



# A Knitter's Tour of British Breeds

*with* ROWAN TREE TRAVEL

May 2-12, 2021

This Knitters Tour of British Breeds will tour England's West Country - the southwestern regions of Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, and Gloucestershire. Devon, Cornwall, and The Cotswolds will be our main focus and together we will explore many aspects of the sheep of the region - what their fleeces are like to knit, felt, and spin with! Beyond our fleece explorations we will delve into local legends, relax in the coastal towns and Cotswolds villages, explore the lush gardens, and eat and be entertained like kings! This tour is unmatched in its combination of time to relax, time to learn, and time to laugh!

### **Tour Price**

\$3800 | \$1000 single supplement

### **Included in Tour Price**

- Accommodations in England
- An average of two meals per day (Breakfast is provided each morning; prepare to purchase either dinner or lunch based on the day's scheduled activities)
- All entrance fees and workshops
- Airport transfers and private mini-coach

### **Not Included in Tour Price**

Airfare · Soda and alcoholic drinks · Personal items · Gratuities · Yarn!

### **To Register**

A Registration Form and \$760 deposit (20% of total price) are required to join the trip. Once you submit your online registration (which arrives in our system with a time stamp) we will tentatively hold a spot for you. Next, we will email an invoice to you for the deposit, payable online with a credit or debit card, which you will need to pay within 24hrs. Once payment is received your spot is secure.

Click [HERE](#) to fill out your registration form.



## Knitter's Tour of British Breeds *Snippet Itinerary*

**Sunday, May 2 | Welcome to England!** After our pick up at Bristol Airport, our trip begins with a visit to the medieval village of Dunster – with its own castle and a medieval Yarn Market, what more could we possibly want? Although the Yarn Market is just a lovely structure in the town square now, but we may have a wee knitalong surprise in store for you! From there we will retire to Pickwell Manor, our luxurious home for the next three nights. A Welcome Dinner will be provided for us at the Manor.

**Monday, May 3 |** A day to rest, relax, and learn – our morning will start with a short introduction to some of the British Breeds we will be encountering on our travels, and then we will dive right into working with some of the fleece with a Needle Felting Workshop led by local artisan Carla Taylor and make our own little sheep to accompany us on our journey. In the afternoon we will head down to the nearby beach town of Woolacombe to breathe in some sea air, stretch our legs, and find some fish and chips!

**Tuesday, May 4 |** Today our day will be split again between wool exploration and coastal vista bliss – we will visit John Arbon's Textile Mill for our wool fix for the day, as well as having a tour of the nearby British Wool Marketing Board Depot for insight into their grading and sorting process. For the remainder of the day we will explore John Arbon's hometown of Lynton and Lynmouth and have a Devon Cream Tea in a cliff top cafe overlooking the Bristol Channel. If you are feeling adventurous, you can ride the water powered funicular railway that joins Lynton and Lynmouth together, or walk along the cliff tops to the Valley of the Rocks! Dinner will be provided this evening at a mystery location near Pickwell Manor.

**Wednesday, May 5 |** Time to leave our lovely manor home for the wilds of Cornwall! Along the way we will hear the tales of King Arthur and Tristan and Isolde and stop at some locations that claim to be featured in the tales! Is the ruin of Tintagel Castle the birthplace of King Arthur? Or the Castle that Tristan and Isolde steal away from? Is Dozmary Pool where the Lady of the Lake appeared? We may never know, but it's fun to imagine! Our afternoon will be spent in the seaside resort of St Ives where you can find plenty of wonderful places for an early dinner before we arrive at our hotels in Marazion.

Click [HERE](#) to fill out your registration form.



## Knitter's Tour of British Breeds *Snippet Itinerary* continued

**Thursday, May 6** | The highlight of Marazion is Saint Michael's Mount - a castle perched on a rocky outcrop surrounded by the sea at high tide, and with a causeway leading to it at low tide. So, when we visit in the morning, we will arrive by boat, and when we are done, we will stroll back across the causeway! Access to the castle is up a fairly steep cobbled path, but the views from the top are worth the climb! In the afternoon we will learn about the Gansey/Guernsey Fisherman's sweaters traditional to the area from the producers of the very authentic 5 ply Frangipani Guernsey Wool. A very special evening will see us perched cliff top again at an open air theatre near Land's End that was hewn from the rock in the 1930s by an intrepid woman and her gardener!

