



Fiber Garden LLC presents...
2025 Ireland Sheep-to-Shawl Tour
September 13-26, 2025
Frequently Asked Questions

You are about to embark on a wonderful travel experience that will take you from "sheep to shawl" as you travel throughout the breathtaking Ireland! Friends and family who have not yet become yarn lovers are also welcome! Whether you are a first-time international tourist or a more experienced traveler, these FAQs have been assembled in hopes of providing you with answers to questions that might be on your mind. This is not an exhaustive list of information but is intended as a guide in helping you plan for your trip and avoid unexpected "surprises". I am here to help and am happy to answer other questions you may have. E-mail me at deb@fibergarden.com. **Please note that email is my preferred method of communication.** It's not that I don't want to talk with you! It is simply easier to reach me via email and I can respond more promptly. I look forward to traveling with you!

Pre-trip:

- **What are the physical requirements for the tour? I have some limited mobility and difficulty walking. Will this be a problem for me?** Please be advised that travel in Ireland can sometimes involve uneven terrain, rough walking surfaces such as cobblestone and brick and farm pasture, short to medium walking distances during tours, and some stairs which can be challenging for those with mobility issues. Not all hotels have elevators, so you need to be able to climb some stairs. (You will not need to carry your large suitcase up stairs but will need to carry your hand baggage.) Our tour coach does not have a lift, so travelers must be able to mount steps into the coach unassisted. Tour company guides and drivers are unable to provide individual mobility assistance to passengers. Please contact the Fiber Garden prior to registering for the tour to discuss any concerns.
- **What about COVID and health protocols?** The health and safety of all participants is our highest priority. By choosing to participate in one of our events, you agree to take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others. All participants in Fiber Garden events are expected to behave in a manner respectful of the group and take precautions to keep other participants safe from exposure to illness. Anyone showing signs of any illness (not only COVID) after the start of an event will be required to wear an N95 or KN95 mask at all times. You will also be asked to eat meals separated from the group to minimize disease transmission. By registering for a Fiber Garden-sponsored event, you agree to comply with any established health and safety guidelines. There may be additional protocols implemented to ensure maximum safety of participants. Protocols are subject to change at any time as public health guidance is updated.
- **How do I reserve a space on this tour?** Please review the webpage for reservation instructions, as they will be updated as reservations progress. The registration form is on the webpage for your convenience.
- **Are the reservation and payment dates negotiable?** It is VERY important that you adhere to all stated deadlines for making reservations and payments to secure your space. **Final payment of the remainder of your trip balance will be due on July 1, 2025.**
- **Can the price of the trip ever increase?** Land prices include local government value added taxes (VAT). The exchange rate is guaranteed for our tour, so there will be no price increases in the land portion of the trip.
- **What do I need to include when planning my budget for the trip?** Trip cost is of interest to most of us. I am providing some guidelines here of some known and optional costs to assist you in developing a realistic budget for the trip.

- Let's start with the basic trip costs. Tour costs for single and shared rooms are listed on the tour webpage. Here is what's included in this price:
 - 12 nights lodging; portorage for one suitcase
 - All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 8 dinners
 - All experiences outlined on the itinerary; coach and guide services
 - Group transfer to Dublin airport at the conclusion of the tour
 - All gratuities (NEW inclusion on this tour!)
 - Travel care package
- Other expenses to plan for:
 - Travel insurance. Travel insurance is recommended but not required. You should consider how it may help protect your investment and provide peace of mind should an illness or accident occur during your trip or if something outside of your control forces you to cancel your trip. The Fiber Garden will provide you with a price quote which varies by the age of the traveler. Insurance premiums typically average 8-15% of the trip cost and are based on the trip cost and age of the traveller.
 - Air transportation and airport parking. For budgeting purposes, you can estimate \$1,500 round trip to Dublin. This is dependent on prices at the time of booking and your selected air gateway. Actual airfares may be higher or lower, but you want to budget adequately. If you are going to park your vehicle at your home airport, add that cost to your budget.
 - If you choose to add one night pre-tour and arrive in Dublin a day early, the extra hotel night will be \$215 per person for a double room and \$415 for single occupancy.
 - Gratuities. Gratuities are now included in the tour package price and will be paid on your behalf during the tour. (No more hassle trying to get enough local currency for the gratuities.) 😊
- Be sure and budget for those treasures you'll want to purchase to remember your trip. There will be lots of fiber shops, full of temptations, to explore all throughout our trip!
- This list is not all-inclusive but should provide the major expenses you need to consider when planning the budget for your trip.
- ***What forms of payment can I use?*** All payments for tour costs must be paid by credit card. (MasterCard, VISA, AmEx.) AmEx, although it may be used to make payments for the tour may not be widely accepted once in Ireland. MasterCard and VISA are the cards you should travel with. All travelers will have a credit card on file that will be used for payments. All payments will be made on your behalf by the Fiber Garden and paid directly to the travel companies. ***The Fiber Garden cannot accept any payments directly.***
- ***What is the refund policy if I need to cancel my trip?*** The following schedule applies to individuals who must cancel their trip reservation:
 - Land cancellations:
 - Cancellations 99-66 days prior to travel: Cancellation fee is forfeiture of deposit
 - 65 - 16 days: Cancellation fee is 30% of trip cost
 - 15 - 8 days: Cancellation fee is 50% of trip cost
 - 7 - 1 days: Cancellation fee is 90% of trip cost
 - Day of departure: Cancellation fee is 100% of trip cost

Air cancellations. Cancellation penalties will apply based on the policies of the airline your flight is booked with.

