



# Stirling & Central Scotland

## Includes ➔

Stirling .....	836
St Andrews .....	842
Dunfermline .....	851
Dundee .....	852
Aberdeen .....	856
Loch Lomond .....	863
Oban .....	868
Mull .....	870
Iona .....	874
Islay .....	879

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cellar Restaurant (p848)
- ➔ Adamson (p846)
- ➔ Café Fish (p873)
- ➔ Ee-usk (p870)
- ➔ Castlehill (p854)
- ➔ Café 52 (p858)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Old Fishergate House (p845)
- ➔ Victoria Square Guesthouse (p840)
- ➔ Iona Hostel (p875)
- ➔ Globe Inn (p857)
- ➔ Malmaison (p854)

## Why Go?

Covering everything from the green pastures of the north-east to the ferry port of Oban, from urban Dundee to the far Mull of Kintyre, this chapter's title is less a geographical region than a catch-all term for everything between the Lowlands and the northern Highlands. Anything you ever dreamed about Scotland can be found here: lochs aplenty, from romantic Lomond to the picturesque Trossachs; castles, ranging from royal Glamis to noble Stirling; whiskies, from the honeyed lotharios of Speyside to the peaty clan chiefs of Islay; and islands, from brooding, deer-studded Jura to emerald Iona, birthplace of Scottish Christianity.

The active are well catered for, with a welter of hills to climb and some of Britain's best long-distance trails to hike. Cyclists and walkers are spoiled for choice, with scenery ranging from the plains of Stirling to the rugged Argyll hills; from the fishing hamlets of Fife to the epic landscapes of Mull.

## When to Go

- ➔ May is a magical time to explore Loch Lomond and the Trossachs before summer crowds arrive.
- ➔ The best month of the year for whale-watching off the west coast is August.
- ➔ Revellers gather for September's whisky and music festival in Dufftown.

# Stirling & Central Scotland Highlights

- 1 Loch Lomond & the Trossachs** (p863) Exploring the lovely lochscapes and accessible walking and cycling routes of this spectacular region.
- 2 St Andrews** (p842) Pacing through the historic birthplace of golf to play the famous Old Course.
- 3 Stirling Castle** (p836) Admiring the views across ancient independence battlefields from this magnificent castle.
- 4 Seafood restaurants** (p870) Tucking into a platter of fresh local langoustines at Ee-Usk or one of Oban's other eateries.
- 5 Distillery tour** (p864) Being initiated into the mysteries of malt whisky on a Speyside distillery tour.
- 6 Iona** (p874) Journeying through wildlife-rich Mull to reach this holy emerald isle.
- 7 Islay** (p879) Visiting the smoky heavyweights of the whisky world on their peaty home turf.
- 8 Scone Palace** (p850) Strutting with the peacocks at this noble palace where Scottish kings were once crowned.

