



SCHOLARLY
SOJOURNS™
THINK INSIDE THE VACATION

Scotch Whisky In Depth

An insider's journey to the land of Scotch Whisky



Explore the beautiful whisky-producing regions of Scotland with celebrated Whisky Ambassador Ronnie Berri

Just a sip of Scotch Whisky can evoke an entire sensory experience: visions of craggy moors and rolling hills interrupted only by an endless sky; the smell of peat bogs and handcrafted barrels; a cool, crisp, wind-swept landscape. Indeed, many people admit to beginning a lifelong romance with Scotch from their very first taste. But just what exactly sets this prized spirit apart from others and often stirs such passion in those who partake?

This exclusive, guided tour to historic distilleries in the four main whisky-producing regions of Scotland helps you further attune your senses to the complexities of individual malts and the roles that land, air, water, and a painstaking distillation process play in creating the unique character found in each sip. The itinerary is designed to enhance your understanding of whisky by allowing you to experience it directly from its source and by helping you to discover the unique history and people behind it.

After completing an in-depth masterclass at the Scotch Whisky School in Edinburgh, you travel to sixteen celebrated distilleries in The Lowlands, The Highlands, Speyside, and Islay, guided by acclaimed Scotch Whisky expert Ronnie Berri – an official Whisky Ambassador for Scotland. At each, you receive personal instruction while nosing, tasting, and enjoying whisky, discovering how the rich resources of the region lend their unique characteristics to the spirit.

But this is so much more than just a whisky tour. Because along the way, you also have the opportunity to experience Scotland's mesmerizing landscape and explore its breathtaking countryside. You learn its fascinating history, observe its culture and traditions, and meet its welcoming people. In the end you may discover, in fact, that all of these contribute to a deeper appreciation for the extraordinary spirit known throughout the world as Scotch Whisky, but known to Scots as *uisge beatha*, the "water of life."

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Tour Itinerary Overview

Day 1: Tour begins in Edinburgh, Scotland
Day 2: The day is spent in Edinburgh
Day 3: Edinburgh - Pitlochry - Speyside
Day 4: The day is spent in Speyside
Day 5: Speyside - Loch Ness - Glencoe - Oban

Day 6: Oban - Islay
Day 7: The day is spent on Islay
Day 8: Islay - Inveraray - Loch Lomond
Day 9: Loch Lomond - Stirling - Return to Edinburgh

Day to Day Tour Summary

This tour's itinerary is carefully designed to enhance your understanding of Scotch Whisky through a series of tutored tastings, presentations, distillery tours, and warehouse visits. Each day includes a balance of activities, including plenty of free time for you to pursue your own interests. For those with spouses or travel companions who do not share the same enthusiasm for whisky, several days provide a choice of alternate activities, such as shopping, hiking, or additional sight-seeing, in place of distillery visits.

Day 1: Sunday, May 1 | Sept 11 | Oct 23

You arrive in stunning Edinburgh, Scotland today and transfer to your hotel where you are greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who assists you with checking in. Your time is free to relax or explore until the opening reception this afternoon where you meet fellow tour members and your tour staff. Afterward, the group travels to the outskirts of Edinburgh to enjoy the first distillery visit - at Glenkinchie, a Lowlands favorite. This evening we gather at a celebrated whisky-lovers restaurant for a special welcome dinner with our tour leader, noted Scotch Whisky Ambassador Ronnie Berri, who conducts our first tutored whisky tasting. Following dinner, a walking tour to visit the best haunts in the city to enjoy whisky is offered for all who wish to join. (R,D)



Looking down Edinburgh's celebrated Royal Mile

Day 2: Monday, May 2 | Sept 12 | Oct 24

Following breakfast this morning you take a short stroll along Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile to the Scotch Whisky School. Here you complete an in-depth master-class which introduces you to the exacting process of producing Scotch Whisky and what distinguishes it from other spirits. A full sensory program helps you begin to sharpen your palate to recognize the nuances of taste, nose, and texture found in each malt. Upon successful completion of this program you earn a *Certificate in Scotch Whisky Knowledge and Appreciation* and the remainder of the afternoon and evening are left entirely free for you to enjoy the vibrant city of Edinburgh. (B)

"The absolute most amazing vacation I've ever been on..."

