegal Yarns Killybegs - 2 Nights

This morning after breakfast and check-out at the hotel, you will visit [Studio Donegal Mill](#). Explore behind the scenes of a genuine working mill, where all the clothes are hand woven, and all the garments are artisan made. You will also visit [Donegal Yarns](#) which operates a complete vertical production from raw wool, through dyeing, blending, carding and spinning to a finished multi-color flecked yarn. Yarn will be available to purchase. Some free time in [Killybegs](#) for lunch at your own expense before traveling to Galway. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening in Galway. The remainder of the evening is free to explore. **(B,D)**



Hyde Hotel - Forster St - Galway

Saturday 27th Sept: Galway - Connemara Tour - Sheep and Wool Center & Killary Sheep Farm

Sheep and Wool Center and at your leisure have lunch at Killary Café. After lunch visit the *Killary Sheep Farm* and experience sheep herding and enjoy an Irish Coffee. Return through the bog & mountain landscape to Galway with your evening at leisure to explore Galway and have dinner on your own. **(B)**

Sunday 28th Sept: Galway to Kilkenny - Free time in Kilkenny - Lyrath Estate - 4 Nights

After breakfast and check out at the hotel travel to Kilkenny and check into Lyrath Estate your home for the next four nights. Some free time in Kilkenny for lunch at your own expense and to browse. Onward to Lyrath Estate for check-in. Dinner at the hotel this evening in the Treetops dining room.

Lyrath Estate - Paulstown Road - Lyrath Kilkenny (B,D)

Monday 29th Sept: Cushendale Woolen Mills - Carol Feller class at Lyrath Estate

Breakfast at the hotel and a morning visit to *Cushendale Woolen Mills* - six generations crafting exceptional textiles in Graiguenamanagh, County Kilkenny. You will get the opportunity to tour the mill and visit with Philip and his daughter Miriam who continue this incredible story. Time will also be allowed to shop and Cushendale has extended a **15%** discount for our group. Return for lunch at Lyrath Estate before your class with *Carol Feller* to discover the joy of cables. In this class, you will work on a project that will introduce several techniques in addition to cables. The class will be broken up into two, 3 hour sessions. (3 hours in the afternoon of the 29th and 3 hours the morning of the 30th) A Pop Up Shop will also happen in the course of the two days. Carol and her assistant Laura will stay at the hotel the night of the 29th Sept and join you for a fine dining experience at the hotel this evening. *(2 skeins of yarn will be included for your class with Carol)*
(B,L,D)

Tuesday 30th Sept: Carol Feller class in the morning - Free time in the afternoon at Lyrath Estate or in Waterford

Breakfast at the hotel with a wrap up class with *Carol Feller*. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy the estate with its picturesque lakes, historic gardens, and woodlands. Lots of activities to choose from with it's spa, swimming pool and gym, cinema, falconry, archery, bicycling and or walking trails and last but not least knitting! Another option will be to spend the afternoon in Waterford to explore, have lunch and shop. On your own for lunch and dinner today. **(B)**

Wednesday 01st Oct: Christina Drennan - Textiles - The Ros Tapestry

This morning you will meet with *Christina Drennan* at the hotel. Christina, is a textile artist based in Co. Kilkenny. Her creative journey is fueled by a deep commitment to sustainability and the art of craftsmanship. Christina creates unique textile pieces using refashioned fabrics and ethically sourced materials, all while incorporating her love for vintage and antique finds that bring a touch of history and charm to her work. Your time with Christina will include a Peg Loom Weaving demonstration and an exploration of Textiles and Embroidery. Each participant will receive a personalized gift pack.



This afternoon visit New Ross to view the *Ros Tapestry* an exceptional community initiative detailing the events surrounding the founding of New Ross. You will view 15 striking panels developed by 150 volunteers from the surrounding area. Return to the hotel with the remainder of the day free to relax. Dinner on your own this evening. **(B)**

Thursday 02nd Oct - Kilkenny to Dublin - Ballyknocken Cookery School - Kieran Foley at the Ashling Hotel (3 Nights)

Leisurely breakfast and check out of the hotel. Your first stop today will be at *Ballyknocken Cookery School* to enjoy a private hands - on cooking experience where all participants get to perfect, learning from an expert, the art of making a real traditional buttermilk scones. Afterwards you will get to enjoy them straight from the oven, with Irish butter, and rhubarb & ginger jam. Continue on to Dublin for check in at the Ashling with time to explore and have an early dinner at your own expense. This evening meet with *Kieran Foley* at the hotel for a chat and trunk show of his remarkable knitted designs. Kieran likes to experiment with knitting techniques and color and gets his inspiration from travels to Greece, Morocco, Iceland, and of course Ireland. **The Ashling Hotel - 10 - 13 Parkgate Street - Dublin 8 (B, Tea & Scones)**

Friday 03rd Oct - Free day in Dublin

This morning after a leisurely breakfast at the hotel you are free to explore Dublin. Visit some of the many museums, or *"This is Knit"* in the Powerscourt Shopping Center. Spend some time in St Stephen's Green or shop on Grafton street for some last minute gifts. Enjoy lunch at one of the many pubs or cafes and knit. Free for dinner this evening in Dublin. **(B)**



Saturday 04th Oct: Aoibhe Ni - Liadain Butler - Farewell Dinner

This morning after breakfast you will meet with *Aoibhe Ni* pronounced (AY-Vah Nee) at the hotel. Aoibhe is an Ireland based designer of stunning crochet patterns and is the pioneer of the "Short Hook" Tunisian method for both lace and colorwork shawls. After lunch at the hotel you will meet with *Liadain De Buitlear*. Liadain is an award winning Irish made designer for clothing and accessories in luxury yarns, for contemporary Irish Women. You will participate in a hands on felting class with Liadain at the hotel. This evening dinner at *Nancy Hands* to share memories of your tour to Ireland. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday 05th Oct: Departure Day

Depart for Dublin airport and your return flight to the US. Please allow **3 hours** for check-in, as you will clear US customs and immigration in Dublin before departure. Transfers will be provided for those departing from Dublin airport today.

