

Textile Tour of Ireland

September 22 – October 3, 2021
Tour Leader: Kris Vierra



Kerry County with Muchcross Lake



Blarney Castle



Zwartbles Sheep demonstration

TAILORED SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

- EXPERT TOUR LEADERS
- MAXIMUM 25 IN A GROUP
- CAREFULLY PLANNED ITINERARIES





Textile Tour of Ireland

Tour dates: September 22 – October 3, 2021

Tour leader: Kris Vierra

Tour price: \$3,995

Single supplement: \$1,050

Booking deposit: \$500 per person

Maximum places: 25

Itinerary: Dublin (3 nights), Kilkenny (4 nights), Galway (4 nights)

Inquiries and bookings:

For further information or to book this tour, please contact Opulent Quilt Journeys at 877-235-3767 or info@opulentquiltjourneys.com

OVERVIEW

Become enchanted with Irish textiles on this 12-day journey that winds through some of Ireland's most beautiful landscapes. Skilled artisans, including weavers and quilt makers, share their knowledge as the tour makes stops at wool mills and well-stocked quilt and yarn stores. Stops at two sheep farms provide a look at the first step in wool manufacturing—the raw material itself. Shopping trips to the craft hubs of the Spiddal Craft Village in Galway and the Made in Kilkenny Craft Trail bring the business of craft full circle, and provide ample opportunity to bring treasured pieces of Ireland home.

As the tour unfolds, enjoy an array of cultural must-sees, including Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Blarney Castle in Cork, and the Muckross House and Gardens in Killarney. Breathtaking views of the country are to be had as you travel, including at sites within The Ring of Kerry Highlights.

This upbeat mix of craft and culture builds a deep appreciation for Irish textiles and their integral role in their homeland's heritage and economy.

YOUR TOUR LEADER



Kris Vierra has been sewing or quilting for over 20 years. She loves sharing her passion for quilting and all things related to fabric, believing that quilting should be fun and not stressful. Kris teaches at national

shows and guilds across the country, and has won numerous national awards for her machine quilting skills over the years. Most recently, Kris won the Best Long Arm Quilting award at the 2018 AQS QuiltWeek Paducah and the 2016 AQS QuiltWeek events in Phoenix and Des Moines. She also took home the PFAFF Master Award for Machine Artistry at the 2015 International Quilt Festival Houston. Two of her quilts, *Tiger, Tiger* and *Star of India*, are part of the permanent collection at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah. She recently published her first book, *Easy Machine English Paper Piecing*.

"Join me on a wonderful adventure of the Emerald Isle. Quilter's love to share their passion for quilting with other quilters, and this trip provides the perfect opportunity to do just that. My family has strong ties to Ireland, and I have been there numerous times. Let me show you the wonders and beauty of this incredible country while we make new quilting friends and learn about Irish fiber art on this journey."

- Kris Vierra

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



DUBLIN

Ireland's capital city is also its largest with a population of 1.3 million people. It offers a compelling mix of art, music, and popular culture. Must-see stops include Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the Guinness Storehouse.



KILKENNY

The medieval town of Kilkenny is rich in history, originally built in 1195 by the Normans. Today, visitors can stroll through the Made in Kilkenny Craft Trail where craftsmen create and sell wares, travel beautiful countryside trails, or search for Viking gold.



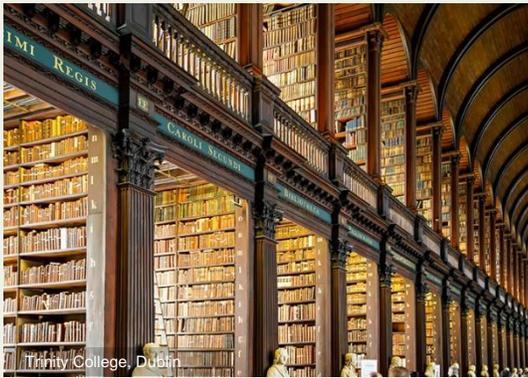
KILLARNEY

Killarney is a study in natural beauty. It is a stop on the majestic Ring of Kerry scenic drive and is surrounded by the nearly 26,000-acre Killarney National Park. Victorian-era homes and gardens add to the allure of this lovely locale.



