



## EDINBURGH

# TASTE OF SCOTLAND - FROM SCOTCH TO BEER

EDINBURGH, PITLOCHRY, GLASGOW, BELFAST, DUBLIN, WICKLOW - 11 Days/10 Nights

### ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** This morning arrive into Edinburgh airport, meet your expert driver and English speaking guide. Enjoy a panoramic city tour of Edinburgh.

Discover Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, with a panoramic city tour. From the historical closes of the Old Town to the largest avenues of New Town, explore an outstanding city of contrasts and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along its main thoroughfare, Princes Street, you will witness the most unique sight of Edinburgh Castle, majestically dominating both Old and New Town. See Calton Hill and its National Monument, rightfully giving Edinburgh its nickname, the "Athens of the North."

Visit Scotch Whisky Experience - Gold Tour

The new Scotch Whisky Experience for a sensational journey! Take a swirling, buggling barrel ride through a replica distillery as you become part of the whisky making process. Along the way you'll hear the stories behind this magical craft, with expert tour guides and flavours that appeal to your palate and lead you to your perfect single Malt Whisky. Become a member of our Scotch Whisky Appreciation Society and compare and contrast four regional single malts whilst relaxing in our beautiful McIntyre Gallery. Assisted by our experienced guides, and provided with tasting notes, you'll be able to sip like a true connoisseur, and compare the regions to find your perfect dram. Check into your hotel.

This evening, enjoy a group private dinner at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. Origin-

nally an 18th century residence, 28 Queen street continues to welcome and entertain guests in elegant Scottish fashion. The grand property boasts geometric Georgian architecture with breathtaking views over the waters of the Firth of Forth. Our brand new Members' exclusive lounge takes pride of place on the 1st floor along with 3 private function rooms available for both our members and non members to privately hire. Each of our bars boast over 200 rare single malts from across Scotland, which can be paired with the finest craft beers, artisanal spirits and wines. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area.

**Day 2:** Edinburgh Castle, Afternoon Tea and Kilts

This morning we will visit Edinburgh





## PITLOCHRY

Castle. Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a strong hold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across the City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbound with its wonderful story. Visit Georgian House for Afternoon Tea. The north side of Charlotte Square in Edinburgh his Robert Adam's masterpiece of urban architecture. The Georgian House, with its elegant furnished interior, is located at No. 7 Charlotte Square. A heady vision of sweeping crescents, broad boulevard and elegant squares, the New Town of Edinburgh offered wealthy citizens in the late 18th century a means of escape from the overcrowded tenements of the Old Town. The house has been magnificently re-

stored to show a typical Edinburgh New Town House of the late 18th to early 19th century. The fine collection of period furniture, porcelain, silver and glass reflects the lifestyle and social and economic conditions of the time. To end the day, meet with a Kilt maker and Bagpiper.

Dive into extensive knowledge about the rich history of tartan and kiltmaking while enjoying a traditional ram, Gordon will welcome you in his exclusive workshop located in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. The kiltmaker will talk you through the beginnings of tartan, how kilts were introduced and how they became such a proud part of Scottish heritage. Finally, you can immerse yourself in Scottish culture by trying out Gordon Nicolson's quality kilts firsthand! A fantastic chance to wear a kilt and receive professional advice from your private kiltmaker! Listen to a piper play the bagpipes. A unique opportunity to meet an ex Pipemajor of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and get your first bagpipes masterclass. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area. **(B, D)**

### Day3: Edinburgh - Pitlochry

This morning we will depart from Edinburgh for Pitlochry. En-route, visit Highland Chocolatier. Known as The Highland Chocolatier, Iain Burnett is an award-winning artisan based in the heart of the Scottish mountains. Iain hand-makes all sorts of luxury spiced pralines and dipped fruits, but it's the world's finest Velvet Truffles which have brought him to worldwide recognition as a Master Chocolatier and Truffle Specialist. Iain Burnett's Velvet Truffles have won over 40 prestigious awards ranging from Academy of Chocolate Awards Gold, to Great Taste Awards Triple Gold, to Scotland Food & Drink's Product of the Year, to World Gold at the International Chocolate Awards- twice! Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.

