

## 2017 Itinerary - MASC Distillery Tour (10-23-17/10-29-17)

Flight Information: *All times are local in military format (i.e., 14:25 = 2:25 PM)*

You should depart from ATL (Atlanta Hartsfield) for EDI (Edinburgh Airport) no later than 10/22/17 (Sunday) afternoon (Delta/KLM thru Amsterdam or United thru Newark)... Sunday night will be spent at 36,000-feet in the comfort of your airplane seat... you will arrive at EDI the next morning, 10/23/17 (Monday), at 7:35 AM. It will take 35-45 minutes to depart, get bag, clear Immigration/Customs and walk 150 yards to RAC Centre. (If anyone is planning to arrive a day early, I recommend Hilton Edinburgh Airport or Double Tree Edinburgh Airport.)

**OUTBOUND:** (No later than 10/22/17, Sunday afternoon) KLM Flight #624 (ATL @ 4:00 PM to AMS @ 6:00 AM next day) & KLM Flight #KL1277 (AMS @ 7:10 AM to EDI @ 7:35 AM).

**RETURN:** (10/30/17 (Monday) via early morning departures and same date afternoon arrival at ATL). KLM Flight #1276 (EDI @ 5:50 AM to AMS @ 8:25 AM) & KLM Flight #6075 (AMS @ 10:35 AM to ATL @ 14:25 PM)

Note: (1) The tour begins on 10/23/17 (Monday) at 8:30 AM at Car Rental Centre @ Edinburgh Airport; the tour will end Sunday night (10/29/17). Your tour fee includes hotels (Monday thru Sunday nights), distillery admission/tour/tasting fees, ground and sea transportation, and breakfast daily (Tuesday thru Sunday). You're responsibility for your airfare, lunch/dinner and other items. (2) KLM is Delta Airlines/KLM join flight; I used KLM flight numbers. (3) If you want to clear customs in Newark, NJ (a long walk carrying bag), United Airlines offers similar ATL to Newark & Newark to EDI flights at equal pricing and travel duration (Customs is easier in ATL). (4) Scotland is 5 hours ahead of Atlanta (EST).

**LUGGAGE/WHAT TO PACK:** *This is important... Don't bring a large suitcase!*

Luggage: A (means 'one') one-suit or a bi-folding or tri-folding garment bag plus a backpack, briefcase or purse. Americans (men and women) over-pack and have oversized luggage.

Packing List: I pack and have always found to be satisfactory (for men)

4 pairs of jeans or equivalent casual slacks

4 long sleeves shirts (or pullover cotton sweaters)... *cotton sweaters work in Scottish October*

7 sets of underwear & socks (undershirts are a good (warm) idea)

Sleepwear (I'm not interested to know)

1 shaving kit

1 nylon windbreaker jacket with a hood (waterproof... without a hood, you'll get a wet head)

1 extra pair of casual walking shoes (Merrell, Ecco, etc.; wear one pair/other in luggage)

An unexpired US Passport (TSA Pre-Check makes clearing US/TSA security easier)

A camera (if you are so inclined)

3 rolls of 1-inch wide masking tape (to wrap your whisky purchases)

(You don't need heavy coat/gloves. A wool scarf is good idea; buy a nice one for \$35 in Oban)

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2017 ITINERARY: **\$2,700 fee** includes: 7 nights at various hotels (single rooms Monday thru Sunday), breakfast (Tuesday thru Sunday), tour admissions and ground/ferry transportation; it doesn't include your airfare (estimated at \$1,200; "Delta/KLM" Atlanta/Amsterdam/Edinburgh is recommended), lunches and dinners. You can return home early Monday morning. My goal is to provide you with some special tour and tasting experiences, cover all 6 whisky regions, and share my touring style which you can customize for your future self-directed Scotland tours. (You may not want to drive 1,100-1,200 miles in 7 days again... rather you could focus on a certain region and stay at the same hotel for several nights, e.g., there are 53 distilleries within a 30-minute driving radius of Elgin (bad traffic) or Keith (better) in Speyside.) I believe that it will prove to be the trip of a lifetime (albeit a bit grueling) for a serious whisky aficionado.

Yes



Yes



Please limit your luggage to **1 one-suiter bag and 1 small carry-on** (one backpack, briefcase or purse) as space is restricted. European vehicles are significantly smaller than their US counterparts. If you pack as many items as the typical American and pack them in an oversize (2 or 3 suiter) suitcase (check it out at the airport... it's easy to pick-out the Americans by the size of their luggage), our luggage will not fit into our rental car. I don't want to drive a large commercial van on the narrow Scottish roads... do *you*?

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*Size Matters:* Luggage is a serious issue as our typical tourist buys 6 bottles of whisky during the course of our week-long tour (I always buy 8 bottles; several bought 10; and the record is 12). Assuming 5 occupants per vehicle, we need room for 5 bags, 5 carry-on bags and 30+ bottles of whisky. After receiving your **\$1,350 deposit** (due no later than **April 1, 2017**), I'll send you a list of suggested items to pack for Scotland; I'll ask you to send me a photo of your intended bag and carry-on.

No! Too big!



No! Too big!



