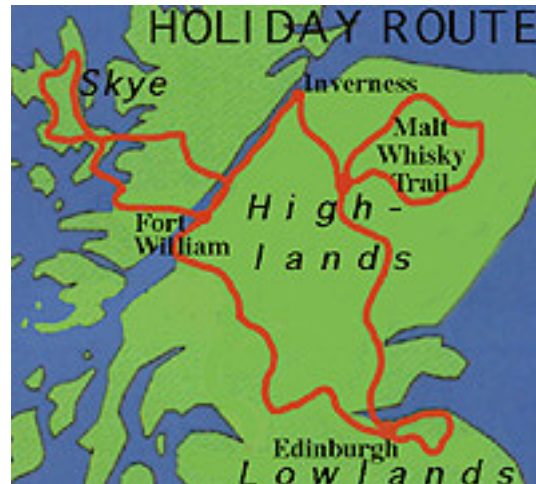


Scotland de Luxe

The Whisky Trail and More!



Experience Scotland, its wealth of wildlife and landscapes, its innumerable lochs and imposing mountains. Deep Green glens, jagged coastlines fretted by sea lochs, and the northern Scottish world of mountain



range and waterfall promise you unforgettable memories of a famously beautiful countryside. This unique and spellbinding scenery, shrouded in mists from which emerge ruined strongholds, castles and stately homes, has a mysterious and fascinating atmosphere.



You discover Scotland by traveling in style on an exclusive 9 day tour packed with visits and experiences. What really makes Scotland truly unique is that this is the countryside that produces whisky. More than two thousand different blended whiskies and around 120 single malts. We sample many malts right at their source in the Highland distilleries.



After incomparable Edinburgh you explore the Lowlands and then enter the most beautiful areas of the Highlands. The rugged Hebridean island of Skye with its fairy tale glens, together with the one and only Malt Whisky Trail in idyllic Speyside, are but two of the highlights of your journey of discovery. You follow this fascinating theme of whisky in its finest manifestations. In the course of this exceptional tour we look behind many normally closed doors. By way of Inverness and Loch Ness we return once more to Edinburgh.

You stay in very good small hotels in stylish surroundings with personal attention. You eat generous breakfasts and invariably excellent three course dinners. Your friendly guide is an expert on Scotch whisky, as well as on the culture, the history and the countryside of Scotland.

Travelling as a V.I.P., you discover the secrets of the classic flavours in distilleries specially chosen for you. High points of the Whisky Tour, are, among others, the interesting Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre; tastings of soft Glenkinchie, light Glengoyne, smoky Talisker, impressive Tomatin and famous Glenfiddich; as well as visits to a traditional cooperage and Scotland's smallest distillery, Edradour. To end your tour of discovery with a special treat, the most highly regarded whisky club in the world, the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, opens its doors just for you. Such good access is only exceptionally granted to non-members. By the end of your tour you are a true whisky connoisseur - as the certificates we issue confirm.

A wealth of cultural opportunities and a flexible and varied sightseeing programme with many highlights round off an unforgettable visit to Scotland.

These include castles, fortresses, a ducal seat, mysterious stone circles, and a woollen mill, to say nothing of Scotland's cultural heart, Edinburgh; small friendly Highland towns like Inverness; romantic fishing villages, and many other interesting sights. We bring you into intimate contact with Scotland and the Scots. On the last evening of the tour you play a traditional game of skittles in Edinburgh's oldest pub - prepare yourself for a surprise.

Daily itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Edinburgh, welcome by tour guide, transfer to hotel. free time to relax, meet one another, dinner.

Day 2: In the morning a city tour of Edinburgh's highlights. If a rewarding stay in one of in one of Europe's most beautiful cities is for you, then you have come to exactly the right place. Among the picture book scenes of the medieval old town and the fascinating attractions of the adjoining new town (250 years old!), we can comfortably discover the sightseeing highlights by tour bus or, quite easily, on foot. You will respond enthusiastically to the extremely welcoming atmosphere of this friendly city.



Next a visit to the unique Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre. On the exceptionally interesting guided tour we obtain a profound insight into what whisky means to Scotland. In the afternoon we drive to beautiful East Lothian, and on the way we go for a short stroll on one of the North Sea coast's finest beaches, followed by a visit to our first whisky distillery, where we sample Scotland's water of life. Glenkinchie Single Malt has a very pleasing, well balanced, mild flavour. Indeed, it is often sold as a "Ladies' Whisky". Glenkinchie is a leading brand and well liked by connoisseurs.

