

Scotch Whisky in Depth

AN INSIDER'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE LAND OF SCOTCH WHISKY

2019 Departures



AN EPICUREAN
SOJOURN

SEE ALL OF SCOTLAND'S BEAUTY

TRAVEL FROM EDINBURGH TO SPEYSIDE AND ACROSS THE
HIGHLANDS TO THE ISLANDS ON THIS PANORAMIC PILGRIMAGE
TO THE HISTORIC DISTILLERIES OF SCOTLAND



DETAILS AT A GLANCE

2019 DEPARTURES

April 7—15, 2019

May 5—13, 2019

September 8—16, 2019

October 20—28, 2019

SOJOURN PRICE FROM

\$3,995*/person (double occupancy)

\$4,595*/person (single occupancy)

*See page 10 for prices of each departure

SOJOURN BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

SOJOURN CONCLUDES

Edinburgh, Scotland

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,195/person*

*See page 10 for details

POST-SOJOURN EXCURSIONS

From \$199/night/person*

*See page 9 for details

[CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER ONLINE](#)

ABOUT EPICUREAN SOJOURNS

These gastronomic journeys explore the fine regional foods, wines, and other artisanal delicacies of our world. Led by chefs, sommeliers, and other food-industry professionals, Epicurean Sojourns always combine hands-on experiences with plentiful opportunities for tasting and enjoying.



Ardbeg Distillery enjoys the sunshine of a Islay afternoon

Scotch Whisky in Depth

AN INSIDER'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE LAND OF SCOTCH WHISKY

It is remarkable how much of Scotland and its history can be discovered by exploring its most celebrated export—Scotch Whisky. That's because so much of Scotland's past is intimately tied to the evolution of whisky production. For what began centuries ago as an illicit activity carried out in remote corners of the country by those who wished to thumb their nose at governmental authority (and The Crown), has become a refined, multi-layered craft that is evocative of the modern, developed nation into which Scotland has evolved.

Yet whisky still retains a special charm that conjures a sense of nostalgia and romance for many who partake. Perhaps it's because each single malt whisky is inextricably tied to the place where it is crafted. And each place that creates Scotch Whisky is a unique, living place with people, with a history, and with legends and lore that connect those people to one another and to their shared past. In the end, all of these become unseen ingredients which contribute to the character of the spirit that is produced in that place and these wonderful, secret components are revealed only when you visit there.

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

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

Day-to-Day Summary

DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN EDINBURGH

You arrive in stunning Edinburgh, Scotland today and transfer to your hotel where you are greeted by your sojourn 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 travelers and your sojourn staff. Afterward, we travel to the outskirts of Edinburgh to enjoy our first distillery visit—at Glenkinchie, a Lowlands favorite. This evening we gather at a celebrated Edinburgh restaurant for a special reception and welcome dinner with our sojourn 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]

DAY 2 - EDINBURGH

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 masterclass 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]

DAY 3 - EDINBURGH TO SPEYSIDE

We depart Edinburgh early today and Ronnie Berri delivers a briefing as our group travels to the Highland town of Pitlochry. The first stop is one of the smallest working distilleries in Scotland where they still make fine single malts by hand. Following a detailed tour here, you have the opportunity to thoroughly savor the rich, fruity flavors of its flagship, ten-year-old malt as well as two of its numerous other expressions. Continuing north this afternoon, we visit one of the highest and most remote distilleries in Scotland where we enjoy a unique whisky-and-chocolate pairing. Afterward, we pause along the banks of the celebrated River Spey to enjoy a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic and to sample a couple excellent drams of Highland malt.



