

Chapter 1 : 4 Day Islay Whisky Tour - Scottish Routes

With its scenic island ferry routes, Caledonian MacBrayne lets you plan your Hebridean Whisky Trail at your own pace, either in a vehicle or as a foot passenger. Relax onboard as you sail between distilleries and savour the spectacular mountain and sea views.

June 26, The Island Whisky Trail: Neil Wilson Angel Share Publishing: ISBN A book dedicated to whisky, sea and history. From the first glance I would imagine the book is aiming for more easy reading audience. The front cover is glossy, the inside filled with photos and plenty of white space used to make the layout more visually appealing. A quick glance shows that the chapters are broken up into a general history introduction to the whisky islands of Scotland, then a chapter dedicated to each island, then appendices at the end. Oddly then the writing style seems to eschew that easy reading style for quite a formal style, a significant amount of page count is dedicated to respective prices paid, date ranges of various ownerships, numbers of people in the area or employed. All information that would not seem out of place in a more serious history text book. The appendices reinforce this with long lists of names of people who illicitly distilled whisky and their locations. The opening chapter is probably the most interesting read, detailing many historical events including closely missed massacres on the islands, and theatrical power plays to catch the illicit distillers. It is this more humane element I find missing from the later chapters. The details are there, but delivered very dryly. The book is good at telling us things are interesting, but often bad at showing them, which can make for hard reading at times. The actual detail is impressive, and from the bibliography it seems well researched Though I have not the knowledge myself to gainsay it , but it does not inspire the wonder that the Islands deserve. Even the many photos seem quite lacking in depth, which robs the landscapes of their majesty. Odder still, for a book about the Island Whisky Trail, there is little on the actual whisky itself. Maybe none was available from historical texts on which they would rely for that detail. So it is a book on facts and figures, on relationships and business deals, the background rather than the whisky itself. As that sort of reference text it is one that whisky historians will find a useful document, it has a significant listing of now deceased still distilleries, and details of illicit distillers. It covers chapter and verse the economic highs and lows, though due to the break down of chapter by island it can get repetitive, with prohibition, and the world wars having a very similar effect in each chapter for example. Despite that the information in the book is useful, and there are occasionally turns of phrase in a tale that bring a bit of life, such as the musical use of skulls under the floorboards given in one chapter. There are many more details that are given that feel like it should give it life, but somehow and delivered too dryly to accomplish that. A well research and detailed reference text, but not one for easy reading times.

Chapter 2 : The Island Whisky Trail: An Illustrated Guide to the Hebridean Whisky Distilleries | Eat Your Bo

The Island Whisky Trail: An Illustrated Guide to the Hebridean Distilleries [Neil Wilson] on calendrierdelascience.com
**FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This guide for the whisky enthusiast covers the distilleries of Islay, Jura, Mull and Skye along with historical information on distilling on Arran and in Argyll.*

The dramatic landscapes are divided by countless rivers and lochs and the western coasts are edged by miles of sandy beaches. The Scottish Islands contain some of the best distillers of single malt whiskies in the world. Set on remote islands and in hidden coves, the Island Whisky Trail will introduce you to some of the most beautiful and romantic scenery in the world. Make an enquiry about this tour Profile The aim of this tour is to give you a taste of the heritage and cultures of the Scottish Isles and a chance to visit the most remote malt whisky distilleries in Scotland. You will have the opportunity to experience the whole process, from the malting and mashing to fermentation, distillation, maturation and bottling. Many of the distilleries are in beautiful stunning locations and you will be able to explore the attractions and delights of the local villages and towns. The distilleries and attractions you visit can be adapted to what you want to see. As with all our tours the attractions you see will take account of your interests and can be adapted to what you want to see. So, if you want to see places not on the list below, just let us know. We are staying overnight in the Speyside area, the home of Scottish whisky. This distillery provides an exceptionally good, interesting and detailed tour. It stands just a few yards from the harbour in the town of Wick, designed by Thomas Telford as a model fishing port. Samples are taken from the oak casks, seasoned with Olorosso sherry. The whisky is still produced according to time honoured traditions and has a spicy, malty flavour with a dry finish. Most of the whiskies are finished in sherry butts producing a rich, marmalade flavour. It was blown to pieces by government supporters in to prevent it from falling into Jacobite hands. Here we follow the magnificent route of the Jacobite steam train, made famous as the Hogwarts Express, from Mallaig to Fort William. Its founder died by falling into one of the vats in We visit the famous Bowmore Vaults, where the whisky spends decades below sea level in damp cellars. Hanging from a narrow stretch of land only one mile wide, Kintyre is itself almost an island. The town has had almost 30 distilleries over the years. It is a condensed version of the best that Scotland has to offer, with pretty coastal villages, rugged mountains and woodland.

