

# 2018 Whisky Connoisseur Tour

## 10 Day Tour of Scotland

Personally Conducted By Jeff Robertson,  
Native of Scotland and Proprietor of

Caledonia Fine Arts Company CT USA

August 13 – August 22, 2018



**Come join us for an exciting adventure, touring Scotland with the focus on single malt whiskies and their sources. You will start with a Whisky Master Class and visit each of the five Whisky regions in Scotland. Our tour finishes at the Braemar Gathering Highland Games attended by the Royal Family amid the splendor of the Grampian Mountains.**

Your very knowledgeable tour guide is Jeff Robertson, a native of Dundee, Scotland who now resides in Connecticut. Jeff personally sees to each guest and takes you around in the comfort of a deluxe minibus. He loves to share the history, culture and beauty of his homeland with his guests. And that is how you are treated as a guest in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere where we mix touring, learning & relaxing in just the right amounts!

Highlights of your first weekend include a Whisky Masterclass at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society in Edinburgh followed by a visit high up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. On our trip we will tour the five different regions of Scotch Whisky production, visit the best distilleries and taste their magnificent array of Single Malt Whiskies while taking in the vistas and splendors of Scotland's countryside, castles, history and food. We finish with a flourish at The Royal Braemar Games with the color and sound of Scottish pipe bands, dancers athletics, food and fun! What an exciting trip!

# Daily Itinerary

## Day 1

You will be personally met at Edinburgh Airport or your hotel and whisked off in our deluxe mini bus and head straightway to Linlithgow.



Here we check in at Bo'mains 4-star Guest House with sweeping views down to the River Forth. You will have time to relax in this beautiful location after your journey. Taking in the vistas is refreshing for both the body and the soul.

We start our adventure with a short train ride into the center of Edinburgh and visit the iconic Edinburgh Castle. The Castle is the #1 visitor attraction in Scotland. Here you will experience a millennium of Scottish history and have a fabulous view of our capitol city.



To set the tone for our Whisky Tour of Scotland we start with a Masterclass at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. The class is conducted by a senior associate in the boardroom of the Society in the Vaults in Leith Edinburgh. The Society purchases casks carefully selected from distilleries all over Scotland. These single malts are not available to the general public and provide an incredible tasting for our group.

## Day 2

Our Whisky Tour of Scotland covers the 5 distinct whisky regions: Highland, Lowland, Strathspey, Islay and Campbeltown. The first stop on our tour is the Ashintochan Distillery located north of Glasgow, which produces a very fine single malt of the Lowland style.



At the beginning of our tour we will island hop around the Western Isles aboard MacBrayne Ferries. Leaving the mainland at Ardrossin on the west coast, we sail to the island of Arran. Arran is a beautiful island and is a microcosm of the whole of Scotland with high mountains in the north and rolling hills in the south.

In less than an hour we arrive at Brodick, the main town on the Island of Arran. Here we will visit Brodick Castle, ancient seat of the Duke of Hamilton with stunning views over Brodick Bay to the Firth of Clyde.



Continuing north on Arran we visit the Arran Distillery for a tour and tasting. This is a cutting-edge modern distillery known for their many & varied expressions of its' single malt.

We will have dinner and stay the night in the Douglas Hotel the premier hotel on the Island

## Day 3

This morning we sail from Lochranza- a short hop over to Clonaig on the Kintyre Peninsula where we will drive to the southern end and visit the famous Springbank and Glengyle distilleries for both a guided tour and tasting.



The Springbank Distillery is the oldest privately held operating distillery in Scotland. At its height in Victorian Times, Campbeltown was home to no less than 37 distilleries! Today it has only 3 in operation. They are: Springbank, Glen Scotia and Glengyle, which produce their distinct style of whisky. Campbeltown is a relatively small city but it is designated as a region because of its history and distinct whisky style.



While we are in Campbeltown on the Mull in Kintyre we will explore some beautiful hidden gems like Macarinish beach and other attractions.

After our day on the Mull of Kintyre we sail on the ferry to Islay. Here we are in for an exciting time tasting some of the great single malts produced on the island. We will be visiting Bruidiladch, Kilcoyman and Arbeg distilleries and we will spend two days on Islay and stay at the Port Askaig Hotel.

## Day 4

Islay has 8 distilleries which are currently in operation, with the Port Charlotte distillery coming back on line by 2016. Islay is famous for its heavily peated single malts although some of these distilleries have developed some excellent non- peated expressions.



We will spend two days on Islay exploring the island and touring its' three distilleries plus we will enjoy some local nighttime entertainment on our first evening.

## Day 5

Today's first visit is to the Ardbeg distillery, well known for its' heavily peated single malt. The Arbeg distillery has been producing whisky since 1798 and began commercial production in 1815 and has survived through difficult times to this day.



Our next visit is to Bruichladdich. This distillery describes itself as 'progressive Hebridean distillers' and with just cause. The distillery has been known for its unusual and exciting new expressions of single malt whisky.

The Kilchoman distillery is the 'new kid on the block' as it was only recently founded (in 2005) and is only now beginning to sell its excellent single malts at a very young age of 5 or six years old. Their knowledge of how the wood affects the maturation of the spirit has allowed them to offer an excellent product at a very young age.



