

## Chapter 1

# Discovering the Best of Scotland

### *In This Chapter*

- ▶ Staying in the top hotels and dining in the best restaurants
- ▶ Discovering the best castles and museums
- ▶ Drinking in the best pubs and bars

**T**o start things off, let's begin with the highlights: some of the best that Scotland has to offer travelers, from unforgettable experiences and attractions to excellent hotels and top-rated restaurants; from first-class castles and museums to a selection of world-renowned golf courses, friendly pubs, and more. Entries in this chapter — as well as listings later in the book — are ordered alphabetically, under each main heading, not by preference. Keep your eyes open for the “Best of the Best” icons throughout *Scotland For Dummies*.

### *The Best Travel Experiences*

- ✔ **Ardnamurchan Peninsula:** One of the more easily reached but seemingly remote areas of the Western Highlands, and isolated enough to feel like an island, this neck of land stretching toward the Inner Hebridean Islands is the most westerly point of the entire British mainland. See Chapter 18.
- ✔ **Edinburgh's Old Town:** This district of the capital is probably the most visited location in all of Scotland — and not without good reason. Running along the spine of a hill and extending from the ancient castle to the history-filled Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh's Old Town is a delight to wander through. Make sure you take time to explore the alleyways. See Chapter 11.
- ✔ **Glasgow's City Centre:** The thriving heart of a modern European city, the core of Glasgow — Scotland's largest metropolis — offers some of the finest examples of monumental Victorian architecture in the world. The streets here follow a strict grid pattern, so you don't need to worry about getting lost. See Chapter 12.

- ✓ **Glen Coe:** Glen Coe is such a spectacular valley (Scotland's Yosemite) that it's hard to reconcile its natural beauty with its bloody history. The visitor center near Glencoe village is an award-winner, with details on hiking, geology, and the clan battles that occurred here. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Loch Lomond:** Located near Glasgow, this loch is the largest inland body of water in all of Great Britain. It's only about a 30- to 45-minute drive or train ride from the Glasgow city limits. When you reach the loch, you can hike, canoe, or just relax. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **Loch Ness:** This loch is mysterious and legendary — if somewhat overrated in my mind. In addition to looking out for Nessie, the elusive and mythical monster, you should seek out other local attractions, such as Urquhart (pronounced *ir-ket*) Castle, and travel around the surrounding countryside. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Mull or Skye:** These two islands of the Inner Hebrides are the easiest and most impressive ones to reach. However accessible, they still provide some real scenery and a true taste of life on the many isles that cover the western shores of Scotland. See Chapter 19.
- ✓ **Outer Hebrides:** From Lewis, with its standing stones and wind-swept cliffs, to the tip of Harris (famous for wool tweed), and then farther south to more stony hills and white sand beaches, and finally to Barra, the Outer Hebrides (or Western Isles) are unequalled in Scotland for a maritime and island experience. See Chapter 19.
- ✓ **Sands of Morar:** North of the quiet port of Arisaig in the Western Highlands, the Sands of Morar offer beautiful bleached beaches set against postcard-pretty seas. You can almost reach out and touch the islands of Rhum and Eigg from here; or catch a ferry to mountainous Skye from nearby Mallaig. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Sandwood Bay:** An environmentally protected area near Blairmore in the Northwest Highlands has a beach that, by most accounts, is the most beautiful and unsullied in all of Great Britain's mainland sandy shorelines. See Chapter 18.

## *The Best Accommodations in Edinburgh and Glasgow*

### *Edinburgh*

- ✓ **Best Boutique Hotel: The Bonham.** In an upscale, western New Town neighborhood of the Scottish capital, the Bonham offers some of the most alluring accommodations in a city filled with fine hotels. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Traditional Hotel: Balmoral Hotel.** With a Michelin-star restaurant, attentive doormen dressed in kilts, and a romantic pile

to rival any others, the Balmoral is legendary, and it's located smack in the heart of the capital. See Chapter 11.

