

Whiskies of the West



Scotland.
Welcome to our life.



Your Detailed Itinerary

Whiskies
of the West

Day 1

Start this tour on the Isle of Arran, reached from Ardrossan in Ayrshire. From Brodick, go north round the island to Lochranza. The **Isle of Arran Distillery** is a unique development, linking back to a vanished tradition of Arran distilling.

Bunnahabhain, Caol Ila and Bruichladdich – produce a malt whisky of a lighter character.

From Port Ellen, go east for Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig distilleries. (Take the road a little further to see the superbly carved 8/9th century Kildalton Cross.) Return via Port Ellen for the main road north to Bowmore for the **Bowmore Distillery**.

If time permits, it is also worthwhile visiting the Isle of Jura distillery. (There are also distilleries to visit by Port Askaig, the ferry-pier for Jura.) This wild island contrasts with Islay in only having one road, one hotel and one distillery!

Day 2/3

Lochranza is also the departure point for the ferry to Claonaig, on the mainland in Kintyre. From there it is a short drive north-west to Kennacraig and the ferry for Islay.

Islay has more distilleries than any other Scottish island. Its extensive peat covering and soft water play their part in producing some very distinguished malt whiskies. From distilleries in the south of the island – Lagavulin, Ardbeg and Laphroaig – come some of the most distinctively flavoured whiskies in Scotland, with both peat and (some say) seaweed on the tongue. The distilleries to the north –

Day 4

Return to the mainland and go north from Kennacraig for Oban. Directly below the famous skyline landmark of McCaig's Tower (or Folly) is the local **Oban Distillery**.

Day 5/6

Take the ferry from Oban to Mull, arriving at Craignure. The main town on this island is **Tobermory**, reached from the A849/A848 which has fine views over the Sound of Mull, travelling north-west. Tobermory, spread around its bay, was originally purpose-built from 1787 as a fishing station, with its distillery being built soon afterwards.

From Tobermory a ferry links Kilchoan on Ardnamurchan. Drive east along this beautiful and wild peninsula for Salen, taking the A861 north. This joins the 'Road to the Isles' and leads on to Mallaig, from where you can reach Armadale, in the south of Skye, by ferry.

Day 7/8

Now on Skye, you can reach its only distillery, **Talisker**, by taking the road (A851) up the Sleat peninsula. (There are superb views of the Cuillin Hills if you divert round the

coastal loop through the crofting village of Tarskavaig.) Then, turn west via Broadford, following the A87 for Sligachan. Again, there are breathtaking views of the Cuillins. At Sligachan the A863 goes over to Loch Harport, with minor roads leading round to the distillery on the west side of the loch.

Day 9

Leave Skye by the Skye Bridge over the Kyleakin Narrows, heading east and south via dramatic Glen Shiel for the Great Glen and Fort William, home of the **Ben Nevis Distillery**.

Day 10

Go east from Fort William through Glen Spean and the A86. If time permits, go north on the A9 for **Tomatin Distillery**, otherwise turn south for **Dalwhinnie Distillery**. The A9 leads on into Perthshire, where the **Blair Athol Distillery** welcomes visitors at Pitlochry.

Day 11

Continuing south, the **Tullibardine Distillery** on the edge of the Ochil Hills south of Perth is an area noted for the pure water running of the hills. Once it was famous for breweries – King James IV purchased the local beer for his coronation in 1488! Tullibardine is noted for producing a light and fruity malt whisky.

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Cover: A fine 'dram' of malt whisky. © Paul Tomkins, VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint
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The tastes and styles of Scotland's whiskies vary with the landscapes. The whiskies of the west, especially of the seaboard, seem to take on the tang of the sea as well as the peaty soil. This tasting tour takes in some of the islands which have distilleries, so that you can compare flavours with some of the malts produced in the heart of Scotland.



1
ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY – One of Scotland's few remaining independent distilleries, it opened in 1995 to distil the first malt whisky on Arran for 150 years.



2
BOWMORE DISTILLERY – Its proximity to the edge of the sea contributes to the pronounced taste of its whisky. It has been here since 1779 making it one of the oldest in Scotland.



3
OBAN DISTILLERY – The distillery here dates from 1794 and claims to be older than the town itself! Its malt whisky has a famously smooth finish.



4
TOBERMORY DISTILLERY – Mull's only distillery, founded in 1798, produces a single malt bottled under its old name, Ledaig. There is a good circular 9.66km (6 miles) walk just west of Tobermory through open forest to the rocky coast at Ardmore Bay.



5
TALISKER DISTILLERY – Skye has only one distillery, Talisker, on the shores of Loch Harport. The whisky is described as sweet and full-bodied.



6
BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY – Whisky has been distilled here since 1825. Tours, tasting and the 'Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis'.



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0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers
0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

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7
TOMATIN DISTILLERY – One of the largest malt whisky distilleries in Scotland, thought to be built on a very ancient distilling site, much patronised by cattle-drovers long ago.



8
DALWHINNIE DISTILLERY – This is Scotland's highest distillery at 1069ft (326m) and was originally an inn serving travellers and cattle-drovers before they crossed the Pass of Drumochter to the south.



9
BLAIR ATHOL DISTILLERY – This distillery in the town of Pitlochry was founded in 1798 and features a mellow, fruity flavour and smooth finish to its 12-year-old single malt product.



10
TULLIBARDINE DISTILLERY – Becoming independent in 2003, the distillery is built on the site of the Scotland's oldest brewery dating back to the 12th century.