



Spend two weeks with one of the world's leading experts in Shetland lace knitting while you explore one of the most scenic areas in the world on a cruise that visits Norway, Scotland, and the Shetland islands.

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Scotland, Shetland & Norway Cruise

What a great combination of knitting and scenic cruising! Dramatic landscapes provide a scenic backdrop for much of your trip, as you learn new knitting skills while at sea, and learn about knitting history and shop for yarns while in port. Norway, Scotland, and the Shetland Islands are all famous for their unique knitting styles and traditional techniques. Stops in Denmark and the Netherlands also give you a chance to see trendy European styles and buy the hottest new yarns.

In Shetland, two unique knitting programs have been arranged especially for cruise participants by Oliver Henry, the manager of Jamieson and Smith, the Shetland Wool Brokers, and Carol Christensen, the textile curator of The Shetland Museum.

A Knitting Adventure in Lerwick, Scotland

On this once in a lifetime trip, you can participate in private tours of Jamieson & Smith, the Shetland Wool Brokers, and The Shetland Museum! Both locations are scooter and wheelchair accessible.

Jamieson and Smith, the Shetland Wool Brokers

After getting off the ship in Lerwick, it is only a short distance to the premises of Jamieson & Smith. Upon arrival, the manager, Oliver Henry, will give a private tour of the J & S wool room, which will likely will be overflowing with new fleeces, since June and July is sheep-shearing time in Shetland.



Oliver, the world's expert on grading Shetland fleeces, will also demonstrate the grading process and explain the many different uses for Shetland fleeces. From there, your tour will visit the entire J & S facility, including the new carpet showroom, where you can see how Shetland wool is now being used in carpet making.

You will undoubtedly want to spend time in the J & S shop fondling the Shetland yarn. If you enjoy knitting with lace-weight yarn, you'll want to check out the J & S Shetland Supreme two-ply, which is great for making scarves and Faroese-style shawls. The jumper-weight (DK) yarn is perfect for knitting Fair-Isle sweaters and accessories, and the Aran and chunky yarns are great for quick gift knitting. There's even some hand-spinning fiber available! Of course, you can purchase yarn to take with you or have your purchases shipped directly to your home.

After the tour, you will enjoy watching demonstrations by a local spinner, a Shetland lace knitter, and a Fair Isle knitter, with whom you will also have time to visit.



The Shetland Museum

The Shetland Museum is just a short walk from J & S. In the museum, you will view the permanent display of Shetland knitting, with samples of both lace and Fair Isle knitting, as well as a wonderful collection of historical Shetland items. Carol Christensen, the textile curator of The Shetland Museum, will also be bringing items out of storage for us to see and learn about, and she will give a talk in the education room followed by a tour of the textile portion of the museum. The museum has a beautiful gift shop in the foyer as you come in.

Reopened in 2007 in a new 3500 square meter facility, the museum also contains over 3,000 artifacts, including five historic ships, many priceless Viking relics and photographic and musical records from Shetland's past.

Exploring Lerwick

After the visit to J & S and The Shetland Museum you have the rest of the day on your own. The tourist information office is conveniently located in the center of Lerwick, at the Market Cross. You definitely won't want to miss The Spider's Web, where you can see and purchase beautiful hand knit Shetland lace shawls, sweaters, and other hand knit items made in Shetland. It's a fun place to visit, even if you don't wish to buy. And, Jamieson Yarns (a company totally different from Jamieson & Smith, the Shetland Wool Brokers) has a shop in downtown Lerwick that sells yarns and some items knit on knitting frames.



INSTRUCTOR

Joan Schrouder

Joan Schrouder, from Eugene, Oregon, loves teaching knitters to reason out solutions. Intriguing construction details, seamless knitting and ethnic styles fascinate her. She has been teaching classes at national knitting conventions for more than 20 years and travels the country teaching for guilds and yarn shops. In the past she has designed for knitting magazines and yarn companies, and now for special occasions. She also answers technique questions on various internet knitting lists and on Ravelry (as “schrouderknits”). Joan is retiring from teaching soon, so if taking a class from her is on your bucket list, this may be your last chance.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Amsterdam

de Afstap

Amsterdam’s largest yarn store, de Afstap is overflowing with yarns such as Rowan tweeds, cottons, sock yarn, and some really interesting “glimmer prints.” Lace knitters will be especially interested in Misti Lace yarn and Mora Redgarn, a 100% wool lace yarn from Sweden in several colors. The shop also has a huge selection of books and magazines in Dutch, English, Norwegian, Swedish, Estonian, and Japanese, as well as a full range of needles and other knitting accessories.



