Edinburgh’s beauty is both staggering and inimitable. But, the city is far more than just a pretty face. Take a closer look and there’s much more to discover.

Our shopping ranges from the world’s best luxury names, to local, independent talent just waiting to be discovered. Our food, be it Michelin-starred, or pop-up street-food with award-winning chefs, is mouthwateringly delicious.

From the rich – sometimes hidden – history that surrounds your every step, to the wealth of lush, green spaces peppered around the city centre, Edinburgh continually surprises, delights and inspires.

Join us and find out why there’s nowhere in the world quite like Scotland’s capital city.

Alexander McCall Smith

“The city whispers: come
Look at me, listen to the beating of my heart
I am the place you have seen in dreams
I am a stage for you to play upon
I am Edinburgh”
Edinburgh’s Heritage

Edinburgh has been inhabited since the Bronze Age; its first settlement can be traced to a hillfort established in the area, most likely on the castle rock. Here’s just a few areas that form part of Edinburgh’s rich heritage...

Royal Mile
The Royal Mile is at the centre of Edinburgh’s Old Town and as its name suggests, the thoroughfare is one mile long. With Edinburgh Castle at its head and the Palace of Holyroodhouse at its foot, The Royal Mile features many historic buildings; Gladstone’s Land, The Real Mary King’s Close and John Knox House to name but a few. It is also home to St Giles’ Cathedral, established during the reign of King David in the 1120’s. As the epicentre for tourists in Edinburgh, the Royal Mile has also seen prestigious new additions in recent history, most notably the Scottish Parliament.

New Town
Designed in 1767, the New Town’s mixture of classical architecture, squares and terraces, gardens and lanes are a prime example of town planning from the Georgian period. Charlotte Square, designed by architect Robert Adam in 1791, is where you can visit the Georgian House and experience the high society lifestyle from over 200 years ago. Princes Street Gardens, once the location of the Nor’Loch, is now a serene garden space dividing the Old and New Towns. For a better view, climb the 287 steps to the top of the Scott Monument.

Dean Village
In the past Dean Village was known as the ‘Water of Leith Village’, a successful grain milling hamlet for more than 800 years. At one time there were no fewer than eleven working mills there and the remnants of the industry can be seen today. Tucked away, this is an area that feels – and looks very different - to the city, but is only a matter of moments away.

Charlotte Square to Stockbridge
A walk from Charlotte Square to Stockbridge incorporates some of the most impressive parts of the Georgian New Town and streets which haven’t changed much since the early 1800s. The Earl of Moray owned the area and in 1833 appointed James Gillespie Graham to design an extension of the New Town which can be seen when walking between destinations.

Edinburgh Castle
Edinburgh Castle dominates the Edinburgh city skyline and has housed many Scottish monarchs including Queen Margret and Mary Queen of Scots. With its rich history and beautiful scenery, it’s a must see when in Edinburgh.

Calton Hill
Of all places for a view, this Calton Hill is perhaps the best – Robert Louis Stevenson, 1889.

Home to some of Edinburgh’s most iconic monuments and one of the city’s most picturesque locations, Calton Hill helped to coin the city’s nickname ‘Athens of the North’. The National Monument which was built to commemorate Scottish service men who died during Napoleonic Wars. However, funds ran out and it was never completed, leaving twelve majestic columns, towering over the city. It is also home to the Nelson Monument, built in 1816. The Time Ball on the Monument, added in 1853 to enable ships anchored in the Firth or Forth to set their time-pieces accurately, still drops at one o’clock, six days a week. This is also where The City Observatory is situated.

Arthur’s Seat
Set within Holyrood Park, a short walk from Edinburgh’s Royal Mile in the heart of the city, Arthur’s Seat is an extinct volcano, which sits 251m above sea level and gives excellent views of the city. Within the park you’ll also find St Anthony’s Chapel - a 15th century medieval chapel, Salisbury Crags – a series of 150 foot cliff faces dominating Edinburgh’s skyline, as well as Duddingston Loch – a fresh water loch rich in birdlife.