- ✓ **Best Rooms near the Castle: The Witchery by the Castle.** As its list of celebrity guests testifies, The Witchery offers opulence and individuality in a manner not seen anywhere else in Old Town. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Hotel in Leith: Malmaison.** At the port of Leith, Malmaison is about a 15-minute ride north of Edinburgh's center. Named after Joséphine's mansion outside Paris, the hotel celebrates the Auld Alliance of France and Scotland, and occupies a Victorian building built in 1900. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Hotel Health Spa: Sheraton Grand Hotel.** Near the city's conference center, the Sheraton Grand has wonderful facilities in an adjoining building. Especially noteworthy is the roof-top indoor/outdoor pool. See Chapter 11.

## *Glasgow*

- ✓ **Best Boutique Hotel: Hotel du Vin at One Devonshire Gardens.** In a West End neighborhood filled with sandstone-fronted town houses, this hotel at the well-known address stands out. It's a recreation of a high-bourgeois, very proper Scottish home from the early 1900s, boasting antique furnishings and discreetly concealed modern comforts. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best Hip Hotel: Brunswick Hotel.** With only 18 rooms, the Brunswick exudes cool in the city's hip Merchant City district of the City Centre. The design is modern and minimalist, but is executed with character and class. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best in the Commercial Centre: Malmaison.** Linked to the hotel with the same name in Edinburgh (see listing in previous section), this Malmaison is in a building that dates from the 1800s. It welcomes visitors with Scottish hospitality and houses them with quite a bit of style. See Chapter 12.

## *The Best Small and Country House Hotels*

- ✓ **An Lochan, Tighnabruaich, Argyll:** Formerly the Royal, this hotel dates to the mid-19th century, but today it's fully modernized inside, with plush rooms that overlook the sea and the hotel's own moorings. Great fish and seafood, too. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Ardanaisig Hotel, Kilchrenan, Argyll:** This stone Scottish baronial mansion, built in the 1830s, offers a good bit of luxury in an out-of-the-way corner of Argyllshire, on the way toward the Western Highlands. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Argyll Hotel, Iona, the Hebrides:** This charming, traditional hotel, in the village of Iona, is comfortable and environmentally

conscious, with its own organic vegetable garden and an ethos of not disturbing the fragile island ecology. See Chapter 19.

- ✓ **Ballachulish House**, Ballachulish, the Highlands: This 17th-century laird's house includes a history said to be the inspiration for key passages in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Darroch Learg**, Ballater, the Northeast: This hotel is one of the more highly regarded inns in the Royal Deeside region, near the Queen's estate at Balmoral, several historic castles, and the Speyside whisky trail. See Chapter 17.
- ✓ **Glenapp Castle**, Ballantrae, South Ayrshire: Glenapp is a beautifully decorated pile close to Stranraer, with Victorian baronial splendor and antiques, oil paintings, and elegant touches. See Chapter 14.
- ✓ **Knockinaam Lodge**, near Portpatrick, Dumfries, and Galloway: With a Michelin-star restaurant, Knockinaam combines exquisite meals with a secluded seaside setting on the Rhinns of Galloway. See Chapter 14.
- ✓ **Prestonfield**, Edinburgh: Although it's within the city, this hotel rises from the meadows in Jacobean splendor, amid gardens, pastures, and woodlands, below Arthur's Seat on the south side of the Scottish capital. See Chapter 11.

## The Best Dining in Edinburgh and Glasgow

### Edinburgh

- ✓ **Best Cafe: Spoon.** In the heart of Old Town, Spoon forks out some of the best soups, salads, and sandwiches in Edinburgh — and the freshly made cakes and other sweet stuff are perhaps even better. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Fine-Dining Restaurant: Restaurant Martin Wishart.** With one of the city's precious Michelin stars and its most talented chef/owner, Restaurant Martin Wishart is where the leading out-of-town chefs dine when they visit Edinburgh. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Italian Restaurant: Santini.** Although many of the more established Italian restaurants in town don't like hearing it, Santini usually gets the rave reviews and sets the highest standards. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Modern Scottish Restaurant: Atrium.** Owned by Andrew and Lisa Radford, Atrium offers dishes prepared with flair and imagination, but not excessive amounts of fuss or over-fancy presentation. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Best Restaurant Views: Oloroso or Forth Floor Restaurant.** This category is a dead heat between Oloroso and Forth Floor at Harvey Nichols department store. Both offer well-conceived preparations of fresh Scottish produce to go with those scenic vistas. See Chapter 11.

