

You're Invited!
Join FiberArts Enthusiasts
As the Crochet Guild of America (CGOA) Explores Ireland
March 31 - April 12, 2005

Thursday, March 31: Arrive Shannon

After clearing customs, make your way to the Shannon Great Southern Hotel, a two-minute walk from the airport terminal. Enjoy a full Irish breakfast before checking in to your room for a little rest and an opportunity to freshen up. The afternoon is free for you to explore the area, or simply relax. The coach and driver will be available for those who want a little sightseeing. We suggest a visit to the little village of Bunratty for shopping at Bunratty Village Mills or visit Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. Bunratty Castle is a genuine 15th century castle, once the stronghold of the O'Briens, Lords of the region. It is furnished with magnificent medieval furnishings and tapestries. The cottages of adjoining Folk Park portray rural life in 19th century Ireland. Top off the evening with your fellow fiber arts enthusiasts and travel companions at a "Get Acquainted Dinner".

Meals Included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Shannon Great Southern Hotel
Shannon Airport, Co. Clare
Tel: (061) 471122 Fax: (061) 471982

Friday, April 1: Shannon - Cliffs of Moher - Galway

This morning you will travel north through Ennis and west to the coast of Clare through Lahinch Golf Course, the oldest golf-course in Ireland and still one of the best. Just a few miles to the north you will see the 700 ft. Cliffs of Moher before continuing on through the rock-strewn, desert-like Burren Country to Galway. Enjoy lunch with the group before an afternoon of leisure and shopping in Galway. One of the best gift shops is The Treasure Chest. For those who wish, the coach will be available for a short drive through Connemara, by Lough Corrib to Moycullen. Visit the Connemara Marble Workshops before continuing over the moors and enjoy wonderful coastal views as you return through Furbo with one more shopping stop.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Jury's Galway Inn,
Quay St., Galway
Tel: (091) 566444 Fax: (091) 564415

Saturday, April 2: Galway - Sligo - (Sheelin Museum) Enniskillen

Today you will continue North to Sligo, "*Yeats' Country*". On the way, visit The Museum of Country Life and Foxford Woolen Mills. You will arrive mid-morning on the landscaped grounds of Turlough Park House, a couple of miles outside Castlebar. This the first and only department of the National Museum of Ireland to be located outside of Dublin. Explore three floors of exhibitions spanning all aspects of Irish life over several centuries, then depart for the Foxford Woolen Mills. In the late 1800s, as this area struggled with recurring famines and eviction, a local Sister of Charity established Foxford Woolen Mills to create employment. The name became synonymous with quality and the mill continues to operate to a high standard, despite many financial crises during its history. Make sure you stop at the visitors center where talking heads tell the story. Have fun visiting the various craft shops and the art gallery. Enjoy lunch before getting on the road again. Enjoy the scenery around Sligo that inspired the Nobel Prizewinning poet W.B. Yeats and his famous artist-brother Jack as you continue to Enniskillen. You will arrive at the elegant Manor House Hotel, right on the shores of Lough Erne plenty of time to freshen up before departure for the Sheelin Antique Lace Museum for a visit and dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Manor House
Killadeas, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT94 4NY
Tel: (048) 6862 2200 Fax: (048) 6862 1545

Sunday, April 3: Enniskillen - Strokestown Park House - Cabra Castle/Kingscourt

Your day begins with a scenic drive south along the shores of Lough Allen to Strokestown. Visit the 18th Century Palladian Strokestown Park House, where everything stands as left by the last members of the Mahon family when they ran out of both heirs and money in recent years! See the balconied kitchens (now a tea shop) where the lady of the house could drop her orders to the staff below without having to descend to their level! Also the galleries which hid from guests' view the offensive view of staff bringing in supplies! Visit the Famine Exhibition in the vaulted stables (admission not included). Meet for lunch in the Tea Rooms in Strokestown Park House. This afternoon your travels will take you to the elegant Cabra Castle, your home for the night. During its 400 year history, the Cabra Castle has hosted many famous people

including King James XI and the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. An 88-acre estate surrounds the castle and includes beautiful gardens, lush parkland and a 9-hole golf course. Doonaree Forest Park is just across the road with a romantic wishing well and beautiful walks.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Cabra Castle Hotel
Kingscourt, Co Cavan
Tel: (042) 966 7030