Grassmarket
Nestled in the heart of Edinburgh’s historic Old Town, the Grassmarket is one of the most vibrant, picturesque and convivial areas of the city. A paradise of independent merchants, designers and artisans, it’s home to some of the best restaurants in Edinburgh as well as some of the most animated and eclectic bars.

Edinburgh’s Heritage

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As a UNESCO world heritage site – voted the fifth most impressive in the world – history is an integral part of Edinburgh’s appeal. Whether it’s the city’s architectural development, or the political and educational significance of its residents, there are many dates over the years that are important to Edinburgh.

The city’s past is filled with significant moments, and a few notorious ones too.

- Around 340 million BC The castle rock is created by volcanic activity.
- Around 900 BC First archaeological evidence of human settlement on the castle.
- 1130 David I builds a formidable royal castle on the rock. It includes a chapel dedicated to his mother Queen Margaret, which still stands.
- 1500 Edinburgh has a population of about 12,000.
- 1528 King James V enters city with an army, to assert his right to rule; Holyrood Palace is built for him.
- 1582 Edinburgh University is founded.
- 1652 A ‘journey coach’ to London is introduced, it takes a fortnight to make the journey.
- 1670 The Botanic Garden is founded.
- 1677 The first coffee house opens in the city.
- 1700 The population of Edinburgh is about 50,000.
- 1735 Golf is first played on Bruntsfield links.
- 1744 The world’s first golf club (the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers) is founded.
- 1748 Scottish philosopher and father of modern economics, Adam Smith begins to deliver public lectures in Edinburgh.
- 1759 The Nor’ Loch, now the site of Princes Street gardens, is drained.
- 1767 A competition is held for the best plan to build a new town. The competition is won by James Craig. Construction of the New Town begins.
- 1779 Walter Scott is sent to the Royal High School.
- 1791 Charlotte Square is built.
- 1801 The population of Edinburgh is approaching 100,000.
- 1802–1806 The Bank of Scotland head office is built.
- 1816 The Nelson Monument is erected on Calton Hill.
- 1833 John Mensies opens book shop on Princes Street.
- 1835 Sophia Jex-Blake becomes first female medical student.
- 1875 Hibernian Football Club is founded.
- 1892 McVitie & Price Ltd, biscuit makers, are founded and located on Rose Street, devise Digestive Biscuits.
- 1916 Bank of Scotland has first female employee.
- 1941–1945 The Honours of Scotland are secretly buried in David’s Tower at Edinburgh Castle.
- 1943 Eduardo Paolozzi begins studying at the Edinburgh College of Art.
- 1961 The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is published.
- 1970 City hosts the 9th Commonwealth Games.
- 1984 The Gallery of Modern Art opens on Belford Road.
- 1986 City hosts the 13th Commonwealth Games.
- 1987 Ian Rankin’s first Rebus’ novel is published, Knots and Crosses.
- 1993 First Edinburgh Hogmanay Street Party held as an organised event and Irvine Welsh publishes Trainspotting.
- 1997 JK Rowling’s first novel The Philosopher’s Stone is published with an initial print-run of 1,000 copies. The book is said to have been written in The Elephant Café in Edinburgh.
- 1999 The Scottish Parliament is opened by HM The Queen at Holyrood.
- 2008 Edinburgh’s Chris Hoy becomes the first British Olympian for 100 years to claim three golds at one games in Beijing.
- 2014 Tramline from city centre to Edinburgh Airport opens.
- 2015 The Scottish Borders Railway Line from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank reopens after nearly 50 years.
- 2017 The Queensferry Crossing opens - the longest bridge of its kind in the world, and the third crossing connecting Edinburgh to Fife.
Culture and events

Home to so many fantastic cultural attractions, it’s unsurprising that Edinburgh is globally recognised as one of the most vibrant, beautiful and interesting cities in the world.

The first city in the world to be named a UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh offers so many opportunities to spend a day immersing yourself in its rich literary heritage on one of the city’s popular tours.

From major galleries and museums, to theatre, comedy and music, there are discoveries to be made around every corner, and a year long calendar of exciting festivals and events to suit all tastes and ages.