Chapter 3 : Highlands & Islands Malt Whisky Tour | A stunning self-drive tour in Scotland

Whisky tourism: Talisker on Skye is one of four distilleries to visit along the Hebridean Whisky Trail Alasdair Day, co-founder of R&B Distillers, which owns Raasay distillery, explained that the new trail was established after Talisker approached the team to discuss how to improve tourism in the area.

Singles, Couples, Families and Small Groups Visiting the two most important regions for malt whisky production and savour the contrasting flavours. Taste both the peaty whiskies of Islay and the famous whiskies of Speyside. This tour takes you to the attractions and distilleries in two beautiful regions of the country. Make an enquiry about this tour Profile The aim of this tour is to give you a taste of the two most famous areas for malt whisky, the remote island of Islay on the west coast with a choice of nine distilleries to visit and Speyside, the home of malt whisky on the eastern side of the Highlands. This area has more malt whisky distilleries than any other part of Scotland and Speyside has everything required for whisky production, from the barley grown on the coastal plains to the rivers and springs which feed the distilleries. The distilleries you visit are up to you. This tour is totally flexible so, if you have a favourite malt, let us know. As with all our tours the attractions you see will take account of your interests and can be adapted to what you want to see. So, if you want to see places not on the list below, just let us know. The pear-shaped stills and wash stills like flat onions are housed in a building dating back to It is so close to the sea that a kerb has been built to stop cars from rolling into the sea. We sample the sweet whisky tasting of Dundee cake, toasted nuts and sea breezes. Its founder died by falling into one of the vats in It still uses much of the original equipment dating from - the great iron mash tun and the Oregon pine wash backs. Here there are prehistoric sites and over other ancient monuments. It is one of the oldest distilleries, established in It dates back to AD and has a turbulent history â€” once a stronghold of the MacDonald family. You can take a short cruise along the home of the legendary monster, first sighted by St Columba in the C6th. Two in depth tours will help you appreciate the complexes of whisky production. You have the opportunity to hand-fill your own personally labelled bottle. Following an in depth tour of the distillery, you will have the opportunity to sample the oaky, resinous, sherryed flavours of the whiskies. The whisky is light, with a lingering sweetness and is an easy drinking malt. The whisky is principally aged in plain oak and sherry casks and the house style is of a raisiny, chocolatey flavour. Glenfiddich was one of the first distilleries to sell whisky as a single malt in when blended whiskies were the norm. Grant, a family run company. The house style is a complex, malty, sherryish flavour and the whiskies are regarded by locals as some of the best in Speyside. GLENLIVET is the biggest selling malt in the USA and although it may be considered commonplace, it is a whisky of structure and complexity, with a flowery, peachy style and the distillery is located in a particularly scenic area. From here, we return to Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Chapter 4 : Island Whisky Trail: Scotland's Hebridean and West Coast Malt Whisky Distilleries by Neil Wils

Island Whisky Trail has 9 ratings and 0 reviews. This guide for the whisky enthusiast covers the distilleries of the Hebrides and the west coast of Scottl.