## *Glasgow*

- ✓ **Best Bistro: Cafe Gandolfi.** This landmark in the Merchant City district offers straightforward and delicious dishes, whether you choose a bowl of Cullen skink (smoked haddock chowder) or a sirloin steak sandwich. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best Seafood Restaurant: Gamba.** This Commercial Centre basement restaurant celebrated its tenth year in 2008. Over the preceding decade, it proved to be the most consistent place for excellent fish and shellfish meals. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best Indian Restaurants: The Dhabba or Mother India.** Glasgow loves its Indian cuisine, but these two restaurants offer something better than the norm, favoring dishes that are more subtle, in surroundings that are less clichéd than the typical curry houses. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best Pub Food: Stravaigin Café Bar.** With an award-winning restaurant in the basement, the ground-floor pub Stravaigin offers similarly top-notch quality food — at a fraction of the restaurant price. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Best on a Budget: Wee Curry Shop.** A brief stroll from the shopping precincts of Sauchiehall Street, the Wee Curry Shop is a tiny gem of a restaurant, serving freshly prepared Indian cuisine at bargain prices. See Chapter 12.

## *The Best Rural Restaurants*

- ✓ **Applecross Inn,** Applecross, the Western Highlands: The inn may not be the easiest place in Scotland to reach, but many visitors agree that the twists and turns of the road to Applecross are well worth the journey for a meal here. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Braidwoods,** Dalry, North Ayrshire: One of the standout restaurants in Ayrshire and holder of a Michelin star and other accolades, Braidwoods is expensive but worth the price. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Creagan House,** Strathyre, the Trossachs: Run by Cherry and Gordon Gunn, the restaurant is part of an unassuming but charming inn in a 17th-century farmhouse. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **Mhor,** near Balquhider, the Trossachs: Just up the road a bit from the Creagan, this loch-side restaurant is a perennial favorite of travelers who love food and are passing through the Trossach mountains. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **Restaurant Andrew Fairlie,** Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perthshire: It may be the finest dining experience in the country, and chef Fairlie is arguably the most talented cook in Scotland. See Chapter 16.

- ✔ **Seafood Cabin**, Skipness, Argyll: I love this place on a sunny summer day, when you can nosh on fresh seafood and take in the view, from picnic benches, of a castle and Isle of Arran. See Chapter 15.
- ✔ **Three Chimneys Restaurant**, Colbost, Isle of Skye: Probably the most popular and most famous restaurant in the Hebridean Islands, the Three Chimneys serves superb Scottish cuisine paired with produce from Skye, its island home. See Chapter 19.

## The Best Castles

- ✔ **Blair Castle**, Blair, Perthshire: Blair is chock-full o' stuff: art, armor, flags, stag horns, and more goodies not typically found on the standard furniture-and-portrait castle tour. See Chapter 17.
- ✔ **Caerlaverock Castle**, near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway: Once a target of English armies, the impressive ruins of Caerlaverock (pronounced ka-liver-ick) remain one of Scotland's more classic Medieval castles, and its magnificent moat is still intact. See Chapter 14.
- ✔ **Castle Tioram**, Blain, Ardnamurchan: The ruins of this small fortress sit along the picturesque shores of Loch Moidart. You can enjoy some good hiking trails near the castle, too. See Chapter 18.
- ✔ **Doune Castle**, near Stirling: Fans of the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* may recognize Doune. Thanks to its limited restoration, visitors get a good idea of what living here in the 14th century was like. See Chapter 16.
- ✔ **Duart Castle**, Craignure, Isle of Mull: Duart was abandoned in 1751, but thanks to the efforts of Fitzroy Maclean, it was restored from ruins in 1911. It's worth making your way up the narrow, twisting stairs, because you can walk outside on the parapet at the top of the castle. See Chapter 19.
- ✔ **Eilean Donan Castle**, Dornie, the Highlands: This is probably the most photographed stone pile in Scotland (after Edinburgh Castle, that is). On an islet in Loch Duich, Eilean Donan is a quintessential castle. See Chapter 18.
- ✔ **Stirling Castle**, Stirling: This castle was the residence of Mary Queen of Scots, her son James VI of Scotland (and later James I of England), and other Stuart monarchs. One section, the Great Hall, stands out for miles thanks to the creamy, almost yellow exterior that apparently replicates its original color. See Chapter 16.
- ✔ **Threave Castle**, near Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway: Threave is a massive 14th-century tower house on an island in the middle of Loch Ken (a boatman ferries visitors across). See Chapter 14.

