

# HIGHLAND WHISKY, WATERFALLS & WOODLANDS

Travelling northwards out of the City we come to the **Forth Bridges**. The older of the two, **the rail bridge**, is the world's largest example of a cantilever suspension bridge. Built between 1882 and 1890 and requiring 5000 construction workers working shifts throughout the 24 hours each day, 6 days a week, 52 weeks of the year, it claimed 57 workers lives with another 102 seriously injured during its construction. The bridge is built out of 54,000 tonnes of steel; enough to build three Eiffel towers. It is 1.6 miles or 2.4 kilometres long and is aligned directly true north and true south.

Its younger neighbour upstream, the road-bridge was built in 1964 and tellingly has extensive maintenance and renewal including re-strengthening due to the high volume of vehicle traffic now using the bridge.

Below and between the two bridges on the south bank is **South Queensferry** looking out across the Forth to its counterpart on the other bank, **North Queensferry**. The "Queen's Ferry" was introduced by **Queen Margaret** of Scotland in the 1070's to save pilgrims travelling north to **St. Andrews** days of walking; cutting out some 60 miles or 98 kilometres off of travel via **Stirling**. The ferry still operated until recent times when the road bridge rendered it obsolete.

Over the road bridge and we are soon travelling through Glen Devon and Gleneagles. Home to the world famous Gleneagles Hotel & Golf course, its name has nothing to do with any eagles (the bird) in the area neither is it connected to golfing terms. It actually derives from Glen Eaglais, meaning "Valley of the Churches".

Beyond **Gleneagles** we come to **Crieff**; now a beautiful and busy market town, but once the host of one of the largest cattle markets in the world attracting drovers from the farthest islands and highlands.

Up a narrow glen just outside **Crieff** lies **Glenturret** – home to Glenturret malt whisky distillery; Scotland's oldest surviving distillery dating from 1775.

**Glenturret whisky** is also used in the well known "**Famous Grouse**" blended whisky and the distillery is home to the **Famous Grouse Experience**; an interactive exhibition.

From **Glenturret** on our way lies through the **Sma' Glen'**, past **Amulree**, **Aberfeldy** and on to **Kenmore**. Originally known as "**Balloch**" (town by the Loch), "**Kenmore**" (great head) sits at the foot of Loch Tay where the River Tay (longest in Scotland) starts its journey to the North Sea.

At **Kenmore** is the **Crannog Centre** with its unique reconstruction of an **Iron Age Crannog**; built using authentic methods and materials. **Crannogs** were created by sinking boulders and logs to create an artificial island on which would be built a large circular house to shelter an extended family and its livestock.

Here also stands **Taymouth Castle**. Largely reconstructed by the **Earl of Breadalbane** for a visit by **Queen Victoria**. The original **Balloch Castle** was built in 1552 AD, and served as the main judicial seat of the **Campbell Lords of Glen Orchy** and **Breadalbane**.

Next stop is **Fortingall** and its famous yew tree, kirk, Celtic bell, and legendary birthplace of **Pontius Pilate**! Legend has it he was born close by to a Roman soldier and a local girl. Unsurprisingly, to date, no historical proof has been found, but the legend persists...

Arguably one of the most important pre-Christian religious sites in Scotland, **Fortingall** lies at the eastern end of **Glen Lyon**, the longest valley in Scotland, and in the shadow of **Schiehallion**, a mystical mountain to the **Picts**.

Reputedly the oldest tree in Europe, the **Fortingall Yew** is claimed to have been a sapling when the Great Pyramids in Egypt were being constructed and already an ancient revered relic when the Roman Legions first appeared in Britain. Scientists estimate its approximate age at up to 5000 years. The **Celts** saw this tree as a potent totem of their belief in the circle of life and re-birth; burying their dead nearby so as to assist the spirits into a new cycle of Life. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, **St. Adaman**, recognising the importance of the tree, built his church next to it and adopted the tree as a part of the **Christian** path into the afterlife.

Through tiny Keltneyburn we are now en route to **Schiehallion** and **Tummel Bridge**, passing **Garth Castle** on the left.

