



Fiber Garden  
LLC

Fiber arts workshops · Mercantile · Travel tours



**C·I·E TOURS**  
*International*

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October 10-22, 2019

Prepare to Travel!





## Welcome and Introductions

- *Who's on line?*
- *Deb Jones, Fiber Garden LLC*
- *Mary Pat Flanagan, CIE Tours International*



# Fiber Garden LLC

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## Passport & Visas

- U.S. and Canadian citizens require a valid passport to enter Ireland – check that yours is valid, preferably until six months past your travel date.
- Always keep your passport safely on your person – never pack it in a suitcase!
- Photocopy the first page to leave at home and also with your travel partner, in case of loss or theft.
- U.S. and Canadian visitors do not need visas to enter Ireland.

## Medications & Health

- If you take prescription drugs:
  - ensure that you have ample supply for the duration of trip
  - always carry in your hand luggage.
  - If your medication is in a “Sunday, Monday, Tuesday” case, no problem.
- If you rely on medication, prescription glasses, contact lenses or dentures, it is a good idea to carry a prescription with generic drug name so it can be filled in Ireland.

## Electricity

- Electricity in Ireland is supplied at 220 Volts (50 cycles).
- If you pack electrical appliances, you will need an adapter (type G or universal) to convert the right plug size.
  - Multi-country adapter with 4 USB ports
  - The one I have with 2 USB ports
  - You will receive one in your care package with no USB ports
- A transformer to convert American appliances (except for dual voltage equipment which needs only an adapter).
- All hotels used by CIE Tours provide a shaver outlet in the bathroom. A hair dryer and iron will be in the room or the hotel will supply them on request.
- **DO NOT BRING A CURLING IRON!** It WILL melt. If you need one, buy one there!

## October 13: Zwartbles & Cushendale

- Farm visit with Suzanna and her Zwartbles sheep.
- Lunch on the farm
- Cushendale Mill – one of only 3 remaining in Ireland
- Duiske Abbey





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## Carry-on Backpack or Bag/Essential Items

- CIE Tours supplies you with a carry-on backpack to fit in the overhead bin or beneath your seat on the coach.
- If you travel with a different carry-on, ensure it is no larger than the CIE bag and is without wheels. You may not bring “wheeled” luggage as your carry on as it will not fit in the upper bins on the coach.
- Do not leave the bag unattended or put it with your suitcase when leaving the hotel. You are responsible for your carry-on at all times!
- Ensure that you keep essential items in your hand baggage (including passport, e-ticket receipts, vital medications, etc).



## Your Luggage

- Only one suitcase per person is permitted on coach bus tours due to space restrictions.
- Luggage is carried at owner's risk throughout tour unless insured.
- As a general guideline, your suitcase should weigh less than 50 lbs. and measure less than 30 x 21 x 11 inches. A carry on can weigh no more than 20 lbs! Airlines have their own regulations that you must follow.

## Luggage Labels

- Use your CIE Tours' labels and luggage strap so that their personnel can identify you on arrival at the start of your tour and your luggage throughout the tour.
- Put your luggage strap around your suitcase **AFTER** your arrival in Dublin.
- Complete the tags with your name and address and attach to your suitcase and carry-on bag.
- Also put identification inside your luggage in case the outside tag becomes detached.

## Your Luggage

- **Do not overpack! Consider packing the following items:**
  - Comfortable walking shoes
  - Washcloths – not usually supplied at hotels
  - Travel light, dress comfortably in layers, pack easy care items.
  - The Fiber Garden will provide you with a nice, hooded, rain jacket.
  - Casual clothes are fine for daytime travel; restaurants tend to be smart casual.
  - Costume jewelry – leave the expensive stuff at home!
  - Extra film or camera batteries – cheaper if bought at home
  - Leave extra space for all your fiber treasures!



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## Your Luggage

- Some items to help you pack efficiently:
  - Compression packing bags – make sure the bags do not need a vacuum!
  - Packing cubes



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## Weather

- Ireland is influenced by weather patterns from the Atlantic Ocean, which create a very unpredictable climate!
- Moderate climate – never blistering hot in summer and never bitterly cold in winter. Average daytime temps during our tour are in the mid-50's°F.

## Currency

- Ireland uses the Euro (€). Sterling pound notes are issued in denominations starting at €5. Coins start at 1 cent up to €2
- You can change some money into Euros before you leave home; however, you will get a better rate of exchange in the overseas country.
- Banks at airports are open daily for early morning arrivals, including weekends and public holidays. Banks will convert dollars to euros at the official exchange rates.
- Hotels and some stores will oblige by changing dollars but the rate will not be as favorable.

## Credit Cards & ATMS

- Major credit cards are widely accepted and it's recommended you use them for large purchases to avoid carrying excess cash.
- Discover is not accepted in Europe at this time.
- Visa and MC are widely accepted – AMX not so much!
- Contact your CC company to notify them that you are leaving the country!
- Check that your credit card does not charge an international transaction fee.
- ATMs are widely available and will accept the appropriate U.S. card and dispense cash in local currency.

## Flights

- Keep your e-ticket receipt with you in a safe place – never pack it in your luggage.
- For security reasons, the name on your airline reservation must match your passport exactly. (Note that airline tickets will run your first and middle name together. This is OK!)
- Important!! It is YOUR responsibility to check your flight schedule prior to departure, and know all the regulations (luggage weight, carry-on rules, etc.) of your airline.
- For international flights check in at least three hours prior to the scheduled departure time – allow more time if you have a lot of VAT forms to process.



