

Bushmills Distillery

The 'Old Bushmills' Distillery has an excellent claim to being the World's Oldest Licensed Whiskey Distillery. King James I granted the original license in April 1608 and Bushmills has been making the finest Irish Malt Whiskey for almost four hundred years. They will be shortly celebrating their 400th Birthday in 2008.

Situated two miles from the spectacular Giant's Causeway, and one mile from the historical Dunluce Castle, the Distillery lies in an area of outstanding beauty, which is rich in history and folklore.

The Victorian architecture of the Distillery dates from 1885 when it was rebuilt due to a fire. It is located on the banks of St. Columb's Rill and reputed to be the oldest licensed Distillery in the world - being given legal status in 1608 when King James 1st granted a license to local landowner Sir Thomas Phillips. The process of illegal distillation in the village goes back even further than 1608. Local folklore tells of whiskey being made illegally in the 1400's, there are also records of a Sir Robert Savage enjoying the 'aqua vitae' (whiskey) with his troops in 1276 and the drink is even mentioned in the Book of Leinster. The company itself was founded in 1783 and in 1800's we find records of the S.S. Bushmills, a large sailing ship own by company which transported whiskey across the Atlantic. During its existence the distillery has changed ownership many times, at one time it was owned by the Boyd family who were responsible for promoting the product worldwide, in 1972 it became part of the Irish Distillers Group who themselves were taken over by Pernod Ricard, the distillery is now owned by Diageo. Whoever the owner is, it is hard to fault the Black Bush, especially hot with a hint of clove and a wee teaspoon of honey, oh!, and a winter night.



At Bushmills you are able to experience for yourself the craft and skills of making an Irish Single Malt Whiskey. During the guided tour you will discover the secrets of the special water from St. Columb's Rill, the malted Irish barley, triple distillation in copper stills and ageing for long years in Oak Casks. Of course, no visit would be complete without enjoying a complimentary glass of the final product, one of their famous whiskeys.

All of the famous Whiskeys as well as a wonderful selection of Gift Items are available from the Gift Shop on site.