Continue to Blair Athol Distillery Established in 1798, Blair Athol Distillery is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. Blair Athol Distillery stands at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, and produces a 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky with mellow deep-toned aromas,





## GLASGOW

a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish. You can see the distillers utilising the most valuable of local resources, the crystal clear waters of the Allt Dour. After absorbing a few secrets of the distillers' art on a leisurely conducted tour, you can mull over the distinctive character of the finished article as you sip your complimentary dram. Possibility to include a behind the scenes tour or meet and greet with operator, strictly subject to availability. Check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Pitlochry. **(B, D)**

### Day 4: Pitlochry to Glasgow

This morning, we will depart for Glasgow. En-route, visit the Haggis Experience to enjoy a Haggis Masterclass. Discover the origins of haggis and the unique local ingredients that make it so delicious. The Master Haggis Maker will explore the spices with you as you blend your own mix to create your very own Haggis. While the Haggis cooks, learn about how to perfect the traditional accompaniments while a Boozy Whisky Cream is prepared. \*Three hour experience.

Continue to Glasgow and visit Tennent's

Brewery - Craft Beer Masterclass. Wellpark Brewery is home to more than 450 years of brewing tradition and award winning beers, a heritage that began in 1556 when Robert Tennent was a private brewer and maltman based near Glasgow Cathedral. Today, Tennent's Lager is Scotland's leading lager and the oldest ongoing commercial operation in Glasgow. The tour takes visitors through the process from refining the ingredients to mashing, malting, brewing, kegging, bottling and canning. Once guests see the brewing and packaging process, they can enjoy a complimentary pint of Tennent's Lager on the premises. In the T Room visitor area, there is an opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of one of Scotland's most loved brands and discover a rare collection of Tennent's Lager packaging. Enjoy an expert lead experience who will share their knowledge of beer during a 2-hour masterclass that features an array of Scottish and international beers with complimentary food pairings. Check into your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Glasgow or area. **(B)**

### Day 5: Glasgow to Ireland

This morning after breakfast we will depart from Glasgow. Journey South to catch the ferry at Cairnryan. Upon arrival in Belfast enjoy a Black Cab City Tour. Enjoy the Famous Black Cab Tours of Belfast. Experience over a decade of history and see Belfast political murals. Experience the city as you learn about local life and how Belfast has developed from its historical sites, including the Political Murals and Peace Lines, Crumlin Road Jail and Court House, the City Hall, Albert Memorial Clock, Crown Liquor Saloon and Titanic. Check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area. **(B, D)**

### Day 6: Day Excursion to Montalto Estate and Shortcross Gin

Visit Montalto Estate - Walking tour with "Lord Moira" with lunch

This majestic and magnificent estate re-opened to the public in 2018. Be enchanted by these mystical natural surroundings as you stroll through the vast and beautiful ancient woodlands. Be greeted by Lord Moira who will give you an introduction to the rich history of Montalto Estate. Explore the grandeur of



the 18th century Georgian mansion with its wonderful collection of original art and antiques. Discover the main rooms of the house such as the rebuilt eat wing, the Lady's Sitting Room with its original plastered ceilings by Robert West and the Chinese Room, the perfect complement to the fresh lunch that awaits you. Continue to Shortcross Gin Distillery Rademon Estate in Co. Down is one of the oldest historic estates in Ireland and a haven in a unique setting. Since 2014, they have been distilling Shortcross Gin on the estate, proudly Northern Ireland's first craft gin and now the most awarded gin in the island of Ireland. Shortcross is an aromatic and exceptionally smooth gin: its unique flavour profile is created using fresh apples, elderflowers, elderberries and wild clover harvested on the estate, distilled alongside classic gin botanicals. Guests are welcomed from all over the world to explore the unique working distillery and visitors centre. Today we suggest taking part in an exclusive tour and tasting experience, which will unlock some of the secrets and skills that go into creating Shortcross. David Boyd-Armstrong, the head distiller, will talk you through the fascinating process; from how we harvest local botanicals, draw fresh water from the distillery well, distil on a bespoke copper pot still and bottle and label the finished product on site. Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area. Return to the hotel, overnight.

**(B, L)**

**Day 7: Best of Belfast.** This morning visit Titanic Museum. Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch,

the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four 'ship's hull' shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. Enjoy a group lunch at Ballyscullion Park. Continue to visit Giants Causeway Encounter Northern Ireland's favourite giant Finn McCool at the new Giants Causeway Visitor centre on the North Antrim coast which opened in the summer of 2012. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner!