Reservations may NOT be transferred to another individual if you need to cancel. If you purchased travel insurance, check your policy for trip cancellation coverage.

- **Do I need a passport?** Yes, you will need a passport that is **valid for at least six months past the date of your trip**. If you need to apply for a passport or renew your passport, you can do so through the [U.S. Department of the State](#). **If you need to apply for a passport or renew your passport, please do this immediately!**
- **What if I have a criminal conviction?** You may be denied entry into your chosen destination because of any prior criminal convictions. It is your responsibility to check with the appropriate embassy to assess your situation.
- **What should I pack?** Several weeks prior to the trip, you will receive a packet of information that includes a comprehensive guide to help you prepare for your trip, including a packing list. The information here is just to get you started.
- You are limited to one large suitcase. Consult your airlines as to size and weight restrictions. You will also want to bring a small carry-on (something that would fit under the seat of an airplane) for our days we are out touring. A backpack or expandable tote is perfect. Casual clothes are fine for day and evening. Don't overpack!! Plan your wardrobe so you can wear a few shirts and pants in multiple outfits. (After all, you need to have room left in your luggage to stash all those treasures you'll be bringing home!!!) Comfortable walking shoes are a "must". Other items to pack will be discussed during our Prepare to Travel Zoom and will be provided with your tour documents.
- **What is the weather in Ireland?** Average temperatures in September in Ireland is highs in the mid-upper 50's and lows in the upper 40's. Rain is frequent, but usually brief. When planning your wardrobe, think "layers" that you can easily put on and take off.
- **How will air be booked? Do I need to book my own air to Dublin?** The Fiber Garden will review where travelers will be coming from throughout the United States and your preferred home air gateways and will recommend flights that will coordinate your arrival into Dublin with others in the group. Although The Fiber Garden can book your flights, during this time of airline industry challenges, it is recommended that travelers book their own flights directly through the airlines (*NOT* through a third party!) so you have direct access to your air reservations. We will discuss air booking during our tour orientation Zoom.
- **How do I get from the airport to our Dublin hotel upon arrival?** You will need to take a taxi or book a transfer from the airport to the hotel. Since you will likely be arriving into Dublin with others in our group, you can share taxis for a very reasonable fee. The Fiber Garden will advise you on transportation to the hotel.
- **What else do I need to know to prepare for the trip?** There is a lot of information that could be shared here, but these are the very basics. **There will be two Zoom meetings**, that will be recorded, to help you prepare. The first Zoom will be after the majority of reservations are complete and before any deposits are paid. I will talk you through the steps over the next few months including how payments will be made, air reservations, insurance, etc. The second Zoom will be about 3-4 weeks prior to our departure where we will go through the final details of preparing to travel to Ireland.

The Fiber Garden will work with you all the way guiding you through the pre-trip preparations, tour documents, etc. Once you make your reservation for the tour, please be sure to thoroughly read any information e-mailed or sent to you by Deb and the Fiber Garden. It is your responsibility to thoroughly review all information sent to you.

During the Tour:

- **Can I use my cell phone?** It depends. You will want to check with your cell phone provider to see if your phone can be used when traveling internationally, and what the rates are. Personally, I purchased an unlocked smart phone and a T-Mobile account. It is very cost-effective and provides reliable service while traveling in Europe. It will be far more economical to rely most heavily on Wi-Fi for communications as it is readily available and less expensive. You can use apps such as WhatsApp or Skype to make calls using Wi-Fi.
- **Is there internet access?** Yes! Most hotels have free Wi-Fi, so you can keep in touch back home as we travel the Islands. You will also be able to access Wi-Fi at some local tour stops, etc. Internet speeds can be unreliable at times but should be available in most of the locations we will visit.

- **Currency.** Ireland's currency is the Euro. You can exchange currency through your bank, at your U.S. airport or at the airport on arrival in Dublin. You will get the best exchange rates once you arrive in Ireland by using a local bank affiliated ATM. ATMs, available at the Dublin airport, will dispense cash in the local currency. It is best to carry smaller denominations of U.S. dollars as most places will not accept \$100 bills for exchange.

Post-tour:

- **How do I get to the Dublin airport at the end of the tour?** We will have a group transfer from our hotel to the Dublin airport. Because the entire group will transfer to the airport at the same time, be sure you have plenty of reading material or a knitting project to help pass the time if you have a long wait prior to your flight. If you need to book an early flight and you are unable to utilize the group transfer, we will advise you on the best options to get to the airport. If you are unable to utilize our group transfer, airport transportation will be at your expense.

Please contact me if there are other questions that you need answered. I'm here to help you have the best of travel experiences! I will continue to update this document and will remain in communication with each traveler as the date of our trip approaches.

Deb Jones, Owner, Fiber Garden LLC

e-mail (preferred communication method): deb@fibergarden.com

The Fiber Garden reserves the right to refuse any reservation for their tours, including from individuals who have been non-compliant with health and safety protocols, or who have demonstrated a lack of consideration toward group members during previous tours.

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