This itinerary is subject to change for a better experience and for circumstances beyond our control. Michael & Mary will advise you of any changes during the course of the trip.

Key: B = Breakfast; D = Dinner L = Lunch

COST: \$5,650 per person (based on sharing a room)

Single Supplement: \$1,487 (Singles are limited)

Plus airfare: Approximately **\$1,300 - \$1,500** - (Dublin airport roundtrip)

Classes/Visits:

- * Knitting help from Mary Penxa throughout the trip
- * Visit with Kieran Foley - The Ashling Hotel - Dublin
- * Class with Liadain Butler - The Ashling Hotel - Dublin
- * Visit with Aoibhe Ni - The Ashling Hotel - Dublin
- * Workshop with Carol Feller - Lyrath Estate - Kilkenny
- * Visit with Christina Drennan - Lyrath Estate - Kilkenny



Hotel Links:

Donegal - Lough Eske www.lougheskecastlehotel.com

Kilkenny - Lyrath Estate www.lyrath.com

Galway - The Hyde www.hydehotel.ie

Dublin - Ashling hotel Dublin www.ashlinghotel.ie

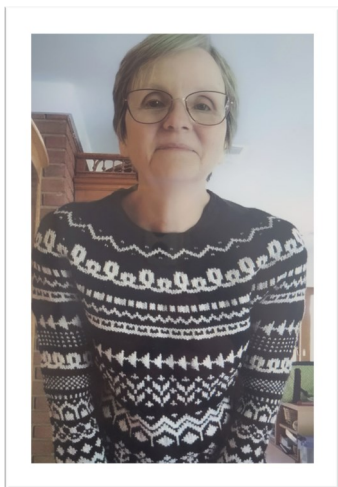
Tour Includes:

- * Accommodation for 13 days/11 nights
- * Breakfast each morning
- * 5 Dinners/3 Lunches
- * Transportation with a professional driver/guide from Sept 24th to Oct 05th (12 days)
- * Airport transfers for those departing on the **05th October** from your hotel to Dublin International airport
- * Pre-Paid tips to your driver/guide in Ireland

Visits to: Glencolumbkille Folk Village - Studio Donegal - Donegal Yarns - Sheep & Wool Center - Killary Sheep Farm - Cushendale Woolen Mills - Ros Tapestry - Ballyknocken Cookery School - Farewell dinner at Nancy Hands in Dublin

Not Included:

- * International Airfare
- * Items of a personal nature (Laundry, telephone, drinks, meals not specified, etc)
- * Yarn purchases and mailing expenses
- * Gratuity at the hotels



Mary Penxa - is a former yarn shop owner, now living in rural Maryland. For the past 7 years Mary has been a knitting teacher, retreat organizer and traveler. Mary offers retreats here in the United States, along with a knitting cruise with Casapinka. In fact she has knitted the sweater she is wearing - a Casapinka design called "Graphica" Internationally Mary has traveled to Ireland a number of times, and in the last couple of years to Scotland and Shetland.

Covid and other Illnesses

Covid & Other Illnesses Policy: By now we have all had experiences with Covid. Our request is that everyone be responsible and communicative. We suggest that everyone brings hand sanitizer and an extra face mask and some Covid tests. (just in case) that can be used as needed. We request that you let us know if you feel even a little sick and we can make decisions together.



Kieran Foley lives in Dublin. His background is in textile design and he loves experimenting with knitting ideas and color. As a child Kieran spent a lot of time drawing and painting and learned stranded knitting at home at an early age and went on to study textile design at the National College of Art in Dublin. After college, he worked in the printed textile industry in London and Milan. Holidays in Greece, Morocco, and Iceland have been a stand-outs for inspiration. When travelling Kieran seeks out ethnographic museums in search of unusual clothing, textiles and objects. Finally the west of Ireland (where his roots are) has beautifully colored landscapes, and wild Atlantic beaches with a variety of delicate patterns created by the flowing tides.



Aoibhe Ni - (pronounced Ay-vah Nee) is a Tunisian Crochet designer. A pioneer of the "Short Hook" Tunisian crochet method for both lace and color work shawls. Aoibhe is also known to dabble in amigurumi, traditional crochet and knitting. Aoibhe doesn't believe in mistakes, instead calling them "alternative methods" and loves to see her patterns adapted and altered by those who make them.



Carol Feller As with most knitwear designers, Carol started accidentally. She began life first in art but then changed to structural engineering. After that she ran an online natural parenting website/shop and only returned to knitting after her youngest was born - 13 years ago. She became quickly obsessed and before she knew it had moved from modifying patterns to designing her own. Her teaching started in yarn shops and festivals and moved into online teaching as well as tours and retreats in Cork