The new Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. There are various interactive exhibits and short video presentations within five designated interpretive exhibition areas and the self-guided visit will culminate with a spectacular two minutes audio-visual projection of a volcanic eruption flowing over the walls and onto the floor. Other services and facilities include a large craft and souvenir shop, Tourist Information and restaurant. To enhance the wider visitor experience around the site, a hand held audio guide is available in a range of languages which will bring the wider World Heritage Site to life and inform visitors of unique features to look out for across this amazing landscape. Guided tours of the site are also available. The walks and trails around the World Heritage Site have been upgraded,

with the addition of a new accessible cliff top walk for families and people with disabilities. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveler magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant's Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area. **(B)**



#### **Day 8 – Belfast to Dublin**

This morning we will depart from Belfast. Visit Tracey for a Cooking Experience Based in Comber, County Down on the shores of Strangford Lough, Tracey Jeffrey has a beautiful traditional cottage where she provides a traditional Irish bread making experience. The session starts with a traditional Irish Fruit Soda Cake, a sweet treat and delicious with lots of homemade Irish butter. While the Fruit Soda Cake is baking in the stove oven, guests will make some potato bread (or fudge as it is known locally). Fillings of scallions or cheese can be added to the potato mix. Soda bread will also be made, with various alternative ingredients, including treacle, currants, sultanas or cinnamon. Tray-bakes are a typical sweet treat from Northern Ireland, and are delicious served with tea or coffee. Guests will take home a bag filled with their handmade products and all of the recipes. Tracey also offers various day trips in Northern Ireland and she has an in-depth knowledge of where to find great local producers, where guests will hear their story and taste their produce. Guests will sample foods as varied as





## WICKLOW POWERSCOURT GARDENS

single estate whiskey to artisan dulce wheaten bread. Visit Armagh Cider Company . The Troughton family have been growing apples there for four generations since 1898 and all their products are made 'from blossom to bottle' on the home farm located in the unique micro climate of Portadown. Experience a guided tour and immersive experience, where guests literally walk into 'A Day in the life of Armagh Cider Company'. This experience offers them the opportunity to learn of the importance of the apple industry, the relevance of PGI status to the Armagh Bramley Apple, the processes involved in apple growing, storage, processing and packaging. Finish up with a cider tasting.

Continue to Dublin and check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area. **(B, D)**

### Day 9: Best of Dublin

This morning after breakfast we will explore Dublin. Visit Guinness Storehouse The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been

marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, "Five" at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy's where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomic experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce. Menus include local foods such as Ardsallagh goat's cheese, Irish mussels from Carlingford and the Waterford Blaas bread supplied by MD Bakery in Waterford. This area will host from time to time live cooking demonstrations using Guinness in the recipe and it includes an interactive recipe sharing bank that allows visitors to take Guinness recipe cards home. \*Possible to include a special guided tour here. Strictly subject to availability. Enjoy Experience Gaelic Games. With Experience Gaelic Games, visitors take part in a unique and integral part of Irish culture and heritage, such as traditional Gaelic games and dances. The experience is brought alive by a team of passionate ambassadors/coaches. Visitors can learn the games, and operators will coach and instruct them in the skills, then let them play mini-matches, take part in team building activities or sit back and watch. This evening take part in a Musical Pub

Crawl. This musical visit of pubs in Dublin is told by two professional musicians, who will explain the history of Irish music as well as its influence on contemporary music, all while playing traditional airs, and allowing guests to discover typical Irish songs. You will move from pub to pub in the company of the musicians. Each of the pubs is reserved for the group, and there is access to a private bar. The pubs are located close to each other in the Temple Bar area. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area. **(B)**



### Day 10: Day Excursion to Wicklow

This morning after breakfast we will depart to explore Wicklow. Visit Wicklow Way Winery The first fruit winery in Ireland, Wicklow Way Winery produces delectable wines made from blackberry, strawberry, and raspberry under the brand Moinéir Fine Irish Fruit Wine. Having first tasted fruit wine whilst living in California, the owners Pam and Brett returned to Ireland in 2013 to realise their dream of producing beautiful wines from





## BELFAST

the fruits of the wine in a sustainable manner, with a focus on using environmentally friendly processes from berry to bottle with individual handwritten labels. Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.

Continue South and visit Haydens Family Farm and enjoy a Baileys Tasting Located in the beautiful Wicklow countryside is Hayden's Family Farm. Enjoy a guided farm tour on the 175 hectare farm where their 140 cow dairy herd produces milk for Baileys Irish Cream. In 2002 the farm was chosen as the international 'Vineyard' for the world's number one cream liqueur and now plays host to the many visitors who wish

to visit the natural home of Baileys and learn how they have introduced sustainable farming techniques. Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability. Return back to Dublin and enjoy a free evening. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

Day 11: Farewell, transfer to Dublin Airport for your return flight home.

