

A Magical Scottish Sojourn with Pecos and Cat

ARRIVAL ON MAY 3RD AND DEPARTURE ON MAY 19TH, 2018



Venturing into Scotland allows one to fall freshly in love with life all over again...

Those who have traveled with us to Peru, Mexico, Ireland, and Iceland are lively, curious, independent folks who love to explore on their own. This is not a lock-step hand-holding tour; rather, our careful organization is meant to stay in the background while you experience the essence of Scotland's culture and people. Our local personal relationships allow us, like chefs who find the freshest ingredients in a farmers' market, to craft the finest daily options. If we sound like a good match for you after you've read through these pages, we'd love to have you join us on this inaugural trip to Scotland.





Jim ‘Pecos’ Petkiewicz and Cat Bordhi

We have a brother-sister relationship and have been leading groups to Latin America and Europe since 2013. We’d love to share the depth of our experiences and relationships with you.

Pecos is a grass-roots philanthropist who has never been known to get cold and who has knit and gifted Felfitos and Moebius cowls all over the Americas. Small children and dogs fall in love with him in nano-seconds. He holds a BA in History from Georgetown University and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. After extensive time in language and cultural immersion programs in Bolivia and Peru beginning in 1986, Pecos and his wife Mags moved their young family to Oaxaca to work with community organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights, peace, justice, and democratic education, which evolved into their nonprofit, Community Links International.

Cat is an inspiring teacher, designer, and storyteller who puts her students at ease while she nurtures the best in them. One student wrote, “Your generosity of spirit and kind attention to everyone set the stage for all to grow and learn.” Her 8 innovative knitting books, award-winning novel, *Treasure Forest*, and YouTube tutorials have reached over 5 million people. In 2003 she founded the collaborative Visionary Authors, fostering a stream of influential, spirited, and independently published knitting books. She has a BA in Russian from the University of California, a teaching credential from Western Washington University, and has done cartwheels in 9 countries.

To learn more about us, visit CatandPecos.com.



Our Itinerary—Thursday, May 3 to Saturday, May 19



Aberdeen—Thursday and Friday, May 3-4, Carmelite Hotel

Like the Dee and Don Rivers, which meet the North Sea here, we too shall converge in Aberdeen to spend our first nights together. This port city in Northern Scotland is famous for its long sandy coastline and glittering granite buildings built from locally quarried grey granite flecked with sparkles of silver mica. It's also home to the University of Aberdeen, founded in 1495. While walking about the harbor or along the beach, you may even have the good fortune to spy dolphins.

In Aberdeen, you can also meander through endless historic neighborhoods both grand and small. Aberdeen is our home base: we'll return for another night after our sojourn to the Isle of Skye, and again after our adventure to the Shetlands, you will have multiple opportunities to explore this enchanting city as you wish.

The Scottish accent is easier to understand than you might expect, and people are ebullient, friendly, warm, caring, informative, gentle, and inquisitive.





**And we're off to the Isle of Skye—
Saturday, May 5 to Thursday, May 10**

After a hearty Scottish breakfast we'll board our private bus and begin our journey through the gorgeous scenery of the five-hour drive to Portree on the Isle of Skye, winding through the green forested mountain beauty of Northern Scotland on small two-lane highways that allow us to travel efficiently yet intimately. There are lochs here, there, and everywhere in so many shades of blue, reflecting the changing colors of the sky.

Along the way we'll stop to linger here and there, and finally hop onto the Isle of Skye over a soaring, architecturally magnificent bridge. This passageway between mainland and the Isle offers breathtaking vistas and a welcoming invitation to Scottish island life. Our first stop on the Isle of Skye will be a wee yarn shop called "Spinner Having Fun" at the foot of a quay just north of the bridge. Then we'll drive an hour due north to the island's main city of Portree, to settle into our home for the next five nights, the Cuillin Hills Hotel.



Tonight, our first evening in Portree, we will gather in the hotel's restaurant for our welcome dinner. Our home is an enchanting ten-minute walk to downtown Portree. You'll love the magical view looking towards the port and town from so many places in our "home" — the kitchen nook, dining rooms, breakfast nook, bar, main entrance, and the front lawn with its welcoming tables and chairs, where you can sit and knit with a nice cup of tea as you admire the beauty.



During the cool mornings, the fog and mist evoke real-life versions of Brigadoon! Most afternoons the mists burn off, whitecaps dance across the blue sea, and the temperature is just refreshing enough to wrap yourself in a hand-knit sweater. The Isle of Skye's seductive landscape is simultaneously harsh and grand as well as colorful, vibrant and magical, inspiring flights of fancy and reflection. The greens are green, the blues are blue, and the heathers are heathery!