Edinburgh's skyline at sunset

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: SUNDAY

April 7 | May 5 | Sept. 8 | Oct. 20

Sojourn begins Edinburgh, Scotland

DAY 2: MONDAY

April 8 | May 6 | Sept. 9 | Oct. 21

Day is spent in Edinburgh

DAY 3: TUESDAY

April 9 | May 7 | Sept. 10 | Oct. 22

Edinburgh to Speyside

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY

April 10 | May 8 | Sept. 11 | Oct. 23

Day is spent in Speyside

DAY 5: THURSDAY

April 11 | May 9 | Sept. 12 | Oct. 24

Speyside to Oban

DAY 6: FRIDAY

April 12 | May 10 | Sept. 13 | Oct. 25

Oban to Islay

DAY 7: SATURDAY

April 13 | May 11 | Sept. 14 | Oct. 26

Day is spent on Islay

DAY 8: SUNDAY

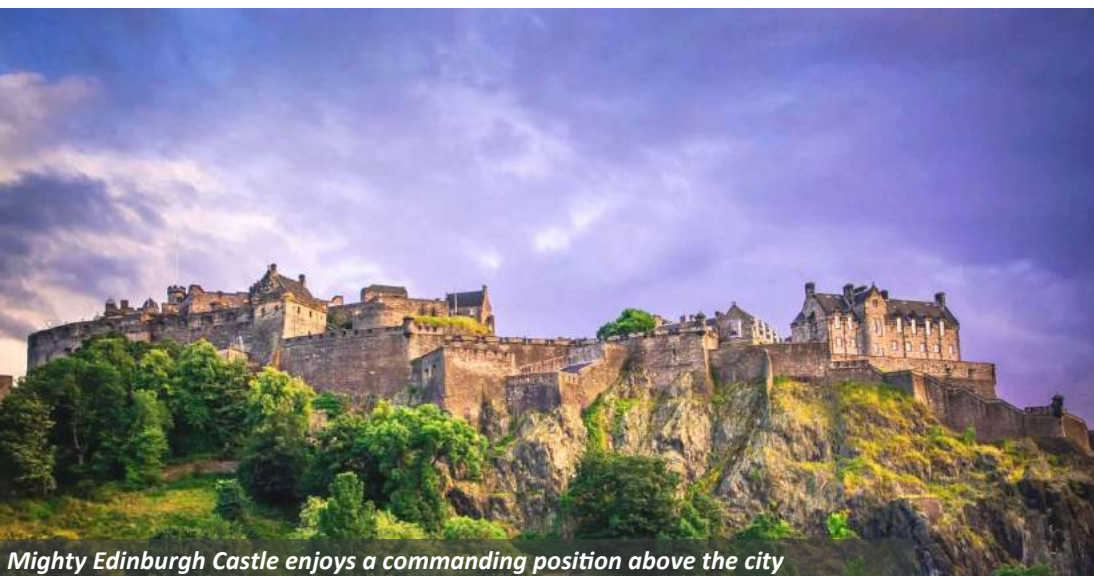
April 14 | May 12 | Sept. 15 | Oct. 27

Islay to Loch Lomond

DAY 9: MONDAY

April 15 | May 13 | Sept. 16 | Oct. 28

Loch Lomond to Edinburgh



Mighty Edinburgh Castle enjoys a commanding position above the city

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Visit sixteen celebrated Scotch Whisky distilleries with 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

“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



Day-to-Day Summary

Later this afternoon we arrive in the beautiful region of Speyside—home to over 40 (nearly 40%) of Scotland’s single malt distilleries. Here we enjoy an exclusive experience which affords you insider’s access at a renowned Speyside distillery—one that is not normally open to the public—where we sample several single malts, some up to 30 years old. This evening, we check into our home for the next two nights—the stately Muthu Newton Hotel in the picturesque town of Nairn—which is nestled in a privileged setting with views to the North Sea. The evening is reserved for our first of two dinners which explore pairing food with Scotch whisky—this one includes a ceremonial presentation of the haggis, complete with bag pipers! [B | L | D]

DAY 4 - SPEYSIDE

Our day in Speyside begins with a morning stop to visit the celebrated Macallan Distillery where we see its iconic Easter Elchies House. After enjoying a special dram on the nearby historic Craigellachie Bridge, we continue to Glenfarclas Distillery for an extensive tour followed by a structured nosing and tasting of six expressions in the unrivaled atmosphere of its spectacular lounge. 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—an essential process which contributes significantly to their flavor and character. This afternoon we visit one additional historic Speyside Distillery before returning to the Muthu Newton Hotel where the evening is left free to relax, dine, and perhaps to savor a few more fine Speyside malts. [B]