Monday, April 4: Kingscourt - Drogheda - An Grianan

This morning depart for Drogheda, founded by Viking raiders over 1,000 years ago with the oldest remaining structures dating back to the 12th century Normans. Oliver Cromwell's most infamous massacre occurred here in the mid-1600s when 3,000 men women and children were killed and the rest were transported as slaves to the Caribbean! Never fear however, there is nothing gruesome here today, unless you count the head of St. Oliver Plunkett, preserved in a shrine in St. Peter's Church since his execution in 1679! Drogheda is now a cheerful market town with terrific shopping. After a morning of shopping head for An Grianan arriving in time for lunch, and an afternoon of classes in Irish Crochet.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: An Grianan Adult Women's College
Termonfeckin, Co. Louth.
Tel: (041) 982-2119 Fax: (041) 982-2690

Tuesday – Thursday, April 5 - 7 inclusive - An Grianan

You will be a student for three days at An Grainan, (pronounced un green awn), a residential adult educational college, originally an elegant Georgian estate on the shores of the Irish Sea. Developed by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of America and entrusted in 1954 to the Irish Countrywomen's Association "for the health, education & welfare of the people of Ireland," the college has been instrumental in preserving many of Ireland's traditional arts and crafts, including crochet. Private tutoring by highly qualified tutors will be provided in a small group setting to enhance your skills in Irish Crochet.

Meals Included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Friday, April 8: An Grianan- Dublin.

After breakfast you will depart for Dublin. Upon arrival you will visit the National Museum of the Decorative Arts. The afternoon will be free for shopping in Dublin.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: The Burlington Hotel
Upper Leeson St., Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 660-5222 Fax: (01) 660-8496

Saturday, April 9: Dublin to Kenmare

Today's route will take you south through the horse breeding plains of County Kildare to Cashel. You will make a rest stop/photo stop at the Rock of Cashel, an ancient royal site of the Kings of Munster and today crowned as Ireland's most important group of medieval ruins. Then on to Blarney Woolen Mills for lunch and time to shop. Spend the afternoon shopping for Waterford Crystal, Belleek China, Aran Sweaters, Irish Crystal, Irish Linen, Irish Jewelry and much, much more. While there don't miss the opportunity for the traditional "*kissing of the Blarney Stone.*" This afternoon you will continue west through the scenic Mountains of West Cork to Kenmare.

Meals Included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Dinner & Overnight: Kenmare Bay Hotel
Kenmare, Co. Kerry
Tel: (064) 41300 Fax: (064) 41541

Sunday: April 10: Kenmare and local sightseeing

You are free to enjoy the Kenmare area on your own this morning. The coach will be available for those who wish to take a drive along the shores of Kenmare Bay for morning coffee/scones at the Parknasilla Great Southern Resort on its own lush subtropical 250-acre peninsula in Kenmare Bay. It was once the home of Bishop Graves, whose grandson wrote "*I, Claudius.*" This afternoon visit Kenmare Heritage Center and meet the leading ladies of the Kenmare Lace Guild. Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Kenmare Bay Hotel

Monday, April 11: Killarney - Drumcollogher - Adare - Shannonside

Head north over Ireland's highest mountains to Killarney. The morning will include shopping at Moll's Gap and magnificent panoramic views over Killarney's famous lakes as you descend by the Ladies' View so named because this was the favorite view of Queen Victoria and her ladies-in-waiting as they sat sketching. The group will have lunch in Killarney before departing for the Irish Dresden Factory in Drumcollogher. This afternoon continue on to Shannonside through the thatched village of Adare, where you will stop for a brief photo/coffee break. Arrive back to the Shannon Airport with time to check into the Shannon Great Southern Hotel and freshen up before meeting with your companions for a very special farewell dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Overnight: Shannon Great Southern Hotel

