



What it is

The Malt Whisky Trail links nine iconic whisky locations in Moray Speyside, an area with the largest concentration of whisky distilleries in the world. In the picturesque countryside around the River Spey you will find many of the world's most famous brands of single malt Scotch whisky but also the UK's only cooperage, amazing whisky-bars and stunning scenery. As well as offering a fascinating glimpse into the history of Scotch, the region has golden beaches, deep pine forests, abundant wildlife and snow-capped hills

Why it's special

The whisky centres on the Malt Whisky Trail range from boutique to global brands. You will meet the craftspeople who are the guardians of more than 250 years of knowledge about the Scotch industry, from its early days of illegal stills nestled high in the hills, to the early pioneers of legal distilling who took a gamble and sold their fine whiskies all over the world. During tours of distilleries you will nose whisky straight from the cask, feel the heat of the copper stills and soak in the atmosphere of the many bonded warehouses. There is plenty to do for both whisky lovers and those who want to see an unspoilt corner of Scotland.

The locations:

Benromach - Established in 1898, Benromach distillery is independently owned by a family with proud, enduring roots in Speyside. After being mothballed, Gordon and MacPhail brought the distillery back to life 20 years ago.

The Glenlivet - A famous brand whose history is shrouded in legend. The Glenlivet is a valley in Scotland which housed many illicit stills and later expanded to become the Speyside whisky region. Founded by a gutsy farmer, the Glenlivet distillery flourished as whisky production was legalised.

Cardhu - The only distillery started by a woman, Cardhu is also home to the world-famous Johnnie Walker brand. Visitors can experience the history of both the single malt and the renowned blend.

Dallas Dhu - Production at Dallas Dhu ceased in the 1980's and this is now a museum run by Historic Environment Scotland. Step back in time to see how whisky was made in the 1900's and get up close to the old machinery and processes which made Speyside whisky a global brand.

Glenfiddich - The name is Scots Gaelic for 'Valley of the Deer'. The distillery was founded in 1886 by William Grant who built it by hand with his 9 children and a stonemason. It is now home to the world's most awarded single malt.

Glen Grant - One of the world's best-selling whiskies, the distillery was founded in 1840 by two brothers who marked the importance of the distillery's water source by constructing a large victorian garden, which has been recently restored and makes for a wonderful day out.

GlenMoray - A small, informal, friendly distillery on the banks of the River Lossie in the city of Elgin which has been in operation since 1897.

Strathisla - The oldest continually operating distillery on the Malt Whisky Trail, Strathisla was built in 1786. It was purchased in 1950 by Chivas Brothers and is a key component of the famous Chivas Regal blend, as well as having its own single malt.

Speyside Cooperage - The only working cooperage in the UK, where you can see the ancient art of coopering, as skilled craftsmen repair nearly 150,000 casks ready for use by the local whisky industry.





How do you book/tour it

During peak season (May to September) it is advisable to book your distillery tours in advance. This should be done direct with each site or via the links on www.maltwhiskytrail.com, where you can also create your own itinerary.

When is the best time to visit

Many of the sites are open all year round, apart from major holidays. Most sites are open during the weekends in the high season, and weekdays in the winter. As a working business, the cooperage is only open Mon-Fri.

Travel information

Several of the sites are along a bus route but you will need to drive/take a taxi to the more remote locations. If you want to share a car, most distilleries will supply miniature samples for the designated driver to taste when he/she gets home. The nearest airports are Aberdeen and Inverness. Why not take the Caledonian Sleeper train from London to Inverness or Aberdeen? Speyside can be reached from train stations at Keith, Elgin and Forres.

Prices

Tour prices start at £3.50 and most cost under £10.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of each site is listed on the Malt Whisky Trail website.

Can I take children?

Children are welcome to most sites but are not allowed in the production areas for health and safety reasons.