GIN TRAIL DESTINATIONS

GORDON CASTLE
Keith or Elgin

The largest productive walled garden in Scotland where the botanicals are grown for this unique multi award winning gin. Taste the freshest of food in the restaurant & buy unique products in the shop. It’s motto is “Provenance doesn’t get any purer”.

Address: Gordon Castle, Forchten, Moray AB39 2PQ

Web: www.gordoncastlewalledgarden.com

Open: Walled garden open all year, Castle open by arrangement. See website for details.

ARBIEKIE HIGHLAND ESTATE DISTILLERY
Montrose or Arbroath

Arbikie is a family-owned single-estate distillery. Their award-winning ‘Kinly Gin’ as unique as they do their own spirit using the crops grown on their farm. It is named after Master Distiller, Kirsty Black & it’s botanicals can all be foraged locally.

Address: Arbikie Highland Estate, Inverkeilor, Angus, Scotland DD11 4LZ

Web: www.arbikie.com

Open: Visiters can enjoy a tour and taste in the specially designed tasting room. Book a visit via their website or call +44 1957 711217

SHETLAND REEL GIN
Sumburgh Airport or Lerwick Port

The distillery is on the UK’s most northerly inhabited island of Unst, Shetland Islands. Their Shetland Real Gin is made in a traditional-style but the Original Gin uses locally grown apple mint, their Ocean Sent Gin with specially harvested bladderwrack seaweed. Their Shetland Reel Gin is made in a traditional-style but the Original Gin uses locally grown apple mint, their Ocean Sent Gin with specially harvested bladderwrack seaweed.

Address: Sumburgh Airport, Sumburgh, Shetland Islands, ZE2 9TX

Web: www.shetlandreelgin.com

Open: Tours are available please call for details.

CAOUNN GIN AT BALMENCH CASTLE
Ardmore

The distillery is located at the heart of the rugged Caomennom National Park. Using the crystal clear Scottish water mixed with locally foraged botanicals to create the sophisticated Caouinn gin. The Highland distillery was one of the first to be licensed in Scotland in 1824.

Address: Balmenach Distillery, Cromdale, Moray, PH25 3PF

Web: www.caouinn.com

Open: Seasonal, by appointment only, please email contact@caouinn.com

Crossbill Gin, with the help of the Forestry Commission and Plantlife, has revived Scotland’s juniper population establishing the first juniper to be grown in Great Britain on a commercial scale.

Address: Crossbill Highland Distilling, Inverness, Scotland, PH45 1QS

Web: www.crossbillgin.com

Open: By appointment only call +44 1957 711217

EDEN MILL
Laichars

Eden Mill is the original single site brewery & distillery in Scotland. They produce 5 core gins including Original Gin made with juniper, coriander, orange, lemon and orange blossom in oak aged beers, & Gin Golf flavoured with retired clubs from the local courses.

Address: Eden Mill Distillery, Laichars, Fife, KY15 5UD

Web: www.edenmill.com

Open: Mon-Sun, book distillery tour. Call +44 1334 834038 or book through the website.

EDINBURGH GIN DISTILLERY & HEADS & TAILS BAR
Haymarket, Edinburgh

From taking a tour or guided tasting, to trying your hand at making your own, their goal is to educate, excite and libate; all in equal measure. In the evening the distillery is behind the scenes to see gin being distilled, bottled, labelled and sample the range.

Address: Edinburgh Gin, 1a Raveline Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2AD

Web: www.edinburghgin.com

Open: By appointment only booked via heather.finishy@edinburghgin.com

GLASGOW DISTILLERY
Glasgow

Glasgow Distillery is the only Gin and Single Malt Distillery in Glasgow. It is a modern urban distillery and the first new distillery in the city of Glasgow for over 100 years, produces Glasgow Gin, Makyn in the Scots word for pot.

Address: Glasgow Distillery, 234 West George Street, Glasgow G2 4QY

Web: www.glasgowdistillery.com

Open: By appointment only booked via info@wsta.co.uk

DUNNET BAY DISTILLERY
 Thurso

Meet the master distiller and take a tour of the botanicals garden. Try out the multi-award winning Rock Rose Gin. Situated in the spectacular bay of Dunnet Head, the most northerly coastline in the UK, Dunnet Bay Distillery is a destination to discover the magic of gin.

Address: Dunnet Bay Distillery, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8XD

Web: www.dunnetbaydistillery.co.uk

Open: April to September on selected afternoons. Call ahead to book +44 1847 851 287.

DUNIHAR GIN
Edinburgh

NB Gin is produced by husband-and-wife team Dave and Aggie Shanks at their gin distillery in Edinburgh. The gin is crated, bottled, and labelled by hand in very small batches. The public can visit the nearby Locket Bros shop & wine & spirit specialists for tastings.

Address: 133 High Street, North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 4HB

Web: www.nbgin.com and www.locketbros.co.uk

Open: Locket Bros is open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm, Sun (Apr-Sept), Dec-12.5pm.

STRATHLEVEN DISTILLERS
Perth

Proudly state that they “start distillation after most of our competitors have finished” to ensure their gins have fresh seasonal fruits in small batches. The collection includes the best-selling Raspberry Gin & Gushcut Gin. They are also the only distillery in Scotland to offer a tour of the entire distillery.

Address: Crossbill Highland Distilling, Inverness, Scotland, PH45 1QS

Open: By appointment only. Tours can be booked online.