It is believed that the Irish monks first introduced the art of distillation to Islay, during the early fourteenth century. Due to the fact that Islay was a fertile island for growing barley, called bere in the old days, with excellent pure water sources and plenty of peat, the island had everything in favour to distill whisky. For a detailed history of whisky distilling please visit the Islay whisky history page. Islay Peat and Water Islay is very largely composed of peat, layer upon layer of spagnum mosses and other vegetation have been rotting away and created the compact black banks of peat which are used for home fuel and for the whisky industry. Most of the water on Islay is brown, even the water in the burns is brown, and winter gales drive salt spray far inland, and this saturates the peat, which is dried again by the briny, seaweedy breeze. All these characteristics go into the whiskies of Islay, to a greater or lesser extent. Interactive Islay Distilleries Map Active brown , planned red and rumoured Islay distilleries purple Strongest flavoured Some of the Islay Single Malt Whiskies are the strongest flavoured of all malt whiskies, a property which endears them to some and is less appreciated by others. Most of the maltings, used for the production of whisky on Islay, is done at Port Ellen Maltings according to the specific specs peat level of each distillery. Only Bowmore, Laphroaig and Kilchoman have their own malting floors. Laphroaig Distillery Southern Islay Distilleries The southern distilleries - Ardbeg , Laphroaig , and Lagavulin , also referred to as the Kildalton Distilleries, and Port Ellen the latter was closed in - are the most powerful, producing medium-bodied whiskies, saturated with peat-smoke, brine and iodine. These draw their water direct from the spring, before it has had contact with peat, and use lightly or un-peated barley. The resulting whiskies are lighter flavoured, mossy rather than peaty , with some seaweed, some nuts, but still the dry finish. Bowmore Distillery , in the middle of the island on the shore of Loch Indaal, stands between the two extremes - peaty but not medicinal, with some toffee, some floral scents, and traces of linseed oil. The southern Islay distilleries produce powerfully phenolic whiskies, with aromas redolent of tar, smoke, iodine and carbolic. Bowmore, in the middle of the island, shares these characteristics but is not quite so powerful, as does Caol Ila. Bruichladdich and Bunnahabhain are lighter and much less smoky. A Farm Distillery Kilchoman pronounced kilhoman is a Farm Distillery and the first to be built on Islay for years. It is the 8th distillery on the Island and opened in The whole production process is done on Islay including growing their own Barley on the Island. The location of the distillery is near Loch Gorm and only metres as the crow flies from Machir bay on the Atlantic Ocean. The perfect ingredients for another great Islay Malt. More info on our Islay Blog. Ardnahoe Distillery will open, if all goes as planned, in late spring They will produce a classic peated style Islay Malt with a capacity of around , litres per annum. Ardnahoe will become the 9th Distillery on Islay. Port Charlotte Distillery was announced in March and is expected to produce a rather peaty whisky. The new Port Charlotte Distillery was planned to start in but the plans were postponed due the economic crisis. It is not confirmed if the distillery will be built at all, but when it does, it will be located in the centre of Port Charlotte using some of the old buildings of the former Lochindaal Distillery. Conversion of the current farm-buildings at Arnahoe, south of Bowmore on the shore of Loch Indaal, is still planned but uncertain when this will happen. The distillery, which would run six days a week, could produce an initial 60, litres of alcohol per year, and feature its own on-site floor maltings and kiln. In October Diageo announced, rather unexpectedly, that they will bring the iconic Port Ellen Distillery on Islay back to life. A large investment of millions will see this legendary distillery back in production by All subject to planning permission, etc. There is a rumour about Farkin Distillery, between Port Ellen and Laphroaig, quite persistent I must add, and going round for already two years. They seem to have some sort of website up: See the above map for a link. And recently another name popped-up, Bridgend Distillery. Also confirmed by some locals but very uncertain at the moment. Not more than rumours at the moment so best not to be taken very serious.

Chapter 5 : The Island Whisky Trail : The Whisky Exchange

The final island on the trail, Harris, features beaches and wool workshops and the Isle of Harris Distillery. Travelers can embark on the Hebridean Whisky Trail either by road or by sea.