DAY 5 - SPEYSIDE TO OBAN

Bidding a fond farewell to Speyside this morning, we travel west to a celebrated Highland Distillery where we enjoy an exclusive warehouse experience and tutored tasting. Afterward, we continue our trek through The Highlands and toward the sea. Following a brief, mid-morning stop in Scotland’s northernmost city, Inverness, we enjoy a true highlight of our journey: a visit to iconic Urquhart Castle and a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic and Highland whisky tasting overlooking Loch Ness. This afternoon we drive through the dramatic scenery of 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]

Day-to-Day Summary

DAY 6 - OBAN TO ISLAY

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 where we embark for an afternoon departure which takes us across the Sea of the Hebrides to the stunning Isle 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. After our arrival, we stop for a warm welcome at one of the island's eight renowned distilleries. Following our private tour here, we are treated to an extensive nosing and tasting of the distillery's numerous and fanciful expressions under the expert guidance of its 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 weekend: a charming and beautifully-renovated, 18th-century hostelry which also boasts a bar with one of the finest whisky selections in the Western Isles. Tonight you enjoy another special dinner which further explores the art of Scotch whisky and food pairing. [B | D]

DAY 7 - ISLAY

We set out early today, traversing the rugged and evocative landscape of Islay to visit four of her legendary distilleries. Our first stop is Lagavulin Distillery where we enjoy a private nosing and tasting in its cozy visitor 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 peat bogs of central Islay to experience a peat-cutting demonstration before continuing to visit another two celebrated island distilleries—one with 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 the quaint village of Bowmore where the evening is free to relax, enjoy the scenery, and dine as you please. [B]



Islay elation

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Travel to the four main whisky regions of Scotland with tours of historic distilleries in each
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Special private warehouse tours with opportunities to sample whiskies straight from the cask



Drawing from the cask for a special warehouse tasting

WHAT YOU SEE

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK
THE HIGHLANDS
LOCH NESS
URQUHART CASTLE
THE GREAT GLEN
GLENCOE
THE TOWN OF OBAN
THE LOWLANDS
THE CITY OF STIRLING
STIRLING CASTLE
LOCH LOMOND
THE VILLAGE OF LUSS
THE WALLACE MONUMENT
THE FORTH ROAD BRIDGE
LOCH LOMOND AND THE
TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK
THE TOWN OF INVERARAY
INVERARAY CASTLE
CASTLE STALKER
THE CITY OF INVERNESS
ELGIN CATHEDRAL
THOMAS TELFORD BRIDGE
THE RIVER SPEY
SEA OF THE HEBRIDES
ISLE OF ISLAY
ISLE OF JURA
LOCH FYNE
THE REST AND BE THANKFUL
KILMARTIN GLEN
THE WORLD'S LARGEST WHISKY
COLLECTION
BEN NEVIS

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

-Jessica H., San Francisco, CA



Greetings from Laphroaig Distillery

Day-to-Day Summary

DAY 8 - ISLAY TO LOCH LOMOND

We say 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 to enjoy another fine example of Lowland malt and to explore the distillery's unique triple distillation process. This evening we drive along the shores of Gare Loch to reach our atmospheric lodging for the night. After a bit of free time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and sweeping loch views, we gather 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]

DAY 9 - LOCH LOMOND TO EDINBURGH

This morning we visit the postcard-perfect village of Luss set upon the "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond". Here we embark for yet another sojourn highlight: a private cruise across the famous Loch—Britain's largest fresh-water lake. 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 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 special recipe is recorded in Glengoyne's master book for posterity and you depart with a bottle of your malt in hand to enjoy in cherished company back at home as you reflect upon this once-in-a-lifetime experience. This afternoon, we visit the historic city of Stirling where we take time for lunch before exploring its imposing castle. The impressive citadel dates from AD 1110 and several Scottish monarchs have been crowned in its halls, including Mary, Queen of Scots. This afternoon, we return to Edinburgh, enjoying a few last drams along the way and raising our glasses one final time to offer each other the traditional Scottish toast we have come to know so well, "*Slainte Mhath*," to your health! [B]

Select Lodging



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, while Edinburgh Castle is just a short stroll up the High Street.



