

## A Panoramic Journey Across the Land of Scotch Whisky



## Join Gordon's To Visit Scotland and Its Historic Distilleries

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, windswept landscape. Many admit to beginning a life-long romance with Scotch from their very first taste. But what exactly sets Scotch apart from other spirits and often stirs such passion in those who partake?

This exclusive, insider's tour to historic distilleries in all five of the 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 bottle. The itinerary is designed to help enhance your understanding of Scotch Whisky by allowing you to experience it directly from its source and by helping you discover the unique history and people behind it.

After spending a day in the celebrated City of Edinburgh where you receive an introduction to whisky making at the Scotch Whisky Experience, you travel with Gordon's staff on a private, customized journey to eighteen celebrated distilleries across The Lowlands, The Highlands, Speyside, and Islay. At each, you receive personal instruction while nosing, tasting, and enjoying whisky, discovering how each region lends its unique characteristics to the spirit.

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."

# Travel with GORDON'S Fine Wines & Liquors



## Tour Itinerary Overview

Sep 30: Depart Boston for Edinburgh, Scotland

Oct 1: Edinburgh

Oct 2: Edinburgh to Speyside

Oct 3: The day is spent in Speyside

Oct 4: Speyside to Tarbert

Oct 5: Tarbert to Islay

Oct 6: Islay to Campbeltown

Oct 7: Campbeltown to Inveraray

Oct 8: Inveraray to Stirling

Oct 9: Return to Boston

## Day to Day Tour Summary

### Saturday, September 30

You join fellow tour members and Gordon's representatives at Boston Logan Airport this evening to board a Delta Airlines flight for your overnight, trans-Atlantic journey to Scotland. Dinner is served during the flight\*.

### Sunday, October 1

Arriving in stunning Edinburgh, Scotland today you are greeted at the airport by your tour director. You transfer via private motor coach to your hotel which is located in the heart of the historic Old Town and just steps from the celebrated Royal Mile. After some time to relax or explore, you travel to visit nearby Glenkinchie Distillery—a Lowlands favorite—where you sample the soft, subtle tones of its signature malt. This evening you gather at a celebrated whisky-lovers restaurant for a special welcome dinner where a Gordon's staff member conducts your first tutored whisky tasting. Following dinner, an optional gathering at one of the best haunts in the city to enjoy whisky is offered for all who wish to join. [R|D]

\*Saturday, September 30 only applies to those taking the optional group flight.



Picturesque Strathisla Distillery



Looking down Edinburgh's celebrated Royal Mile

### Monday, October 2

After breakfast, we depart Edinburgh and travel north across the famous Firth of Forth, and head into the heart of Scotland. Mid-morning, we enjoy a tour at Edradour, a unique family-run distillery that also operates as one of Scotland's premier whisky bottlers. Afterward, we travel into the beautiful Cairngorms National Park and visit one of the highest distilleries in Scotland to enjoy a unique, whisky-and-chocolate pairing experience. This evening we arrive in Speyside and the town of Elgin where we will stay for the next two nights. After checking into our hotel, we gather for a special whisky-pairing dinner. [B|D]

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

—Jessica H., San Francisco

Included meals are indicated in parentheses following each daily description:

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

## Day to Day Tour Summary

### Tuesday, October 3

We spend the day in Speyside today, with in-depth visits to two of its most celebrated distilleries. Our first stop is Glenfarclas where we have the opportunity to visit its warehouse and sample some malts directly from the cask. Midday, we explore the ancient art of coopering with a tour of the Speyside Cooperage. Our visit here not only explore the art of cask making, but also further illuminates the importance of the key stage of maturation and how it influences the character and flavor of each whisky. This afternoon we enjoy an in-depth visit to Ben-Riach Distillery where we have the opportunity to taste some of its unique peated malts and intriguing wood finishes. Returning to Elgin this evening, we sample some of the unique bottlings from one of Scotland's premier whisky bottlers, helping our hosts from Gordon's choose a cask that will be bottled with their own, private label. [B]

### Wednesday, October 4

Before bidding a farewell to the unique and beautiful Speyside region this morning, we enjoy an exclusive warehouse tasting at the acclaimed Glen Moray Distillery. Afterward, we depart Elgin and head west through The Highlands and toward the sea. At midday we enjoy a true highlight of the journey: a visit to iconic Urquhart Castle with a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic overlooking stunning Loch Ness. This afternoon we visit another Highland distillery and drive through scenic Glencoe before continuing to the charming seaside town of Tarbert 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



