

untold story

THE ART OF WHISKEY

SPEYSIDE & ISLAY
2021

INTRODUCTION

THE ART OF WHISKY SPEYSIDE AND ISLAY

Explore the wild, untamed beauty of the Scottish Highlands, revered for stunning, natural landscapes, vast skies and home to some of the finest whisky distilleries in the world.

Your voyage of discovery begins in Moray Speyside, tucked between the rugged Highlands and the fertile pastures of Aberdeenshire, Speyside takes its name from the clear waters of the River Spey, the jewel in Scotland's salmon fishing crown.

Arguably the most famous of Scotland's whisky producing regions, this beautiful area of sheltered glens and mountain-fed streams is home to more than half of Scotland's distilleries including Glenfiddich, Glenlivet and The Macallan.

From Speyside your journey continues to the islands of Islay and Jura. These spectacular Southern Hebridean islands are best known for their smoky, peaty whiskies, regarded by many as the best in the world. Enveloped by wild, deserted beaches and watched over by soaring mountain peaks, this is Scotland at its very best.

The details found within are a broad-brush outline of potential experiences. They should be viewed as a suggestion from which we can work with you to craft your own unique and memorable journey.



YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You'll be met on arrival at Inverness Airport by your personal driver/guide and transferred to Speyside for 2 nights. • Depending on your arrival time, there will be a visit to Eight Lands Distillery. Whilst not a whisky distillery, this award-winning, organic spirit producer sits in the shadow of the mighty Ben Rinnes mountain and is a great addition to your Scottish experience. Enjoy a tour of Glenrinnes Organic Estate with the estate manager, followed by a tutored Eight Lands spirit tasting and tour of the Glenrinnes Distillery with the team. • After a light lunch with your choice of tipple from Eight Lands Spirits you'll be driven back to your hotel. If preferred we can arrange a 3 course lunch served in the tasting room hosted by the Head of Distilling. • To round off your first day a range of additional activities can be enjoyed this afternoon including clay pigeon shooting and ArgoCat driving. • Enjoy dinner at your hotel this evening. A bespoke whisky tasting can be arranged if desired 	Seafield Arms
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your destination this morning is The Macallan. This legendary estate was established in 1824 and today is home to what is often regarded as one of the finest single malt whiskies in the world. A visit to The Macallan is so much more than just a whisky tasting. It's an understanding of the heritage and craftsmanship that makes The Macallan unique. A telling of stories and revelations of characters from the past that have made The Macallan what it is today. • To explore The Macallan fully we have an incredibly special choice of experiences for you. The first is The Macallan Distillery Experience. Here you'll be immersed in the history of the estate, starting on arrival with a dram of their finest single malt. You'll then enjoy an exclusive, private tour of the distillery. A two-course lunch follows a fully guided 'nosing and tasting' in the Cave Privee. This experience concludes with an exclusive whisky flight in The Macallan Bar – which boasts fabulous panoramic views and a private shopping experience in The Macallan boutique. • Alternatively, you can opt for the wonderful Macallan Estate Experience. This tour showcases the beautiful landscape and wildlife on its doorstep. After a welcome whisky at Easter Elchies House - The Macallan's spiritual home, you'll take a drive through breath-taking scenery to Warehouse 7. From here you'll journey down to the banks of the River Spey and on to The Macallan Fishing Lodge for a dram with the Ghillie. On arrival at the distillery a fully guided nosing and tasting experience is followed by lunch. A private shopping experience completes the day. • This afternoon we have an interesting array of experiences enabling you to explore Scotland's heritage a little more. Choose from the following activities:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bespoke VIP of cashmere producers, Johnstons of Elgin with an indulgent afternoon tea. - Guided VIP tour with a cooper of Speyside Cooperage. - Personal experience of Pluscarden Abbey, a medieval monastery. A beautiful retreat - we can arrange for you to dine with the monks or attend a service. - Family guided exclusive tour of Ballindalloch Castle and Gardens with Guy Macpherson-Grant • Enjoy dinner at your hotel this evening. 	Seafield Arms

YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a leisurely breakfast there is time to enjoy another of the experiences from yesterday afternoon before checking out. Alternatively, we can arrange for a VIP visit to the small but beautiful and perfectly formed Strathisla Distillery where you can try your hand at blending your own whisky. After lunch, you'll continue to Fonab Castle, the overnight stop en-route to Islay. Nestled in the heart of Highland Perthshire, Fonab is surrounded by stunning scenery. This truly is the perfect place to break your journey. Depending on your planned arrival time we can organise an afternoon activity, or we'd recommend just relaxing and soaking up the atmosphere and beauty of your surroundings. Enjoy a leisurely dinner this evening. Whisky tasting can be arranged if desired. 	Fonab Castle
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Fonab Castle you'll continue onwards to the Kennacraig-Port Askaig ferry crossing to Islay. After checking into Islay House, your home for the next two nights enjoy an Islay distillery experience. There are a few to choose from depending on your preferences however our recommendations would be either Laphroaig, the only distillery to still have floor malting on the island, Bruichladdich (our personal favourite) or Kilchoman, the only independent and farmyard distillery on Islay. All offer very personal and bespoke tours, some with the Master Distiller if available. 	Islay House
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depart for Jura by ferry this morning. This gorgeous, untamed island has an ancient landscape shaped by peaceful lochs and the wild waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Towered over by soaring mountains and known for its superb whisky, the island is home to a local population of just 200, more than 5,000 wild deer and was where George Orwell found the solitude he needed to complete 1984. Enjoy a VIP distillery tour of the island's only distillery, lunch can also be arranged. This afternoon you'll discover the full rugged beauty of Jura with a Rib Tour. You'll see the force of the Corryvrecken Whirlpool, the nesting site for white tailed sea eagles, remote deserted beaches, the Paps of Jura, and an abundance of wildlife. Return by ferry to Islay this evening. 	Islay House
Day 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy a further distillery tour this morning, maybe one of the ones not experienced on day 4 or for a change of pace perhaps do something a little active. Explore with a kayaking experience, a wildlife walking tour or fatbike beach tour. All can be tailored to suit your own preferences. After a relaxed lunch, your driver will escort you to Islay Airport for your flight to Glasgow or Edinburgh 	





YOUR ACCOMMODATION



Seafield Arms, Cullen

Dating back to 1822 the Seafield Arms has always been held in high esteem as an elegant and refined coaching inn.

Rooms are warm and beautifully designed with custom made fabrics and furnishings, reflective of its rich, Scottish heritage and ensuring a memorable stay.

Dining is a contemporary showcase of the fabulous local produce from both the land and sea, matched perfectly by a thoughtfully curated wine cellar. The Findlater Lounge offers the chance to relax with one of over 70 malt whiskies in front of a roaring fire.

This is an elegant, Scottish coaching inn, offering a contemporary, stylish place to stay, whilst remaining true to its roots.

Fonab Castle

Nestled in the heart of Highland Perthshire, Fonab Castle Hotel & Spa is a truly unique five star hotel. Lovingly restored, it draws inspiration from its historic past and breath-taking surroundings whilst adding the odd contemporary twist. It really is 'beyond the ordinary'.

Fonab Castle brings together a captivating past and luxurious present, making it something very special in the heart of Tummel Valley.

Surrounded by breath-taking Ben Vrackie and awe-inspiring Loch Faskally, it boasts commanding views of the stunning Scottish Highland scenery.

With surroundings as stunning as ours, you simply have to have a bedroom to match. From the contemporary Loch View Rooms through to the decadent Castle Penthouse, each one of the 42 bedrooms and suites has been individually designed.

From an evening tipple in the Lounge Bar to celebrated fine dining at Sandeman's, Fonab Castle has a setting for every mood. The Brasserie offers laid back loch-side cuisine, perfect for leisurely lunches or a great spot for whiling away the hours.

It's no surprise that Fonab Castle is a destination for relaxation. With the rising Ben Vrackie mountain and peaceful Loch Faskally at our doorstep, the Woodland Spa is a haven of tranquility.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Islay House Hotel, Islay



With a history dating back to 1677, Islay House is one of the most historic houses in the United Kingdom and has played host to many notable figures in its long history.

The hotel is surrounded by the Bridgend Woods, providing a tranquil and restful home for a myriad of birdlife and a large population of wild deer. Explore your surroundings on one of the many walking trails through the woods or along the banks of the River Sorn.

Rooms are beautifully appointed with views of the sea or across the landscaped grounds and each reflects their unique character and heritage.

As you would expect the dining here is superb with an abundance of local produce to choose from and the hotel's own community garden.

The traditional setting of the Peat Cutters Bar is the ideal spot to watch the sun set over the waters of Loch Indaal with a dram of their fine Islay whisky in hand or perhaps one of the wonderful Hebridean gins also stocked.







INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights at the Seafield Arms
- 1 night at Fonab Castle
- 2 nights at Islay House
- Daily breakfast
- Private airport transfers and a dedicated driver and luxury vehicle throughout
- The following experiences during your trip:
 - Guided VIP tour of Eight Lands Distillery
 - Private Macallan Distillery experience with lunch and exclusive whisky flight

Alternatively...

- Exclusive Macallan Estate experience with curated 3 course lunch with wine pairings
 - VIP Islay distillery experience with lunch
 - Exclusive Jura distillery tour with lunch
 - Afternoon Jura Rib tour tailored to your interests
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- Choice from the following additional experiences:
 - Bespoke VIP tour at exclusive cashmere producers, Johnstons of Elgin
 - Guided VIP tour with a cooper at Speyside Cooperage
 - Personal visit to Pluscarden Abbey
 - Family guided exclusive tour of Balindalloch Castle and Gardens
 - Exclusive tour of Strathsila Distillery and the opportunity to blend your own whisky
 - 24/7 local support throughout your trip

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