Muthu Newton Hotel - Speyside

Overlooking the North Sea in the picturesque town of Nairn, the Muthu Newton Hotel is ideally situated for exploring the distilleries of Speyside. The hotel offers the rare opportunity to experience the style and elegance of a by-gone era and is just a short walk away from Nairn's wide array of shops and restaurants.



The 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.

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



YOUR SOJOURN LEADER

Sojourn 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.



Enjoying a dram in the Highlands

"Your attention to detail is way beyond any tour operator I have ever worked with!"

-Paula F., Travel Agent,
Mahwah, NJ

BOOKING IS EASY!

1) CALL TO REGISTER OR USE OUR ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Call us at 1-800-419-3443. Our friendly customer service team is ready to assist you Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM (EST). Or, you can complete the [online registration form](#) anytime.

2) WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION BY EMAIL

Within 24 hours you will receive an email confirmation of your registration along with some additional information and an invoice for the deposit due.

3) RETURN THE PAPERWORK AND PAY THE DEPOSIT

Simply review the registration documents and pay the deposit within 14 days to finalize your booking.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Picturesque Strathisla Distillery on a bright spring day



Whisky Flavors and Aromas

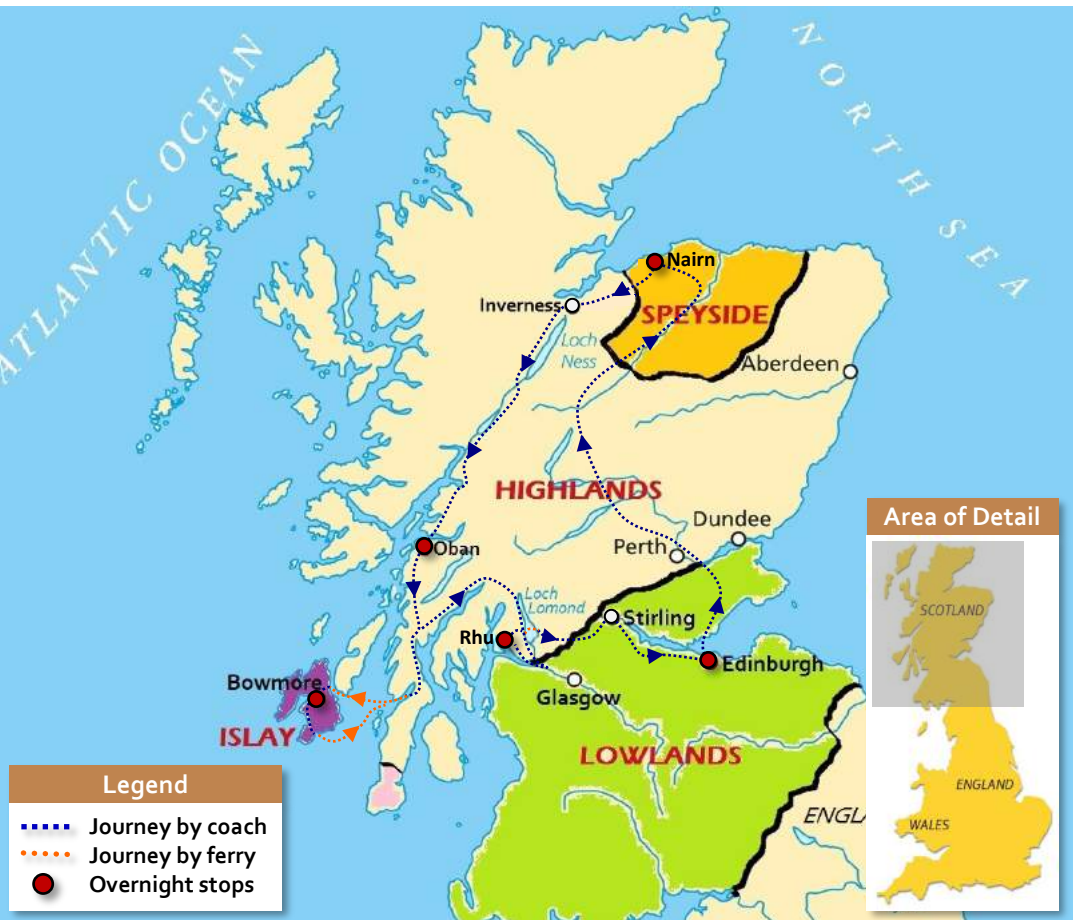
During your sojourn, you have the opportunity to sample nearly 100 different expressions of Scotch whisky and you visit a minimum of 16 distilleries. At each, you are carefully guided through structured nosing and tasting sessions by industry experts. The experience of encountering the contrasting flavors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

