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PALACE TOURS

The Belmond Royal Scotsman: Scotch Malt Whisky Trail

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Tour the whisky distilleries of Scotland by luxury rail. Experience the comfort of Belmond Royal Scotsman as it whisks you through beautiful Scottish scenery, stopping for whisky tastings, castles, and authentic Scottish activities along the way. As you journey on the luxury Belmond Royal Scotsman train, you will find that each part of the journey allows you to delve into unique tastes of whiskies produced in the region and also dine on fine local cuisine. For this unique experience, the Belmond Royal Scotsman has partnered with the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, experts in single-cask, single-malt whiskies. At the end of this particular tour you will come away with a richer and deeper understanding of the many whiskies produced in Scotland and visit some of its most famous distilleries.

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

EDINBURGH / KEITH

Meet your whisky ambassador in the Balmoral Hotel and enjoy a welcome dram before departure. Royal Scotsman departs Edinburgh Waverley Station and travels north across the Firth of Forth over the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge. Afternoon tea is served as you journey through the former Kingdom of Fife. The train continues east along the coast, passing through Carnoustie, Arbroath and Aberdeen before arriving in the market town of Keith in the heart of the Speyside whisky region. After an informal dinner, enjoy traditional Scottish entertainment by local musicians.

DAY 2

KEITH / KYLE OF LOCHALSH / PLOCKTON

Departing Keith this morning, the train travels west towards Inverness, capital of the Highlands. Alight from the train in Keith to visit the striking new Macallan Distillery in the heart of the Speyside whisky region. Founded in 1824 by Alexander Reid, your private tour gives you an insight into the process. production, people and passion that make this revered Scotch so special. Re-join the train in Inverness and take your seat for lunch as you travel on what is arguably one of the most scenic railway routes in the UK. The line passes Loch Luichart and the Torridon Mountains, which geologists believe were formed before any life began. The train then follows the edge of Loch Carron through Attadale and Stromeferry before reaching the pretty fishing village of Plockton.

This evening a formal dinner is served followed by coffee and liqueurs in the Observation Car.

DAY 3

BOAT OF GARTEN / CARRBRIDGE

This morning, breakfast is served as the train travels east toward Carrbridge. Before lunch join your whisky ambassador in the Observation Car for a specialist single cask tasting.

Lunch is served on board. Disembark in Aviemore to visit historic Tomatin Distillery and learn the secrets behind its celebrated Highland single malt. Finish your tour with a tutored tasting of three Tomatin single malts, each revealing why this is considered the 'softer side of the Highlands'. Return to the train at Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway for an informal dinner.

Afterwards, make your way to the Observation Car, where local musicians are waiting to entertain you as you sip a nightcap or two.

DAY 4

DUNDEE / DUNKELD / KINGUSSIE

After breakfast, travel by coach to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Choose from a number of country pursuits including fishing, clay pigeon-shooting and an estate tour. Return to the train in Kingussie and enjoy a leisurely lunch during the journey south through Blair Atholl and Pitlochry to Dunkeld. Disembark to visit Tullibardine Distillery in Blackford village. Your private VIP tour features nosing straight from the cask, a visit to the bonded warehouse and a tutored tasting of three Tullibardine Highland single malts. Re-join the train in Perth and prepare for a formal dinner en route to Dundee. The infectious beat of the music tonight may inspire you to join in some lively Scottish country dancing on the station platform, a fitting finale to your Whisky Journey.

DAY 5

DUNDEE / EDINBURGH

Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and crosses the Tay Bridge into the former Kingdom of Fife. Disembark in Edinburgh Waverley Station where you are invited by your whisky ambassador to spend the morning at the Society's headquarters in Edinburgh's elegant New Town.

Tips & Travel Guide

A Day Aboard

Days follow an unhurried rhythm: a full Scottish breakfast, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea on scenic runs, then a three-course dinner with cheeseboard, coffee and petits fours. Dinners alternate between informal evenings (smart casual) and formal or gala nights, when a dark suit, tuxedo or kilt is customary for gentlemen and a cocktail dress or tartan for ladies. All meals, all drinks - including an extensive whisky selection - excursions and nightly entertainment in the Observation Car are included in the fare. Most evenings the train stables in a quiet country station, so you sleep to stillness rather than motion.

Know Before You Go

Boarding: journeys depart from Edinburgh Waverley station. Check-in is at The Balmoral Hotel beside the station; deposit your luggage with the concierge between 11:00 and 12:15 and it will be transferred to the train for you.

Luggage: cabins are compact - one suitcase and one carry-on per guest is recommended. Under-bed storage measures roughly 71 x 23 cm; larger cases can be stored at The Balmoral for the duration of the journey.

Packing: bring a warm waterproof jacket and sturdy shoes for Highland excursions, comfortable clothing for the train, and formal wear for gala evenings. UK electricity is 220/240V - pack an adaptor.