We and our trusted partners use cookies and tracking technologies to create custom content for your enjoyment and to provide advertising in line with your interests. **TheTravel** Privacy Policy We respect your privacy and we are committed to safeguarding your privacy while online at our site. The following discloses the information gathering and dissemination practices for this Web site. This Privacy Policy was last updated on May 10, **Personal Data Collected** When you visit our Website, we collect certain information related to your device, such as your IP address, what pages you visit on our Website, whether you were referred to by another website, and at what time you accessed our Website. We do not collect any other type of personal data. **Log Files** Like most standard Web site servers, we use log files. We and some of our business partners for example, advertisers use cookies on our Website. These cookies track usage of the site for security, analytics and targeted advertising purposes. We use the following type of cookies: **Analytics and performance cookies:** Depending on your social media setting, the social media network will have record of this and may display your name or identifier in relation to this action. **Advertising and targeted advertising cookies:** If you wish to disable cookies, you may do so through your individual browser options. For further information regarding cookies and how to manage them, please see <http://> **Pixel tags** We use pixel tags, which are small graphic files that allow us and our trusted third party partners to track your Website usage and collect usage data, including the number of pages you visit, the time you spend on each page, what you click on next, and other information about your Website visit. **Advertisers** We use third-party advertising companies to serve ads when you visit our Web site. These companies may use information not including your name, address, email address or telephone number about your visits to this and other Web sites in order to provide advertisements about goods and services of interest to you. If you would like more information about this practice and to know your choices about not having this information used by these companies, [click here](#). Advertisers, as third-party vendors, use cookies to collect usage and demographic data in order to serve ads on our site. Users may opt out of the use of the DART cookie by visiting the [Google ad and content network privacy policy](#). We use the following advertisers:

Chapter 6 : The Malt Whisky Trail in Speyside - Itinerary | VisitScotland

The author, Neil Wilson, took a tall ship round Islay, Jura, Mull & Skye, with a quick stop at Oban. Thankfully, there's very little sailing and plenty of interesting whisky facts and history in this well-designed book. Some great photos here as well.

