

# UISGE-BEATHA: “The Water of Life”

## Scotch Whisky Gaelic Name Index

<u>Anglicized Name</u>	<u>Correct Gaelic Form</u>	<u>English-style Pron. Guide</u>
Aberfeldy mouth of Peallaidh's (a water sprite's name) water	<i>Obar Pheallaidh</i>	[O·pur F <sup>y</sup> AL·ee]
Aberlour mouth of the noisy burn	<i>Obar Lobhair</i>	[O·pur LA·oo·ir]
Allt a' Bhainne Milk Burn	<i>Allt a' Bhainne</i>	[A·oolt uh VAN·yuh]
Ardbeg the small cape/point	<i>an Àird Bheag</i>	[un ahrsht vek]
Ardmore the great height	<i>an Àird Mhòr</i>	[un ahrsht voer]
Balvenie St. Bean's stead	<i>Baile Bhainidh</i>	[BAL·uh VEN·ee]
Ben Nevis mount of the Nevis (venemous river)	<i>Beinn Nibheis</i>	[baen NIV·esh]
Benriach the grizzled/greyish mountain	<i>a' Bheinn Riabhach</i>	[uh vaen REE·uh·vuch]
Benrinnes The Gaelic form is attested to in other placenames as well, such as Glen Rinnes, <i>Gleann Ruaidhneis</i> , but I cannot give a clear definition.	<i>Beinn Ruaidhneis</i>	[baen ROO·uh·ee·nish]
Blair Athol the plain of Athol (New Ireland)	<i>Blàr Athall</i>	[blahr A·hul]
Bowmore the great bend	<i>Bogh Mòr</i>	[BOE moer]
Bruichladdich hillside of the stony shore	<i>Bruthach a' Chladaich</i>	[BROO·uch uh CHLAT·eech]
Bunnahabhain mouth of the river (three separate words).	<i>Bun na h-Aibhne</i>	[boon nuh HUH·ee·nuh]
Caol Ila Sound of Islay	<i>Caol Ìle</i>	[keul EE·luh]
Cardhu the black town/fort	<i>a' Chathair Dhubh</i>	[uh CHA·hir ghoo]
An Cnoc Cragganmore the great rock	<i>an Cnoc</i> <i>an Creagan Mòr</i>	[ung krochk] the hill [ung KREK·an moer]
Dalmore the great meadow	<i>an Dail Mòr</i>	[un dal moer]
Dalwhinnie meeting-meadow	<i>Dail Chuinnidh</i>	[dal CHUN·yee]
Edradour between two waters	<i>Eadarra Dhobhar</i>	[ET·uh·ruh GHOE·ur]
Fettercairn slope/declivity of the woods	<i>Fothair Chàrdainn</i>	[FO·hir CHARSH·teen]
Glendronach	<i>Gleann Dronaich</i>	[GLA·oon DRON·eech]

