

## Rabbie's Special Interest Tour - 2019

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Our themed tour includes all accommodation, lunch at the exclusive Scotch Malt Whisky Society and a knowledgeable and enthusiastic specialist guide who will bring your tour to life, showing you an insight into unique areas of Scotland with its rich history and local produce.

### Tour from Edinburgh

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**Islay, Edinburgh & Speyside Whisky Holiday      8 Day Tour      From £969.00**

Combining our two specialist whisky tours, this 8 Day Tour is a must for all Scotch whisky enthusiasts. Explore the distilleries of the Isle of Islay and immerse yourself in their distinctive peaty aromas. This tour returns to Edinburgh where you will experience a lunch at the exclusive members club of The Scotch Malt Whisky Society before heading on your next tour to Speyside, home to the greatest number of distilleries of any of the whisky producing areas of Scotland. Speyside's light, sweet single malts are a great contrast to the peaty Islay whiskies.

*(Includes a whisky lunch & all accommodation).*

**Islay, Edinburgh & Speyside Whisky Holiday**

**8 days**

		Rates GBP £			
				Adult	Child
3 nights	4 nights				
RO shared <sup>1</sup>	B&B shared			969.00	n/a
RO single <sup>1</sup>	B&B Single			1,311.00	
RO shared <sup>1</sup>	B&B shared m			1,029.00	n/a
RO single <sup>1</sup>	B&B Single m			1,371.00	
RO shared <sup>1</sup>	B&B shared			1,085.00	n/a
RO single <sup>1</sup>	B&B Single			1,427.00	
August Supp	Double			82.00	n/a
	Single			138.00	

**Departure Information**

**Friday** - 05/04/19 - 25/10/19  
(except 31/05/19)

Departs: **08.30** Returns: **18.30**

**Which tours is made up of?**

Islay & the Whisky Coast - **4DISLAY**  
Speyside Whisky Trail - **3DSPEY**

**(Includes a free day in Edinburgh)**

**Key:**

<sup>1</sup> = *Cottage only Accommodation*

*(No hotel package available for this tour.)*

## ISLAY, EDINBURGH & SPEYSIDE WHISKY HOLIDAY

### 8 Day Tour from Edinburgh

#### DAY 1

Leaving Edinburgh you will head west through Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, along Loch Lomond then west through the mountains to the beautiful little village of Inveraray on the banks of Loch Fyne. Here you can perhaps sample some of the local seafood for lunch or just explore the historic town itself. After lunch you will then travel through Argyll and into the ancient Kingdom of Dalriada. There are more than 350 prehistoric monuments within a six-mile radius of the village of Kilmartin. You will stop here to see the mysterious stone circles and standing stones and visit the community museum. From here it is a short drive to Kennacraig where you catch the early evening ferry to Islay. The sail is just over 2 hours and you should look out for wildlife such as dolphins, whales and seabirds. On arrival on Islay it is a short drive to Bowmore for your 3-night stay.

#### DAY 2

A full day exploring Islay. The itinerary today is quite flexible with a mixture of beautiful scenery, white sand beaches, short walks and of course the famous Islay whiskies - renowned for their strong peaty flavours and nurtured by the salty sea air. In the morning you will take the short drive to the west of the island via Saligo Bay for a visit to Kilchoman Distillery (the newest and smallest on the island) with the option of a coastal walk to Machair Bay for any non-whisky lovers. After lunch you will explore the tiny harbour village of Portnahaven (look out for seals) before taking the back roads along the west coast with its lovely sandy bays, on the way back to Bowmore. You will have the chance to visit Bowmore Distillery or just relax and explore the village.

#### DAY 3

Another day in paradise! Today you will explore the southern side of the island, home to the smokiest and peatiest of all whiskies - Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg. You will visit Ardbeg for a tour, tasting and lunch. The restaurant here is a beautiful place to relax and enjoy local produce as well as some



unique whisky. You then follow that up with a visit to Laphroaig or a visit to the ruins of Kildalton Church with its famous 8th Century Celtic Cross. Alternatively we may stop in Bridgend where you could visit the community craft producers at Islay House Square or take a walk through the woods along the nearby River Sorn.

#### DAY 4

This morning you take the ferry back to the mainland then travel up the coast to Oban - a busy harbour town and the main ferry port for the islands. Here we will drop off anyone who is continuing on the Mull, Iona and Isle of Skye extension. The others will have some free time to explore the town, have a late lunch or even pop into Oban Distillery before departing for the return trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh. Return time approx. 20.00 and overnight in Edinburgh. Clients will have to make their own way to the hotel.

#### DAY 5

Is a free day to explore Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland. There are so many options available here - why not take an open top city bus tour to familiarise yourself with the 'old' and 'new' towns of the city. No visit to Edinburgh would be complete without a visit to her medieval castle - sitting on a volcanic plug rising high above the majestic Princes Street Gardens. Or to the hustle and bustle of the city's New Town, and the main thoroughfare awash with designer shops.

Lunch is booked for you at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, a private members club of whisky enthusi-

asts from all over the world. A 2 course lunch will be served in the excellent restaurant, followed by a tasting of 2 special cask whiskies in the members rooms. Overnight again in Edinburgh.

#### DAY 6

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This morning make your way back to the departure point at 09.00 for the next leg of your tour - a three-day Speyside Whisky adventure, starting with the journey north into the Highlands. The first stop will be the historic village of Dunkeld for a short walk through the forest to some atmospheric waterfalls. After lunch in Pitlochry you will make your first distillery visit at Dalwhinnie - the highest distillery in the country and the closest to the source of the River Spey. From here you follow the river north through the Cairngorm National Park to the small town of Grantown on Spey - your base for the next two nights.

#### DAY 7

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A whole day exploring Scotland's most famous whisky region. After a scenic drive towards the coast your first stop of the day will be at the family owned Benromach Distillery for a personalised

tour. From here it is a short distance to Elgin - home to Gordon and MacPhail - one of the world's leading specialist whisky bottlers and suppliers. Their shop has one of the widest selection of malts you will find anywhere. After lunch in Elgin you will travel back up the Spey valley to Aberlour for a visit to the distillery there and time permitting, make a stop at the Speyside Cooperage in nearby Craigelachie. From here we head back to Grantown on Spey.

#### DAY 8

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Takes you through the beautiful Cairngorm Mountains on route back to Edinburgh. In the morning you will explore Glenlivet - not just a distillery but also a beautiful glen with great walks and wonderful wildlife. Later you will pass by the famous Balmoral Castle and stop in the village of Braemar in the heart of the National Park. From here the route south passes over Scotland's highest mountain pass then through Perthshire before arriving back in Edinburgh.

***Please note - itinerary and distillery visits are subject to variation throughout the season and may not be the same described above, however there will always be a minimum of 8 distillery visits during the holiday.***

***No children under the age of 18 years allowed on this tour.***

#### Special Package includes:

3 nights' accommodation at the Bowmore Cottages in Bowmore with complimentary self-service continental breakfast ingredients (for details please see notes on Islay Tour on Page 24 of the Edinburgh section); Ferry crossings as per programme; 2 nights accommodation in Edinburgh at a 3 star hotel centrally located including breakfast; Lunch at the SMWS (2 course meals & coffee); 2 nights accommodation in Speyside at a 3 star B&B/Guest House including breakfast.

No children under the age of 18 years allowed on this tour.

Not included: entrances.

Low season price available on request.