Wi-Fi: available in the Observation Car, though coverage drops in the remoter stretches of the Highlands.

Mobility & health: excursions involve coach transfers, uneven ground and some walking; optional guided hikes require a reasonable level of fitness. There are no medical facilities on board. If you or a companion need special assistance, contact us before booking and we will advise on the best-suited departures.

Children & pets: children may travel at the Train Manager's discretion (infants under two travel free); the atmosphere is geared to adults, and families are advised to book interconnecting cabins or a Grand Suite. Pets are not permitted, with the exception of assistance dogs.

Dietary requirements: vegetarian, vegan and allergy-aware menus are available when requested at the time of booking.

Smoking: not permitted anywhere on board, including electronic cigarettes.

Documents & insurance: overseas visitors need a passport valid for at least six months beyond the journey; check UK visa requirements for your nationality. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended. Fares do not include gratuities or insurance.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Nov 2, 2026	Twin Cabin	**£26,600**	**£13,300**
	Grand Suite	**£49,600**	**£24,800**
Apr 12, 2027	Grand Suite	**£49,700**	**£24,850**
Jun 28, 2027	Double Cabin	**£28,200**	**£14,100**
	Grand Suite	**£54,800**	**£27,400**
Aug 16, 2027	Double Cabin	**£28,200**	**£14,100**
	Grand Suite	**£49,700**	**£24,850**
Sep 20, 2027	Grand Suite	**£52,200**	**£26,100**
Oct 11, 2027	Double Cabin	**£28,200**	**£14,100**
	Grand Suite	**£49,700**	**£24,850**

Rates shown in British Pound GBP (GBP). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/belmond-royal-scotsman-royal-scotsman-whisky-trail for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking Conditions

Deposit: 25% of the total fare confirms your booking. **Balance:** due 120 days before departure; bookings made within 120 days of departure are payable in full at booking.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing and take effect when acknowledged. Charges apply as a percentage of the total fare for the person(s) cancelling:

- 120 days or more before departure: 25%
- 119–90 days before departure: 50%
- 89–30 days before departure: 70%
- 29 days or less before departure, or no-show: 100%

Date changes follow the same charge schedule as cancellations. A booking may be transferred to another guest up to 14 days before departure (an amendment fee plus any supplier costs apply); name changes require at least 7 days' written notice. No refunds are made for unused services or no-shows.

Important

Comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation is strongly recommended. Schedule per Belmond's Trains & Cruises booking conditions (world excluding EEA/UK, last updated 11 February 2026). Palace Tours' terms and conditions also apply.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

Is travel insurance required?

> Contact Palace Tours if you need to purchase travel insurance. When traveling on the Belmond Royal Scotsman luxury train we recommend insurance cover for personal belongings and your luggage. Insurance will often times also cover any charges associated with the cancellation/interruption of tours and any medical bills. Details of cancellation policies can be found in our booking conditions.

Will I require a passport and visa to go on this trip?

> In case you are not a citizen of the United Kingdom you will need a valid passport for the duration of the tour on the train. Also according to the country that issued your passport, you might require a visa when you enter into the UK. We recommend that you check with your travel agent or government before you make your plans to travel to the UK.

Are children allowed on the train?

> Children under the age of 12 are permitted onboard so contact reservations if you need further details.

Can wheelchairs be used on board?

> If you use a wheelchair or have restricted mobility, please contact us directly, to discuss whether you can proceed with the trip on the Belmond Royal Scotsman luxury train.

Can the needs of a special diet be accommodated?

> Please contact us in advance if you have any special dietary requirements or any food allergies and these will be accommodated by the chef.

What is the history of Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> A “country house on wheels,” Belmond Royal Scotsman is Belmond’s unique luxury train in Scotland and has been in service since 1985. There are 9 carriages total, fitted with luxurious modern comforts, that will whisk you away on this Scottish adventure. Traveling through remote areas of Scotland by train, you will view landscapes and incredible wilderness that cannot be seen any other way.

Describe the cabin accommodations on Belmond Royal Scotsman.

> Belmond Royal Scotsman has 22 luxurious en-suite cabins for its 40 passengers designed in Edwardian style. There are 15 twin cabins (with two twin beds), four single cabins (one twin bed), and four double cabins (one double bed). In addition to an en-suite shower room, each cabin has a desk, wardrobe, controllable central heating, and a large window to view the passing scenery. Rich mahogany siding and gorgeous tartan fabrics create a warm and elegant Scottish haven.

Does the train move at night?

> No, Belmond Royal Scotsman is stationary at night in a quiet siding or station, providing greater comfort for a better night's sleep. The train stops around 7pm at night and will resume service around 7am. Once the train is stabled for the night, you are able to step off for fresh air and to stretch your legs.

How many passengers does Belmond Royal Scotsman accommodate?

