



"Welcome to the Faugh A Ballagh Travel newsletter, where I hope to inspire and guide your journey. Each season, I'll bring you handpicked destinations, insider tips, and stories that spark your wanderlust. Pack your bags, because your next FABulous adventure starts right here!"

- Tracy Ballagh



SCOTLAND

What an incredible summer - Faugh A Ballagh Travel hosted a group trip to the Scotland Highlands and Lowlands - with visits to Edinburgh, Pitlochry, Inverness, Fort Williams and Glasgow. The group rode the Jacobite train (as seen in the Harry Potter movies), scouted for the Loch Ness while cruising, toured the Culloden battlefield, and of course, partook in many, many scotch tastings. My husband's favorite was the Macallan.

The Macallan Experience

The Macallan distillery was founded by Alexander Reid, a barley farmer and school teacher. The original name of the area was "Maghellan", taken from the Gaelic word "magh", meaning fertile ground and "Ellan", from the Monk St. Fillan - who held a close association with the church that stood on the grounds of The Macallan Estate until 1400. The Macallan distillery is a Speyside single malt Scotch whisky distillery in Craigellachie in Moray in the north-east of Scotland. This is my husband's favorite Whisky, so on this trip, I surprised him with tickets to the Macallan's Mastery experience. We started our tour with a welcome dram at The



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHISKEY AND WHISKY?

The answer is more than the letter "e". The difference in spelling is more than just convention, it's a way to distinguish the origin of the distilled spirit. The "e" in whiskey is typically associated with spirits produced in the United States and Ireland. Drop the "e" and your booze was likely made in Scotland! The word whiskey itself originates from Irish Gaelic "uisge beatha" and translates to "Water of Life". In Scotland, one would toast with "Slainte Mhath" (pronounced slahn-cha-vah), which translates to "Good Health".

Macallan Whisky Wall, followed by a detailed distillery tour, multiple tastings and concluded with a six-course dinner tasting menu served with paired wines. Simply put, this was a mastery of flavors in one experience! Pro Tip: Arrange a private car service to get you back to the hotel after this 5-hour whisky experience! Price: £250.00/person.

Greek Isles and Smiles: Summer Style

Greece is an exceptional vacation destination thanks to its stunning natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant culture. Travelers can explore world-famous ancient sites like the Acropolis and Parthenon in Athens, wander through picturesque villages with narrow streets and sea views, and relax on some of the world's most beautiful beaches, such as the pink sands of Elafonissi and the dramatic volcanic shores of Santorini.

The country's islands offer everything from cosmopolitan nightlife in Mykonos to tranquil escapes in places like Paros or Hydra, ensuring there's something for everyone. Land tours and cruises are great opportunities to experience Greece! Greek cruise season runs from May to October, with July and August being the most popular.

For example: The "Best of Greece" cruises aboard Celebrity Or Windstar Cruise Lines offers Itineraries typically ranging from 7 to 12 nights, focusing on top Greek destinations like Santorini, Mykonos, and Athens, with some options including nearby countries such as Italy, Croatia, or Turkey.



If you find summer too hot and you fancy the fall. . . .

Consider an European river cruise. Immerse yourself in the heart of Europe—where every bend of the river reveals storied cities, charming villages, and breathtaking landscapes. This is not just a journey; it's a curated experience for those who value culture, camaraderie, and discovery. Enjoy the ease of travel with included guided excursions at every port and complimentary wine/beer at meals, for an unforgettable experience.



Douro River Valley, Portugal

Interested in extra savings to River Cruise? Consider a group booking - with group space available for as little as 5 cabins, double occupancy. Great Girls Trip or Family Reunion idea!

CHECK OUT MY NEW WEBSITE:

Don't miss out on upcoming group travel trips - sign up on-line

www.faughaballagh.com

TRACY's TRAVEL TIP: Book Early and Stay Flexible

Secure deals by booking flights and hotels 2-3 months in advance, and be open to traveling mid-week or off-peak.