## *The Best Cathedrals, Churches, and Abbeys*

- ✔ **Dunfermline Abbey and Palace**, Dunfermline, Fife: This abbey is on the site of a Celtic church and an 11th-century house of worship dedicated to the Holy Trinity; traces of this history are visible beneath gratings in the floor of the old nave. See Chapter 16.
- ✔ **Glasgow Cathedral**, Glasgow: This cathedral is also known as the cathedral of St. Kentigern or St. Mungo's, and it dates to the 13th century. The edifice is mainland Scotland's only complete medieval cathedral. See Chapter 12.
- ✔ **High Kirk of St. Giles**, Edinburgh: Just a brief walk downhill from Edinburgh Castle, this church, sometimes called St. Giles Cathedral — and its steeple, in particular — is one of the most important architectural landmarks along the Royal Mile. See Chapter 11.
- ✔ **Iona Abbey and Nunnery**, Iona, the Hebrides: This spiritual landmark is a significant shrine to the earliest days of Christianity in Scotland. See Chapter 19.
- ✔ **Jedburgh Abbey**, Jedburgh, the Borders: This abbey is one of four Borders abbeys commissioned by Scots King David I in the 12th century. See Chapter 14.
- ✔ **Melrose Abbey**, Melrose, the Borders: The heart of Scots King Robert the Bruce is rumored to be buried somewhere on the grounds of this abbey, which sits amid somewhat spectacular ruins. See Chapter 14.
- ✔ **St. Vincent Street Church**, Glasgow: This church offers limited access to visitors, but it's the most visible landmark attributed to the city's great architect, Alexander "Greek" Thomson. See Chapter 12.

## *The Best Art Galleries*

- ✔ **The Burrell Collection**, Glasgow: This gallery houses the treasures left to Glasgow by Sir William Burrell, a wealthy ship owner and industrialist who had a lifelong passion for art. He started collecting at age 14 and only ceased when he died, at the age of 96, in 1958. See Chapter 12.
- ✔ **Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA)**, Glasgow: This gallery is housed in the former Royal Exchange. The permanent collection has works by Stanley Spencer and John Bellany, as well as art from the "new Glasgow boys." See Chapter 12.
- ✔ **Hunterian Art Gallery**, Glasgow: The Hunterian holds the artistic estate of James McNeill Whistler, with some 60 of his paintings as well as some by the Scottish Colourists. It also boasts a collection of Charles Rennie Mackintosh–designed furnishings. See Chapter 12.

- ✓ **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum**, Glasgow: This is the remarkable flagship of the city's well-regarded municipal art collection, housed in the recently restored masterpiece of Victorian architecture. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery**, Kirkcaldy, Fife: I have a particular soft spot for this modest provincial gallery and museum because I think it has one of the single best collections of Scottish Colourist paintings and other Scottish works from the 19th and 20th centuries. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **National Gallery of Scotland**, Edinburgh: The National Gallery offers a collection that has been chosen with great care and expanded by bequests, gifts, loans, and purchases. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**, Edinburgh: This gallery houses Scotland's national collection of 20th-century art in a converted 1828 school that's set on 4.8 hectares (12 acres) of grounds. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**, Edinburgh: Designed by Rowand Anderson, the gallery gives you a chance to stand before the faces of many famous people from Scottish history. See Chapter 11.

## ***The Best Museums and Historic Attractions***

- ✓ **Burns Cottage and Museum**, Alloway, Ayrshire: This attraction may be basic, but it remains a must-see for even casual fans of Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Calanais Standing Stones**, Callanish, Isle of Lewis, the Hebrides: This ancient circle and cross-shaped formation of large upright stones is known as the "Scottish Stonehenge" and is one of the most significant prehistoric sites in Scotland. See Chapter 19.
- ✓ **Calton Hill**, Edinburgh: This landmark mound of rock and earth rises about 105m (350 ft.) above the city and is crowned with monuments. It's the main reason that Edinburgh is called the "Athens of the North." See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Culloden Moor Battlefield**, near Inverness, the Highlands: This boggy moorland in the Highlands is where the hopes of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite uprising of 1745 (begun at Glenfinnan) ended in complete defeat in 1746. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Gladstone's Land**, Edinburgh: This 17th-century merchant's house, looking suitably weathered and aged, is decorated in period-style furnishings. It features colorful, if faded, paintings of flowers and fruit on a sensitively restored timber ceiling. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Glasgow School of Art**, Glasgow: This building was designed by Scotland's great architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh, whose global reputation comes largely from this magnificent example on Garnethill above Sauchiehall Street. See Chapter 12.