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glen of St. Dronach		
Glenfarclas	<i>Gleann an Fheòir Ghlais</i>	[GLA·oon un YAW·ir ghlash]
glen of the green grassland		
Glenfiddich	<i>Gleann Fhiodhaich</i>	[GLA·oon YUGH·eech]
glen of the woodsman		
Glen Garioch	<i>Gleann Ghairbhich</i>	[GLA·oon GHU·ruh·veech]
glen of the rough place		
Glengoyne	<i>Gleann a' Gheòidh Fhiadhain</i>	[GLA·oon uh YO·ee EE·ugh·in]
glen of the wild goose		
Glenlivet	<i>Gleann Liobhait</i>	[GLA·oon LEE·uh·vitch]
glen of the smooth river		
Glenmorangie	<i>Gleann Mhòraistidh</i>	[GLA·oon VOER·ush·tchee]
glen of great tranquility		
Glen Ord	<i>Gleann an Ùird</i>	[GLA·oon un oorshtch]
the glen of the hammer-shaped hill		
Glenrothes	<i>Gleann Ràthais</i>	[GLA·oon RA·hish]
the glen of Rothes (a fort)		
Glen Spey	<i>Gleann Spè</i>	[GLA·oon spae]
glen of the Spey River (hawthorn burn)		
Knockando	<i>an Cnocan Dubh</i>	[ung KROCH·kan doo]
the little black hill		
Lagavulin	<i>Lag a' Mhuilinn</i>	[lak uh VOO·lin]
the mill hollow		
Laphroaig	<i>Lag Bhrodhaig</i>	[lak VRAW·ik]
the hollow of the broad bay. The dist. gives "the beautiful hollow by the broad bay"		
Royal Lochnagar	<i>Loch na Gàire (Rìoghail)</i>	[loch nuh GAH·ruh REE·ghul]
the (royal) lake of laughter		
Macallan	<i>MacAilein</i>	[machk EL·an]
son of Allan		
Oban	<i>an t-Òban</i>	[un TAW·pan]
the little harbour		
Poit Dhubh	<i>Poit Dhubh</i>	[potch ghoo]
black pot/sma' still		
Talisker	<i>Talaisgeir</i>	[TAL·ish·kir]
> Norse origin, Gaelic spelling given above		
Tamdhu	<i>an Tom Dubh</i>	[un TA·oom doo]
the black knoll		
Tè Bheag nan Eilean	<i>Tè bheag nan Eilean</i>	[chae vek nun YAE·lan]
<i>the Isles' dram</i>		
Tomintoul	<i>Tom an t-Sabhail</i>	[TA·oom un TOE·il]
the knoll of the barn		

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### DEOCH CHÙBHRAIDH / LICÈAR

Drambuie	<i>an Drama Buidheach</i>	[un DRAM·uh BOO·yuch]
the pleasing/satisfying dram		
Glavya	<i>Glè Mhath</i>	[glae va] very good

### BEAG-FHACLAIR/GLOSSARY

barley	<i>eòrna</i>	[YOR·nuh]
blended whisky	<i>uisge beatha pòsta</i>	[OOSH·kuh BAE·huh PAW·stuh]
distillation	<i>tarraing</i>	[TAR·ing·g]
distiller	<i>grùdair</i>	[GROO·tir]
distillery	<i>taigh staile</i>	[TUH·ee STAL·uh]
double-distilled	<i>dùbailte</i>	[DOO·pil·tchuh]
dram	<i>drama</i>	[DRAM·uh]
colloquially	<i>tè bheag</i>	[tchae vek] 'a wee one'
fermentation	<i>brachadh</i>	[BRACH·ugh]
glen	<i>gleann</i>	[GLA·oon]
kiln	<i>àth bhrachaidh</i>	[ah VRACH·ee]
low wines	<i>garbh-ghucag</i>	[GAR·av GHOOCH·kak] 'rough drops'
malt	<i>braich</i>	[BRA·ich]
malting	<i>bogadh an t-sil</i>	[BOE·kugh un tcheel] 'softening of the seed'
malt whisky (colloq.)	<i>mac na bracha</i>	[machk nuh BRACH·uh] 'son of the malt'
marrying	<i>pòsadh</i>	[PAW·sugh]
mash tun	<i>tunna masgaidh</i>	[TOON·uh MAS·kee]
peat	<i>mòine</i>	[MAWN·yuh]
peat reek	<i>ceò na mònach</i>	[k <sup>y</sup> aw nuh MAW·nuch]
quaich (drinking cup)	<i>cuach</i>	[KOO·uch]
spirit receiver	<i>glacadan</i>	[GLACH·kat·an] 'catcher'
still, pot ~, sma ~	<i>poit dhubh</i>	[potch ghoo] 'black pot'
stillhouse	<i>taigh staile</i>	[TUH·ee STAL·uh]
strath	<i>srath</i>	[stra] 'river valley'
wash	<i>caochan</i>	[KEU·chan] 'purling, gurgling'
washback	<i>togsaid chaochain</i>	[TOK·sitch CHEU·chan]
whiskey	<i>uisce beatha*</i> (also <i>fuisce</i> )	[ISH·kuh BA·huh] *Irish Gaelic
whisky	<i>uisge-beatha</i>	[OOSH·kuh BAE·huh]
or colloquially	<i>mac na bracha, mac na praisich</i>	
	[machk nuh BRACH·uh] [machk nuh PRASH·eech]	son of the malt, son of the pot
worm	<i>cliath</i>	[KLEE·uh]
	same word as 'harrow, lattice, weir' and whisky 'worm'	
wort	<i>brailis</i>	[BRA·lish]