> Belmond Royal Scotsman carries 40 passengers in 22 cabins. This small number creates a truly personal and intimate experience. As you travel through remote areas of Scotland, you will find yourself getting to know your fellow passengers and staff rather well over the course of the journey.

What is the staff to guest ratio on Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> Currently, the Belmond Royal Scotsman has 18 staff members to the 40 passengers on board. There is a cabin steward available to you during all hours.

Describe the decor of Belmond Royal Scotsman.

> Belmond Royal Scotsman is deliberately designed to immerse its passengers in Scottish culture from the moment they board. Fitted with rich mahogany paneling, colorful tartan fabrics, and large windows, the train becomes your new Scottish home.

Describe my dining options on board Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> Lunch and dinner are held in two distinct dining cars: Raven and Swift, which accommodate all passengers at a time in more intimate, family-style seating arrangements.
> Throughout your journey on board the Belmond Royal Scotsman, authentic Scottish cuisine is sourced regionally using the freshest produce. In the dining carriage, an extensive range of wines and local spirits will pair nicely with your meals, as you enjoy the rich mahogany panels surrounding you. The dishes you enjoy are kept in tune with the areas of Scotland you traverse, and are sure to delight. For instance, steamed mussels may be served for lunch as the Scotsman passes harbors overlooking the ocean. The following link takes you to a sample menu where you may get a better sense of the Scotish cuisine: http://4c6c364fdf1082a37bcf-54493dc0d9255706a1b8a801c97a6044.r8.cf2.rackcdn.com/rs_dining_menu.pdf

How much time on average is each meal on Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> Meals will typically take place during a two hour window. Meal times may vary day to day according to the itinerary, but generally, lunch is served from 12-2pm, and dinner is served from 7-9pm.

What other carriages are part of the Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> In addition to the Sleeping Cars and two Restaurant Cars, there is an Observation Car which is the social hub of the Royal Scotsman. This car doubles as a bar car and boasts an open-air veranda where you can step out for fresh air and to watch the scenery pass by. The Observation Car comfortably seats 40 passengers, and the veranda can hold between 2-3 people at once. Sit in the upholstered sofas, mingle with the other passengers, and try some of the 50 local whisky options available from the bar. After dinner each night, there will be local Scottish entertainment for your enjoyment, ranging from lively music to a Highlander's dramatic storytelling.

Are drinks included in the fare price?

Are there any TVs, or WIFI on board?

> No, there are no TVs and no WIFI connection on board. The reasons are partly deliberate and partly logistical. Travelers are encouraged to get to know each other, converse, and take in the rich scenery around them.

What types of attire are acceptable on Belmond Royal Scotsman?

> Attire is smart casual on board the train, however, formal wear is advised for a special farewell dinner that concludes each journey. This may be black tie or for a truly special experience, consider hiring a traditional Highlander dress outfit. For informal dinners, a shirt and tie is recommended for gentlemen. Also, dress appropriately for outdoor excursions with comfortable footwear and practical clothing. Kilts may also be worn in a formal capacity.

What languages are spoken on board?

> Most Western European languages will be available. If a translator is needed, please contact Palace Tours to request at the time of booking.

Describe the demographics of the typical passenger on board Belmond Royal Scotsman.

> Belmond trains are particularly popular among tourists over the age of 40. In recent years, younger clientele are becoming increasingly represented on the train as well. The majority of the clientele is American, while there are also English, Australian, and Western European travelers as well.

What are some of the sights I will see along the way?

> As you tour the beautiful scenery of Scotland, you will find old castles and modern whiskey distilleries sprinkled into the green landscape. You will also find mountains and other geographical features you didn't know existed in Scotland, populated by Highland Cattle with thick brown coats. You may also extend or customize your journey through Scotland to see more of whichever sights interest you the most.

What currency do I need on board?

> It is recommended that passengers have a small number of Euros for on board purchases. However, most major currencies are accepted, as well as travelers' cheques, Eurocheques and major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club and JCB). The exchange rate on board is displayed in the Bar Car.

Describe tipping on Belmond Royal Scotsman, as well as on the excursions.

> Tipping is not required on the tour, regardless of the cities visited. You may feel free to do so as your tipping culture suggests, but it is ultimately discretionary.

Can I smoke on board?

> No. To comply with European regulations, Belmond Royal Scotsman operates a no smoking policy on board the train.

Is it possible to customize my tour?

> Yes, you may choose to arrive a few days early or leave later to extend your trip. Simply contact Palace Tours to discuss what you would like to add, and we will hammer out the details for you.

Does Belmond Royal Scotsman have any special offers for its trips?

> Yes, contact Palace Tours for more information.

Are there any special rates for children?

> Special rates are possible for children under 12 years old. Contact Palace Tours for information on these rates.

I'd like to contact Palace Tours directly, what is their phone number?

> Phone: (609)-683-5018; email: travel@palacetours.com

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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