Edinburgh's Christmas
17 November - 6 January 2018

Edinburgh's Christmas returns for 2017/18 season from the 17th November 2017 until the 6th January 2018, bringing with it iconic markets, delicious street food, fun activities and unmissable events that make Edinburgh the only place to be this festive season.

edinburgh.org/whats-on/edinburgh-christmas/

Social Bite's Sleep in the Park
9 December 2017

Join Social Bite for Sleep in the Park, the world’s largest ever sleep-out event, where thousands will sleep rough in the city centre with the aim of raising £4m to eradicate homelessness in Scotland within a 5 year period. The event features a spectacular live concert with rare acoustic performances from A-list stars who will be "busking" for an audience of up to 8,500.

edinburgh.org/whats-on/sleep-in-the-park/

Edinburgh's Hogmanay
30 December 2017 - 1 January 2018

Bring in the new year 2018 in style with one of the most famous celebrations on the planet - Edinburgh’s Hogmanay. This three day festival attracts revellers from all four corners of the globe, so join them to say a fond farewell to 2017 and start off 2018 with a bang with a jam-packed schedule of spectacular events.

edinburgh.org/whats-on/edinburghs-hogmanay/

Edinburgh International Science Festival
31 March - 15 April 2018

The world’s first celebration of science and technology, and one of Europe’s largest science events, this two-week festival made up of talks, workshops and demonstrations is known for its creative, provocative and entertaining programme. Featuring world-class speakers, scientific heroes, hands-on activity and a wide range of other science-related events.

sciencefestival.co.uk

Capital Sci Fi Con
3 - 4 February 2018

Edinburgh’s not-for-profit pop culture, comic and movie convention for fans by fans returns in February at Edinburgh’s Corn Exchange. The event brings special guests, a market and like-minded fans together under one roof, with prizes to be won for the best cosplayer. All 2018 profits will go to the charity of the team’s choice, with £75,150.68 raised in 2017.

capitalscificon.co.uk

Red Red Rose Street
25 - 27 January 2018

Back for a second year, Red Red Rose Street is a festival of music and words expanding Burns Night into a three-day celebration of the work of the world-renowned Scottish bard. The event brings a variety of events, activities and animation, engaging with businesses, locals and visitors, featuring a variety of free, ticketed and drop-in entertainment across all three days.

edinburgh.org/whats-on/red-red-rose-street/

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edinburgh.org/whats-on/red-red-rose-street/

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sciencefestival.co.uk

 Edinburgh events November 2017 - March 2018
Edinburgh’s 101 Objects

Discover the rich history of Edinburgh through 101 of its most treasured objects. To celebrate the year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, this unique visitor experience brings Edinburgh’s vibrant past to life.

Edinburgh’s 101 Objects is a curated collection of 101 of the city’s most historically interesting and significant objects.

From the prestigious to the prosaic, each one has an important tale to tell. Sift through the stories online, and then visit them in person.

Buried amongst the curiosities are several mementoes of the anniversaries that Edinburgh is celebrating in 2017: it is 70 years since the city exploded with arts festivals, and 250 years since Edinburgh decided to expand with a plan for a New Town.

The collection has been sorted into themes: Building a City; Arts & Performance; Books, Words & Ideas; City of Innovation; Everyday Living; Faith & Nation; On the Dark Side.

Don’t know where to start? Try one of the Edinburgh’s 101 Objects Itineraries at edinburgh.org/101itineraries

See all the objects at edinburgh.org/101
Edinburgh's Hogmanay - 30 December 2017 - 1 January 2018
Join the torchlight procession as 25,000 people carry their torches through the heart of Edinburgh. Dance beneath the stars with 80,000 revellers at the world famous Street Party, with live music stages, traditional Ceilidh dancing, and some of today's hottest names in pop and rock music. Gasp at the famous Midnight Moment fireworks lifting from Edinburgh Castle as the crowds break into a rendition of the world's favourite Scottish song, Auld Lang Syne.
edinburghhogmanay.com

Edinburgh Marathon Festival - 26 - 27 May 2018
The Edinburgh Marathon is officially on the map as one of the leading road races in the world, and the annual Edinburgh Marathon Festival is a focal point in the running calendar, bringing events and races for people of all ages and abilities to get involved and challenge themselves.
edinburghmarathon.com