After an excellent dinner in the hotel restaurant, a pub crawl is on offer, of course, visiting some of Edinburgh's older pubs. Or we can take a historic ghost tour through the darkest alleyways of the medieval old town. Dr Jekyll or some other long dead Edinburgh character will guide us in person. (optional)

Day 3: Travel to Stirling and the Trossachs. We visit fascinating Stirling Castle and learn about the eventful history of the medieval fortress, including, among other things, the first documented reference to Scotland's "Aqua Vitae". It goes without saying that it's about a whisky - "water of life" - order for the king's court.

The next whisky distillery on our programme is Glengoyne. With a dram (small glass) of Glengoyne's single malt we bid farewell to the "Lowland malts". Our minds are now concentrated on the Highlands. We drive to the western Highlands and into the real movie Scotland. Here the Scottish films Braveheart, Rob Roy and Highlander were shot. You encounter the open spaces of Rannoch Moor and the incomparable "Glen of Weeping", Glencoe. In wonderful scenery such as that of Loch Lubnaig we will certainly linger a while.

Our next hotel is in the neighbourhood of Fort William. Here we have something special to stir the imagination. We stay in a hotel converted from a former royal hunting lodge. Here the whisky tastes even better! In the evening you could play safe by trying out one of the milder tasting whiskies. But why not sample one of Islay's smoky malts? You will find both in plentiful supply in the hotel bar, where the manager will be happy to advise you personally. Slainte! Whatever you do, don't miss out on the classic Scottish dessert, cranachan.



Day 4: You will enjoy beautiful scenery on today's journey to the little coastal town of Kyle of Lochalsh. En route we stop to photograph Eilean Donan Castle, the castle of the film "Highlander". Over the second longest single span bridge in the world we reach the unique Hebridean Island of Skye. On our circular tour of Skye we see the Cuillin Hills, regarded as the finest mountain range in Britain.

In the little island capital, Portree, we have a brief lunch break. Anyone who wants to can use the break to take an idyllic short coastal walk.

Next we visit the Talisker whisky distillery, because one cannot possibly miss out on one of the celebrated classic island malts.

The smoky Talisker Single Malt is definitely one of the finest. Late in the afternoon we leave Skye with a pleasant ferry trip over the Sound of Sleat from Armadale to Mallaig. The journey continues past Europe's deepest inland lake, Loch Morar, along the Road to the Isles, famous in song, and back to our hotel.



Day 5: *In Fort William we should be able to take a short morning break. A possibility is to take the cable car up on to Aonach Mor to get a wonderful view of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. Those travellers who are ever thirsting for more can pay an optional visit to the Ben Nevis distillery. Even without the aid of whisky our onward journey could bring a very spiritual experience, for now comes the beautiful Great Glen whose main attraction is legendary Loch Ness, complete, of course, with the monster, Nessie. But Nessie is certainly no phantom; she really is there. One possibility is an interesting trip on Loch Ness with a demonstration of sonar in a sonar-equipped boat.*

At Inverness is the interesting Moniack winery, but in Scotland we prefer to concentrate on the "water of life" and its associated products, while we enjoy wine in southern lands. A short stroll in attractive Inverness along the banks of the River Ness is worthwhile, or a visit to the excellent "Pringles Weavers of Inverness" Woollen Mill.

Here, besides the very interesting permanent display of wool production, one can also buy top quality woollens direct from the manufacturer. Continuing the journey, you encounter one of the best preserved prehistoric sites in Scotland. Three identical stone circles and tombs radiate an atmosphere of mystery and enchantment.

Now there is time for the nearby and, until the year 2000, largest Scottish whisky distillery. During a visit to Tomatin Distillery you find out a lot about the brands produced here. Incidentally, Tomatin whisky is found in many other brands such as Johnnie Walker, J&B and Ballantines. There is also a Tomatin single malt which we shall sample.

Finally you stay in your next very attractive hotel with its excellent cuisine, which you can enjoy for two nights.

After the evening meal you should visit the hotel's cosy lounge bar and in a comfortable armchair at the fireside treat yourself to a single malt - but please only with the local



water and not with ice. The bartender will nod approval and recognise that you understand something of the "Spirit of Scotland". Moreover, if you ordered a smaller brand appreciated by connoisseurs, such as Macallan, you will find yourself drawn immediately into conversation with the locals. No longer a stranger, you will be seen as someone who knows what is good. Take your time and be sure to try a couple of the local beers. Most will be

ales, some of them, like Heather Ale, quite sweet, which are ordered in pint glasses containing a little more than a half litre. You can also order a half pint which will enable you to sample a greater variety of beers. The alcohol content of most beers is, incidentally, about 3% by volume.