## Immigration & Customs

- When you arrive in Ireland, the first checkpoint will be immigration where you will need to show your passport and complete any form given to you on your flight.
- After you pick up your luggage you will pass through customs control. Customs operate on the green (nothing to declare) and red (goods to declare) system.
- Check with Irish authorities or your travel agent before leaving home as to your duty-free allowances (\$800) and goods that are prohibited.
- To expedite passing through customs upon return to the U.S., consider using the mobile passport control app, free from the Apple or Google Play store.

## Time

- Ireland is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) which is one hour behind Central European Time and five hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time. Daylight Savings Time operates in Ireland and the hour changes on or close to the same date as in the U.S.

## Oct. 14: Blarney and more...

- Blarney Woollen Mills – shopping!
- Hedgehog Fibers – hand-dyed yarns
- Evening Gaelic Roots show!





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## VAT Taxes

- VAT (Value Added Tax) is included in the selling price of all goods in Ireland. As a non-European Union resident purchasing goods to take home with you, you may claim a VAT refund which can save you 14-17%, depending on products purchased.
- If a merchant ships your purchases to your home, you will not pay VAT.
- Horizon cards.
- You will need to process the relevant forms at the airport prior to boarding your flight home.
- Our CIE tour guide will explain all procedures for claiming VAT.

## Shopping

- Sizes are different in Ireland and vary depending on manufacturer.
- Most stores accept major credit cards and can arrange to ship items home for you, but you are liable for import duty.
- U.S. residents are normally entitled to a duty-free exemption of \$800 on items accompanying them.
- You will complete a customs declaration form upon entry into the U.S.
- Duty free shops are available at all international Ireland airports.

## Contact Information

- It is suggested that you leave a copy of your hotel list with family members, friends or neighbors in case someone needs to contact you while you are away.
- This information will be included in the travel materials package that you will be receiving.
- If you would like an emergency contact on file to be notified in case of emergency, please email this contact information to [deb@fibergarden.com](mailto:deb@fibergarden.com)

## Phone Calls & E-Mails

- When you call Ireland from the U.S., use the following prefix: 011 4353 and delete the zero from the area code.
- When you call within Ireland just use the area code and local number.
- Many hotels add surcharges when you call from your room; clarify charges with the hotel operator before making a call.
- Pre-paid calling cards offer excellent rates and are on sale in many small stores. If you wish to carry your cell phone, check usage rates with your provider.
- Public internet services are available in most cities and towns and some hotels offer internet services, which have lower fees than phone calls.
- Skype, etc. internet calling is a very cost-effective way to make calls “back home”.

## Service Charges/Tipping

- Most hotels and restaurants include a service charge in your bill. Ask if it has been included, and if not, it is at your discretion with a recommended amount between 10% and 15%.
- Hotel housekeepers do not expect a gratuity, but it is appreciated.
- Tipping is not usual in pubs.
- If someone performs a special service for you, a tip is a pleasant way to express your gratitude.





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## Driver/Guide Tips

- Gratuities to your tour director and driver are not included in the tour cost and are customary.
- Tips are left to your discretion.
- For those wishing to offer a gratuity to our guide and driver, an envelope will be passed around the bus near the end of the tour to make payment easy.
- Pounds, dollars or a combination of currencies is acceptable. The following amounts are guidelines:
  - Tour Director            \$10 per person per day
  - Driver                      \$7 per person per day
  - Local Tour Guide        \$2 per person per tour

## Medical Emergencies

- In case of illness when you are in a hotel, contact the reception desk as all hotels have doctors on call.
- If you are unwell when traveling on the coach, please let Deb or your tour director know as soon as possible.

## Insurance

- For those with Travel Guard insurance, visit your travel insurance policy page:
  - A link to your policy is in the email receipt from when the policy was purchased. (email [deb@fibergarden.com](mailto:deb@fibergarden.com) if you need her to re-send this to you)
  - At the top of the policy page, click on “printer friendly”
  - Print the page and cut out the wallet-size cards at the bottom of the page. Insert them in your luggage and carry one in your wallet.

## Oct 16: A day on Inis Oirr – Aran Island

- Ferry to Island
- Meet & greet by Una McDonagh
- Coffee, tea and scones at the café
- Aran knitting workshop
  - Bring 4mm (U.S. size 6) knitting needles and 2 double pointed cable needles. Yarn and pattern provided.
- Lunch of homemade soup, brown bread, sandwiches, tea & coffee, cake
- Wanderly Wagon history tour of the Island with Una
- Ferry return to Mainland



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## Needles & Hooks

- **Knitting needles:**
  - TSA regulations permit knitting needles in your carry-on
  - The above said, there is never a guarantee that all TSA agents will permit you to bring needles on the aircraft.
  - Bring only one pair on board and pack extra needles in your checked luggage



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## Communications on tour

- Download WhatsApp on your phone
- Send Deb a text using WhatsApp:
  - Cell phone 715.220.9279
  - Please do NOT ever use this number other than on tour, unless you are using WhatsApp. I will not receive your message – no cell service at home.
  - Deb will create a group



## Let's visit!

- Facebook travel group: [Fiber Garden Travelers](#)



## Your Questions?





See you in Dublin on October 11th, for the fiber  
adventure of a lifetime!