

# The Spirit of Scotland



Scotland.  
Welcome to our life.



## Your Detailed Itinerary

The Spirit of Scotland

### Day 1

Enjoy the views over Loch Lomond after departing Glasgow on your drive to the west by the A83. Turn west from the loch shores for the climb to the Pass called the Rest and Be Thankful. Then it's a downhill journey to Loch Fyne – a long fjord-like sea-loch that you follow all the way to Tarbert in Kintyre for overnight.

### Day 2

The **Islay** ferry leaves from Kennacraig, a few minutes' drive south of Tarbert. There are many ways to explore the island. The south end has Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg. (The extraordinary carving of the early Christian monument, the Kildalton Cross is also nearby.) Bowmore and Bruichladdich are near the centre, with some wild beaches within easy reach.

### Day 3

Continue your discovery of Islay by way of Kilchoman Distillery, a farm distillery opened only in 2005, towards the western side of the island. Distilleries such as Caol Ila and Bunnahabhain lie to the north-east, on the Sound of Jura, with a visitor centre at Finlaggan on the way that tells the story of Clan Donald, the Lords of the Isles. With so much to see, make sure you're on time for the ferry and return to Kennacraig/Tarbert! (Overnight)

### Day 4

Drive north, enjoying the seaboard views all the way to **Oban**, with its own distillery. Continue north, crossing the Connel Bridge and the Ballachulish Bridge for overnight in Fort William. The town's **Ben Nevis Distillery** features The Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre.

### Day 5

Take the main road north through the Great Glen, admiring the views of Ben Nevis just beyond Fort William. At Invergarry swing west for the journey among the magnificent mountains of Glen Shiel. Look out for the famous views of Eilean Donan Castle before reaching Kyle of Lochalsh and the Skye Bridge. Overnight on Skye at Broadford or Portree.

### Day 6

The **Talisker Distillery** on the shore of Loch Harport is close by the little road that leads to Glenbrittle and offers some of Scotland's best mountain views. After the distillery visit retrace the route back to the Skye Bridge and head eastwards for Inverness. There is a choice of routes here – either back through Glen Shiel then north by Loch Ness, or take the A890 north-east through Glen Carron to Achnasheen. Both routes have superb scenery. Overnight Inverness.

### Day 7

From Inverness go east for Forres and the nearby **Dallas Dhu** preserved distillery. Then follow minor roads south-eastwards to reach the River Spey at Craigellachie, in the heart of 'Scotland's **Malt Whisky Trail**' to see the **Speyside Cooperage**. From there it is a short drive north to Elgin, noted not just for its handsome ruined cathedral but also its whisky shop, Gordon and MacPhail, in the town centre. Overnight Elgin.

### Day 8

Go south-east to Keith and the **Strathisla Distillery**. Then follow the River Spey upstream by the main road (A95) for Aviemore. Nearby, the A9 'the Highland Road' is joined for an easy southward journey to Pitlochry. This popular little Highland resort town features two distilleries: **Edradour** and Blair Athol. Overnight Pitlochry.

### Day 9

Return to Edinburgh by the A9. **The Scotch Whisky Experience** features tutored tastings, guided tours and also has a restaurant featuring whisky (where possible!) in its fine dining menus.

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Scotland's single malt whiskies vary with the landscapes. The whiskies of the west take on the tang of the sea and peat smoke. This contrasts with the flavours of some of the malts produced in the heart of Scotland, especially around the River Spey. Thanks to Scotland's Whisky Embassy programme, you can also find hotels to stay en route where you can tap into the knowledge of the friendly staff and discover even more about Scotland's national drink. For more information go to [www.scotlandwhisky.com](http://www.scotlandwhisky.com)



**1 ISLAY – THE WHISKY COAST** – Scotland's western seaboard whisky trail. Sample it by way of a visit to the island of Islay – enjoyed not just for beaches, wildlife, history and heritage, but also for the eight single malt distilleries waiting to welcome you.



**2 OBAN** – This busy seaboard town and ferry gateway to the isles also has a good selection of shops and places to eat – and Oban Distillery is just a moment's walk from the town centre.



**3 BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY** – In the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, this distillery, founded in 1825, is one of Scotland's oldest. Its visitor centre features the Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis.



**4 TALISKER DISTILLERY, SKYE** – Skye has only one distillery where you can see distillers at work. Talisker has a grand setting on the shores of Loch Harport. Sweet and full-bodied are some of the words describing the product here.



**5 DALLAS DHU** – The best way of getting really close to the distilling process, Dallas Dhu has all the mysterious equipment – the stills, vats, kilns and pipework – but as its preserved and not in use, you can examine it all as closely as you like!



**6 SCOTLAND'S MALT WHISKY TRAIL** – Seven working distilleries, a preserved distillery and a cooperage make up the signposted Malt Whisky Trail. It takes the visitor round some of the most picturesque parts of Moray, close to the River Spey.

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info@digital-map.org  
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**7 SPEYSIDE COOPERAGE** – Many other trades and skills are allied to whisky distilling – including the ancient craft of barrel making at this cooperage in Craigellachie in the heart of Scotland's 'whisky country' around the River Spey.



**8 STRATHISLA** – The Strathisla Distillery is the oldest working distillery in the Highlands. Its location by the River Isla has been associated with distilling for more than two centuries. Strathisla Single Malt Scotch Whisky has a distinctive mellow and honeyed flavour.



**9 EDRADOUR DISTILLERY** – Hand made today as it was over 150 years ago by just three men, devoted to the traditional methods of distilling – only twelve casks a week are produced per week at one of Scotland's smallest distilleries.



**10 THE SCOTCH WHISKY EXPERIENCE** – At the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, a journey through the heritage of whisky. Climb aboard a whisky barrel and learn the fascinating story.