

The Scotch Malt Whisky Society Canada: 15th Anniversary Journey in Scotland

Join us for an exclusive eight-day celebration through some Scotland's finest distilleries.

📅 13 SEPTEMBER

Day One: Edinburgh Welcomes You



Arrival & Welcome

Your journey begins with private transfer from Edinburgh Airport to the elegant **Virgin Hotel**. After lunch and leisure time exploring the Old Town -*with an optional private guided tour*-we gather for a truly special welcome.

The evening unfolds at **Holyrood Distillery with an exclusive after-hours tour, cold buffet showcasing Scottish produce, and signature cocktails**. Kilts may be hired for those wishing to mark the occasion in proper Scottish style.

📅 14 SEPTEMBER

Day Two: Royal Heritage & Highland Spirit

Glenturret Distillery

In the morning, you will have the privilege of an exclusive private tour of **Glenturret Distillery**, offering behind-the-scenes insight into one of Scotland's oldest distilleries, followed by a special curated tasting.

Scone Palace

Enjoy a late lunch at the Palace Café, before being welcomed for an **exclusive, privately hosted visit**, offering rare access and personal insight into the Palace's remarkable role in Scotland's royal and coronation history.

This intimate experience allows time to explore the historic rooms and hear the stories behind centuries of ceremony and tradition.

Overnight in the charming town of Pitlochry in 5-star accommodation.

📅 15 SEPTEMBER

Day Three: Into the Heart of Speyside

Blair Athol to Ballindaloch

The day begins with a private tour and tasting at **Blair Athol Distillery**, where traditional methods meet modern excellence. We'll then enjoy a private late lunch (especially catered for our group) at **Ballindaloch Distillery**, before an intimate tour around the "*single-estate distillery*". This tour will then be followed by a tasting including an **exclusive dram from the family cellar**.

As evening approaches, have dinner at your leisure and settle into the comfort of the **Dowans Hotel** - your home for the next three nights in the whisky capital of Scotland.





📅 16 SEPTEMBER

Day Four: Coastal Treasures & Craftsmanship

Glenglassaugh Distillery

You will be granted **private access to Glenglassaugh Distillery** - a remarkable site, which designed a special experience exclusively for this special SMWS itinerary.

Set against the dramatic Moray Firth coastline, the visit offers an intimate behind-the-scenes exploration of the distillery's heritage, production spaces, and unique maritime maturation environment.

The experience culminates in a memorable seaside moment: an exquisite seafood lunch served on the beach (weather permitting), celebrating the distillery's coastal character and Scotland's finest natural larder.

To complete the occasion, a specially selected SMWS dram will be shared - a fitting and exclusive toast in an extraordinary setting.

Speyside Cooperage

Step into one of the last remaining traditional cooperages in Scotland and **witness the remarkable art of barrel-making brought vividly to life.**

This immersive and sensory experience reveals the essential role of the cooper - a craft that has changed little over centuries yet remains fundamental to the character and quality of every great whisky.

Observe skilled artisans expertly shaping, repairing, and rejuvenating oak casks.

The rhythmic sounds, aromas of toasted wood, and **close-up access** to this rare trade create a memorable encounter that deepens appreciation for one of whisky's most vital - and often unseen - elements.

Afternoon and dinner at leisure

Enjoy a few relaxed hours to unwind or explore Speyside at your own pace beyond the whisky trail.

Options may include gentle riverside walks along the Spey, browsing charming local villages and independent shops, visiting nearby castles or heritage sites, or simply relaxing in a cosy café or hotel lounge.

This flexible pause offers a refreshing balance of light discovery and well-earned downtime before the next shared experience.

📅 17 SEPTEMBER

Day Five: Northern Legends & Traditions



A Day of Discovery

Journey north to the iconic **Brora Distillery** for an **exclusive private experience and tasting**. Continue to the historic town of Dornoch for lunch, followed by a quick **private visit to the small but already legendary Dornoch Distillery** with distiller Dan Levi himself. You will also enjoy a tasting in the famous Dornoch Hotel bar (an SMWS partner bar).

The afternoon brings us to **Glenfarclas Distillery**, where we'll tour the premises before heading for dinner (at leisure) in Craigellachie.