Hidden Door Festival - 25 May - 3 June 2018
Hidden Door opens up urban spaces as a platform for new and emerging artists, musicians, theatre makers, film makers and poets. Through organising temporary events the festival showcases new work and creates engaging environments for the public to experience, explore and discover. In 2017 the festival breathed new life into the old Leith Theatre, attracting rave reviews and critical praise for its role in resurrecting “Scotland's best new live music venue”.
hiddendoorblog.org

The Imagineinate Festival — May/June 2018
Ideal for family audiences, The Imagineinate Festival brings local and international performers together to present a wonderful programme of fun-filled, free shows for children and young people. Now the UK's largest festival of performing arts for this age group, it will kick off in Edinburgh before touring the rest of Scotland.
imagineate.org.uk

The Edinburgh International Film Festival — 20 June – 1 July 2018
Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, EIFF seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent, in a setting steeped in history. Showcasing the best in international film and documentary genres, past premieres have included Dr Zhivago, Taxi Driver, Manhattan, Blade Runner, Back to the Future, Pulp Fiction, ET: The Extra Terrestrial, The Motorcycle Diaries, and Oscar triumph The Hurt Locker.
edfilmfest.org.uk

Edinburgh Art Festival - 26 July - 26 August 2018
More than 40 museums, galleries and pop-up spaces come together in August to programme the Edinburgh Art Festival, with free entry to most exhibitions. It presents the best, most exciting and intriguing work in visual arts practice.
edinburghartfestival.com

Edinburgh Festival Fringe - 3 - 27 August 2018
The one and only. An explosion of theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, music, children’s shows, exhibitions, musicals, and street performers brings over 2,500 shows to over 250 venues in Edinburgh. Expect the unexpected — all performers are welcome, with acts ranging from the experimental to new material from household names.
edfringe.com

Edinburgh International Film Festival - 3 - 27 August 2018
Inaugurated in 1947 as a celebration of peace through the arts, the Edinburgh International Festival showcases the very best and most prestigious international companies. Featuring opera, music, theatre and dance from around the world, the International Festival is one of the most accessible events of its league, with tickets starting at £8.
edco.uk

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - 3 - 25 August 2017
The Tattoo is an iconic Edinburgh institution, and a sellout year after year after year. Music, dance and precision display with the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, cultural troupes, singers and the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.
editattoo.co.uk

Edinburgh International Book Festival - 11 - 27 August 2018
The Edinburgh International Book Festival is the largest public celebration of ideas and the written word in the world. Over 900 participants from 47 different countries are welcomed to the elegant surroundings of Charlotte Square Gardens in the historic heart of Edinburgh, the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature. More than 220,000 people come to the gardens to soak up the atmosphere, take part in creative workshops and attend meet-the-author events.
edbookfest.co.uk

Scottish International Storytelling Festival - October 2018
For centuries live oral storytelling, blended with music and song, has carried Scotland’s voices from generation to generation — and round the world. The Storytelling Festival is a ten-day celebration of traditional and contemporary storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, bringing together artists and audiences from Scotland and beyond.
trucscotland.org

Edinburgh Oktoberfest - October 2018
Running since 2013 over one long weekend you can experience everything that makes a real Oktoberfest. The festival brings live music, full Oktoberfest decoration and delicious food and beer. Set up in a giant tent for 1,500 people, you’re guaranteed the feeling of being in an authentic Oktoberfest tent in the middle of Edinburgh.
edinburgh-oktoberfest.co.uk
From pandas to pop-art and dinosaurs to Dolly the Sheep, Edinburgh boasts art galleries, museums, parks and much more, all within easy reach in the UK’s most walkable city. Take an early morning walk on Portobello beach, enjoy a dram (or two) at the Scotch Whisky Experience, peruse world-class art in our National Galleries and, of course, visit Edinburgh Castle and watch the One O’Clock Gun being fired. Despite its timeless setting, Edinburgh is a city that never stands still.

National Museum of Scotland
Discover the delights of the natural world, explore ancient civilisations and enthuse at treasures from around the world. Following a £14.3m refurbishment, ten new galleries open this summer, introducing more than 250 new interactive visitor activities, with a focus on the wonders of science, technology and design.

Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF  
+44 (0) 300 123 6789  
nms.ac.uk

Scottish National Portrait Gallery
The Scottish National Gallery is in the heart of Edinburgh and houses one of the best collections of fine art in the world. From Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, to contemporary figures such as Tilda Swinton and Billy Connolly, come meet the people who have helped shape the nation’s identity at home and abroad.

1 Queen St, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD  
+44 (0) 131 624 6200  
nationalgalleries.org

Scottish Parliament
The devolved national, unicameral legislature of Scotland, the Scottish Parliament sits at the foot of Edinburgh’s Royal Mile by Holyrood Park and the Salisbury Crags. Open to the public six days a week, visitors can enjoy free guided tours providing an in-depth insight into the workings of the Scottish parliamentary system.

Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  
+44 (0) 131 348 5000  
parliament.scot

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Founded in the 17th century as a physic garden, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh now extends over four gardens, cultivating a rich living collection of plants, flower and fauna. It’s rightly a world-renowned centre for plant science and education.

20A Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR  
+44 (0) 131 248 2909  
rbge.org.uk

City Art Centre
Enjoy a visit to the City Art Centre, a main Edinburgh art gallery with one of the best collections of Scottish art. The centre shows interesting exhibitions from the city’s own collections and from all over the world, with new and exciting free-to-enter exhibitions on all year round.

2 Market Street EH1 1DE  
+44 (0) 131 529 3993  
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

The Potter Trail
Muggles welcome. Visit and learn about the Edinburgh locations that inspired JK Rowling to create her famous characters and scenes from the much loved Harry Potter books. Along with visiting where she wrote her books, visitors will learn about the real live witches and wizards of medical Edinburgh.

Tours depart outside Greyfriars Bobby Bar  
30-34 Candlemaker Row, EH1 2Q  
pottertrail.com

Free attractions
### Mercat Tours
Taking you deeper into the past than a guidebook ever could, Mercat Tours knowledgeable guides bring the city’s stories alive in rich, engaging detail. Whether it’s a historic or ghost tour, you’re guaranteed to experience a side to Scotland’s capital that most visitors miss.
Mercat House, 28 Blair Street, EH1 1SR
+44 (0) 131 225 5445 mercattours.com

### Edinburgh Zoo
Over 600,000 annual visitors can’t be wrong! Edinburgh Zoo is a must for any animal lover visiting Edinburgh. Get close to over 1,000 rare and endangered animals, or join one of the many educational events and activities - ranging from keeper talks through to hands-on animal encounters.
Edinburgh Zoo 134 Corstorphine Road, EH12 6TS
+44 (0) 131 334 9171 rzss.org.uk

### Surgeons’ Hall Museum
Learn more about our fascinating bodies, the histories of dentistry, medicine and surgery and the vital part that Scottish research played in all three. First developed as a teaching museum, Surgeons’ Hall Museum opened to the general public in 1832, making it Scotland’s oldest museum. The venue features interactive displays and exhibits, which will help visitors discover the stories and breakthroughs that have shaped modern surgical practice.
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, EH8 9DW
+44 (0) 131 557 1711 museum.rcsed.ac.uk

### The Scott Monument
The largest monument to any writer in the world, The Scott Monument commemorates Edinburgh’s iconic writer, Sir Walter Scott. There are 287 steps to the top of the Scott Monument, from where you can enjoy breathtaking views of Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside. You can also find out about Sir Walter Scott and the monument in the museum room.
E. Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh, EH2 2J
+44 (0) 131 529 4068 edinburghmuseums.org.uk

### The Usher Hall
Scotland’s only five-star concert hall, The Usher Hall is famed for hosting a range of concerts and performances from the worlds of rock, pop, classical, jazz, world and folk music. Offering a packed programme to suit all tastes, this beautiful Edwardian building is well-loved by performers and audiences alike thanks to its magnificent acoustics.
Usher Hall, Lothian Road, EH1 2EA
+44 (0) 131 228 8616 usherhall.co.uk