- ✔ **Glenfinnan Monument**, Glenfinnan, the Highlands: This monument marks the hopeful start of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was trying to reclaim the English and Scottish crowns for his Stuart family lineage. See Chapter 18.
- ✔ **Museum of Scotland**, Edinburgh: A most impressive modern sandstone building not far from the Royal Mile, the museum is home to exhibits that follow the story of Scotland, including archaeology, technology and science, the decorative arts, royalty, and geology. See Chapter 11.
- ✔ **The Palace and Abbey of Holyroodhouse**, Edinburgh: The palace was first built in the 16th century adjacent to an Augustinian abbey that David I established in the 12th century. Today, the royal family stays here whenever they occasionally visit Edinburgh. When they're not in residence, the palace is open to visitors. See Chapter 11.
- ✔ **Skara Brae**, Orkney: This is the best-preserved prehistoric beachside village in northern Europe. For an idea of what you'll see here, think Pompeii-meets-the-Neolithic. See Chapter 20.

## *The Best Historic Houses and Gardens*

- ✔ **Abbotsford**, near Galashiels, the Borders: Abbotsford is the mansion that Scotland's best-known novelist, Sir Walter Scott, built and lived in from 1817 until his death. You can visit extensive gardens and grounds on the property, plus the private chapel added after Scott's death. See Chapter 14.
- ✔ **Culzean Castle**, South Ayrshire: This castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde is a fine example of Robert Adam's "castellated" style (built with turrets and ramparts). It replaced an earlier castle kept as the family seat of the powerful Kennedy clan. See Chapter 15.
- ✔ **Hill House**, Helensburgh, West Dumbartonshire: The design of this house was inspired by Scottish Baronial style, but it's still pure Charles Rennie Mackintosh, from the asymmetrical juxtaposition of windows and clean lines that blend sharp geometry and gentle curves to the sumptuous but uncluttered interior. See Chapter 13.
- ✔ **Holmwood House**, Glasgow: This 1858 villa designed by Alexander "Greek" Thomson is probably the best example of his innovative style as applied to stately Victorian homes. See Chapter 12.
- ✔ **Inverewe Garden**, Poolewe: On the south-facing shores of Loch Ewe, in the Northwest Highlands, Inverewe has an amazing collection of plants in this sprawling garden considering how far north it's situated. See Chapter 18.
- ✔ **Little Sparta**, Dunsyre: This garden was devised by one of Scotland's most intriguing artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, Ian Hamilton Finlay. See Chapter 14.

- ✓ **Logan Botanic Garden**, Port Logan: This garden has palms, tree ferns, and other exotic plants that you wouldn't expect to see in Scotland, such as towering flowering columns of echium pininanas, native to the Canary Islands. See Chapter 14.
- ✓ **Mount Stuart**, Isle of Bute: This neo-Gothic red sandstone mansion belongs to the Marquess of Bute's family, but it's open to the public for much of the year. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Royal Botanic Garden**, Edinburgh: Royal Botanic, with its acres of land to explore, is one of the grandest gardens in all of Great Britain, which is certainly saying something. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Traquair House**, Innerleithen: This house dates to the 10th century and is perhaps Scotland's most romantic house, rich in its association with Mary Queen of Scots and the Jacobite uprisings. See Chapter 14.