**Schiehallion** – “**Fairy hill of the Caledonians**” - was the sacred to the **Picts** whilst **Ptolemy** and other ancient cartographers, possibly in recognition of its importance to the 'barbarians', chose it to be the only Scottish mountain to be specifically shown on their maps.

In 1774 **Sir Neville Maskelyne** was able to calculate **Schiehallion's** mass and from it the circumference, mass and rotational speed of Earth. **Schiehallion** was also the first landmark in the world to be mapped showing contour lines.

From the “**Queen’s View**”, facing west and overlooking **Loch Tummel**, **Schiehallion** and **Rannoch**, on a clear day you can see the mountains by **Glencoe** over 25 miles or 40 kilometres away. It is claimed that **Queen Victoria** came here on one of her famous highland tours and professed to be overwhelmed by the beautiful view.

Before continuing southwards we might take a refreshment stop in **Pitlochry**, home to two distilleries; **Blair Atholl Distillery**, maker of “Bells” blended whisky and **Edradour Distillery**, Scotland's smallest distillery, and a favourite Highland holiday centre since mid-Victorian times.

A stop is at the **Hermitage**, by **Dunkeld**, for a forest walk ought not to be missed. Bequeathed to the **National Trust for Scotland** by the **Dukes of Atholl** and originally constructed as romantic woodland for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Atholl**, a very keen patron of botanical research, many of the trees within the forest are not native to Scotland but were collected on behalf of the Duke as species for his gardens. During the 1770's, as the forest was being laid out, the works of “**Ossian**”, claimed to have been stumbled upon by James Macpherson and alleged to be the lost manuscripts of the ancient Scottish Celtic poet Ossian were exciting the literary world. They proved to be a sensational hit all over Europe and inspired the Duke to build romantic river walks and view points. One such being “**Ossian's Hall**”; a beautiful view point overlooking a waterfall on the River Braan. The Forest is also home to Scotland's tallest tree, a Douglas Fir. Measured in 1994 at 212 Feet or 65 metres tall, it stands just to the left of the old moss covered stone bridge on the far side of the river.

Known as the “**Gateway to the Highlands**”, Perth, lying next on our route, has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest population in Scotland. Originally “**Saint John's town of Perth**” after the cathedral dedicated to St. John, medieval Perth was a religious and mercantile centre and remained a great and prosperous city throughout renaissance times. However, most of Perth's medieval churches and cathedrals were destroyed by riotous mobs in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century during the **Reformation**.

Just outside the town is **Scone palace**, and in the grounds of which can be found a coronation place of the **Kings of Scots**, the **Moot Hill**. For almost eight centuries, Scottish kings were crowned or blessed here, usually sitting on the “**Stone of Destiny**”, also reputed to be **Jacob's pillow**. The last king to be crowned here was Charles II.

We pass **Loch Leven** on the left, near **Kinross**. In the loch lies the island where once the ancient **Culdees** lived their hermit existence but where now stand the ruins of the castle from which **Mary, Queen of Scots**, was liberated prior to fleeing to England and throwing herself on her cousin, Elizabeth I's mercy.

Eventually we complete the circle by returning across the Forth Road Bridge and arriving back in Edinburgh.

## 高地威士忌，瀑布和森林

出城向北，我们来到了福斯河桥。大桥共有两座，其中建立较早

的桥

“铁轨桥”是世界上最大的悬臂吊桥。该桥建于1882年到1890年之间，由5000名建筑工人每天24小时轮流工作，一周工作六天，一年工作52周。在建桥过程中，有57名工人为了它献出了生命，102人受重伤。建桥所用钢材54,000吨，建三个埃菲尔铁塔都绰绰有余。桥长1.6英里（或2.4公里），正南北方向伸展。