### Royal Yacht Britannia
Home to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over 1,000,000 miles around the world the Royal Yacht Britannia is the UK’s no.1 attraction (TripAdvisor). Now berthed in Edinburgh, you can follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences.
Ocean Terminal, Leith, EH6 6JJ
+44 (0) 131 555 5566 royalyachtbritannia.co.uk

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#### Paid attractions

- Mercat Tours
- Edinburgh Zoo
- Surgeons’ Hall Museum
- The Scott Monument
- The Usher Hall
- Royal Yacht Britannia

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This is Edinburgh
Food and drink

With more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the UK, including four Michelin stars, Edinburgh has a wealth of fantastic places to eat and drink. A stroll along The Shore will take you to both Martin Wishart’s and Tom Kitchin’s gastronomical experiences. Elsewhere, there are supper clubs, pop-up restaurants, even ‘collaborative feasts’ – just a snapshot of the cordon bleu cookery that’s on your doorstep and round every corner in Edinburgh, a cosmopolitan city that loves its grub.

Badger & Co.
Located in the former home of Sir Kenneth Grahame, Badger & Co. offers delicious meals using local and seasonal produce for all-day dining. Originality abounds in the cocktail menu and a 12-person private dining area provides the perfect space for a more intimate atmosphere.

Veeno
Located in Edinburgh’s upcoming Quartermile area, all of Veeno’s wines come from the family vineyard in Italy, ensuring the highest quality from grape to the glass. All cold meat cuts, breads and cheeses are also sourced from Italy, presented in delicious sharing platters. Veeno is perfect for events and celebrations, and offers private venue hire to suit all needs, coupled with the chance to taste truly fine wines.

Chaophraya
Chaophraya Edinburgh offers breathtaking views out toward Edinburgh Castle and out toward the Firth of Forth. A contemporary feeling restaurant inspired by Thailand, its culinary team bring together classic Thai and distinct signature dishes, accompanied by a fantastic range of cocktails, wines and beers against the backdrop of Edinburgh’s most beautiful landmarks.

The Dining Room at The Scotch Malt Whisky Society
Named Scotland’s Restaurant of the Year by the AA in 2017, The Dining Room presents the world’s widest selection of exclusive single cask whiskies available, along with an extensive wine list and delicious dishes expertly paired with their perfect partners for a memorable sensory experience.

Cucina at the G&V Hotel
Celebrated Bolognian chef Mattia Camorani’s Cucina is now a firmly established focal point of Edinburgh’s historic Old Town. With a name (the Italian for “kitchen”) that reflects its focus on elevating traditional Italian fare to the level of modern gourmet, Cucina offers a culinary experience instilled with passion and expertise, which earned it Italian Restaurant of the Year at the Luxury Travel Guide Europe Awards 2017.

Hadrían’s Brasserie
Ideal for a light lunch or a relaxed dinner, Hadrían’s offers traditional cuisine in an informal setting. On the menu, a mix of Scottish favourites and classic dishes created using the finest regional produce ranging from Balmoor smoked salmon served with chalots, honey and mustard dressing to Bugarvaie chateaubriand and a traditional Sunday Roast with all the trimmings.

Our restaurants, pubs and bars keep winning awards for good reasons…
The Ivy on the Square
The Ivy on the Square is an all-day British brasserie with an all-encompassing menu serving modern British and international Ivy-inspired classics from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. The restaurant features a Parisian-style outdoor terrace and a bar, offering tranquil relaxed yet sophisticated dining just a stone’s throw from Princes Street.

6 St Andrew Square, EH2 2BD
+44 (0) 131 526 4777
theivyedinburgh.com

Foundry 39
The West End’s Queensferry Street is home to Foundry 39, an urban bar with a distinctly industrial twist. Their breakfast is not to be missed, with options including stacks upon stacks of pancakes or trendy sliced avocado and poached eggs on toasted sourdough, while their original cocktails make this the perfect accompaniment to their chicken, slow cooked Baby Back Ribs and award-winning steaks. An extensive range of Scottish craft beers and spirits accompany your meal.

