

# Scotch Whisky Connoisseur

AN EPIC JOURNEY TO EXPERIENCE THE BEST WHISKIES IN SCOTLAND



AN EPICUREAN  
SOJOURN

ENJOY THE MOST RARE AND UNIQUE SINGLE MALTS

TRAVEL FROM EDINBURGH TO SPEYSIDE, THE HIGHLANDS, THE ISLANDS,  
AND CAMPBELTOWN ON THIS EXPEDITION TO DISCOVER SOME OF THE  
MOST RARE AND UNIQUE EXPRESSIONS OF SINGLE MALT AVAILABLE TODAY

## TOUR DETAILS AT A GLANCE

### 2018 DEPARTURES

March 20—28, 2018

October 30—November 7, 2018

### PRICE

\$6,999/person (double occupancy)

\$7,799/person (single occupancy)

### TOUR BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

### TOUR CONCLUDES

Glasgow, Scotland

### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,095/person\*

\*See back page for details

### TO REGISTER

Call us at 1-800-419-3443 or

Use the [online registration form](#)

CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER ONLINE

### ABOUT EPICUREAN SOJOURNS

These gastronomic journeys explore the world's fine regional foods, wines, spirits, and other artisanal delicacies. Led by industry insiders, including chefs and sommeliers, Epicurean Sojourns always combine hands-on experiences with plentiful opportunities for tasting and enjoying.



Experience insider access and warehouse tastings

© Hector Tamez Photography

## Scotch Whisky Connoisseur

### AN EPIC JOURNEY TO DISCOVER THE BEST WHISKY IN SCOTLAND

Most Scotch Whisky lovers agree that just a sip 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 casks; a cool, crisp, windswept landscape. Indeed, many people admit to beginning a life-long romance with Scotch from their very first taste. And that's exactly what sets this prized spirit apart from others and often stirs such passion in those who partake.

But true whisky aficionados also know that some of the very best whiskies—those rare, single-cask, and well-aged expressions—can only be found close to their source. In fact, many distilleries frequently offer hand-fill opportunities from some of their most prized casks, but one must visit in order to take them up on the offer. In addition, each year, special, exclusive bottlings are released in very limited quantities and, likewise, are only available to those who travel to the distillery.

Join us for this exclusive tour across the land of Scotch Whisky as we travel under the expert guidance of renowned whisky authority Ronnie Berri. This once-in-a-lifetime journey will fill you with a sense of excitement and intrigue as we go in search of the most rare and prized single malts available today. Together we enjoy insider access at distilleries and go into warehouses to sample the treasures we find. Along the way, you acquire six full-size bottles of single-cask and distillery-only whiskies to take home and add to your personal collection. Our experience is heightened further by the evocative settings in which we find ourselves—idyllic and atmospheric Scottish backdrops against which whisky is certainly made to be enjoyed: the shores of picturesque lochs, stunning glens nestled below rugged mountains, windswept peat bogs that smell of salt air, and beside the roaring fireplaces of historic castles and manors.



# Day-to-Day Tour Summary

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN EDINBURGH

Arriving in stunning Edinburgh today, you transfer to the elegant Principal Hotel which is located in the heart of Edinburgh's sophisticated New Town. Your time is free to relax and explore until this evening when we gather with tour leader Ronnie Berri for a special welcome reception and whisky tasting at an exclusive venue coveted by whisky lovers. Afterward, we enjoy a gourmet, 5-course dinner paired with rare and exclusive malts while Ronnie tells us about the tour ahead. [R | D]

## DAY 2

### EDINBURGH TO WICK

Following breakfast, we make an early departure from Edinburgh and travel north across the famous Firth of Forth. Mid-morning, we visit a boutique Highland distillery that is also one of Scotland's most celebrated whisky bottlers. After a warm greeting from the owner, we are offered a special, tutored tasting of several rare cask-strength samples from their collection. Afterward, we continue north through the Highlands, stopping for a nice picnic lunch as we admire the stunning scenery of the Cairngorms National Park. This afternoon, we enjoy a warehouse tasting at a celebrated distillery near Inverness. Arriving in the town of Wick this evening, we settle into the elegantly-restored, 15-century castle where we will rest our heads for the next two nights. After some time to relax and explore, we gather for a special dinner together in the castle's ornate dining room. (B | L | D)