较后建造的“路桥”位于福斯河上游，建于1964年。由于大桥交通繁忙，政府曾对大桥进行过多次大规模的维修和更新，包括对大桥的加固等。

南女王渡（South Queensferry）位于这两座桥之间的河南岸，与北岸的北女王渡（North Queensferry）遥遥相对。“女王渡”是1070年苏格兰女王马格丽特下令建造的，渡口建成后，朝圣者能够直接到河北岸的圣安得鲁斯去朝拜，而不必绕道斯特灵城，这样可以少走60英里（或98公里）的路程。渡口直到近代福斯路桥建成后才废弃不用。

跨过路桥，我们不久就来到了戴文(Devon)山谷和鹰阁(Gleneagles)山谷。这儿是世界闻名的鹰谷酒店和高尔夫球场的所在地。实际上，鹰谷这一名称与鸟类中的鹰并没有什么联系，与高尔夫球运动中的术语也没有什么联系。它的得名源于Glen Eaglais，意思是“众教堂之谷”。

离开鹰谷，我们来到了风景优美和商业繁荣的小镇克里夫(Crieff)。过去小镇曾是世界上最大的贩牛市场，吸引着最远的小岛和高地上的牧人来这儿洽谈生意。

出了克里夫(Crieff)镇，走进一条狭长的山谷，我们来到了格阑塔(Glenturret)镇。格阑塔(Glenturret)麦芽威士忌酿酒厂就位于小镇上，它是苏格兰现存最早的酒厂，建于1775年。苏格兰颇富盛名的“Famous Grouse”混合威士忌就换用了格阑塔(Glenturret)威士忌。另外，酒厂也生产著名的格劳斯(Grouse)

久藏威士忌。可见，不同种类的威士忌酒之间是互相借用的。

从格阑塔（Glenturret）镇出发，我们经过思马谷（Sma' Glen'）、阿默乐（Amulree）和阿伯费尔（Aberfeldy）三个小镇，继续前行来到楷模（Kenmore）镇。早先被称作

“巴洛克（Balloch）”镇（湖边小镇的意思），楷模镇（大脑袋的意思）位于泰湖脚下，而苏格兰最长的河流泰河就是从这儿开始它的行程流入北海的。

湖中人工岛上之住宅的中心位于楷模（Kenmore）镇，该中心藏有铁器时代的岛上住宅的复原建筑，用地道的方法和材料建成，别具一格。这些岛上住宅都是用下沉的巨石和木头建成的，先造一个人工岛，然后在岛上建一个圆形房屋，房屋很大，能够容纳一个人口日益增多的大家庭，而且也为家畜遮风挡雨。

泰芒斯（Taymouth）城堡也耸立在楷模（Kenmore）镇。城堡的大部分由布莱德文思（Breadalbane）伯爵重新修建，以迎接女王维多利亚的来访。原先的巴洛克（Balloch）城堡建于公元后1552年，主要用来作为奥奇谷（Glen Orchy）和布莱德文思（Breadalbane）两处的坎培尔君主进行审判的场所。

我们的下一站是弗婷阁（Fortingall）镇。这儿以紫杉树、苏格兰教堂、凯尔特钟以及传说中的罗马总督彼拉多的出生地闻名。传说彼拉多是罗马士兵和当地姑娘所生的孩子。但毫不奇怪的是，直到现在，尽管没有什么历史资料可以证明这一说法，但是当地仍旧流传着这一故事。

弗婷阁（Fortingall）可能是苏格兰最重要的前基督宗教场所之一（尽管这一说法至今仍有争议），位于里昂（Lyon）山谷的最东部。里昂（Lyon）山谷是苏格兰最长的山谷，躺在神秘的斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山的阴影里。该山是到匹茨（Picts）去必经的一座山。

在欧洲有名的最古老的树是弗婷阁（Fortingall）紫杉。据说在埃及建造金字塔的时候，它已长成为一棵小树苗了；当古罗马军团首

次登陆英国的时候，它已成为受当时人所敬畏的古树了。科学家估测这棵树的年龄在5000年以上。凯尔特人把它看作是生命的图腾，是生命循环和再生的象征。他们把死者埋在大树附近，帮助他们的灵魂进入新一轮的生命周期。七世纪时，圣安德门（St. Adamnan）意识到这棵树的重要性，把教堂建在这棵树的附近，把树作为基督徒通向来生的道路。