Whisky has been produced in Scotland for many hundreds of years and is enjoyed internationally. We investigate the process of distilling whisky; the unique regional flavours; and just what the whisky industry means to Scotland's economy. Whisky from the Gaelic "water of life" has been produced in Scotland since at least the fifteenth century, when it made its first appearance in print, but it is believed to have an unwritten history predating this perhaps by many centuries. Scholars believe that spirits were first produced in the Middle East in the eighth or ninth century for use in the preparation of medicinal tinctures, and it is likely that the secret of distillation was brought to Scotland and Ireland, then at the westernmost fringes of the known world, by monks who had learned the art from Arab doctors. The earliest whiskies made in Scotland would seem unfamiliar to modern drinkers, more modern methods of refinement and the cask-ageing process not yet having been developed. The raw spirit, as it emerged from the still, would have been rough and unpalatable, so it would be flavoured with infusions of local herbs and berries. One thing that has remained constant, though, is the status of malted barley as the main ingredient for the finest whiskies. The peat used to fire the ovens in which the malt is dried lends a characteristic flavour, much beloved of connoisseurs, to the final product. The next stage in production is to grind the malt and dissolve it in water to produce a "mash", in a vessel known as a "mash-tun". The mash is heated, to maximise the solubility of the ingredients, and the liquor drained off in preparation for fermentation. This process is repeated twice to ensure all the nutrients have been extracted from the malt. The resulting malty broth known as "wort" is cooled so as not to kill the yeast, a living organism, used in the next stage: Wort for use in whisky is fermented in a similar way to other brewed products such as beer. Yeast is added to the mix and allowed to grow and develop. Because of the biological nature of the fermentation process, it is imperative that the equipment used is clean and sterile: When fermentation is finished, it is time to distil the spirit. Whisky is traditionally distilled in copper stills operating in pairs. The vapours are collected and re-liquefied to produce a spirit of much higher alcoholic concentration than the original wash. The feints, when they have been matured in oak casks for a minimum of three years for blended whiskies or eight years for single malts, become the whisky that is known and loved all over the world. Whisky has been produced in Scotland for many hundreds of years, and since the nineteenth century this has been done under strict licence, rather than as the cottage industry it once was. The licensing system ensures the quality and safety of the product safety is a major concern in distillation: Under the system of regulation, production of Scotch whisky has flourished and it has found markets all over the world, which are protected by international law. No drink distilled outside Scotland, nor aged for less than three years, may be legally described as "Scotch", defending the reputation of our national drink from cheap foreign imitators. And it is a reputation that is worth defending. The export of whisky provides a major source of revenue for the Scottish economy, overseas sales amounting to a staggering 2. The top export market is the United States, whose citizens spend million on Scotch whisky annually, with France, Spain, South Korea and Venezuela making up the rest of the top five. In total, the whisky industry is worth 3 billion per year to the Scottish economy, and provides almost 41, jobs in Scotland. The USA is also the number one source of overseas visitors to Scotland. Scotland has a lot to offer overseas guests: But more and more visitors are coming to Scotland to visit the home of whisky. Many distilleries offer tours to visitors to show the curious how their favourite drink is made first-hand, and there are now specialist trips taking sightseers around the major centres of whisky production. Scotland is divided into five whisky-producing regions, each with its own style and its share of devotees. With its concentration of whisky heritage, and as home to such major brands as Glenfiddich, The Glenlivet and The Macallan, Speyside is a major centre of whisky tourism in Scotland. The Isle of Islay is also afforded status as a region unto itself: Campbeltown, the Isle of Arran and the Mull of Kintyre, is home to three malt whisky distilleries, and the Highland region sometimes subdivided into

Highland malts and Island malts produces many of the more well-known malt whiskies such as Glenmorangie and Dalwhinnie. Only three malt whisky distilleries remain in the Lowland region, where the whisky is traditionally produced by a triple-, rather than double-distillation method. The Scottish Malt Whisky Trail takes visitors on a tour of some of the most important centres of whisky production, and the traditional crafts associated with the industry. Centred on the Speyside region, whisky lovers can visit working and historic distilleries, see the art of the cooper barrel-maker , and of course get a chance to enjoy some of the finished product with old and new friends in the convivial atmosphere of a Highland pub. Buoyed by the large and growing international market for Scotch whisky, the industry is adapting its traditional values for the modern world. New markets are opening up, and new generations of drinkers are learning to love the malt. In Germany, traditionally a nation of beer and wine drinkers, Scotch whisky is experiencing a surge of popularity among the young. A whole industry has sprung up importing whisky by the cask from Scotland and blending and bottling it in Germany to suit the local palate. Lars "Jack" Wiebers, from the former East Germany, began importing whisky after developing a taste for it on holiday in Greece.

The Malt Whisky Trail including visits to Glenfiddich & the Macallan Distilleries The magical Isle of Skye & Talisker Distillery Experience a wonderful self-drive whisky tour through Speyside and the magnificent Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

