

Scotland

Islay and the Highlands 30th June - 6th July 2025





What to expect

Islay, once home of the MacDonald 'Lords of the Isles, is famous for the malt whiskies from its 8 distilleries as well as for its farming, bird life, fishing and shooting. Hills, moors and machair (fertile ground near the coast) are edged around by an infinitely varied coast, with rocks, beaches and dunes, salt marshes and cliffs.

Islay's natural resources - fertile soil, extensive peat bogs and wonderful soft peaty water - mixed with sea breezes and traditional distilling processes, produce the most easily distinguishable of all malt whiskies with many devotees worldwide. Islay has eight malt whisky distilleries. The distilleries in the south of the island, like Lagavulin produce the most strongly flavoured, phenolic whiskies in Scotland.

The Highlands of Scotland is one of the most scenic parts of the British Isles and July is a time to see it in its splendour. The stunning scenery coupled with the visits and quality local food is a fine combination.



Highlights

- Lunch at Loch Fyne Oyster bar
- Visits or tastings at 6 whisky distilleries (Bowmore, Lagavulin, Oban, Dalwhinnie, Glenlivet, Macallan)
- · Fine dinners in Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Visit to Inverary Castle
- Visit Islay Woolen Mill
- · Visit the Highland Chocolatier

All visits are provisional and may be subject to change



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Islay and Speyside 30th June - 6th July 2025

Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Mon 30th June Meet at the wonderful 5* Blythswood Square Hotel, set in Glasgow's most iconic address in the heart of the city. You'll have time to explore Glasgow before we'll have dinner in Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant Ox and Finch. D

Day 2. Tue 1st July Travel along Loch Lomond, through the Arrochar Alps and along Loch Fyne to Inveraray where we visit Inveraray Castle before a lunch at Loch Fyne Oyster Bar. After lunch we continue our journey along Loch Fyne to Kennacraig for the 15:40 ferry to Islay. Check in to the Port Charlotte hotel. Dinner at the hotel. B/L/D

Day 3. Wed 2nd July After breakfast we make our way to the Islay Woollen Mill. Famous for producing garments for films such as Braveheart, Rob Roy and Forest Gump, this family run company create their own designs and weave them on their own looms, which date from Victorian times.

From here its on to the famous Bowmore Distillery which was formed in 1779 and is Islay's oldest distillery. Here we are treated to a tasting from the casks. We have a lunch in the village at the delightful Bowmore Inn just across the road.

After lunch we're off to with a tour of the Lagavulin Distillery. We return to the hotel and the evening is free. **B/L**

Day 4. Thur 3rd July Take the 10:05 ferry back to the mainland. Make our way to the bustling seaside port of Oban where we enjoy lunch overlooking the harbour. Tasting at Oban distillery before a scenic drive along Loch Linnhe, to the Cruachan Hotel in Fort William. Free evening. B/L

Day 5. Fri 4th July After breakfast and it's a spectacular drive through the Highlands of Scotland to Speyside. A day of Scotch whisky and fine food awaits. We go to the Dalwhinnie Distillery, Scotland's highest distillery and have a tasting of classic single malts paired with highland chocolates. We have lunch at the quaint Old Bridge restaurant in Aviemore, the centre of the Scottish skiing industry.

Afternoon tasting at Glenlivet. The tasting session includes some rare and aged The Glenlivet whiskies.



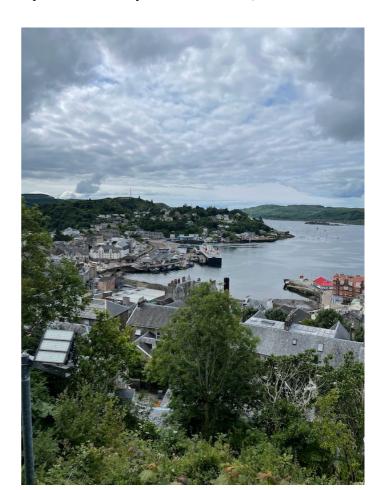
We check into the wonderful old whiskey hotel, the rustic Craigellachie Hotel to relax or sample some of the 750 different malt whiskies displayed in the world famous Quaich Bar. Dinner at the hotel. B/L/D

Day 6. Sat 5th July After breakfast we check out of the hotel for the nearby visit to one of the most famous names in the world of whisky - Macallan. We have a visit and tasting followed by lunch.

We head south to Grandtully and make a stop at the famous Highland Chocolatier to sample some of their delicacies, before getting back to central Edinburgh where we check into our hotel, the 5* Kimpton Charlotte Square.

Last night dinner at The Spence, an established favourite on the Edinburgh restaurant scene. We enjoy the menu in sumptuous surroundings. **B/L/D**

Day 7 Sun 6th July. After breakfast, end of tour.



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\$5200 per person double occupancy \$1300 single supplement \$750 deposit per person



Limited to 16 guests

Included

- 1 nights Blythswood Square Hotel, Glasgow
- 2 nights Port Charlotte Hotel, Islay
- 1 night Cruachan Hotel, Fort William
- 1 nights Craigellachie Hotel, Speyside
- 1 night Kimpton Charlotte Square, Edinburgh
- Private transport
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 5 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

Contact us to sign up for this trip

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Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

