

The Ultimate Whisky Experience from Edinburgh

We depart Edinburgh's Lawnmarket and travel west, passing Murrayfield Stadium, and crossing the bridge at the South Queensferry Crossing. The bridge was opened in August 2017 and is the longest three-tower cable bridge in the world. You will also see the Forth Road Bridge and the famous Forth Railway Bridge as you cross the water. The Forth Railway bridge was opened in 1890 and represents a key milestone in history of modern railway civil engineering and still holds the record as the world's longest cantilever bridge. In July 2015, UNESCO inscribed the Forth Bridge as the sixth World Heritage site in Scotland.

Carrying on, we pass Rosyth to our left and Inverkeithing to our right. Inverkeithing, whilst unassuming, was once home to royalty. The Queen of Robert 3rd in 1401 stayed here whilst the largest witch hunt in the history of the small town took place. At least 51 people were tried and executed for witchcraft.

We then reach Loch Leven, where we will stop for refreshments. The area is renowned as the place where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned. Loch Leven Castle, built around 1300, was home to the Douglas Family. Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned here in 1567-1568 and forced to abdicate as queen, before escaping. Today, the remains of the castle are protected as a monument in the care of Historic Scotland. Loch Leven Castle is accessible in summer by the public via a ferry.

We travel further north, passing Dunkeld on the right and on to the town of Aberfeldy for our second stop of the day; Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery. The town of Aberfeldy has an industrial history dating back to 1799, however today the town revolves around distilling. It is located on the south side of the River Tay and has connections to the poet Robert "Rabbie" Burns, who was inspired by the scenic nature of its surroundings.

The history of distilling (both legal and illegal) dates back several centuries in Aberfeldy. Learn more about Aberfeldy's distilling history in a tour at Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery*, our first whisky themed stop of the day. Dewar's world-renowned crafted Highland Single Malt Aberfeldy whisky has been produced at Aberfeldy Distillery since 1898. We spend 2 hours here for their Whisky and Chocolate tasting tour; comprising of a full guided tour of the distillery, warehouse and interactive heritage exhibition, and a tasting of Aberfeldy's 12-year-old single malt whisky, the premium Dewar's 12 year old blended Scotch and super-premium Dewar's 18 year old blended Scotch, matched with chocolate sourced from a local chocolatier. Afterwards, spend time in the town of Aberfeldy for lunch, with time to explore the town and its shops.

From Aberfeldy, we travel down Loch Tay passing near Ben Lawers, a 1214 Highland summit and a popular hiking spot with views of surrounding mountains and lakes. We reach Killin for a photo stop



at the Falls of Dochart. The falls are situated on the River Dochart in Stirling, near the western end of Loch Tay. When crossing over the Bridge of Dochart, there are breathtaking views of the falls as they cascade over the rocks around the island of Inchbuie, an ancient burial place of the MacNab Clan.

From the Falls of Dochart, we travel south to Loch Lubnaig, a small freshwater loch nestled between two striking mountains, Ben Ledi and Benvane, for our next photo stop. The loch is popular with paddlers, kayakers and fishers alike! Enjoy time here to take photos of the beautiful views. We then travel through Callander, a lovely spa town set at the foot of Ben Venue and Ben Ledi, and situated on the River Teith, to the east of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. It's known as "the Gateway to the Highlands".

Passing through Callander, we then head towards Doune and its Castle for a photo stop. Doune Castle may look strangely familiar, even to those who haven't been there before. It has been featured in many popular films and TV series. Doune Castle is a place for pilgrimage for Monty Python fans from all over the world who come to see the place where they filmed parts of 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'. There are even coconut shells at the front desk for visitors to re-enact certain scenes from the film! More recently, Doune Castle stood in for the fictional Castle Leoch in the TV adaptation of the Outlander novels and was one of several locations used to recreate Winterfell for the Game of Thrones TV series.

Our final stop of the day is Deanston Distillery*. Deanston Distillery is a single malt scotch whisky distillery located on the banks of the River Teith, eight miles from the historic town of Stirling, at the gateway to the dramatic Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. It started life in 1785 as a cotton mill and remained as such for 180 years until it was transformed into a distillery in 1966. The constant supply of pure water from the River Teith contributed to the decision to turn the mill into a distillery and now Deanston is the only distillery in Scotland to be self-sufficient in electricity, with power generated by an on-site hydro-energy facility. Deanston sits in the Highland single-malt region of Scotland and produces whisky which is handmade by ten local craftsmen, un-chill filtered, natural colour and bottled at a strength of 46.3% ABV. Enjoy sampling three of their finest malts or enjoy refreshments at the distillery café.

Leaving Deanston, we journey south back to Edinburgh, passing Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument, and bid farewell at Lawnmarket.

^{*}Optional. The price for this is not included in the tour price.