As an exclusive, insider's sojourn, the program is limited to a maximum of just 16 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.

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

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC

Sojourn Map



Castle Stalker sits on an islet in Loch Linnhe

POST-SOJOURN EXCURSIONS

Extend your trip and see even more of Scotland with one of our post-sojourn excursions. We list some of the most popular options below, but can also create unique, customized itineraries to match your travel wishes.

ST. ANDREWS AND FIFE

Travel from Edinburgh to stunning St. Andrews where you can play (or walk) the historic Old Course, visit the ancient university, and explore the ruins of the medieval castle.

2 days/2 nights including transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from:

\$199/night/person

ROSSLYN CHAPEL & BORDERS

Travel south from Edinburgh for a night in a 14th-century castle, visit stunning Rosslyn Chapel and the border towns of Melrose and Jedburgh where you explore the stunning medieval abbey ruins. 2 days/2 nights including transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from:

\$249/night/person

EDINBURGH IN DEPTH

Spend two additional days and nights in Edinburgh where you explore the sites of your choice and enjoy a variety of shopping, dining, and nightlife options. 2 days/2 nights including transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from:

\$199/night/person

“We had already been to Scotland on two occasions, however this experience was marvelous and incomparable.”

—Jane M., Wilmington, DE



Glencoe Vista

Sojourn Details & Registration Information

SCOTCH WHISKY IN DEPTH

CHOOSE YOUR DEPARTURE	SOJOURN #	PRICE*
April 7—15, 2019	1221915	\$3,995
May 5—13, 2019	1221919	\$4,395
September 8—16, 2019	1221937	\$4,595
October 20—28, 2019	1221943	\$4,295

*Prices listed above are per person based upon double occupancy. The single-occupancy supplement is \$600 per person for all departures.

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,195/Person*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

*Optional air package includes round-trip, economy airfare from select North American gateways to Edinburgh, airport transfers in Scotland, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

TO REGISTER

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.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deposit due within 14 days of registration: \$500/person
Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

SAVE WITH SOJOURN COMBINATIONS!

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

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns strongly advises all participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

© 2018 Scholarly Sojourns. All rights reserved.

PRICE INCLUDES

Nine-day program of sightseeing, distillery tours, whisky tastings, and presentations led by Ronnie Berri; 8 nights accommodation in select, 3 and 4-star hotels; a masterclass at The Scotch Whisky Experience; 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners and 2 receptions; all entrance fees; the services of a dedicated sojourn director who accompanies the group; ground and water transportation; all other activities described in the day-to-day summary; all gratuities (except for hotel porters).