GALWAY

The invigorating port city of Galway blends music, art, and fun into a seamless package. From Eyre Square in city center to the nearby Aran Islands, the country's third-largest city sets a lively Irish vibe.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Wed Sep 22

Arrive Dublin

Arrive at Dublin Airport, meet and transfer to the hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2 Thu Sep 23

Dublin

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin beginning with **Saint Patrick's Cathedral**. This structure was built in honor of Ireland's patron saint and is adjacent to the well where it is believed he baptized converts on his visit here. Next up is **Trinity College and the Book of Kells** exhibit there. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest university in Ireland. From there, go to the **National Museum of Ireland**, which charts the country's economic, social, political and military progress through the ages. Continue to the **Guinness Storehouse**. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. (B)

Day 3 Fri Sep 24

Dublin-Kilkenny

Depart Dublin and travel to Kilkenny. En-route journey through the **Wicklow Mountains**. County Wicklow is known as "the Garden of Ireland" and it is home to many famous homes and gardens, including Powerscourt, Mount Usher, and Russborough. Stop at **Apple Tree Crafts quilt shop** for a workshop (if time permits). Later, we enjoy a **handweavers demonstration** at **Avoca Handweavers**. Established in 1723, Avoca Handweavers is a family-owned craft design company that had its beginnings at the Old Mill at Avoca. There, the weavers produced the beautifully woven fabrics which became Avoca's hallmark. Continue to Kilkenny. (B, D)

Day 4 Sat Sep 25

Kilkenny

Visit **Zwartbles Ireland Sheep Farm** to meet Suzanne and her family who breed and rear Zwartbles Sheep. Tour the farm, meet the sheep and chat with the family who will tell you about their unique yarn which you can buy direct from the farm. Then visit **Kilkenny Castle**. One of the most instantly recognized buildings in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. Finally, enjoy a tour of **Cushendale Woolen Mills**. (B, D)

Day 5 Sun Sep 26

Kilkenny-Cork

Travel to Cork. En-route visit to **Blarney Castle**. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy family, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, or the Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on those who kiss it. Enjoy shopping at **Blarney Woollen Mills** before visiting **Hedgehog Fibres**. (B, D)

Day 6 Mon Sep 27

Cork-Killarney

After breakfast, travel to Killarney. En-route, take in the **Ring of Kerry Highlights**. Start off in the beautiful town of Kenmare, continue to Killarney, and end at the stunning Molls Gap and the equally breathtaking Ladies View. Next, see the beauty of **Killarney National Park** and visit the nineteenth century Victorian mansion **Muckross House and Gardens**. Then visit **Ross Castle**, a typical example of a stronghold of an Irish Chieftain during the Middle Ages. (B)

Day 7 Tue Sep 28

Killarney-Galway

Visit the **Giddygoat Patchwork**. Following the visit, travel to Galway, with an en-route visit to the **Cliffs of Moher**. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Arrive in Galway for overnight. (B, D)

Day 8 Wed Sep 29

Galway

After breakfast, visit one of Ireland's best loved fabric, yarn and haberdashery shops, **Quilt Yarn Stitch**, where you will find an extensive range of quilting and dressmaking fabrics as well gorgeous yarns for knitting and crochet projects. Then travel to Louisburgh for a farm tour at **Glen Keen Farm**. Glen Keen Farm is unique in Ireland, due to its size, location and natural beauty. Over 1,400 acres in size, this family-owned sheep farm has a commonage footprint that extends its range to more than 5,500 acres, larger than some national parks. (B)

Day 9 Thu Sep 30

Aran Island

Travel to Rossaveal and take the ferry to the **Aran Island of Inis Mór**. Here the locals speak Irish and English in a setting of historic churches and the hill fort Dún Aonghasa. Visit **craft shops** on the island before taking the ferry back to Rossaveal then return to Galway. (B, L)

Day 10 Fri Oct 1

Galway

Visit **Spiddal Craft Village**, where ten in-house artisans design, create and sell their unique wares. Then visit **Kylemore Abbey**, stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the house in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-Gothic and the house still displays the characteristics of that period. (B)

Day 11 Sat Oct 2

Galway-Dublin

After breakfast, travel from Galway to Dublin and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Enjoy a **farewell dinner**. (B, D)

Day 12 Sun Oct 3

Depart Dublin

Tour ends after breakfast. Group transfer to Dublin Airport for your journey home. (B)





Flock of sheep grazing along Irish coastline



Kilkenny Town



Panoramic landscape of Inisheer Island, Aran Islands

Tour price per person (Land Tour):

The tour price is \$3,995 per person, twin share (land content only). The single supplement is \$1,050 per person. A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

Inclusions:

- 11 nights twin-share accommodation at well-appointed 4-star hotels with private bath or shower
- Daily breakfast, one lunch and six dinners
- Private coach and an English-speaking guide with the group from Day 2 to Day 11
- Group arrival and departure transfer in Dublin
- Visits, demonstrations, and experiences as stated in the itinerary
- Portage of one piece of luggage in and out of hotels

Exclusions:

- International airfares
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses and anything not mentioned

Fitness to participate: In order to get the most from your travels and keep up with the group, a reasonable level of fitness is required. You will need to be able to walk for a few hours at a gentle pace; use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities); undertake walking tours of 1-2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces; stand for long periods in museums and other sites; embark/disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance; handle your own luggage.



Muckross House and gardens, National Park Killarney

Last edited on Dec 7, 2020



For tour details please contact **Opulent Quilt Journeys**

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