Gin Bothy
Dundee

The distillery is housed in a traditionally restored in the Angus Glens of Scotland. Favouring the old-fashioned approach, they refuse their gins with fresh seasonal fruits in small batches. The collection includes the best-selling Raspberry Gin & Gushcut Gin. They are also the only distillery in Scotland to offer a tour of the entire distillery.

Address: Eden Mill Distillery, 1a Raveline Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2AD

Web: www.strathleven.com

Open: Mon-Sun, book distillery tour. Call +44 1334 834038 or book through the website.

PICKERING’S GIN
Harrogate

Housed on the site of an old animal hospital, the Summerhill Distillery became Edinburgh’s first exclusive gin distillery in over 150 years. It produces their craft batch premium gin with hints of liquorice, cinnamon, slightly nutty & a sweet lavender softness.

Address: Locket Bros, 1a Raveline Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2AD

Web: www.pickersgilly Gin

Open: Mon-Sun – Mon 12-5pm, email tours@pickersgilly Gin.com. Visitors can go behind the scenes to see gin being distilled, bottled, labelled and sample the range.

FIRKIN GIN & THE JOLLY BOTANIST
Haymarket, Edinburgh

The gin is made in the classic London-style but aged in American oak whisky casks giving it a particularly smooth and moreishlike sweetness. Firkin Gin & a range of their other gins are at the Jolly Botanist Gin Bar. Address: Jolly Botanist, 286-290 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 9DT. Firkon HQ, 48 Victoria Street, Dunbar EH2 1NH

Web: www.firkin.com and www.thejollybotanist.co.uk

Open: Distillery not yet open to public. Bar Sun-Thurs 10am-12pm, Fri/Sat 10-1am

STRATHCARRON DISTILLERY
Perth

Founded in 2013, Strathcarron Distillery, is probably Scotland’s smallest whisky and gin distillery & produces hand-crafted, artisan gin using traditional methods. They offer tours by appointment only, including 1/2 day and 5 full day gin & whisky experiences.

Address: 133 High Street, North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 4HB

Web: www.strathcarron.com

Open: The site is a working farm but a visit can be arranged by appointment.

ISLE OF HARRIS GIN
Stornoway Airport or Stornoway Port

Situated on the shores of Loch Tarbert, the island’s first distillery is producing a new gin whose unique inclusion of local hand-harvested Sugar kelp helps of deep connections to the sea while working with eight other carefully chosen botanicals.

Address: Isle of Harris Distillery, Tarbert, Isle of Harris HS3 3UJ

Web: www.hamildistillery.com

Open: Distillery open-year-round Mon-Sat. Tours can be booked online.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GIN IN SCOTLAND

Scotland has a long and rich history in the tradition of craft gin distilling. Over the centuries the spirit had fallen in and out of fashion leading up to the resurgence which the great British spirit is seeing today.

The destinations on our Scotland Gin Trail will take you across stunning countryside and through historic cities to learn more about why the spirit is now sought after across the globe. Each trip will need a small amount of planning as many of the sites only take visitors by appointment only.

Around 70% of gin produced in the UK now come from Scotland. The Scottish capital of Edinburgh drills more gin per head than any other British city, so it isn’t surprising that it has been nurturing a taste for the good stuff in Scotland since the 1700s.

Tradespeople specialising in glass making, coopering and warehousing were already in place through the wine and spirit merchants who it was distilled to Scotland as far back as the 17th century. This provided an established network of support for a thriving home-grown drinks industry and led to a boom in distilleries by the 18th and 19th centuries. The Speyside region has been supported by Juniper to Holland when it was used to make Jenner, gin’s great, great grandfather.

By 1777 there were eight licensed distilleries in the city, along with a number of unregistered stills – almost 400. In 1823 legislation transformed Scottish distilling, halving duties and allowing increased volume production of better quality spirit. This boosted the supply of spirit being made, and exported out of Scotland but lead to outpour from the English.

Eventually, Westminster bedrocked on the law and taxes were increased once again. In 1825 a new Scottish-born method of continuous distillation lead English distillers to move away from heavy and sweet ‘Old Tom’ gin and begin producing the ubiquitous London Dry Gin we recognise today.

Craft gin distilleries are on the rise in Scotland and can be found across the region for as far north as the remote Shetland Isles, through the rugged Scottish Highlands, to historic St Victor’s in Edinburgh at the east coast and Crossbill and Eden Mill in the west with SBG coming in the last two years. UK Gin brands have more than doubled during this four year period.

Now it’s time to take a look at what Scotland has to offer the gin fans of today. Step onto the trail, check opening times and booking requirements and plot your gin adventures.
The WSTA represents over 300 companies producing, importing, exporting, transporting and selling wines and spirits in the United Kingdom.

We campaign for a vibrant and sustainable wine and spirit industry, helping to build a future in which alcohol is produced, sold and enjoyed responsibly.

www.wsta.co.uk
info@wsta.co.uk
@wstauk
+44 (0)20 7089 3877

The Gin Guild promotes and encourages commitment to excellence in gin distillation and industry custodianship of the spirit category.

www.theginguild.com
+44 (0)20 7089 3877

For over 35 years, UKinbound have been the voice for inbound tourism, representing the view of our 300+ members to ensure inbound tourism is recognised as one of the leading economic and employment drivers for the UK economy.

By improving the external environment in which our industry exists, we can grow inbound tourism to benefit the growth of our economy and generate greater business opportunities for our membership.

www.ukinbound.org
+44 (0)20 7395 7500

The Scotland Gin Trail
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