穿过狭小的Keltneyburn山谷，我们现在向斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山和麦尔（Tummel）桥进发，经过左边的加思（Garth）城堡。

斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山被看作是“喀里多尼亚（Caledonians）的仙山”，是匹茨（Picts）一带的圣地。古代绘图人扑妥乐米（扑妥乐米（Ptolemy））和他的同伴极有可能认识到该山对当地“未开化居民”的重要意义，出现在他们所绘制的地图上的唯一一座苏格兰山就是斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山。

1774年，英国天文学家Neville Maskelyne（奈维尔爵士）算出斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山的质量，并进一步推算中地球的圆周、质量和转速。斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山也是世界上第一个被绘制到地图上的、带等高线的路标。

从“女王观光处”向西俯瞰麦尔（Tummel）湖、斯希哈利统（Schiehallion）山和兰诺克（兰诺克（Rannoch）），若是天气晴朗，你能看见离这儿有25英里或40公里之遥的Glencoe群山。传说，维多利亚女王曾多次来高地观光，其中有一次来过这儿，对这一带的秀美风景赞不绝口。

继续南行之前，我们在皮特洛可里（Pitlochry）镇稍作休息，镇上有两个酒厂：一个是出产“贝尔（Bells）”混合威士忌的布莱尔阿瑟（Blair Atholl）酒厂，一个是苏格兰最小的酒厂埃德拉多尔（Edradour）酒厂。自维多利亚时代中期以来，该镇的高地度假中心一直受到旅游者的青睐。

下一个参观的景点是敦克尔德（Dunkeld）附近的贺米达几（Hermitage）林地，在这儿你可千万不要错过林中散步的机会。贺米达几（Hermitage）是阿瑟（Atholl）亲王赠给苏格兰国民信托（The National Trust for Scotland）[本信托是1931年成立，是一个政府注册的苏格兰公益团体]的。林地最初是为Atholl

亲王三世所建，颇有浪漫情调。阿瑟亲王酷爱植物研究，林中的大多树木都不是苏格兰本土生长的树种，而是他多年以来从世界各地所收集到的物种，在他的花园里培育的。1770年，在林地施工时，詹姆斯·麦克森声称他发现了古代苏格兰当地的凯尔特诗人奥西恩（Ossian）被丢失已久的手稿，在当时文学界引起轰动，在整个欧洲也风靡一时。亲王从中获得灵感，设计建造了浪漫的河边小路和景点。其中一个奥西恩（Ossian）厅，从这个风景优美的景点可以遥望布兰（Braan）河上的瀑布。林地上还生长着苏格兰最高的树道格拉斯（Douglas）冷杉。1994年测量该树的时候，树高212英尺或65米，长在远处河上覆盖着多年苔藓的石桥左边。

我们行程的下一站是通往高地的门户佩斯（Perth）城。在苏格兰，佩斯（Perth）城是人口最多的六大城市之一。该城原先以“圣约翰的佩斯（Perth）城”闻名，在大教堂献给圣约翰后，中世纪的佩斯（Perth）是宗教和商贸中心，在文艺复兴时期它已是一个繁荣的大都市。可惜的是，在16世纪的宗教改革运动中，佩斯（Perth）的大多数中世纪教堂和大教堂已被暴动者所毁坏。

城市近郊是]司康（Scone）宫，附近有历代苏格兰国王的加冕之地蒙特（Moot）山。近八个世纪以来，苏格兰国王都是在这儿戴上王冠或接受祝福，通常是坐在“命运之石”上。该石还以詹姆士的枕头闻名。在这儿戴上王冠的最后一个国王是查理二世。

我们经过左边金罗斯（Kinross）附近的乐闻（Leven）湖，古代的卡迪斯（Culdees）人中的隐士曾在湖中小岛上隐居，但是现在却只有城堡的废墟了。苏格兰女王玛丽在逃到英格兰、请求女王伊丽莎白一世的原谅之前，就是从这个城堡中获释的。我们在这儿转了一圈后，最后穿过福斯桥回到了爱丁堡。