## DAY 3

### EXCURSION TO ORKNEY

An early ferry crossing this morning takes us over the North Sea to the legendary Orkney Islands—home to some of the most impressive prehistoric sites in Europe and also two of Scotland's most celebrated distilleries. Upon arrival, we visit Scapa Distillery to sample its unique island malt before we cross the island to explore the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Bridger, and the remarkable Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae. This afternoon, we travel to Kirkwall, the main settlement on Orkney, where we enjoy a true highlight of the tour—a visit to Highland Park Distillery with a tutored tasting of 7 drams from its award-winning range and the oppor-



Bringing in the casks ©Hector Tamez Photography

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

### DAY 1: TUESDAY

March 20/October 30

Tour begins Edinburgh

### DAY 2: WEDNESDAY

March 21/October 31

Edinburgh to Wick

### DAY 3: THURSDAY

March 22/November 1

Excursion to Orkney

### DAY 4: FRIDAY

March 23/November 2

Wick to Speyside

### DAY 5: SATURDAY

March 24/November 3

Day is spent in Speyside

### DAY 6: SUNDAY

March 25/November 4

Speyside to Tarbert

### DAY 7: MONDAY

March 26/November 5

Tarbert to Islay

### DAY 8: TUESDAY

March 27/November 6

Islay to Campbeltown

### DAY 9: WEDNESDAY

March 28/November 7

Campbeltown to Glasgow



Enjoying a fine single malt atop the casks in a warehouse

©Hector Tamez Photography

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Visit sixteen celebrated Scotch Whisky distilleries with special behind-the-scenes access not granted to the general public
- ◆ One night in the beautiful City of Edinburgh with a special opening reception at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society
- ◆ Acquire six full-size bottles of rare, single-cask, and distillery-only whiskies to take home and add to your personal collection
- ◆ Two nights in the picturesque Speyside region – home to over half of Scotland's distilleries
- ◆ Visits to four 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



A whisky tasting perfectly paired with gourmet nibbles

## Day-to-Day Tour Summary

tunity to buy a single-cask expression only available to those who complete this tasting experience. Afterward, we return to the mainland and our atmospheric lodging where the evening is left free for you to explore and dine on your own. [B]

### DAY 4

#### WICK TO SPEYSIDE

We depart Wick and travel south this morning stopping to enjoy an extensive tasting at one of the most acclaimed distilleries in the Highlands. We also have an opportunity to hand-fill a cask-strength bottle of one its select vintages before continuing to Inverness to enjoy a nice break for lunch and exploring. This afternoon we arrive in Speyside where we visit one of Scotland's newest distilleries and learn about their philosophy of producing an artesanal, small-batch spirit. Following our tour here, we are treated to the very special opportunity to sample drams drawn from the private, family casks of the distillery's owners, all of which are vintage Speyside—30 or more years old. This evening we arrive in the picturesque town of Rothes and check into the beautifully-restored Station Hotel where we stay for the next two nights. [B]

### DAY 5

#### SPEYSIDE

We spend the day in Speyside today, enjoying in-depth visits at two of this region's most celebrated distilleries. The first is an iconic Speyside brand where we visit the warehouse and sample some malts directly from the cask before tasting some of it's rare, historic bottlings and have the opportunity to fill our own bottle. After lunch, we travel to a progressive distillery where we enjoy a tasting of some unique peated Speyside malts and intriguing wood finishes. This afternoon we sample some absolutely exquisite, vintage expressions of Speyside malts from one of Scotland's most highly regarded whisky bottlers before returning to our stately hotel in Rothes where the evening is free to dine and explore. [B]

### DAY 6

#### SPEYSIDE TO TARBERT

We visit a nearby Highland distillery this morning, enjoying the opportunity to taste with the charismatic manager and then choose from among its multiple hand-fill selections. Afterward, we travel through the Highlands, making stops along the way to enjoy fine malts in the picturesque surroundings we encounter: beautiful lochs and glens nestled in the shadows of dramatic mountains. This evening we arrive the sea-



# Day-to-Day Tour Summary

side town of Tarbert and check into our unique accommodation for the night: a stunning Victorian manor house that has been painstakingly transformed into an elegant hotel. After time to relax and unwind, we gather for a special dinner together. [B | D]

## DAY 7

### TARBERT TO ISLAY

We set out early this morning and travel to the nearby ferry port at Kennacraig where we embark for the morning 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. Following our arrival, we visit two of the island's eight celebrated distilleries where we are treated to an extensive tastings, one with the distillery manager. This evening we check into the island's newest hotel and enjoy a whisky-and-food pairing dinner together.