-Jessica H., San Francisco, CA

Included meals are indicated in parentheses following each daily description:

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; R = Reception



Day to Day Tour Summary

Day 3: Tuesday: May 3 | Sept 13 | Oct 25

We depart Edinburgh early today and Ronnie Berri delivers the daily briefing while the group is en route to the highland town of Pitlochry. The first stop is one of the highest working distilleries in Scotland. Following an extensive tour here, you have the opportunity to thoroughly savor the mellow, deep-toned aroma and fine fruity flavors of its flagship, fifteen-year-old single malt as well as two of its other unique expressions. Continuing north this afternoon, we pause along the banks of the celebrated River Spey to enjoy a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic and to sample a couple of drams of Highland malt. Afterward we visit The Glenlivet - the first distillery in Scotland to be legally licensed - and then take a gentle hike along an ancient smugglers' trail which winds through the scenic glen to the ruins of 14th-century Drumin Castle. We arrive in beautiful Speyside late this afternoon and check into our home for the next two nights - the stately Mansion House Hotel, which enjoys a privileged location in the picturesque town of Elgin. The evening is reserved for our first of two special dinners which explore pairing food with Scotch Whisky—this one complete with a ceremonial piping in of the haggis! (B, L, D)

Day 4: Wednesday, May 4 | Sept 14 | Oct 26

Our day in Speyside begins with a morning stop to visit the celebrated Macallan distillery to view the iconic Easter Elchies House. Afterward, we continue to nearby Balvenie distillery for an extensive tour and structured nosing and tasting of six whisky expressions in its atmospheric reception room. The experience here also includes a private visit to the warehouse where you are able to sample whiskies from casks as well as fill your own souvenir bottle of



A dramming on the Telford Bridge in Speyside

cask-strength malt to take home. Following lunch, we explore the ancient art of coopering with a visit to Speyside Cooperage. Here we watch master coopers at work building and repairing casks that will house single malts for years as they mature, contributing greatly to their flavor and character. The afternoon is set aside for a special experience which affords you insider's access at another renowned Speyside distillery—one that is not normally open to the public—where you sample several single malts, some up to 30 years old. After returning to our hotel, the evening is free to relax and perhaps to savor a few more fine Speyside malts. (B)

Day 5: Thursday, May 5 | Sept 15 | Oct 27

Before bidding a fond farewell to Speyside this morning we enjoy another exclusive warehouse experience and thorough tutored tasting at the celebrated Glen Moray distillery which is just a short walk from our hotel. Afterward we depart Elgin and head west through the highlands and toward the sea. A generous mid-morning stop allows some time to sightsee and shop in the atmospheric northern city of Inverness before we enjoy a true highlight of the journey: a visit to iconic Urquhart Castle with a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic and Highland Whisky tasting overlooking stunning Loch Ness. This afternoon we drive through scenic Glencoe before continuing to the charming seaside town of Oban where the evening is free to explore and enjoy a nice dinner, perhaps sampling some of the renowned seafood to be found here. (B, L)

"We seemed to get special treatment everywhere we went. This made a good tour a fabulous tour."

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC



Day to Day Tour Summary



Drawing from the cask for a special warehouse tasting

Day 6: Friday, May 6 | Sept 16 | Oct 28

This morning you visit the Oban distillery to sample the unique character of its quintessential seaside malt. Afterward, we travel to the ferry port at Kennacraig to embark for an afternoon departure which takes us across the Sea of the Hebrides to the stunning island of Islay. This remote isle, dotted with Celtic ruins, remarkable natural scenery, and abundant wildlife, is widely considered the mecca for Scotch Whisky lovers around the globe. Upon arrival, we stop for a warm welcome at one of the island's eight renowned distilleries. Following a private tour here, we are treated to an extensive nosing and tasting of its numerous, fanciful expressions under the guidance of the charismatic visitor center manager. This evening we check into our lodging for the weekend—the charming, beautifully-renovated, 18th-century cottages at Bowmore distillery, which were originally built to house the distillery's workers. Tonight you enjoy the second special dinner of the tour which further explores the art of Scotch Whisky and food pairing. (B, D)

Day 7: Saturday, May 7 | Sept 17 | Oct 29

We set out early today, traversing the rugged and evocative landscape of Islay to visit three of her legendary distilleries. Our first stop is Lagavulin distillery where we enjoy a private nosing and tasting in its atmospheric visitor's center. Next we make our way to stately Laphroaig where we are treated to a glimpse of one of the few remaining, working malting floors in