Included meals indicated in brackets following daily descriptions: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; R = Reception.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare; airport transfers; meals not indicated in the detailed itinerary; beverage options other than provided alcoholic drinks, water, or soft-drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, metro or light rail; 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; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

SOJOURN BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

SOJOURN CONCLUDES

Edinburgh, Scotland

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

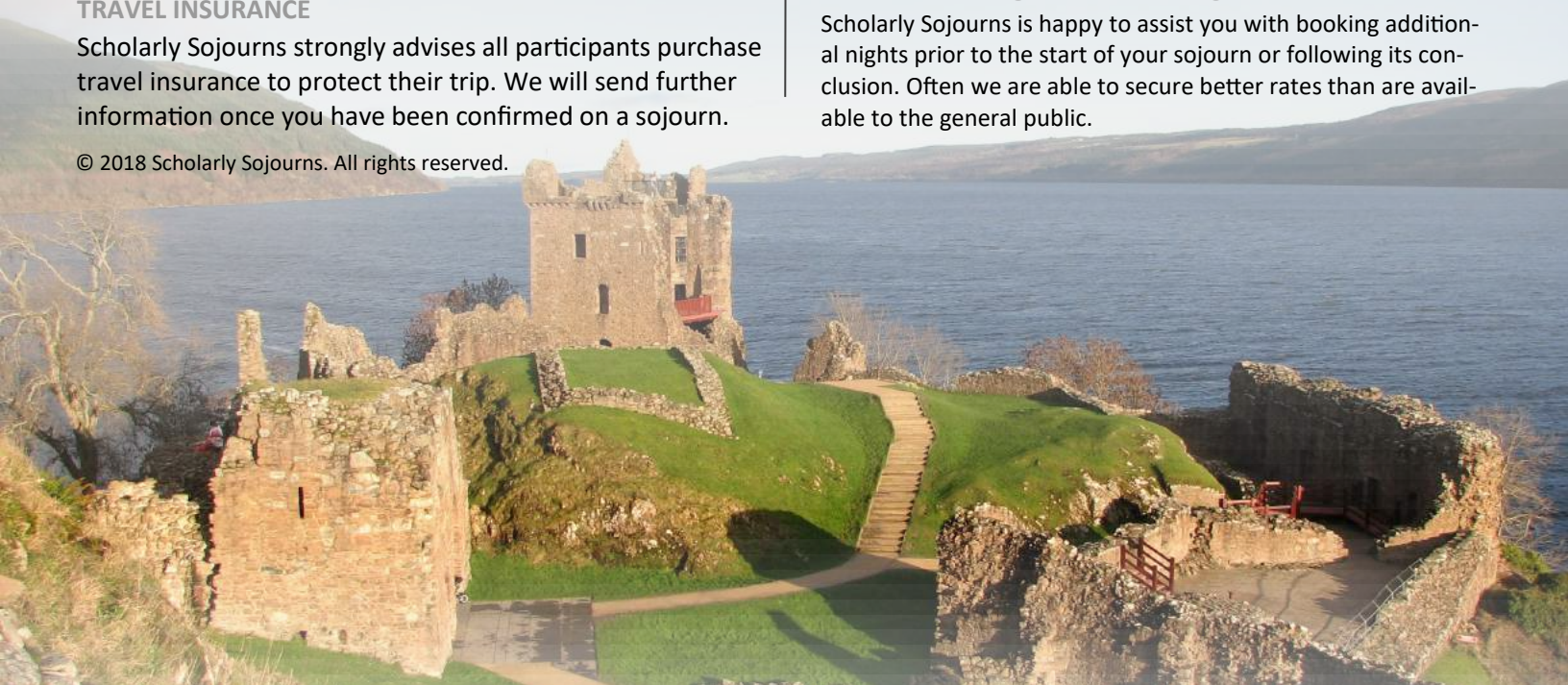
The meeting point for this sojourn is the Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel in Edinburgh. Those making their own travel arrangements should plan to arrive at the hotel between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on the first day of the sojourn. You will be greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns director.

CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

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 or Waverly Train Station.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your sojourn or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public.



SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS | www.scholarlysojourns.com

2723 South State Street · Suite 150 · Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104