## DAY 8

### ISLAY TO CAMPBELTOWN

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, we gather for one final dinner together in the hotel's classic restaurant. [B | R | D]

## DAY 9

### CAMPBELTOWN TO GLASGOW

We visit Campbeltown's two main distilleries—Glen Scotia and Springbank—today as well as go inside the warehouses of Scotland's oldest whisky bottler, Cadenhead's. Each of these experiences affords superb tasting opportunities as well as unique opportunities to hand fill bottles of rare single malt and also acquire exclusive, distillery-only bottlings. Before departing Campbeltown, we enjoy a very special lunch—the Campbeltown Platter—which features some of the excellent local seafood paired with whisky. Afterward, we take a short flight from Campbeltown to Glasgow where our tour draws to a close. [B | L]



A warehouse dramming

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

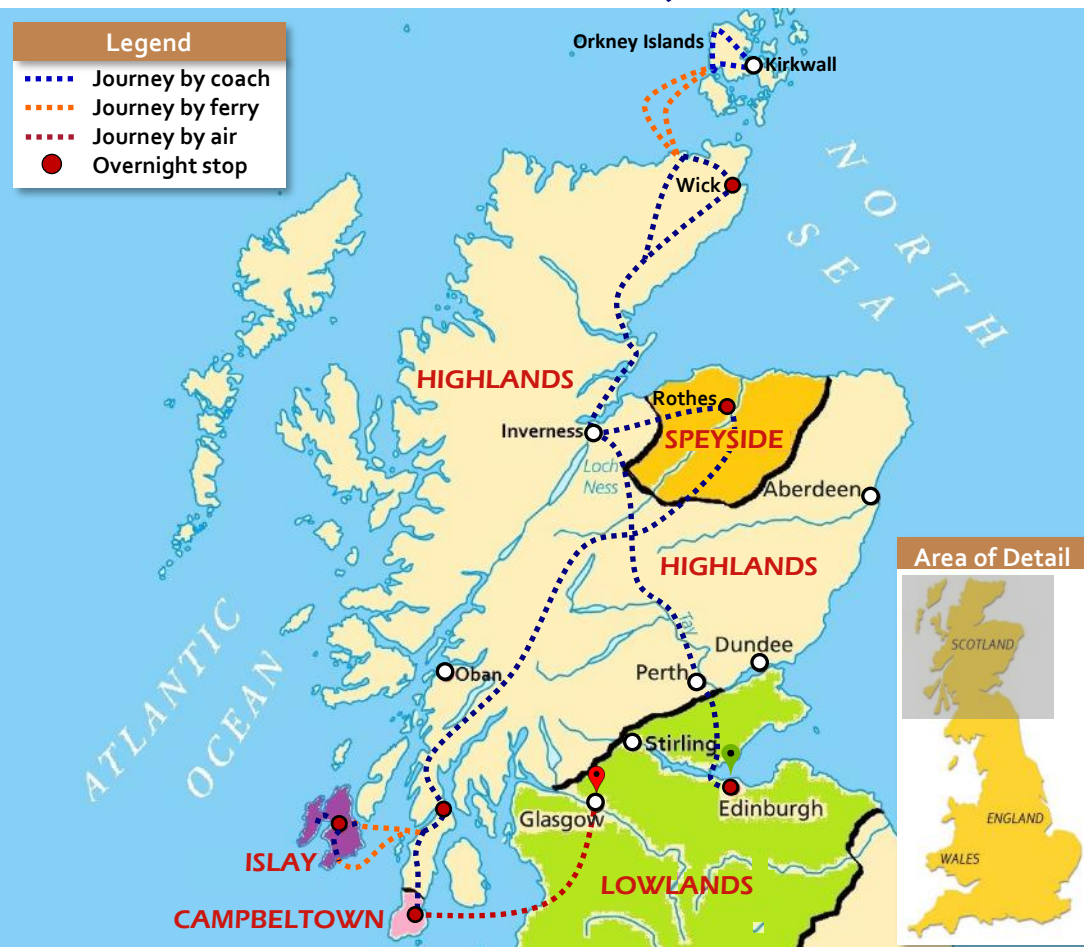
- ◆ Travel to all five whisky-producing regions of Scotland with tastings at historic distilleries in each
- ◆ Two gourmet whisky-and-food-pairing dinners featuring the best of traditional Scottish cuisine
- ◆ An excursion to the Orkney Islands to visit the two most northerly distilleries in Scotland
- ◆ 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