Pipers play before our whisky-pairing dinner in Speyside

©Hector Tamez Photography

### Thursday, October 5

An early ferry journey this morning takes us across the Hebridean Sea to the stunning Isle of Islay. This remote island, 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 celebrated distilleries. Following a private tour, we are treated to an extensive nosing and tasting of the distillery's numerous and fanciful expressions under the expert guidance of the charismatic visitor center manager. This evening we travel to the picturesque village of Bowmore—the center of life on the island—where we check into our lodging for the night: a charming and beautifully-renovated, 18th-century hostelry which also boasts the finest whisky collection in the Western Isles. Tonight you enjoy another special dinner which further explores the art of Scotch whisky and food pairing. [B|D]

# Travel with GORDON'S Fine Wines & Liquors



## Day to Day Tour Summary



*Drawing from the cask for a special warehouse tasting*

### Friday, October 6

We visit two of Islay's most celebrated distilleries this morning, enjoying an extensive warehouse tasting (with the warehouse manager) at the first and a unique opportunity to bottle our own fantastic single cask at the second. This afternoon we catch the ferry to return to the mainland and then travel south along the Kintyre Peninsula to Scotland's smallest and most remote whisky-producing region, Campbeltown. After checking into our atmospheric lodging, the remainder of the evening is free to relax, explore, and dine on your own. [B]

### Saturday, October 7

We visit Campbeltown's two main distilleries this morning as well as Scotland's oldest whisky bottler, Cadenhead's. Each of these afford excellent tastings as well as provide unique opportunities to hand fill bottles of excellent single malt or acquire exclusive, distillery-only bottlings. Before departing Campbeltown, we enjoy a unique lunch featuring some of the excellent local seafood all paired with whisky. After lunch, we make the return drive north along the Kintyre peninsula to the remarkable town of Inveraray, perched upon the shores of beautiful Loch Fyne. Our overnight stop here provides plenty of time for shopping and sightseeing. Those interested in castles will want to visit elegant Inveraray Castle which has recently been featured on the popular PBS series Downton Abbey. [B|L]

### Sunday, October 8

Following breakfast, we make a final trip through The Highlands crossing the Rest-and-Be-Thankful mountain pass—one of the highest in Britain. At mid-morning, we enjoy a visit to Auchentoshan Distillery where we taste another fine example of Lowland malt and explore the distillery's unique triple distillation process. This afternoon we arrive at lovely Glengoyne Distillery, nestled in its idyllic setting on the edge of the highlands. Here you complete a comprehensive program in whisky blending which culminates with the opportunity for you to develop your own unique single malt. Your personal recipe is carefully recorded in Glengoyne's master book for posterity and you depart with a bottle of your single malt in hand. This evening we arrive in the historic city of Stirling where we enjoy a visit to its well-preserved and picturesque castle. The imposing citadel dates from AD 1110 and several Scottish monarchs have been crowned in its halls, including Mary, Queen of Scots in AD 1542. Afterward, we check into our hotel and enjoy a bit of free time to further explore the city before gathering for a special reception and our final dinner together. [B|R|D]



*The view down Loch Ness from Urquhart Castle*



## Day to Day Tour Summary

Monday, October 9

We enjoy a late breakfast at our hotel this morning or take some more time to explore historic and beautiful Stirling. Afterward, we travel back to Edinburgh Airport where we check in for the afternoon return flight to Boston Logan Airport\*. (B)

\*Airport transfer only applies to those purchasing the optional group flight.



Casks outside the Speyside Cooperage ©Hector Tamez Photography



Islay's Bruichladdich Distillery

©Hector Tamez Photography

*"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

## Exploring the Complexities of Whisky

Over the course of the tour, you are given the opportunity to sample nearly 75 different expressions of Scotch Whisky and you visit sixteen distilleries across the Highlands, the Lowlands, Speyside, Campbeltown, and Islay. At each distillery, you are carefully guided through structured nosing and tasting sessions by industry experts. Encountering the contrasting flavors and aromas one after the other, and in fairly rapid succession, helps your palate attune to the complexities found in different malts.

As an exclusive insider's tour, the program is limited to a maximum of 24 participants. This allows you to enjoy special programming and behind-the-scenes access that would not be possible with 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 helps them utilize their newly-acquired whisky vocabulary.