'MAKKIN' IN 'SHETLAN'

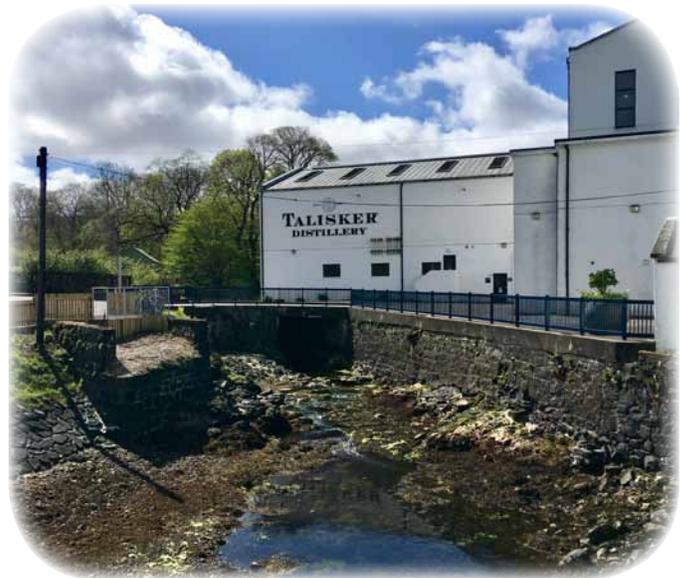
WIRSET – YARN; **RISSE GENG** – GARTER STITCH; **SOKKIELEGS** – LEG WARMERS;
ROWER – CARDED, ROLLED WOOL READY TO SPIN; **OOIE TOORIE** – WOOLLY HAT;
GRAVIT – SCARF; **MAKKIN** – KNITTING; **GANSEY** – JUMPER; **LOOPS** – STITCHES;
GRAFTER – WOOL NEEDLE; **GENG** – ROW; **SPRETTIN** – PULL BACK; **OO'** – WOOL;
KNUCKLE – MEASURE (2ND FINGER FROM TIP TO KNUCKLE); **SNÖD** – TWIST;
CLOO – BALL OF WOOL; **YOWE** – EWE; **HENTILAGETS** – LOST TUFTS OF WOOL;
GLIVS – GLOVES; **CAERDIN** – PARTY TO CARD WOOL; **JOOPIE** – WOOLLEN SHIRT;
HANK – SKEIN (APPROX 300 YARDS); **HEAD** – 4 SKEINS OF YARN; **1 AN 1** – RIBS;
ROOIN – PLUCKING WOOL FROM SHEEP; **TAK DY SOCK** – GET YOUR KNITTING;
OXTER LAY AFF – CAST OFF IN ARMPIT; **TA LAY UP** – CAST ON; **REFFEL** – TANGLE;
SWEERIE-GENG – FIRST ROW OF KNITTING; **TAAT** – THICK WORSTED RUG YARN;
LUGGIT KEP – WOOL HAT WITH EARFLAPS; **HASLOCK** – SOFTEST NECK WOOL;
HAP – HAND KNITTED SHAWL; **FITTY** – SOCK FOR FOOT ONLY; **GIEN IN** – FELTED;
HESP – YARN COUNT; **DAGS** – FINGERLESS GLOVES; **LAAG** – HANDFUL OF WOOL;
WIRSIT SLIP – WOOLLEN VEST; **CADDEL** – MARKING THREAD; **COLEIN** – SHAPING;
CÖTTIKEN – ANKLE SOCK; **MAKKIN BELT** – KNITTING BELT; **LISK** – WISP OF WOOL

Sunday, May 6 After our Isle-style Scottish breakfast, we'll begin our exploration of the Isle with a series of mostly half-day trips, allowing enough of each afternoon and evening for you to wander about as you wish. As we do on all our trips, we have curated more unique personal experiences than we can fit into our time, so that we can select the best options according to the weather and vagaries of cottage industries. One possibility is a sheep farm called the Island at the Edge, perched on green hilly fields overlooking a deep blue loch, featuring yarn, knitting, and weaving, and frolicking lambs.



We'll visit a traditional bakery for a scone-baking class, and drive to the north of the Isle through absolutely stunning country.

For non-knitters, there is golf, the Talisker Distillery, some of the freshest oysters you will ever taste, and action sports possibilities including ocean sea life/wildlife trips, axe-throwing, skeet shooting, and deep-sea and fly fishing. We will reserve a free day for you to independently pursue additional activities and explorations that especially appeal to you, and are happy to help with logistics—just ask!