3 Hunter Square, The Royal Mile, EH1 1QW
+44 (0) 131 285 5240
spatchchicken.co.uk

SPITCH
Specialising in chicken, roast over a charcoal fire on a custom-made rotisserie in the centre of the restaurant, SPITCH also offers homemade sauces and innovative side dishes, which are the perfect accompaniment to their chicken, slow cooked Baby Back Ribs and award-winning steaks. An extensive range of Scottish craft beers and spirits accompany your meal.

5-25 February 2018
essentialedinburgh.co.uk/edinburgh-restaurant-festival/

Oliviero’s
Classically sophisticated Italian cuisine awaits guests at this restaurant on the Grassmarket. You’ll find an ambiance perfect for an intimate dinner date, comfortable family dinner or special occasions with friends. Only steps away from Edinburgh Castle in the Old Town means there’s no reason to resist the authentic Italian cuisine on offer to diners visiting the city.

64 The Grassmarket, EH1 2JQ
+44 (0) 131 226 3706
olivieros.co.uk

La Garrigue
La Garrigue opened in 2001, largely inspired by owner Jean Michel Gauffre’s country upbringing in Languedoc. The charming restaurant offers rustic family style cooking, complemented by a large selection of the best wines from the Languedoc area of France, also known as “Le Midi” and offers fantastic views of Calton Hill, minutes from Waverley Train Station and the Royal Mile

31 Jeffrey St, EH1 1DH
+44 (0) 131 557 3032
lagarrigue.co.uk

Meltmongers
Meltmongers Take your pick of Edinburgh’s dedicated grilled cheese place! It’s the hot melting cheese in a crispy buttery pocket of toasted goodness that truly makes it everyone’s comfort food. Depending on what you fancy, Meltmongers also offer sweet treats such as peanut butter and banana fried melt with optional Nutella.

80 Bruntsfield Place, EH10 4HG
+44 (0) 131 466 9991
facebook.com/meltmongers

Brew Lab Barista Training
Fancy yourself a coffee aficionado? Brew Lab offer a number of different levels of classes for you to learn the ins and outs of creating the finest espresso with just the right crema – and they can even help you improve your latte art. Learn in their dedicated brewing lab from their award winning baristas, and when you’re done, relax and stick around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks.

6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH8 9AA
brewlabcoffee.co.uk/training

Edinburgh Restaurant Festival
Bringing together Michelin Star restaurants, neighbourhood bistros, street food eaters and Farmer’s Markets, the Edinburgh Restaurant Festival is a true celebration of eating out in Scotland’s capital city and not to be missed for serious foodies and amateur chefs alike.

5 – 25 February 2018
essentialedinburgh.co.uk/edinburgh-restaurant-festival/

Eat Walk Edinburgh
For a slightly different touring perspective of Edinburgh, you can’t do much better than a culinary exploration with Eat Walk Edinburgh. Dropping into some of first class restaurants, bars and shops, while learning a little about Edinburgh’s history along the way, visitors will meet the locals who enthuse in the very best food and drink Edinburgh and Scotland has to offer.

23 Ivy Terrace, EH11 1PJ
+44 (0) 7740 869 359
eatwalkedinburgh.co.uk

Scotch Whisky Experience
Become part of the whisky making process as you take a swirling, bubbling ride through a virtual whisky experience. Go on to learn the secrets of the Scotch whisky regions and the art of whisky blending with their guided sensory presentation. Tours finish in the fascinating McIntyre Bar, where you can indulge your newfound passion for Scotch whisky with breathtaking views of Scotland’s capital city.

354 Castlehill, EH1 2NE
+44 (0) 131 220 0441
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

Gin Tasting Canal Tour
Setting sail from Fountainbridge every Saturday during the summer months, this is the perfect treat for gin lovers everywhere. The two-hour cruise is packed with mouth-watering premium Scottish gins, cocktails and tasty bites as you cruise along Edinburgh’s canal to the stunning backdrop of the Edinburgh viaduct, before returning to the city centre.

15 Valleyfield Street, EH1 9LJ
+44 (0) 131 261 8529
re-union.org.uk

Eat Walk Edinburgh
For a slightly different touring perspective of Edinburgh, you can’t do much better than a culinary exploration with Eat Walk Edinburgh. Dropping into some of first class restaurants, bars and shops, while learning a little about Edinburgh’s history along the way, visitors will meet the locals who enthuse in the very best food and drink Edinburgh and Scotland has to offer.