Enjoy whisky in the most idyllic settings, including on the pier at Ardbeg



# Tour Map



Glenmorangie stillhouse ©Hector Tamez Photography

## DISTILLERIES WE VISIT

EDRADOUR  
GLENFIDDICH  
GORDON MACPHAIL  
HIGHLAND PARK  
BALBLAIR  
TOMATIN  
BRUICHLADDICH  
ARDBEG  
LAGAVULIN  
BOWMORE  
SPRINGBANK  
GLEN SCOTIA  
CADENHEAD'S  
ABERLOUR  
BALLINDALLOCH  
GLENMORANGIE

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

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC



Experience exclusive warehouse tastings at historic distilleries

©Hector Tamez Photography

## A NOTE ABOUT THE DISTILLERIES

The focus of this tour is to lead you to opportunities where you can sample and acquire the best rare, limited editions of single malts currently available. No list of distilleries published far in advance, therefore, will be entirely accurate. We reserve the right to revise this itinerary based upon availability and offerings at the time of the tour.



# Select Lodging



## The Principal - Edinburgh

This luxury hotel—ideally situated between Edinburgh’s Old and New Towns and just steps from Waverly train station—was previously known as the George Hotel. Each of its sophisticated rooms is individually decorated to retain old-world charm, yet provide the comfort and amenities of a world-class hotel.



## The Station Hotel - Rothes

Located in the picturesque town of Rothes, the Station 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 shops, restaurants, and whisky bars.



## Ackergill Tower Hotel - Wick

A striking 15th-century castle that overlooks Wick Bay, Ackergill Tower provides traditional and elegant rooms set in 32 acres of grounds. The rooms show original features and all boast stunning views. The spectacular wood-panelled dining hall and other public rooms provide an elegant setting for a relaxed getaway to the Highlands.

For a complete list of lodging on this tour, please visit [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com).



## YOUR TOUR LEADER

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.



Turning the malt at Highland Park Distillery, Orkney

©Hector Tamez Photography

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

-Paula F., Travel Agent,  
Mahwah, NJ



# Tour Details & Registration Information

## SCOTCH WHISKY CONNOISSEUR

### 2018 DEPARTURES:

March 20—28, 2018 (Sojourn #1291812)

October 30—November 7, 2018 (Sojourn #1291844)

### PRICE:

\$6,999/Person (Double Occupancy)

\$7,799/Person (Single Occupancy)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### TOUR BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

### TOUR CONCLUDES

Glasgow, Scotland

### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,095/Person\*

\*Air package includes round-trip, economy airfare, 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](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)**—Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$1000/person deposit

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all of our tour participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

© 2017 Scholarly Sojourns. All rights reserved.

### PRICE INCLUDES

Nine-day program of distillery visits, tastings, sightseeing, and presentations led by Ronnie Berri, 6 full-size (70 cl) bottles of hand-filled and distillery-only single malts (chosen by the tour leader), 8 nights accommodation, in select, 4 and 5-star hotels, 7 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; 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

### MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting point for this tour is The Principal Hotel in Edinburgh. Those making their own travel arrangements should plan to arrive at the hotel between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM on the first day of the tour. You will be greeted there by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who will assist you with check in.

### CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

Your tour concludes at approximately 6:00 PM on the final day, when the group arrives at Glasgow Airport. An optional shuttle will be offered for those wishing to travel to Edinburgh Airport or Central Edinburgh.

### 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.



**SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS** | [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)

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