Thursday, May 10—Aberdeen

Thursday morning we'll journey back to Aberdeen for a one-night stay. On Friday you can take up where you left off in your Aberdeen explorations until about 5 pm, when we'll get ready to board our overnight NorthLink Ferry to Lerwick on Shetland Island. We are so excited about this part of the trip (both Cat and Pecos are ferry aficionados and you will be too, if you are not already)!

The ferry leaves at 7 pm and arrives about 12 hours later. We'll have both dinner and breakfast aboard the ferry, and when you tire of the on-board entertainment, including movies, bars, and theater, you can curl up and sleep in your cozy stateroom (we're trying to secure ocean-view cabins if possible). And of course, the ferry will be a fantastic place to knit amongst Shetland knitters who may be on their way home. The sun sets at about 9:30 and rises at about 4:30 at this time of year, so our beautiful voyage will include views of endless blue seas fading to a starry night and dawning on blue seas again.



Lerwick, Shetland Island

Lerwick, the main city in the Shetlands and our ferry's destination, is small, lovely, refreshing, accessible, and friendly. Our hotel, the Shetland Hotel Lerwick, is large by island standards (65 rooms) yet has a neighborhood feel. It's located in the harbor right by the ferry terminal so we may find ourselves fondly reminiscing about our ferry voyage every time a ferry arrives or departs. The hotel is a few minutes' walk from the heart of downtown, with sailboats, rowboats, and smaller local ferries dotting the water, and lots of shops and restaurants.



The two legendary Shetland wool purveyors, Jamieson's of Shetland and Jamieson & Smith Shetland Wool Bros, are each about ten minutes' walk from our hotel, in opposite directions. Cat is already thinking she will visit both daily to slowly make up her mind about which of the hundreds of shades she simply must take home! We're also planning a visit to Jamieson's Spinning Mill, about an hour away, which may deliciously complicate decision-making. Another potential day-long field trip would involve two very short ferry rides and take us up to Unst, the northernmost isle of the Shetlands, to visit the Unst Heritage Center, with beautiful fine lace knitting.



Other possible excursions from our home base in Lerwick include the Andy Ross weaving group, Global Yell, meeting some of the fastest knitters in the world, Roichk (a Russian organic sheep farm), the Uradale organic farm, Burra Bears, Wendy Inlester, Shetland Handspun, and more!



Thursday, May 17, we will board our dear Northlink Ferry for the overnight journey back to Aberdeen and our Carmelite Hotel, arriving around seven in the morning.

You'll have the day of Friday, May 18 to do as you please in Aberdeen until we regather in the evening for our farewell dinner. The following morning, May 19, we go our separate ways...



Reflections from our travelers...

The colors intensified by the high mountain air make an unforgettable kaleidoscope quilt...the indigenous clothes, jagged snow-capped peaks, the fields in the varied late-autumn display. Add the sounds, some familiar some not, and you have the perfect sound track to a wonderful adventure. The knitting is a perfect interface to weave our two very different cultures together.

—Kenny, California

To get the worst part over with first—it is that I have to leave! This trip has been absolutely wonderful—in terms of the beauty, the excellent arrangements, the care of Cat and Pecos, the knitting and textiles, and most of all—the people in the group. Best. Trip. Ever. —Mary Anne, Massachusetts

This is not a tour. It's a knitting pilgrimage. —Denise, California

Cat and Pecos, I love how you give us a certain structure each day but so much freedom to make our own journey along the way, We have a safety net and can then go out and make our own connections with people. You are not holding our hands, and it's wonderful.—Sherri, Canada

Best trip out of the country EVER! Also first! If anyone has any concerns about travel, go with this group. —Nancy, North Carolina

Depth of history, life focus moving through a fantastic culture with new friends. A sense of connection with each person and experience. — Peter, Washington

As a gay person on Cat and Pecos's Peru trip, I found it very refreshing that my orientation was a non issue. —Gill, Australia.

A major attraction was the kind of people drawn to Cat and also a culture in which men knitting is not a rarity. There is an interest and acceptance that I don't usually see in the States. For instance, the teenage boys in the bus line in Aguas Calientes who might not have approached a woman knitting, but who stood in rapt attention close to my hands watching me. — Jamie, Wisconsin

You walk that fine balance of being supportive while allowing us to have our own adventures instead of being in a cocoon the whole time. Cat and Pecos, you manage that beautifully. — Kat, Oregon

The highlight I'd expected was Machu Picchu but it turned out to be my experience with Matilde, an elderly vendor in Ollantaytambo. We had a really heartfelt exchange with her, and bought things from her, then noticed that she was looking at her knitting up close. Asked if she had glasses, she didn't, so I ran home to get an extra pair of readers and gave them to her. She said *gracias*, and I wasn't sure if it had made a big difference. We had said goodbye when suddenly there was Matilde running down the hill toward me because she wanted to give me one more gift, as a remembrance of gratitude and friendship. She had discovered what the readers did for her and wanted to express how meaningful our connection was.—Michele, Arizona