The smaller bag (that I partially cut-out) is a one-suiter and is **okay**

*Note:* I brought back 6 full-size bottles in my checked one-suiter luggage and purchased 2 additional full-size bottles at EDI's Duty Free Shops on the way home (allowed to be carried-on the plane): eight 700ml bottles in all. Unless you're emigrating to Scotland, please pack light... in a smaller suitcase or folding garment/accessory bag.

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2017 ITINERARY: Do not fly into Glasgow Airport

Hotel (Sunday Optional): Hilton Edinburgh Airport – Double Tree Edinburgh Airport

### Itinerary:

10/22/2017	Sunday	Fly: KLM Flight #624 (ATL @ 4:00 PM to AMS @ 6:00 AM next day) & KLM Flight #KL1277 (AMS @ 7:10 AM to EDI @ 7:35 AM)	
10/23/2017	Monday	CB: Springbank-Glengyle-Glen Scotia	3/3
10/24/2017	Tuesday	ISLAY: Lagavulin (9:30), Ardbeg, Laphroaig, Bunnahabhain (1:00)	4/7
10/25/2017	Wednesday	HL: Oban, Ben Nevis, Glenmorangie & Wolfburn	4/11
10/26/2017	Thursday	ISLAND (Orkney: Highland Park & Scapa)	2/13
10/27/2017	Friday	SPEYSIDE: Benromach (9:30), G&M (11:00), BenRiach (12:30) & Glenfiddich (4:00)	4/17
10/28/2017	Saturday	HIGHLAND: Ardmore (9:00), GlenDronach (12:00) & Glen Garioch (3:30)	3/20
10/29/2017	Sunday	LOWLAND: Auchentoshan (10:00), Glengoyne (11:30), Tullibardine (2:00) & Glenkinchie (3:30)	4/24
10/30/2017	Monday	Fly: RETURN: KLM Flight #1276 (EDI @ 5:50 AM to AMS @ 8:25 AM) & KLM Flight #6075 (AMS @ 10:35 AM to ATL @ 14:25 PM)	

### 10/23/16 (Mon):

Hotel: West Loch Hotel - Loch Fyne, Tarbert, Argyll - Ph: +44 (0)1880-820-283

### 10/24/16 (Tues):

Hotel: Oban Caledonian Hotel - Ph: +44 (0)1764-651-844

### 10/25/16 (Wed):

Hotel: Royal Hotel (Thurso) - Thurso, Scotland - Ph: +44 (0)1847-893-191

### 10/26/16 (Thur):

Hotel: The Caledonian (Inverness) - Ph: +44 (0) 1463-250-555

### 10/27/16 (Fri):

Hotel: The Castle Hotel (Huntly) - Ph: +44 (0)1466-792-696

### 10/28/16 (Sat):

Hotel: The Black Bull Inn (Killearn, Sterling) - Ph: +44 (0)1360-550-215

### 10/29/16 (Sun):

Hotel: DoubleTree Edinburgh Airport (EDI) - Ph: +44 (0)131-519-4400

*We will visit:* On a best effort basis (weather, traffic and the unknown delays permitting), 18+ distilleries in the course of our 7 full-days of touring. (As the weather and traffic was good, we visited 20 in 2015 and 23 in 2016.) Some of the visits will be full-on tours whereas others will consist of a tasting at the visitors center and/or a quick shopping trek at their retail shop. As a rule of thumb, we'll take 2 full-tours a day whereas the other stops will be tasting and/or retail shop treks. We will not be taking the highest level tasting at every distillery... my tourists wouldn't remember the rest of the day... so it's typically one full-on tasting per day and basic tasting at the other distilleries. Don't worry: you'll not want for whisky at the end of any day.

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*Customs: Be discreet.* I declare only my duty-free carry-on whisky purchases; I do not declare the bottles packed in my luggage and have never had a problem. What you declare is up to you. (Clearing customs is much easier at Atlanta (Delta/KLM) than at Newark (United Airlines).) Wrap each bottle separately in dirty clothes or layers of bubble wrap with masking tape. After wrapping each bottle separately, I bind all 6 bottles together with masking tape as it stabilizes the bottles and I pack additional clothing all round them. You don't want to have a bottle break as that we cause your bag to be opened for inspection and the remaining bottles seized.

Please mail your \$1,350 deposit check payable to Jack Smith, 4654 Gravel Court NW, Acworth, GA 30102. Your deposit is refundable until June 1, 2017; when I receive your balance check (also for \$1,350) not later than June 1, 2017, your payment (\$2,700) is non-refundable. (If you are unable to trip, your payment will be refunded if you sell your reservation for the 2017 tour to another person; likewise, if I find someone to take your place for 2017 tour, you will be refunded the full amount that the successor pays. I may, with your consent, have to offer a discounted price for a last minute replacement. If you don't understand the aforementioned policy, please call me.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Jack Smith, Certified Specialist of Spirits  
President, Metro Atlanta Scotch Club  
**4654 Gravel Court NW, Acworth, GA 30102**  
Ph: (678) 733-4757 - eMail: JaxJrOne@gmail.com  
*"Good whisky is made great when shared among friends."*