Scotland. This afternoon we venture across the atmospheric peat bogs of central Islay to experience a peat-cutting demonstration before continuing to another celebrated island distillery—this time for an exclusive warehouse tasting of several cask-strength malts. Following our day of experiencing some of the most-celebrated whiskies in the world, we return to charming Bowmore village where the evening is free to relax, enjoy the scenery, and dine as you please. (B)

Day 8: Sunday, May 8 | Sept 18 | Oct 30

We say a fond farewell to Islay this morning as we journey across the sea by ferry once again. Back on the mainland, we make a generous lunch stop in the picturesque town of Inveraray, providing plenty of opportunity for shopping, sightseeing, or perhaps a visit to its famous castle which has recently been featured on the television drama, *Downton Abbey*. Those wishing to buy some extra bottles for home may want to visit Loch Fyne Whiskies to explore the unmatched selection of this unique shop. This afternoon we visit Auchentoshan distillery for another fine example of Lowland malt and to explore the distillery's unique triple distillation process. This evening we arrive at our lodging upon the "*Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond*" and enjoy a bit of free time for a stroll before gathering for a special reception and our final dinner together. Be prepared for the pop quiz Ronnie likes to spring on this occasion! (B,R,D)



Castle Stalker stands guard on Loch Linnhe near Oban

Day to Day Tour Summary

Day 9: Monday, May 9 | Sept 19 | Oct 31

This morning we stroll from our hotel to the nearby pier where we embark for yet another tour highlight: a private cruise across beautiful Loch Lomond. The journey affords us stunning views as well as the opportunity to enjoy a few more drams of Highland malt. Afterward, we travel to the lovely Glengoyne distillery in its idyllic setting on the edge of the Highlands. Here you complete an in-depth *Malt Master* program which culminates with the opportunity to create your own unique single malt whisky. Your personal recipe is recorded for posterity in Glengoyne's master book and you depart with a bottle of your malt in hand to enjoy in cherished company as you reflect upon this once-in-

"This was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will take with me personally and professionally for the rest of my life."

- Scott K., Waltham, MA



A dramming on the banks of Loch Ness

a-lifetime experience. This afternoon, we stop in the beautiful and historic city of Stirling where we enjoy time to explore its well-preserved and picturesque castle. The imposing citadel dates from 1110 AD and several Scottish Monarchs have been crowned in its halls, including Mary, Queen of Scots. This afternoon, we visit nearby Deanston distillery, the only distillery in Scotland to be electrically self-sufficient with power generated by an on-site hydro-energy facility. Following a tour which highlights some of the site's unique, Victorian features, we enjoy a final tasting before returning to Edinburgh where we say our goodbyes as the tour draws to a close. (B)

Discovering the Complexities and Variations of Scotch Whisky



This chart becomes a trusted friend as you develop your palate

During your tour, you have the opportunity to sample nearly 100 different expressions of Scotch Whisky and you visit a minimum of 16 distilleries. At each, you are carefully guided through structured nosing and tasting sessions by industry experts. The experience of encountering the contrasting flavors and aromas, one after the other and in fairly rapid succession, helps you develop your palate and learn to recognize the nuances that distinguish each malt.

As an exclusive, insider's tour, the program is limited to a maximum of just 18 participants. This allows you to enjoy special programming and behind-the-scenes access that would not be possible for larger groups. Small group size also ensures participants are given individual attention as well as the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts, which in turn allows them to practice a newly-acquired whisky vocabulary.