## *The Best Small Towns*

- ✓ **Culross**: Thanks largely to the National Trust for Scotland, Culross, in Fife, shows what a Scottish village from the 16th to 18th centuries was like, with its cobbled streets lined by stout cottages featuring crow-stepped gables. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **Dirleton**: Midway between North Berwick and Gullane, and east of Edinburgh, Dirleton is cited by many as the prettiest village in Scotland. It's picture-postcard perfect, not like a real town at all, but rather one that appears to have been created for a movie set. See Chapter 13.
- ✓ **Kirkcudbright**: On the southern coast of the Scottish mainland, near the Solway Firth, this quaint village of charming cottages, many with colorful pastel paint jobs, was once a leading artists' colony. See Chapter 14.
- ✓ **Plockton**: Located not far from Eilean Donan Castle, Plockton is probably the prettiest village in the Highlands. It sits on the shores of Loch Carron, and you'll be amazed to find palm trees. See Chapter 18.
- ✓ **Tobermory**: Made famous by a BBC children's TV program (in which it was called Balamory), this port on the Isle of Mull has a crescent full of pastel painted buildings facing the popular West Coast harbor. See Chapter 19.
- ✓ **Ullapool**: This town has the busiest fishing harbor in the northwest of Scotland, and it's also a popular resort — the last outpost before the sparsely populated Northern Highlands. See Chapter 18.

## *The Best Distilleries*

- ✓ **Caol Ila Distillery**, Port Askaig, Islay: I've not seen a distillery with a more impressive view, in this case across a narrow sound to the hilly Isle of Jura. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **Edradour Distillery**, Pitlochry, Perthshire: Visitors get a good primer on the whisky-making process at this minidistillery. See Chapter 17.
- ✓ **Glenfiddich Distillery**, Dufftown, the Northeast: In contrast to Edradour, this is one of Scotland's largest whisky factories, set amid the rolling wooded hills of the famous Speyside region. See Chapter 17.
- ✓ **Laphroaig Distillery**, Islay, Argyll: With more than a half-dozen distilleries, Islay (pronounced *eye-la*) is Scotland's whisky island. Laphroaig has a distinctive peaty flavor with a whiff of sea air (some say they can even taste a little seaweed). See Chapter 15.

## *The Best Golf Courses*

- ✓ **Muirfield Golf Course**, Gullane, East Lothian: Muirfield is ranked among the world's great golf courses. It's the home course of the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers — the world's oldest club. See Chapter 13.
- ✓ **Royal Troon Golf Club**, South Ayrshire: The city and its environs offer several sandy links courses, most prominently the Royal Troon Golf Club. But try the municipal courses for a bargain round as well. See Chapter 15.
- ✓ **St. Andrews**, Fife: Surely Scotland's most famous golf mecca, St. Andrews offers five 18-hole courses as well as one 9-hole course for beginners and children, all owned by a trust and open to the public. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **Turnberry Hotel Golf Courses**, South Ayrshire: Like the Royal Troon, Turnberry has been the scene of Open tournaments and other professional golfing events over the years. Guests of the Westin Turnberry hotel get priority here. See Chapter 15.

## *The Best Pubs and Bars*

- ✓ **Café Royal Circle Bar**, Edinburgh: This New Town pub stands out as a longtime favorite, boasting lots of atmosphere and Victorian trappings. It attracts a sea of drinkers, locals as well as visitors. See Chapter 11.
- ✓ **Claichaig Inn**, Glencoe, the Highlands: This hotel has a rustic pub with a wood-burning stove, although it's really the staff's sunny

dispositions that warm the woody lounge and bar. Claichaig Inn is especially popular with hikers. See Chapter 18.

- ✓ **Drover's Inn**, Inverarnan, Loch Lomond: This hotel has an atmospheric pub, with an open fire burning, barmen in kilts, and plenty of foot and car travelers nursing their drinks at the north end of Loch Lomond. See Chapter 16.
- ✓ **The Horse Shoe**, Glasgow: With its long, horseshoe-shaped bar and central location, this pub is a throwback to the days of so-called Palace Pubs in Scotland. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **Mishnish**, Tobermory, Isle of Mull: This pub on the Isle of Mull is a rather big quayside bar for such a diminutive town. See Chapter 19.
- ✓ **The Pot Still**, Glasgow: This pub gets the nod because of its selection of single malts, which easily numbers into the hundreds. See Chapter 12.
- ✓ **The Prince of Wales**, Aberdeen: With the longest bar in town and a convivial atmosphere, this pub is possibly the best place to grab a pint in Aberdeen. See Chapter 17.
- ✓ **The Shore**, Edinburgh: This pub in Leith fits seamlessly into its seaside port surroundings without resorting to a lot of the usual decorations of cork and netting. It has excellent food, too. See Chapter 11.