

DESTINATIONS

FOOD & DRINK | WHISKY



WHISKY TOURS

Whet your whistle with a snifter of the best whisky experiences in the world, writes **Katie McGonagle**



SAIL THROUGH SCOTLAND

As one of the oldest whisky producers in the world, anyone with a liking for the 'water of life' will find plenty of it here. Most cruises around Scotland offer whisky-related excursions, from half-day trips to Glengoyne distillery from Greenock (for Glasgow) – available from NCL for £78 or Princess Cruises for \$90 – to Scapa Distillery in Kirkwall, overlooking the beautiful Scapa Flow, visited on selected Cruise & Maritime Voyages itineraries.

Book it: Hebridean Island Cruises' Flavours of the Hebrides is a food and drink-focused sailing on *Hebridean Princess*, including the Isle of Raasay distillery, departing March 31, 2020, from £2,770. hebridean.co.uk

BOURBON AND BLUEGRASS

Whiskey-making has been exported around the world, giving rise to American variants such as rye, bourbon and Tennessee whiskey, which means you can sell even more destinations to grain-loving guests. Travel 2 has a Bourbon, Bluegrass & Horse Country self-drive with stops at Jack Daniel's in Lynchburg, Tennessee; Jim Beam in Clermont, Kentucky; and West Fork Whiskey Co in Indianapolis.

Book it: The 15-day fly-drive costs from £1,299 based on two sharing for travel from September 16 to November 30, including flights from Heathrow to Nashville, 14 nights' accommodation and car hire. travel2.com



WHISKEY WITH AN 'E'

Head over to the Emerald Isle for some Irish whiskey, distinguished from its Scottish variant by a three-stage distilling process, lighter colour and less smoky aroma. Bushmills claims to be the oldest licensed distillery in the world, producing amber nectar since 1608, and often visited en route to the Giant's Causeway.

Book it: Viator has a full-day Giant's Causeway Day Trip from Belfast, visiting the Old Bushmills Distillery, from £20 with hotel pick-up. viator.com

ONLY IN JAPAN

Japan is a rising star on the world whisky scene, with some varieties winning awards against countries with a longer history of distilling. Yamazaki, a 15-minute train journey from Kyoto, was the first commercial distillery and produces single malts aged from 12 to 25 years. Guests get an English-speaking guide on a tour of the distillery and its Whisky Museum.

Book it: Tours cost about £7, payable on site. InsideJapan Tours can reserve a visit as part of self-guided trips such as the 14-day Gastronomic Adventure to Tokyo and Kyoto, from £2,690 excluding international flights. insidejapantours.com



WHISKY WHIZZ

Fancy yourself a whisky aficionado – or a wannabe one? A dedicated whisky holiday to Scotland lets clients go behind the scenes of the production process, speak to experts, and learn to distinguish between a light Lowland blend, Speyside's sweet sherry-matured malts or the peated smoky style of Islay.

Book it: McKinlay Kidd has a seven-night West Coast Whisky Islands holiday to Skye, Mull and Islay including B&B, ferry travel and tours of the Talisker, Tobermory, Laphroaig and Bruichladdich distilleries, starting at £1,065 in October. mckinlaykidd.com