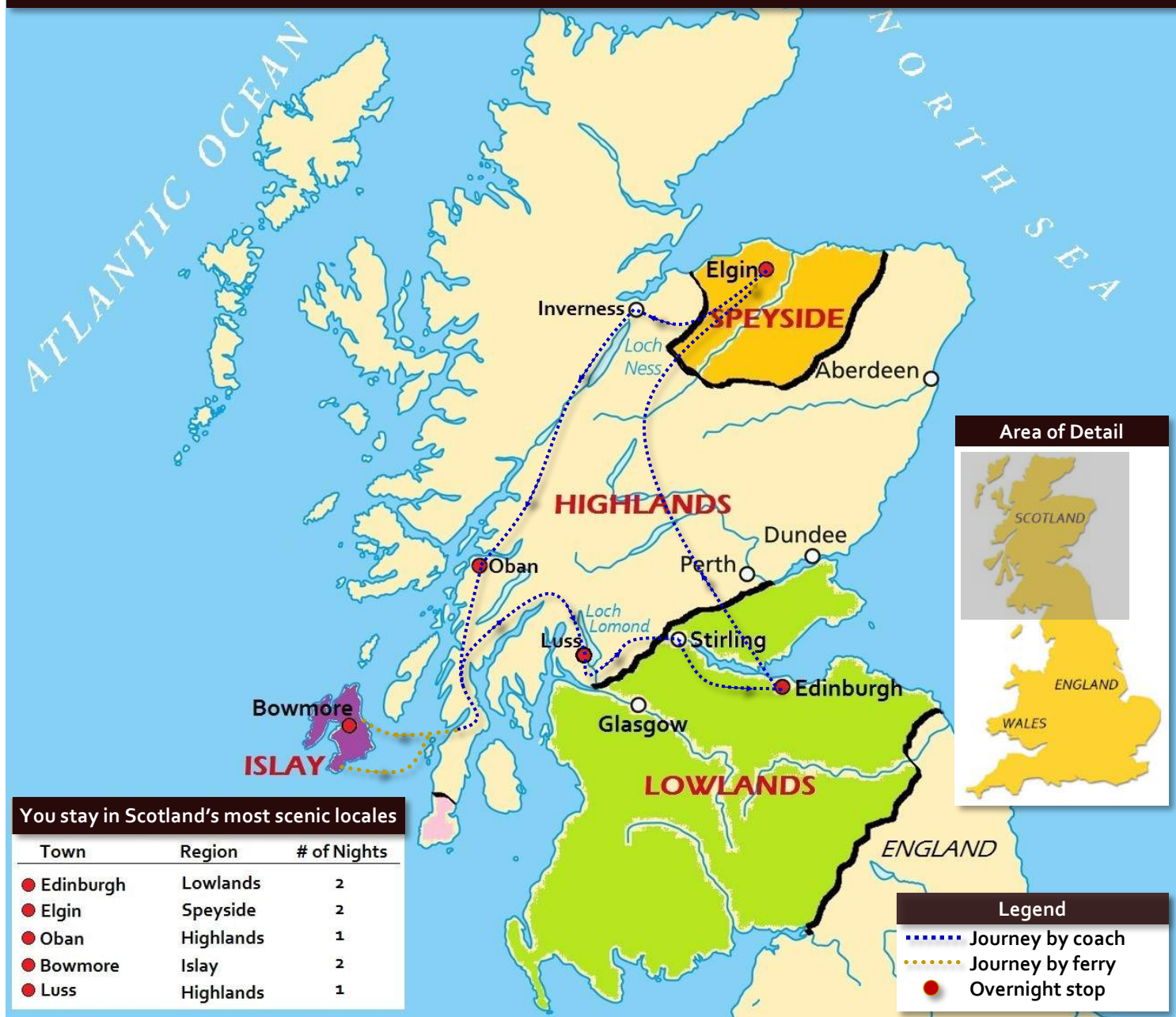
You are Guided by a Celebrated Whisky Ambassador and Keeper of the Quaich



Ronnie conducts a tutored tasting

Tour leader, Ronnie Berri, is a Whisky Ambassador for the Scotch Whisky Experience, a fully-accredited Scottish Blue-badge Guide, and an Independent Whisky Consultant. He is also one of an exclusive community of whisky-industry professionals known as “Keepers of the Quaich” - a select group recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in the world of Scotch Whisky. As a highly-respected speaker and whisky expert, Ronnie frequently conducts whisky presentations, tastings, and tutorials on behalf of the Scottish government. Recent engagements have taken him to Berlin, Vancouver, Kuala Lumpur, and Stockholm. He has also worked with private organizations such as Scottish Enterprise, Diageo, and Edrington.

Your Panoramic Journey Makes Its Way from Lowlands to Highlands to Islands





Select Hotels Create the Perfect Atmosphere for Your Tour



Apex International Hotel - Edinburgh

This sophisticated, boutique hotel located in the lively Grassmarket area of Edinburgh's Old Town has been beautifully refurbished. Its central location makes it the ideal base from which to explore the city and all its offerings – pubs and shops are at the doorstep, Edinburgh Castle is just a short stroll up the High Street.



The Mansion House Hotel - Speyside

Located in the picturesque town of Elgin, the Mansion House hotel is ideally situated for exploring the distilleries of Speyside. The hotel offers the rare opportunity to experience the style and elegance of a bygone era and is just steps away from Elgin's wide array of shops, restaurants, and whisky bars.