We will stay two nights on Islay at the Bowmore House which has a great view over Loch Indaal. We are always welcomed in by our hosts Andrew and Alison with a wee dram of single malt when we arrive.

## Day 6



Today we will be sailing back to the mainland and drive north to Inveraray where we will find a special shop ‘Lochfyne Whiskies’. This shop has an excellent selection of rare whiskies and was voted best retail whisky shop in the UK in 2012.

Continuing further north we will visit the beautiful seaside town of Oban complete with its own coliseum and wonderful distillery. Here we will have a sample tasting before we head further north.



We will stay overnight in Oban at the Dunheanish Guest house which has a fabulous view over Oban Bay.

## Day 7



Our journey takes us through the famous Glencoe which is, by many accounts, the most dramatic scenery in Scotland. Glencoe is very popular with mountain climbers and hill walkers and provides some striking views.

Next we visit Ft. William, a quintessential Highland town bustling with busy shops purveying all kinds of Scottish crafts and products, which you can peruse during your walk-about through the town.



On our way to Inverness we will be driving alongside well-known Loch Ness keeping a sharp eye out for Nessie, the famed Loch Ness Monster. We will make two stops while here, so be sure to have your camera at the ready!

Continuing in our quest for the monster we take in a fabulous view of the Loch from the tower of Urquhart Castle. Their visitor center has a great video of the history of the Castle, and their cafe has the best scones and clotted cream I have ever tasted! Worth every calorie.





## Day 8



We start our visit to the Speyside region with a tasting at the Glen Grant distillery. This distillery is not only known for its fine single malts but it is unique in that it has a beautiful Victorian Garden laid out with a tremendous array of plants.

Not far away is the Aberlour Distillery, known for its very smooth single malts. This distillery is steeped in tradition and has one of the best tours and tastings in Scotland



Moving on we visit the Speyside Cooperage where we find the coopers at work building and repairing barrels and making new and old casks ready for use.



Our final distillery visit is to the Tomintoul distillery deep in the heart of the Cairngorm Mountains. Tomintoul is known as “the gentle dram”  
Attributed in no small part to the purest water drawn from the Ballantruan spring.



## Day 9



Today will be a wonderful day out, full of color and music. The massed pipe bands play for the opening ceremony at the famed Royal Braemar Gathering. These games will celebrate their bicentenary plus one in 2016 and promises to be a great experience.

The Queen and other members of the royal family attend The Braemar Gathering every year while she is on holiday in Scotland each August.



The hammer throw is one of many events entered into by the heavy athletes. This photo shows the tremendous energy required to perform in the Hammer Throw plus Caber tossing of course!

Highland dancing has always been a favorite part at the Games. And here you see some bonnie Lasses strutting their stuff.



After the Games we drive back to Linlithgow for our final night at our guests' favorite rated inn, Bo'mains Guest House.

## Day 10

After a good night's sleep and our full Scottish breakfast we transport you to Edinburgh Airport for your flight home. It's time to bid a fond farewell to Bonnie Scotland and we hope that you have enjoyed every moment and have had the experience of a lifetime. 'Haste ye back'!



**Come and Take the High Road To  
Scotland With Us!**

# Scotland Is Waiting For You Are You Ready?

To Book Your Tour, Contact Your Host

Jeff Robertson

at

Caledonia Fine Arts Company

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*Scroll down for tour details and pricing*

CALEDONIA FINE ARTS COMPANY  
2018 WHISKY CONNOISSEUR TOUR

August 13 - August 22, 2018

TOUR DETAILS AND PRICING

Tour Includes:

- \* 10 day personally escorted tour
- \* 9 nights in 4 & 5 star Guesthouses, all en suite
- \* Full Scottish breakfast daily plus all dinners ( alcoholic beverages not included)
- \* Entrance to distilleries and testings
- \* Deluxe Transportation to and from all venues
- \* Passes and entry fees into all points on tour
- \* Personally transferred to and from Edinburgh airport
- \* Tour limited to 8 guests

Price: \$3,950.00 per person, double occupancy, land only. Airfare is not included.  
Single person supplement is \$ 695.00 additional.  
We can assist you with airline booking information  
To book for the tour or for additional details contact Jeff Robertson  
at 860-434-8899 or email at [caledoniafinearts@mac.com](mailto:caledoniafinearts@mac.com)

Payment:

50% deposit with booking (\$1,975.00) per person, 50% of single supplement (\$347.00) also due with booking. Payment of balance is due 60 days prior to start of the tour.

We emphasize the need for guests to purchase personal trip insurance to protect your investment, in the case of last minute emergencies that would prevent you from embarking on the tour or leaving during the tour such as, but not limited to, medical emergencies, death in the family or flight cancellation.

Deposits and payments are non refundable. Should you have to cancel your booking for any reason, please inform CFA Co. immediately in writing. Loss of monies may be recovered through travel insurance, subject to the terms of your policy, and we would therefore encourage you to obtain cancellation coverage from your insurance provider as soon as your vacation is booked.

Travel insurance can be obtained through several sources. For a general reference point the site [www.INSUREMYTRIP.COM](http://www.INSUREMYTRIP.COM) may be a starting place for you to consider.

CFA Co. reserves the right to make changes to accommodations and any part of the tour and itinerary due to conditions beyond our control, including but not limited to acts of God, government restrictions, war, airline strike, act of terrorism, crime and acts of nature including inclement weather.