



Happy holidays to all of you throughout the United States!

In only six months we will all be descending into London Heathrow to begin our incredible tour through the highways and byways of Great Britain exploring the country and taking in all the fiber experiences we can squish into ten (or 15) nights!

As always, ***it is very important that you carefully read all these updates and any other information sent to you regarding this trip. Thank you so much!!!*** Here are the most recent updates...

Air Reservations:

- Everyone's air has been booked!! Oh, happy dance! (Honestly...big, big, happy dance!) And, unbelievably, we managed to get most everyone into Heathrow within 75 minutes of each other and everyone out of either Edinburgh or Glasgow at the same time. Thanks to each of you for being so responsive to all my messages as I was getting your flights booked.
- I completed all the seat assignments that I could today. I would suggest that you go directly to the website of the airline operating your flights and check your seat assignment and change them if you wish. To find your reservation, you will need the "airline RL" (record locator) that is on the e-ticket confirmation I sent you via email. When you are in your booking and the seat selector, you might also choose to upgrade your seats to one of the "comfort plus" seats. These seats will provide you with more leg room for an additional charge. I upgraded my seats for the two trans-Atlantic flights so I could stretch my legs!
- Those of you on flights operated by Virgin Air or British Air can only get pre-assigned seating if you pay a small fee. I did NOT do these seat assignments. I would suggest that you get reserved seats, otherwise you will wait to select them when you do your on-line flight check-in. The cost for British Air was \$20 for domestic flights and \$34 for international flights; slightly higher for Virgin. All of you (except for Marianne) only have flights going one direction I could not do free seat assignments for. Here is the list of people and flights that still need seat assignments:
 - Sandra Walters – from SEA to LHR
 - Tom Haas – from EDI to LHR; and LHR to ORD
 - Sally Haas – from GLA to LHR; and LHR to ORD
 - Sue Bott – from SEA to LHR
 - Linda Pietz and Nola Heidbreder – from GLA to LHR; and LHR to ORD
 - Jacque Tibaduiza and Linda Walls – from SEA to LHR
 - Jane & Peter O'Donnell – from SFO to LHR
 - Terry and Ken Niles – from SEA to LHR
 - Marianne Squyer – from SFO to LHR; from EDI to LHR; from LHR to SFO (all flights)
- Those of you registered for the extended tour in Scotland should have received a separate message from me regarding those air reservations. I have already heard back from several of you. If you did not receive this message, please let me know and I will resend it.
- Have I mentioned how happy I am to be done with air reservations?? ☺

Next Steps:

- Travel insurance. We made a good call to initially insure only the main tour. For most of you, airfare ended up about \$500 less than I suggested you budget which means that you will save some money on your total travel insurance policy. Now that we have all the known costs for your trip (air, Scotland, Shetland air), I will be starting to process the modifications to your travel insurance policies. These modifications will include the added costs since we first purchased your policy and changing policy dates for those doing the extended tour. I will notify you of the additional cost to your policy and, as always, request your permission to pay the additional. There is not a big rush to do this, so if you need some financial “breathing room”, that will be fine. Just let me know when I send your additional policy costs.
- Final payment due early April. Just a “heads up” that I will be sending out a message at the beginning of April, 2017 that *final payment is due*. Anything remaining payable on your tour account will be due at that time. If you want to avoid the big lump sum payment at the beginning of April, don’t hesitate to drop me an email at any time asking me to make a payment on your tour. All I need to know is the amount you want paid, and the date.
- Webinars. During the month of May, and after you have received all your travel documents from our tour company, I will be scheduling a couple of webinars to go through all the documentation and answer the “nitty-gritty” questions about travel to Great Britain. I don’t yet have the dates set. I am planning to invite a staff member from CIE to assist in facilitating the webinars. Both webinars will have the same agenda, so you only need to attend one. And, if you are traveling with a companion, only one of you would need to attend. If neither of the selected dates work for you, there will be written information that I can email and I am happy to speak with you by phone. I will send out another message once I get the webinars scheduled.
- Please introduce yourself on Ravelry. It’s time to start chatting with each other and introducing ourselves! If you are on Ravelry, please hop over to the [Fiber Garden’s group](#) and introduce yourself in the 2017 Great Britain Sheep-to-Shawl discussion thread if you have not already done so. I will never post critical information on Ravelry...that will always come via email. But you will enjoy connecting with your fellow travelers informally as the anticipation of our trip builds!

Communications:

I will be posting all the major email communications I have sent out, as well as future communications regarding our trip on the [tour webpage](#). My website is currently being upgraded to increase site security, so I can’t post anything (and you can’t access the site) for a few hours. I hope to get the communications posted tomorrow. Hopefully this will assist you in finding information without having to sift through volumes of email.

As I close this message, I can’t help but think about the holiday season and imagine how each of you might be celebrating in your part of the country. There is so much to be thankful for as I think about the trust each of you has placed in me as your host and travel agent for this tour, the marvel of people from all parts of the country about to gather across the ocean to form our own community, and the miracle of getting all the air booked! ☺ (Perhaps I have mentioned previously my joy at having all the air booked??)

However you celebrate, and whoever you celebrate with, I hope this holiday season is merry and bright for each of you!
Deb

Deb Jones, Owner

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