**Friday, May 7** | You will have been surprised by now to see so many palm trees and tropical plants in gardens along our way - The Gulf Stream does wonders for this area of England! Today we will get lost among them at The Lost Gardens of Heligan! We will also get to know some local sheep breeds that are kept there. After lunch, we will head to The Natural Fibre Co., home to Blacker Yarns for a tour and an explanation of Sue Blacker's effort to preserve rare breeds by producing single breed yarns for sale. After an eventful day, we will have a wonderful dinner together to reflect.

**Saturday, May 8** | The wonders of the City of Bath await us today - spectacular architecture from the Roman Baths to the Georgian Circuses and Crescents. After arriving at our hotel in the heart of Bath we will provide an orientation tour and a city pass and set you loose to explore at your own pace. If you want to join us for a yarn crawl, we know a few good shops in the area as well! We advise you to take advantage of the New Thermae Day Spa in addition to visiting the Ancient Roman Baths, and can help facilitate your visit.

Click [HERE](#) to fill out your registration form.



## Knitter's Tour of British Breeds *Snippet Itinerary* continued

**Sunday, May 9** | More sheep! Cotswold sheep are arguably the most adorable in the world, and today you get to meet them up close and personal. Grace Macmillan loves her sheep – and they come running when she calls them! Care to bottle feed a lamb? Here's your chance! After this bright start to the day, we will progress northwards into the Cotswolds and visit Sudeley Castle before arriving in the charming town of Kingham where we will spend the next three nights in honey stone cottages.

**Monday, May 10** | A day of rest to enjoy our cottages and learn to spin! All along the way, we will have a little spinning wheel to let you practice on and try to get a feel for spinning. But today, we will bring in a professional instructor who will help you to improve your technique while trying out the fleece of different breeds we have encountered along the way. Once you've tried your hand at that, you can walk next door to Dayles Organic Farm for a cooking workshop and we will join together for a marvelous dinner at the end!

**Tuesday, May 11** | On the road again, and back out into the Cotswolds for another day of woolly goodness and gorgeous countryside. Armscote Manor keeps a wonderful flock of Portland sheep that we will be visiting (you will have spun some of their fleece the day before!), and then we will explore the lovely town of Chipping Campden and nearby Hidcote Gardens. The grand finale of the night will be taking place in our own backyard – Gifford's Circus! This magical event is one of our absolute favorite ways to recapture your childhood! After an evening of hilarity and acrobatic antics, we will enjoy an amazing dinner at the farm to table restaurant Circus Sauce!

**Wednesday, May 12** | Airport transfer to Birmingham Airport.

Click [HERE](#) to fill out your registration form.



## Important Details to *keep in mind*

This trip needs at least **12** participants in order to proceed. Deposits will be refunded in the event that the tour does not operate due to lack of participants.

### **Travel Insurance**

Rowan Tree Travel has purchased a Group Protection Plan on behalf of tour participants, providing medical insurance and limited "Trip Interruption" coverage once you have departed and are on the trip. Additional trip insurance to cover "Trip Cancellation" is available from our provider at a group rate. Upon registration we will provide you with information on plans and direct access to purchase extended coverage with our provider. Note: The Group Protection Plan only applies to US citizens traveling from the US. If this stipulation does not apply to you, we can assist you in finding alternative options.

### **Arranging Your Flights**

Once our tour is guaranteed with the minimum number of travelers we will notify all registrants so you can begin making travel arrangements. You may purchase your flight reservations on your own or work with our booking agent, Vivienne at Crystal Travel. She can assist in identifying the best itinerary for your needs, coordinating with other participants, and with ticket purchase, seat selection and upgrades. Contact her at (617) 327-2700 or [vivienne@crystal-travel.com](mailto:vivienne@crystal-travel.com).

Our tours include transportation to and from the airport for group arrivals/departures. In order to meet us for those airport transfers, we will give everyone an arrival and departure window to facilitate all of our travelers arriving and departing in close proximity. Flight itineraries outside the provided arrival and departure windows will likely result in extra transportation costs and possibly missing scheduled tour activities. For this reason we greatly appreciate your cooperation in booking reservations that accommodate our arrival and departure specifications. These time windows will be provide to travelers once the trip is guaranteed.

### **Please note the following:**

Rowan Tree Travel reserves the right to alter any part of this itinerary in order to address weather conditions, unforeseen circumstance or to improve the participant experience.

Our trips are categorized as active, moderately active, or relaxed. We would describe this trip as **relaxed**.

Have questions? Please contact us at [\*\*info@rowantreetravel.com\*\*](mailto:info@rowantreetravel.com)

Click [HERE](#) to fill out your registration form.