📅 18 SEPTEMBER

Day Six: Southward Bound

10:00 – Tomatin Distillery

Enjoy the **exclusive Warehouse 6 Experience at Tomatin Distillery**, beginning with an in-depth tour of the distillery and its traditional warehouses. The highlight is a tasting of four single cask whiskies drawn directly from the casks, with expert guidance on maturation, wood influence, and flavour nuances - a rare and immersive encounter for SMWS members.

12:30 – Lunch at Leisure

Time to savour the Highland scenery and local fare.

16:00 – Rosebank Distillery

Enjoy a private tour and tasting at the beautifully restored Rosebank Distillery, a true Lowland gem. The experience offers an intimate look at its traditional production methods, historic architecture, and the craftsmanship behind its delicate, floral-style whiskies - a rare and immersive insight into one of Scotland's most legendary distilleries.



📅 19 SEPTEMBER

Day Seven: Leith & The Society's Home

The Whisky Trail Finale

Explore Leith's rich whisky heritage on a guided walking tour with expert host **Justine Hazlehurst**, founder of Kask Whisky and an acclaimed whisky historian and storyteller.

The Leith Whisky Trail takes you off the beaten track around the historic port's cobbled streets and hidden alleyways, **uncovering the fascinating past of Leith as a once-thriving whisky district** that housed around a hundred bonded warehouses, blenders, and brokers. Along the way, Justine shares engaging insights into the people, places and dramatic stories that shaped Scotland's whisky trade and the community around it.

At midday, we gather at the SMWS The Vaults for **lunch and a special tasting with whisky legend Charles MacLean MBE** - returning to the spiritual home of the Society that has united us across continents.

Your final afternoon is yours to explore Edinburgh's treasures, from the Royal Mile to New Town's elegant shops.



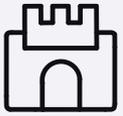
📅 20 SEPTEMBER

Day Eight: Farewell to Scotland

Departure Day

After breakfast at the Malmaison, private transfer to Edinburgh Airport. As you depart, you carry with you not just memories of exceptional drams, but the bonds forged over eight remarkable days celebrating fifteen years of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society Canada.

Journey Highlights



10 Distilleries

From coastal Glenglassaugh to legendary Brora, each offering private, exclusive experiences.



Royal Heritage

Private tour of Scone Palace, coronation site of Scottish kings.



Culinary Excellence

Welcome dinner at Holyrood, private lunch at Ballinalloch, seafood lunch at Glenglassaugh and more...



15 Years Strong

Celebrating our anniversary with unforgettable camaraderie, lasting memories and great drams!

Slàinte mhath to fifteen extraordinary years - and to many more adventures together.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION



Virgin Hotels

A modern, stylish hotel in the heart of Edinburgh, combining vibrant design, contemporary comfort, and thoughtful amenities. Ideal for a central base to explore the city.



The Pine Trees

A charming Highland retreat set amidst wooded gardens, offering comfortable rooms, cosy lounges, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere in the heart of picturesque Pitlochry.



The Dowans

A traditional Scottish country hotel in Speyside, featuring classic rooms, hearty cuisine, and easy access to the region's renowned distilleries and scenic whisky trails.



Malmaison Leith

A boutique hotel in Leith's vibrant dockside district, blending contemporary style with historic architecture, offering a lively atmosphere, riverside dining, and easy access to Leith's attractions.

An exclusive whisky journey designed by MacLean & Bruce



MACLEAN
& BRUCE

This SMWS Canada 15th Anniversary Journey to Scotland has been thoughtfully designed and curated by **MacLean & Bruce**, specialists in bespoke, access-led Scottish travel. Founded by renowned whisky expert Charles MacLean MBE, the company is rooted in deep whisky knowledge, longstanding distillery relationships and an intimate understanding of Scotland's whisky heritage.

Drawing on decades of industry connections and insider access, MacLean & Bruce has crafted a programme that goes beyond the expected - incorporating private experiences, behind-the-scenes distillery visits and rare tastings that reflect the spirit, curiosity and connoisseurship of SMWS members.

This anniversary itinerary has been designed not simply as a tour, but as a celebratory, immersive whisky pilgrimage worthy of the Society's milestone year.