

A Gourmet Tour of Scotland

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: EDINBURGH / LEITH. Upon arrival at Edinburgh Airport this morning, we are met and taken on a 2-hour panoramic sightseeing tour, followed by a transfer to the **Balmoral Hotel**, where we'll check into king bedded rooms for two nights. This beautifully refurbished deluxe hotel is located on Princes Street in the heart of Edinburgh. Free time this afternoon for relaxing before a late afternoon transfer to Leith to visit the Royal Yacht "Britannia." We'll then continue to the Scotch Malt Whisky Society in Leith for Whisky tasting, followed by a 4-course welcome gourmet dinner with coffee (no drinks included). Return to our hotel for overnight.



DAY 2: LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. A full day of city sightseeing with our driver and guide. Visit the Castle (entrance included), perched atop an extinct volcano, birthplace of James I of Scotland before he was cruelly snatched away from his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Along the Royal Mile, heart of medieval Edinburgh, are several places of interest including St. Giles' Cathedral, the High Kirk of Edinburgh and church from which John Knox preached, the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre and John Knox House. At the other end of the Royal Mile, leading from the Castle, is the Palace of Holyroodhouse (entrance included), the Queen's official residence in Scotland and former home of Mary, Queen of Scots. We'll enjoy a cocktail reception in the Don Suite, with open bar for 1 hour, followed by a 3-course dinner (no drinks included with dinner). This will be private and our guide will join us.

DAY 3: ST. ANDREWS / INVERURIE. Depart for St. Andrews this morning for a walking tour of the Old Town. St. Andrews which is famous as the "home of golf", is also known for its university, the oldest in Scotland and third oldest in Great Britain (after Oxford and Cambridge). The cathedral, which now stands in impressive ruins, was one of the largest in Britain. The ruins of the castle stand along the seafront. Continue north via Aberdeen to Inverurie, where we'll overnight at **Pittodrie House**, dating back to the 17th century but with origins going back two centuries earlier. It is furnished in antiques and the walls are decorated with family ancestral paintings. Time to freshen up before enjoying whisky tasting with



David Low (resident expert & piper) followed by dinner served in the Orangery. David Low will pipe & "Address the Haggis", which is our first course. Our guide will again join us.

DAY 4: BALLINDALLOCH / INVERNESS. This morning, we'll enjoy a private visit of Ballindalloch Castle, with a personal welcome by resident owner Mrs. Russell. This will include a full introduction to the history of the castle, a private guided tour and a buffet lunch in the castle, hosted by Mrs. Russell. Followed by a drive around the Estate by Landrover with the Estate Keepers. Continue to Inverness, perhaps stopping in Elgin to shop for cashmere.



Two nights at **Culloden House**, an impressive mansion in Georgian style that Prince Charlie once seized. It is set in 40 acres of lawns and parkland and the public rooms are decorated with chandeliers, ornate plasterwork, friezes and a carved fireplace. 4-course dinner included at the hotel this evening in the restaurant.

DAY 5: LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. A full day of sightseeing to Culloden Moor, Clava Cairns, Fort George & Cawdor Castle (two of these entrances are included). Culloden Moor is the scene of the dreadful slaughter of Bonnie Prince Charlie's troops by "Butcher Cumberland" on 16th April 1746, a short battle that ended all Jacobite hopes of success. The Graves of the Clans, the communal burial ground, bears the names of the clans who died at the battle. Cawdor Castle is one of the traditional settings for the murder of Duncan in Shakespeare's Macbeth. The castle has been a family home for over 600 years and is surrounded by notable gardens. This evening we're transferred to Glenmoriston Hotel for a fabulous dinner in their gourmet restaurant and return to Culloden for our overnight.

DAY 6: LOCH NESS / AUCHTERARDER. A full day of sightseeing en route to Gleneagles in Auchterarder. South via Loch Ness, Fort William (at the foot of Ben Nevis, the tallest peak in Britain) and Glencoe, Scotland's most famous (and infamous) glen, a great cleft of wild mountain grandeur, where the blood of the MacDonalds ran red on that fateful day in 1692, cruelly betrayed by the Campbells. Many members of the two clans do not speak to each other today because of this past treachery. Continue on to Auchterarder, where we'll check in for two nights to **Gleneagles**, a world famous, deluxe hotel and leisure resort boasting every luxury. Dinner in the Dormy House restaurant at 7.30 PM.



DAY 7: GLAMIS CASTLE / GLENTURRET DISTILLERY. A private tour of Glamis Castle at 11.00 AM this morning (included), childhood home of the Queen Mother and birthplace of Princess Margaret. It is said to be the most haunted castle in Scotland. The ghost of Lady Glamis, burned as a witch in 1537, has been seen floating above the castle clock. Other ghosts include the Grey Lady who haunts the chapel, a tongue-less woman running across the grounds and the mad Earl who walks about on the roof! Who said the Scots were boring?!!

Then we're taken to the Glenturret Scotch Whisky Distillery for a private VIP tour at 1:00 PM followed by a 3-course gourmet lunch in the Pagoda Room. Late this afternoon we'll return to Gleneagles for some free time and this evening, we'll enjoy welcome cocktails and a special farewell dinner hosted by our guide.

DAY 8: DEPART. After breakfast this morning, we'll be transferred to Edinburgh Airport, where we'll bid our guide and driver farewell. Our services end at this time.

Exclusive Property of In Quest of the Classics www.iqotc.com