# Travel with **GORDON'S** Fine Wines & Liquors



## You Meet and Learn from Industry Experts



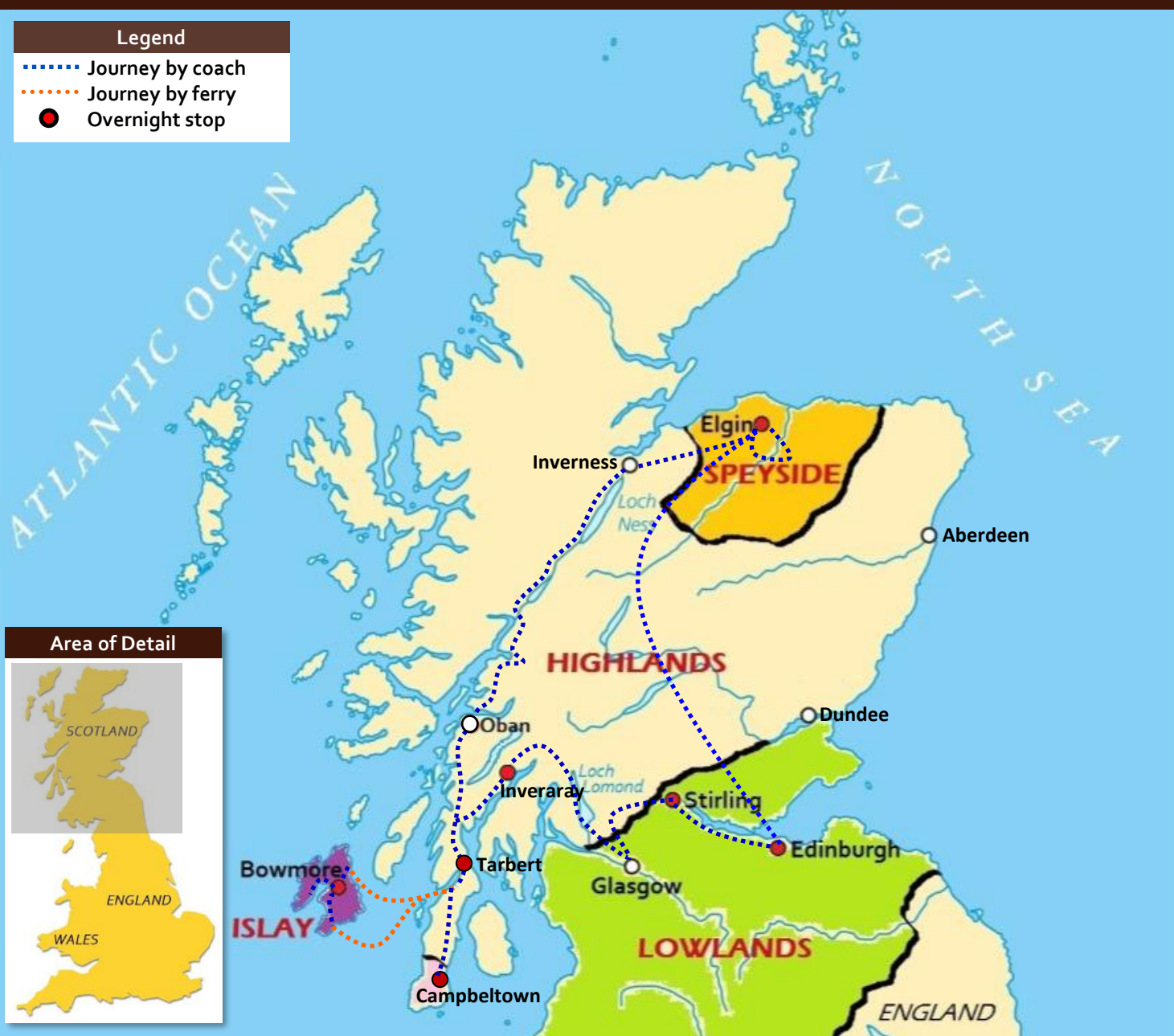
Jackie Thompson of Ardbeg Distillery leads a nosing

Throughout your journey you gain behind-the-scenes access at a number of celebrated distilleries. Here you meet industry experts who are creating whisky and shaping the whisky business today. These fascinating men and women share both their expertise and their insider knowledge as they guide you through tasting sessions. At many distilleries, you have the opportunity to sample whiskies that are not available for sale anywhere, some up to 40 years old. At others, you can hand-fill bottles and buy distillery-only editions to add to your personal collection and savor for years to come.