Tuesday, April 12: Departure Day

With fond memories and new friends your trip comes to a close today. Make your way over to the airport terminal for check-in. There are trolleys available at the hotel, or it is a two-minute walk.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Pricing/Cancellation Penalty:

\$2619 per person based on double occupancy. Space is limited, so don't delay. To secure your reservation for this tour, send the attached reservation form along with a \$300 deposit. Cancellation prior to December 15, 2004 will receive a full refund less a \$100 administrative fee. Cancellation between December 15, 2004 and January 17, 2005 will result in loss of deposit. Final payment is due January 17, 2005. At that time all monies are non-refundable. The tour is limited – first come, first served. All payments must be made in US funds drawn on US banks. There is a \$25.00 fee for all returned checks.

Look at all that is included:

- 12 nights accommodations in rooms with private bath/showers, as follows:
 - March 31: Shannon Great Southern Hotel
 - April 1: Jury's Inn, Galway
 - April 2: Manor House, Enniskillen
 - April 3: Cabra Castle, Kingscourt
 - April 4 - 7 incl. An Grianan Adult Women's Centre
 - April 8: Burlington Hotel, Dublin
 - April 9 & 10: Kenmare Bay Hotel
 - April 11: Shannon Great Southern Hotel
- Full traditional breakfast daily
- Table d'hote four-course dinners at overnight hotels, except on April 2 when dinner would be at the Sheelin Antique Lace Museum.
- Lunch daily (except for the day of arrival)
- Full board at An Grianan from arrival for lunch April 4 to departure after breakfast April 8
- Exclusive use of a recent-model 32-seat motor coach with services of an experienced driver/guide including gratuity.
- Admissions to:
 - Sheelin Antique Lace Museum
 - Strokestown Park House
 - Museum of Decorative Arts Dublin
 - Kenmare Lace Guild/Heritage Center
 - Irish Dresden Factory
- Service charges & government taxes as currently applicable
- Portage of one average-size suitcase per person on arrival & departure at hotels

Not Included:

- Airfare from your home city to Shannon, Ireland
- Alcoholic beverages, herbal tea, bottled water or soft-drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature

Schedule subject to change.

Registration Form
 The Crochet Guild of America Explores Ireland!
 March 31 - April 12

Mail of fax this form to: Offinger Management
 Attn: Gayla Fleming
 PO Box 3388
 Zanesville OH 43702-3388
 Phone: 740-452-4541 ext. 3123
 Fax: 740-452-2552
 E-mail: g Fleming@offinger.com

Name (as it appears on your passport) _____
 Passport # _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Day Phone _____
 Evening Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 Fax _____
 E-Mail _____

Completing this form serves management notice that you agree to be contacted by mail, phone, fax and/or e-mail.

Please list any health, dietary or physical concerns: _____

- Single Room (\$400 single supplement applies)
- Smoking
- I will share my room with: _____
- Please arrange a roommate for me.
- Double Room
- Non-Smoking

Method of Payment (\$300 deposit due with reservation)

<input type="checkbox"/> Check		<input type="checkbox"/> Cashier's Check/Money Order	
Make Checks payable to Offinger Management Co.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card		<input type="checkbox"/> Debit Card	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
Card number:		Expiration:	
Cardholders Name: (print)		Auth Amt:	
Authorized Signature:			

A deposit of \$300 is required to secure your space. All reservations are refundable until December 15, 2004 (less \$100 administrative fee). Final payment is due by January 17, 2005. All payments in U.S. funds drawn on U.S. banks. There is a \$25 fee for all returned checks.