Day 6: After a substantial breakfast there follows a new highlight. You encounter the world renowned Malt Whisky Trail in the delightful and remarkably beautiful region of Speyside, which lies in an easterly direction from your hotel. First of all you visit a traditional cooperage, in which former Spanish sherry casks are still today rebuilt by hand.

In these casks the whisky will be brought to maturity and only thus acquires its golden colour.

Finally we go on to the whisky distillery whose name, Glenfiddich, is known to connoisseurs around the world. Prepare to be impressed. We enjoy the journey back to the hotel via another beautiful route on Speyside with a further distillery visit (optional) or perhaps a



short, pleasant walk on the famous Speyside Way. Also a possibility is a visit to the royal castle of Balmoral, if Elizabeth II is not actually in residence. This evening you could, for a change, try the whisky based liqueur, Drambuie. Perhaps the Scottish national dish of haggis, neeps and tatties will be on the menu tonight. Have you never tried it? Allow yourself to be pleasantly surprised.

If you want to do a little preparation for the next day, then, this evening, order a Dalwhinnie, Glenturret, Edradour or a Bells, since our journey in the morning passes by them all.

Day 7: Check out after a generous breakfast.

The route today leads us south as far as Edinburgh. A specially interesting visit is our guided tour of Blair Castle, perhaps Scotland's finest castle, with its impressive grounds. Here, in the ancestral home of the Duke of Atholl, one of the biggest whisky festivals in the world



takes place every year. In Pitlochry first of all we enjoy a guided tour of Edradour Distillery, Scotland's smallest. After visiting the salmon ladder, we continue the journey to Edinburgh.

Day 8: Decide your programme on the spot. First and foremost, there is always something happening in Scotland's festival city. You really will constantly happen upon its many visitor attractions. Visit a couple of the outstanding museums, the imposing castle, perhaps one of the big art galleries. Discover the cathedral of

St Giles, the impressive Botanical Gardens or follow in the footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots when you explore the royal palace of Holyrood. Between visits and shopping you can relax in friendly cafés and watch the lively passing scene. Your tour guide will help you to choose. All the possibilities are there: shopping, castle, cafés, visiting museums, walking to the top of Arthur's Seat, the Botanical Gardens, and much more.

Should you visit the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre once again, you will now be in a position to ask about a job as a guide there, since after your tour you will be a real whisky expert - as our final certificate will confirm. In the late afternoon we will receive true recognition as whisky graduates. We are invited to the traditional and typically Scottish club rooms of the unique Malt Whisky Society. The whisky that is drunk and can be bought there, is found nowhere else and cannot be obtained in any shop. We can still offer one more highlight. We enjoy a bar meal in Edinburgh's oldest pub.

After dinner we form teams to play skittles, which is similar to ten pin bowling, but much more basic and not at all automated - with large wooden balls, a slightly uneven wooden alley and big wooden skittles which are always put back in place by two boys who also return the balls. The skittle alley is as traditional as the pub itself with its low ceilings, oak beams, open hearth and armchairs.

Day 9: After today's slightly later and, as always plentiful, breakfast, it is time to pack suitcases and depart. The journey to the airport takes only around 15 minutes.

2 DEPARTURE DATES 2010: (always Sunday to Monday)

13-21.6.; 29.8.-6.9. Further departures by arrangement

You can travel with an English and German speaking international group. Please ask for details.

PRICES 2010:

9 day tour per person sharing a twin/double room

Single room supplement: £133.00

all other dates, booking through an travel agent :

£ 1023,20

(Flight not included)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXTEND YOUR HOLIDAYS?

You can combine this tour perfectly with the following tours:

"Scotland in Style - Railway Adventure" (Self-guided)

"Western Highlands - In the Footsteps of Rob Roy" - our classic!

"In the Heart of Scotland" - walking, culture and sightseeing, based on one hotel, excellent value!

We will organise your own individual holiday extension.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

8 nights in top of the range 3 and 4 star hotels in en suite rooms with bath or shower & WC, 8 x 3 course dinners with coffee, 8 full Scottish breakfasts, English speaking guide, all transfers, bus, rail and ferry journeys in the programme, all entry fees in the



programme, which includes all distillery and castle visits described above, visit to the unique Scotch Malt Whisky Society clubrooms, exclusive use of the skittle alley in Edinburgh's oldest pub, Edinburgh city tour, airport transfers, welcome drink.

PLANNED departures 2011 (Sunday to Monday)

12-20.6.; 28.8.-5.9. Further departures on request.

WHERE AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE A BOOKING:

You can book through a travel agent, or, of course, directly with Rob Roy Tours.

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