### GAELIC DRINKS ACCORDING TO OCCASION

deoch-mhaidne	[joch VATCH·n <sup>y</sup> uh]	morning drink, raw egg dropped into
whisky		
deoch-eòlais	[joch YAW·lish]	first drink taken with a new acquaintance
deoch an dorais	[joch un DOR·ish]	parting drink, 'door drink'

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**TO YOUR HEALTH *SLÀINTE MHATH*** [SLAHN-tchuh va]

## **ANNS AN TAIGH-SHEINNSE / IN THE PUB**

pub/bar (with no accommodations)	taigh-seinnse, bàr
pub/bar (with accommodations)	taigh-òsta
bar (counter or room where drinks are served)	bàr
Let's give a toast (to)!	Gabhamaid deoch-slàinte (le)!
Cheers!	Slàinte/Slàinte mhòr/Slàinte mhath!
We're going to have a party tonight	hòro-gheallaidh. Bidh hòro-gheallaidh
againn a-nochd	

## **Ordering drinks / Òrdachadh dheochannan**

I'll have a...	Gabhaidh mi...
pint, a pint of ale/lager	pinnt, pinnt leann/làgair
wine, a glass of wine	fion, glainne fiona
shot of whisky (dram)	tè bheag
a large whisky	tè mhòr
alcoholic drink/strong drink	deoch-làidir
(soda-)pop, soft drink	deoch-lag

Gaelic song in praise of whisky

Tha buaidh air an uisge-bheatha	There's benefit in the whiskey
Tha buaidh air 's cha ghabh e cleith	It's good for you, that can't be denied
Tha buaidh air an uisge-bheatha	There's benefit in the whiskey
Dh'òlainn tè is fuar i	I'd take a drink of it cold

Neil Gow's Farewell to Whisky - the lyrics

You've surely heard o' famous Neil,  
The man that played the fiddle weel,  
I wat he was a canty chiel',  
And dearly lo'ed the whiskey, O!  
And ay sin' he wore tartan trews,  
He dearly lo'ed the Athole brose;  
And wae was he you may suppose,  
To play fareweel to whiskey, O.  
Alake, quoth Neil, I'm frail and auld,  
And find my bluid grows unco cauld,  
I think 'twad mak me blythe and bauld,  
A wee drap highland whiskey, O  
Yet the doctors they do agree,  
That whiskey's no the drink for me:

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Saul, quoth, 'twill spoil my glee,  
Should they part me and whiskey, O.

Tho' I can get baith wine and ale,  
And find my head and fingers hale,  
I'll be content, tho' legs should fail,  
To play fareweel to whiskey, O.  
But still I think on auld lang syne,  
When Paradise our friends did tyne,  
Because something ran in their mind  
Forbid, like highland whiskey, O.

Come, a' ye powers of music, come!  
I find my heart grows unco glum;  
My fiddle-strings will no play bum  
To say fareweel to whiskey, O.  
Yet I'll tak my fiddle in my hand,  
And screw the pegs up while they'll stand,  
To mak a lamentation grand,  
On gude auld highland whiskey, O.

"The Parting Glass" Trad. 1770s, 1<sup>st</sup> verse and chorus

Of all the money that e'er I had  
I spent it in good company  
And all the harm I've ever done  
Alas it was to none but me  
And all I've done for want of wit  
To mem'ry now I can't recall  
So fill to me the parting glass  
Good night and joy be to you all

[Chorus]

So fill to me the parting glass  
And drink a health whate'er befalls  
And gently rise and softly call  
Good night and joy be to you all