The Bowmore Cottages - Islay

Originally constructed for distillery workers and located on the grounds of Bowmore Distillery, these charming cottages are superbly renovated and offer a relaxing environment to take in the unique atmosphere of Islay. Near the center of the town, they are just steps from shopping, pubs, and the shores of Loch Indaal.

For a complete list of lodging on this tour, please visit www.scholarlysojourns.com.

Tour Highlights and Features

- Visit sixteen celebrated Scotch Whisky distilleries, including special behind-the-scenes access not granted to the general public
- Two nights in the beautiful City of Edinburgh, Scotland – the 'Athens of the North'
- An exclusive masterclass on whisky knowledge at the Scotch Whisky School in Edinburgh
- Two nights in the picturesque Speyside region – home to over half of Scotland's distilleries
- Visits to five legendary distilleries on Islay, with a demonstration on peat cutting and drying
- Special private warehouse tours with opportunities to sample whiskies straight from the cask
- Insider access with tours of distilleries not regularly open to the public
- Travel to the four main whisky regions of Scotland with tours of historic distilleries in each
- A Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic and Highland Whisky tasting on the banks of picturesque Loch Ness
- Two nights on the rustic island of Islay staying in the historic cottages at Bowmore Distillery
- An in-depth *Malt Master* workshop with the opportunity to create your own, unique single malt
- Two gourmet whisky-and-food-pairing dinners featuring the best of traditional Scottish cuisine
- A private cruise across stunning Loch Lomond, gateway to the Scottish Highlands
- A night in the charming Victorian seaport of Oban, famous for its exquisite seafood



Tour Details

Scotch Whisky in Depth

Dates:

May 1-9, 2016 (Sojourn #1221618)

September 11-19, 2016 (Sojourn #1221637)

October 23-31, 2016 (Sojourn #1221643)

Price:

\$4,195/Person (Double Occupancy)

\$4,695/Person (Single Occupancy)

**Click here to
register online**

Tour begins/concludes:

Edinburgh, Scotland

Optional Air Package:

From \$1,099/Person

*Offer valid through 1/31/2016. When registering online, please place savings code **EBS12216** in the "comments" section of the online booking form. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Price Includes:

Nine-day program of distillery visits, tutored tastings, sightseeing, and presentations led by Ronnie Berri, 6 nights accommodation, in select, 4-star hotels, 2 nights accommodation in the historic cottages at Bowmore Distillery, a masterclass at the Scotch Whisky Experience in Edinburgh, all breakfasts and other meals as per itinerary, 2 whisky-and-food-pairing dinners, 2 receptions, all entrance fees, distillery visits, tours, private guides, ground transportation, water transportation, all gratuities except for hotel porters, and all sojourn activities as detailed in the complete itinerary.

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare; airport transfers; meals not indicated in the detailed itinerary; beverages options other than provided alcoholic drinks, water, or soft-drinks with group meals; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; medical, hospitalization or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry and other personal items.

Optional Air package includes:

Round-trip, economy airfare, airport transfers in Scotland, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

Arrival and Departure Information

Meeting location:

The meeting point for this sojourn is the Apex International Hotel in Edinburgh. Those making their own travel arrangements should plan to arrive at the hotel between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on the first day of the tour. You will be greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who will assist you with checking in.

Tour Start Time:

The program begins promptly at 2:30 PM on first day. The first official activity is a special opening reception with Ronnie Berri and fellow sojourn members followed by a visit to Glenkinchie Distillery.

Tour Conclusion:

Your sojourn concludes at approximately 5:00 PM on the final day, when the group returns to Edinburgh. We will be glad to drop you at Edinburgh Airport, Waverly Train Station, or any central Edinburgh hotel.

Early Arrival or Late Departure:

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your tour or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public. We are also happy to provide itinerary suggestions should you wish to do additional travel in Scotland.

Registration Information

To register or for further information:

Call us: 1-800-419-3443

We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

Visit us at: www.scholarlysojourns.com

Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version. You will also find the most up-to-date details on this tour and all of the other programs offered by Scholarly Sojourns.

Other Information

Sojourn Combinations: Save \$250 per person and receive a free transfer between locations when you book two consecutive sojourns.

Please Note: The information presented here details this sojourn's planned activities, meals, accommodations, and starting/ending times. We reserve the right to make changes which will improve the program or when circumstances beyond our control necessitate such modifications. Prices are subject to change until booked. Complete terms and conditions are available at our website.