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

### Legend

- ..... Journey by coach
- ..... Journey by ferry
- Overnight stop





## Select Lodging Creates the Perfect Atmosphere for Your Tour



### **Apex City of Edinburgh 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.



### **Mansion House Hotel—Elgin, 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.



### **Lochside Hotel - Islay**

The Lochside is an Islay institution: a family-run hotel with a waterfront restaurant and a lounge that is widely regarded as one of the world's great whisky bars. While the building is historic, each of its cozy rooms has been refurbished to provide modern comforts while retaining the feel of an island cottage. You will feel right at home here.

## Tour Highlights and Features

- Visit sixteen celebrated Scotch Whisky distilleries, including special behind-the-scenes access not granted to the general public
- An introduction to whisky making and viewing of the world's largest whisky collection at the Scotch Whisky Experience in Edinburgh
- Visits to four legendary distilleries on Islay, with a demonstration on peat cutting and drying
- One night in the beautiful City of Edinburgh, Scotland – the 'Athens of the North'
- Special private warehouse tours with opportunities to sample whiskies straight from the cask
- Two nights in the picturesque Speyside region – home to over half of Scotland's distilleries
- Opening and closing dinners and receptions
- Travel to all five whisky regions of Scotland with tours of historic distilleries in each
- See both of Scotland's beautiful national parks—The Cairngorms National Park and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Spend two days and one night on the rustic island of Islay
- An in-depth Malt Master class at Glengoyne Distillery with the opportunity to create your own, unique single malt scotch whisky
- Two gourmet whisky-and-food-pairing dinners featuring the best of traditional Scottish cuisine
- A night in the charming harbor of Tarbert, celebrated for its exquisite seafood
- A visit to the banks of beautiful Loch Lomond



## Tour Details

### Gordon's Insider's Whisky Tour of Scotland

**Dates:**

October 1-8, 2017

**Price:**

\$3,499/Person (Double Occupancy)

\$3,999/Person (Single Occupancy)

[Click here to register online](#)

**Tour begins/concludes:**

Edinburgh, Scotland

**Optional air package\* :**

\$989/Person

\*Includes round-trip airfare Boston – Edinburgh, airport transfers in Scotland, and 100% travel assurance. Group flight departs Boston Logan Airport on Saturday, Sept. 30 2017. Price subject to change until booked.

**Price Includes:**

Eight-day program of distillery visits, guided tastings, and presentations led by staff members from Gordon's; 8 nights hotel accommodation in select 3-star and 4-star hotels; all breakfasts and other meals as per this itinerary, including welcome and farewell dinners, 2 whisky-and-food-pairing dinners, and 2 receptions; all entrance fees, distillery visits, and tours; ground transportation and water transportation; all gratuities except for hotel porters; and all tour activities as described in the day-to-day summary.

**Price Does Not Include:**

Airfare & airport transfers (unless optional air package is purchased); meals not indicated in this detailed itinerary; beverage options other than water, wine, beer, or soft-drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, metro or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

## Arrival and Departure Information

**Meeting location:**

The meeting point for this tour is the Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel. Those taking the group flight will be transferred from Edinburgh Airport to the hotel. Those making their own air travel arrangements should plan to arrive at the hotel between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM on Sunday, October 1, 2017. You will be greeted there by your tour director who will assist you with checking in.

**Tour Start Time:**

The tour program begins promptly at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 1, 2017. The first official activity is a welcome reception followed by a visit to Glenkinchie Distillery.

**Tour Conclusion:**

Your tour concludes at approximately 11:00 AM on Monday, October 9, 2017, in Stirling, Scotland. Those taking the group flight will be transferred to Edinburgh Airport for the return flight the United States. Those making their own air travel arrangements should not book flights which depart prior to 1:00 PM that day.

**Early Arrival or Late Departure:**

We are 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.

## Registration Information

**To register or for further information:**

**Call Scholarly Sojourns: 1-800-419-3443**

Customer Service is ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

**Visit: [www.scholarlysojourns.com/gordons](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com/gordons)**

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 exclusive travel programs offered for the Gordon's community.

## Other Information

**This tour is operated by Scholarly Sojourns on behalf of Gordon's Fine Wines & Liquors.** The information presented here details the 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. See website for complete terms and conditions.

Tour organized  
and operated by:

