

TRAIN : The Royal Scotsman

JOURNEY : Scotch Malt Whisky Tours

Journey Duration : Up to 5 days

Day to Day Itinerary

Embark on an adventure with the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, our partner for this unique journey through Scotland.

Departing from Edinburgh, travel north across the Firth of Forth over the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge. Enjoy the majestic views offered as you pass Loch Luichart, the Torridon Mountains and the Cairngorms National Park.

Day 1 EDINBURGH

Meet your whisky ambassador in the Balmoral Hotel and enjoy a welcome dram before departure. The Royal Scotsman departs Edinburgh Waverley Station and travels north across the Firth of Forth over the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge. A light afternoon tea is served as you glide through the former Kingdom of Fife, followed by an exclusive Whisky nosing and tasting with whisky expert and prolific author, Charles MacLean. Whether novice or aficionado, you will be in good hands with Charlie as he guides you through the mysteries of the 'water of life'. An old-school bon viveur, and author of 18 books on the subject, Charlie's grasp of the history and heritage of the whisky industry is second to none.

Day 2 KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Relax on board this afternoon as your journey takes you on what is arguably one of the most scenic railway routes in the country. The line passes Loch Luichart and the Torridon mountains, which geologists believe were formed before any life began. Travel onwards through Achnasheen, then commence the climb to Luib summit and Achnashellach Forest before descending to Strathcarron. The train then follows the edge of Loch Carron through Attadale, Stromeferry and Duncraig before skirting the picture-postcard fishing village of Plockton en route to Kyle of Lochalsh, gateway to the mystical Isle of Skye. A formal dinner is served this evening, followed by coffee and liqueurs in the Observation Car.

Day 3 CARRBRIDGE

Savor a full Scottish breakfast as the train travels east towards Carrbridge, followed by a specialist single-cask tasting with your whisky ambassador in the Observation Car. Then, head to our luxury dining cars, where a light and refined lunch is served.

Disembark in Aviemore to visit the historic Tomatin Distillery and learn the secrets behind its celebrated Highland single malt. Finish your tour with a tutored tasting of three Tomatin single malts, each revealing why this is considered the 'softer side of the Highlands. Return to the train at Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway for an informal dinner. Afterwards, make your way to the

Observation Car, where local musicians are waiting to entertain you as you sip a nightcap or two.

Day 4 ROTHLEMURCHUS

After breakfast, travel by coach to Rothlemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park and select among a variety of outdoor pursuits such as wild swimming, archery or fly fishing.

Return to the train in Kingussie and enjoy a leisurely lunch while the journey takes you south, before disembarking to visit Tullibardine Distillery in Blackford village. Your private VIP tour features nosing straight from the cask and a tutored tasting of three Tullibardine Highland single malts.

Re-join the Royal Scotsman in Perth and prepare for a formal dinner en route to Dundee. Tonight, the infectious beat of the music may inspire you to join in some lively Scottish country dancing on the station platform, a fitting finale to your Whisky Journey.

Day 5 EDINBURGH

As your train leaves Dundee in the morning, crossing the Tay Bridge into the former Kingdom of Fife and making its way back to Edinburgh, savor a full Scottish breakfast with your fellow guests.