Sommerfuglen

This fantastic store is very centrally located and easy to find. The owner, Ditte, has arranged a wonderful trunk shows with local designer, Bente Geil. Bente graduated from Skals Textile University College in 2005, and today she runs her own knitwear design company, publishes her own pattern line, and teaches knitting at the Creative School in Viborg. Bente is also a member of the Danish arts and crafts group, “Netmaskerne.” Denmark is blessed with leading designers including Vivian Hoxbro, Hanne Falkenburg and Marianne & Helga Isager among others. Sommerfuglen carries many kits from these and other very popular designers at prices below what you can get in the US.

Norway

Dale of Norway

Dale of Norway has been producing the finest quality yarns and knitwear in the world since it was founded in 1879. Touring the factory and shopping in the factory outlet store will be a trip highlight for sure. Discounts of 30-70% make shopping at the Dale outlet store a bargain. You’ll find other stores in and around Bergen selling Dale yarn and their designer garments are available

throughout Norway and the world. Dale of Norway takes much pride in being the the world's largest manufacturer of classic and innovative Norwegian knitwear and technical outerwear.

Scotland

Artisan Threads (Naim) Invergordon, Scotland

Artisan Threads Studio is too far away for us to visit but, the owner, Gill has arranged to set up a trunk show and yarn sale especially for your group while you are in port within walking distance of the cruise ship. Gill Challis' yarns, fleece and fibers are dyed in her studio in the beautiful Scottish Highlands, using natural dyes that produce earthy tones. She features both hand-spun and commercial spun yarns from British breeds. Her fleece is sourced from colored sheep breeds. While its silk fibers, threads and yarns are imported from India. Artisan Threads also sources waste sari yarn and banana fiber to complement its range. Spinners, weavers, knitters and embroiderers find these dyed fleeces, yarn and threads a pleasure to work with and enjoy the color range and variety of fiber blends offered.

While in Invergordon, you'll also be treated to a trunk show by Helen Lockhart of Ripples Crafts. Helen hand-dyes all of her own yarns in colors inspired by the landscapes and traditions surrounding her home in a rural farming community.

Finally, you won't want to miss the chance to have tea with the Scottish Highland Guild's spinners, weavers and dyers. Also meet members of the Moray Firth Gansey project where you can talk to locals about knitting with a traditional knitting belt, lace knitting techniques, and the history used in Scottish Gansey sweaters.

k1 Yarns Knitting Boutique

This shop is located right in the center of Edinburgh and has been supplying beautiful and unusual yarns to knitters and crocheters in Scotland since 2005. k1 Yarns Knitting Boutique stocks a wide range of unique Scottish yarns. Katharine, the owner, loves yarns from small independent producers and over the past few years has worked with UK artisans such as Fyberspates to introduce many new yarns never before available in Scotland. For the truly uncommon, Katharine has also sought out yarns from farther afield, such as very unusual linen paper yarns, silk, wool and stainless steel blends and new copper yarns from Japan.

k1 Yarns Workshop will also be offering a special workshop on traditional Scottish knitting techniques to cruise participants. The workshop will cover Sanquhar 2 colour knitting with instructions on working on double pointed needles. The class is 35 Euros (approximately \$45 US), which includes all the materials you'll need.



ms Rotterdam

As the sixth ship to bear the name, the ms Rotterdam is Holland America's flagship. The first ms Rotterdam set sail in 1872, beginning a Holland America tradition and reputation that has continued through the Rotterdam V, one of the most beloved ships of all time. In the grand tradition of the Rotterdam ships, fascinating Holland America memorabilia can be found throughout the ship, such as specially commissioned works of art ranging from oil paintings, to sculptures, to textile designs and much more. The ms Rotterdam completed all Signature of Excellence enhancements to her public rooms and staterooms in Spring 2005.

The ms Rotterdam ensures you the ultimate onboard experience with her graceful combination of classic cruise ship features and state-of-the-art amenities. Fine woods, exquisite art and antiques, large staterooms, and a world-class spa and fitness center are only a few of the features that will make the memories of your Holland America cruise vacation unforgettable.

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