A father and son duo, both Johns have a wealth of experience between them, especially in the whiskey tourism domain. John Senior worked for Pernod Ricard for 30 years, overseeing the successful development of both Jameson visitor centres in Dublin and Cork, both of which feature on our tours. He also oversaw the successful growth of Bushmills Distillery in Northern Ireland a stop on our Northern Ireland tour. In recent years, John has been helping some of these new distilleries to get their visitor centres up and running and get them successfully on the tourism map. John Junior has worked in Irish tourism since In his schooldays, he used to lead tours of the Jameson Distillery in Dublin. In , John Sr prepared a paper on behalf of the Irish Whiskey Association on developing whiskey tourism on the island of Ireland. John Jr worked closely with him on this project in the background. The need for the development of premium whiskey tourism product was shouting off the page “ and Whiskey Island was born! The benefits of touring with Whiskey Island First of all, and most importantly, you cannot drink and drive in Ireland. It is illegal, and the limit is so low, that you are better off not drinking a single drop of alcohol before getting in behind the wheel. So if you pop into a few distilleries, and you have the car rental outside, you cannot sample the goods at the end of the tour! On our tours, you can enjoy the few glasses and relax on board our luxury coaches between distilleries. No chance of getting lost “ many of these new distilleries are tucked away in the Irish countryside. Our professional and very experienced drivers will take you from stop to stop, without any problems. No queuing “ we have the relationships with the distilleries and book the tours as soon as you book with us. We get you to each distillery, in good time for your scheduled tour. Small and intimate “ our tours are capped at 15 pax. If you are a couple or a small family and want to do a tour privately, we can quote you for that. We work closely with the distilleries to carefully formulate each distillery tour, avoiding repetition. The distillers themselves have wonderful stories to share, how they built their distilleries and how they make their whiskey. Check out the public rates at each distillery and calculate how much it will cost you to do it all on your own. Request a callback today.

Chapter 8 : The Whisky Trail | Scotland is Now

Fans of hiking and whisky can now partake in a mile whisky trail while they island hop around Scotland and take in the breathtaking scenery. The new Hebridean Whisky Trail, which has been inaugurated this month, guides travelers to a variety of distilleries on the country's northern coast on the remote Hebrides islands, including the Isle of Skye, Raasay, and Harris.

Passing Loch Awe and into Argyllshire, with some great photo stops along the way, you will arrive in the Victorian town of Oban in time for lunch and some exploring. This is the seafood capital of Scotland so make sure you make the most of it. Your tour takes you to the ancient Neolithic landscapes of Kilmartin Glen. There are hundreds of ancient monuments and historic sites in this region, some of which you will explore. It is then a short drive down the Kintyre Peninsula to Kennacraig where you will board the evening ferry to Islay. The ferry crossing is around 2 hours and allows for some beautiful views of the islands of Gigha, Jura and Islay as well as the area surrounding West Loch Tarbert. There is time to relax in the bar with an Islay whisky; grab some dinner from the restaurant and just soak up the sea air before you arrive. These can include empty beaches, whitewashed villages, ancient sites, the Kildalton Cross, medieval strongholds, fresh seafood, local wildlife and traditional cultures. Your day includes a warehouse experience at Lagavulin, lunch and a tour at Ardbeg and a look at the Laphroaig maltings. Your second day brings a private tour of Bruichladdich, a chance to gaze over the Sound of Jura from the Bunnahabhain and a behind the scenes peek at the independent Kilchoman. Each night on Islay there are plenty of options for eating, drinking and relaxing. Your tour guide will let you know all the best places to get the most out of your time in Bowmore. There is an eating option for all budgets and tastes and with so much local produce on offer, you will be spoiled for choice. Slainte Mhath, as they say in Gaelic. Day 4 After a final hearty breakfast, you catch the morning ferry back to Kennacraig. Arriving on the mainland, you head to the loch-side town of Inveraray. This is the seat of the clan Campbell, home to the Loch Fyne Whisky shop and your stop for lunch. After lunch and some last minute whisky shopping your journey now hugs the shores of Loch Fyne and Loch Long before climbing up to the Rest and be Thankful pass for sweeping views. Then it is to the shores of Loch Lomond. Some of our guests may be leaving the tour here so we may make a short stop in central Glasgow George Square before returning to Edinburgh. Please be aware that, if this is the case, we will ensure that suitable alternatives are found.

Chapter 9 : Malt Whisky Tours Scotland - Self-drive Tours and Private Guided Tours

Campbeltown, the Isle of Arran and the Mull of Kintyre, is home to three malt whisky distilleries, and the Highland region (sometimes subdivided into Highland malts and Island malts) produces many of the more well-known malt whiskies such as Glenmorangie and Dalwhinnie.