



Taste of the north: Bushmills visitors wear broad smiles



No turning back now: the thin Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge is an adventure for hikers



The past is with us: this sign reminds Derry of old times

J. Dabrowski/picture alliance

Bushmills Distillery

The year 2008 has been a big one for the oldest legal distillery in the world — it marks the 400th anniversary of Bushmills. In 1608, King James I granted the governor of Ulster a licence to distill *uisce beatha*, “water of life”. Thus began the long history of making whiskey at Bushmills.

Whiskey’s ingredients include water, malted barley and distillers’ yeast. There are two main differences between an Irish whiskey, such as Bushmills, and Scottish whisky (apart from the spelling). One is the way the barley is malted; the other is the number of times it’s distilled. Traditionally, Scottish whiskies taste like the peat smoke used during the drying of the barley. Bushmills does not use peat, only air, to dry the barley. Where a Scottish whisky is distilled twice, Bushmills is distilled three times. The result is a smoother taste, they claim.

Tours of the working distillery are well worth taking — but leave your pullover behind, as it gets fairly warm. The audio-visual presentation is interesting, too, and the shop is excellent. Souvenirs include miniature bottles of whiskey to take with you.

The “1608” anniversary whiskey (£45), which tastes a very little bit of toffee and dark chocolate, is a good choice. So is the 12-year-old single malt, aged in sherry casks. Want more? Go in for a whiskey tasting: you get to try everything from the standard Bushmills blend to a 21-year-old single malt. There’s a bar and small restaurant at the distillery, too. Read more about the distillery at www.bushmills.com

the city gates against him, and a 105-day siege followed. Its slogan, “no surrender”, was to echo down the centuries.

At the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, William of Orange beat James’s army. Three centuries later, the event is still celebrated annually by the famous — or infamous — Orange marches. The parades around the walls of the “Londonderry” part of the city caused trouble as the Catholic

community, watched over by British Army posts, were not allowed to use the walls.

Today, the last posts have gone, and a girl is blowing her soap bubbles over one of the old cannon guarding the wall. I go for a drink in a beer garden where the air quickly turns blue with the smoke and the “fookin” swearing. Later, I meet Martin McCrossan, a guide whose historic tour of the walls recently won the award “Best Tour in Ireland”. Martin warmly welcomes the tour group and thanks them for helping to bring Derry back to life.

What hurt the city so much was the long period of violence there — known as “the Troubles” — which went on

apprentice boy	[ə'prentɪs ,bɔɪ]	Lehrjunge
barley	['bɑ:lɪ]	Gerste
battle scar	['bætəl ,skɑ:]	Zeichen eines vergangenen Konflikts
cask	[kɑ:sk]	(Holz)Fass
Causeway: Giant's ~	~ ['kɔ:zweɪ]	erhöhter Fußweg für den Riesen
cliff	[klɪf]	Klippe
distillery	[dɪ'stɪləri]	Brennerei
fade into sth.	['feɪd ,ɪntə]	allmählich zu etw. werden
fookin = fucking	['fʊkɪn] vulg.	verdammt
grant: ~ sb. a licence	[,grɑ:nt]	jmdm. eine Lizenz erteilen
hint	[hɪnt]	Hinweis
infamous	['ɪnfəməs]	berüchtigt
ingredient	[ɪn'grɪ:diənt]	Zutat
innocence	['ɪnəsəns]	Unschuld
malted	['mɔ:ltɪd]	gemälzt
mural	['mjuərəl]	Wandmalerei
muzzle	['mʌzəl]	Mündung einer Waffe
number plate	['nʌmbə pleɪt] UK	Nummernschild
paint bomb	['peɪnt bɒm]	hier: mit Farbe gefüllte Flaschen
peat	[pi:t]	Torf
petrol	['petrəl]	Benzin
point sth. out	[pɔɪnt 'aʊt]	auf etw. hinweisen
pounds sterling	[,paʊndz 'stɜ:lɪŋ]	Einheit der britischen Währung
round sth.	[raʊnd]	etw. umrunden
siege	[si:dʒ]	Belagerung
surrender	[sə'rendə]	Kapitulation
swearing	['swɛərɪŋ]	Flucherei
take sth. in	[teɪk 'ɪn]	etw. auf sich wirken lassen
yeast	[ji:st]	Hefe

from the late 1960s to 1998. When the British Army arrived in Northern Ireland in 1969, it was to stop that conflict. The army was supposed to stay for a week, but remained for 38 years. Despite the sad memories, like the 1972 killings in Derry on what is known as “Bloody Sunday” (see *Spotlight* 1/07), the Troubles are now fading into history.

Now even the famous Bogside murals reflect the changes. The “Death of Innocence”, showing schoolgirl Annette McGavigan, the first child to die in the conflict, has changed. The machine gun to the left has been repainted — its muzzle now broken.

To our right, the Apprentice Boys’ Memorial Hall bears the battle scars from paint bombs thrown over from the other side of the walls. I look down from here to the Bogside neighbourhood: the “You Are Now Entering Free Derry” sign still greets visitors to this area, where Catholic protesters fought with Protestants and British soldiers.

Time for a quick pint, then early to bed. Tomorrow is the start of my Coastal Causeway Trail walk, exploring the attractions of the North Antrim coast north-east of Derry.

The giant’s coast

Guide Dave Southall meets me in Portstewart, a little more than an hour by bus from Derry. As we start to round the coast, the friendly geomorphologist points out fossils at the water’s edge. But my head’s not yet cleared from the marathon tasting session at the Bushmills distillery (see box). Slowly I take in the landscapes. Rocky white cliffs ▶

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