Cost of our 17-day trip

The tour fee of \$6,900 includes:

- 16 nights of a shared hotel room (single room supplement: \$1,600, limited availability).
- Our welcome dinner at Cuillin Hills Hotel in Portree on the Isle of Skye
- All breakfasts. Some lunches, dinners, and snacks, including our farewell dinner in Aberdeen.
- All ground travel for our group excursions.
- Overnight ferry voyages to and from the Shetlands with stateroom, and with dinner and breakfast on board.
- A traditional Scottish scone cooking class.
- Knitting sessions with Cat, and our travel pattern.
- Tips for hotels, drivers, guides, and group meals.

The tour fee does NOT include:

- Airfare from your home to and from Aberdeen, or airport transfers from/to Aberdeen Airport.
- Most dinners and lunches.
- Incidentals like personal taxi rides, bottled water, snacks, personal items, nor medical expenses.



Where we will be each of the 16 nights

Thursday, May 3 = Aberdeen, Carmelite Hotel, arrival day
Friday, May 4 = Aberdeen, Carmelite Hotel, adjustment and exploration day
Saturday, May 5 = Off to Portree, Isle of Skye, Cuillin Hills Hotel
Sunday, May 6 = Portree, Cuillin Hills Hotel
Monday, May 7 = Portree, Cuillin Hills Hotel
Tuesday, May 8 = Portree, Cuillin Hills Hotel
Wednesday, May 9 = Portree, Cuillin Hills Hotel
Thursday, May 10 = back to Aberdeen for the night, Carmelite Hotel
Friday, May 11 = about 7 PM, ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick
Saturday, May 12 = Lerwick, Shetland Hotel Lerwick
Sunday, May 13 = Lerwick, Shetland Hotel Lerwick
Monday, May 14 = Lerwick, Shetland Hotel Lerwick
Tuesday, May 15 = Lerwick, Shetland Hotel Lerwick
Wednesday, May 16 = Lerwick, Shetland Hotel Lerwick
Thursday, May 17 = about 7 PM, evening ferry back to Aberdeen
Friday, May 18 = Aberdeen, Carmelite Hotel, last night
Saturday, May 19 = Aberdeen, departure day



At times the trip can be strenuous

You need not be an athlete, but must be in good health and enjoy walking at length, sometimes over uneven surfaces, while carrying a small backpack (with water, camera, snacks, etc.). It's your responsibility to take care of yourself and your luggage so that you can either keep up with everyone or bow out of activities as needed.

If you decide to come with us, you must:

- Get plenty of exercise before the trip begins
- Rest when you need to
- Measure your group time against private time as needed

REGISTRATION FOR "MAGICAL SCOTLAND SOJOURN, MAY 3-19, 2018" WITH PECOS AND CAT

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency contact: _____

\$6,900 for double occupancy, sharing with _____

\$6,900 plus \$1,600 single supplement for a single room (limited availability)

• **Participants must be in good health.** If you have any doubts about your physical capabilities, please bring a companion who can take care of you as needed, and skip activities to stay with you as needed. We cannot alter nor slow down the program for a participant who is unable to keep up with the group.

Please sign here to assure us you understand this: _____

• **We cannot assist with airport transfers or accommodations that fall outside our program dates.**

You are responsible for travel between the Aberdeen Airport and our Aberdeen hotel, the Carmelite Hotel, on your own (about 20 minutes). We organize our own program as described in our itinerary, but are not a travel agency, so we cannot be responsible for coordinating your personal travel, or arranging additional days. If your schedule will differ from our itinerary, please plan to make your own arrangements.

• **We carefully craft our itinerary to develop community among our travelers,** and cannot sell partial trips to family or friends who prefer to join us later. If you wish to bring someone with you, our policy is that they must join us for the entire trip.

SO, LET'S GET YOU REGISTERED!

Step 1: Email Cat at CAT@CATBORDHI.COM to find out if we still have space. If so, go on to step 2.

Step 2: Print and fill out pages 13 and 14 and mail them to JIM PETKIEWICZ, 916 WREN DRIVE, SAN JOSE, CA 95125, with a check for \$500 (your *nonrefundable* deposit will hold your spot) made out to Community Links International. If you need to cancel, you may transfer this deposit *only if you find a replacement yourself*. *The balance is due 3 months before the trip commences.*

Step 3: Email a scan of your passport to Pecos at PECKOS@ME.COM (alternatively you may make a copy and send it with this form).