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eatwalkedinburgh.co.uk

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+44 (0) 131 220 0441
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

It’s the hot melting cheese in a crispy buttery pocket of toasted goodness that truly makes it everyone’s comfort food. Depending on what you fancy, Meltmongers also offer sweet treats such as peanut butter and banana fried melt with optional Nutella.

80 Bruntsfield Place, EH10 4HG
+44 (0) 131 466 9991
facebook.com/meltmongers

Brew Lab Barista Training
Fancy yourself a coffee aficionado? Brew Lab offer a number of different levels of classes for you to learn the ins and outs of creating the finest espresso with just the right crema – and they can even help you improve your latte art. Learn in their dedicated brewing lab from their award winning baristas, and when you’re done, relax and stick around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks.

6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH8 9AA
brewlabcoffee.co.uk/training

Edinburgh Restaurant Festival
Bringing together Michelin Star restaurants, neighbourhood bistros, street food eaters and Farmer’s Markets, the Edinburgh Restaurant Festival is a true celebration of eating out in Scotland’s capital city and not to be missed for serious foodies and amateur chefs alike.

5 – 25 February 2018
essentialedinburgh.co.uk/edinburgh-restaurant-festival/

Eat Walk Edinburgh
For a slightly different touring perspective of Edinburgh, you can’t do much better than a culinary exploration with Eat Walk Edinburgh. Dropping into some of first class restaurants, bars and shops, while learning a little about Edinburgh’s history along the way, visitors will meet the locals who enthuse in the very best food and drink Edinburgh and Scotland has to offer.

23 Ivy Terrace, EH11 1PJ
+44 (0) 7740 869 359
eatwalkedinburgh.co.uk

Scotch Whisky Experience
Become part of the whisky making process as you take a swirling, bubbling ride through a virtual whisky experience. Go on to learn the secrets of the Scotch whisky regions and the art of whisky blending with their guided sensory presentation. Tours finish in the fascinating McIntyre Bar, where you can indulge your newfound passion for Scotch whisky with breathtaking views of Scotland’s capital city.

354 Castlehill, EH1 2NE
+44 (0) 131 220 0441
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

Gin Tasting Canal Tour
Setting sail from Fountainbridge every Saturday during the summer months, this is the perfect treat for gin lovers everywhere. The two-hour cruise is packed with mouth-watering premium Scottish gins, cocktails and tasty bites as you cruise along Edinburgh’s canal to the stunning backdrop of the Edinburgh viaduct, before returning to the city centre.

15 Valleyfield Street, EH1 9LJ
+44 (0) 131 261 8529
re-union.org.uk
Shopping
There’s no risk of unimaginative shopping in this cosmopolitan city.
From the grandeur of Jenners – the oldest department store in Scotland – to the absolute indulgence of Harvey Nichols and Multrees Walk, there’s plenty to choose from.
The second-hand emporia of Stockbridge or the fine art and antique showrooms in the New Town await your magpie eye, whilst original stores and independent boutiques in the West End offer creative and unusual wares to tempt and excite you.
The Stand
If you’re looking for a laugh, then don’t miss out on The Stand. Major acts and local hopefuls take the mike in this comedy basement. They also run free lunchtime shows!
5 York Place, EH1 3EB
+44 (0) 131 558 7272
thestand.co.uk

Secret Gardens
Edinburgh is a city of secret gardens all hidden in plain sight. Just off the Royal Mile, Dunbar’s Close, beside the Scottish Book Trust, brings a little bit of tranquillity to the hubbub of the tourist streets. Or take in the Archivist’s Garden, tucked behind HM Register House on Princes Street.
edinburgh.org

Gladstone’s Land
The house of wealthy merchant and landlord Thomas Gladstone showcases high-rise living, 17th-century style, at the beating heart of Edinburgh’s historic Royal Mile. In six rooms the authentically restored tenement shows how people went about their lives at a time when the cramped Lawnmarket was very much a living, breathing, working part of one of the world’s fastest-growing and influential cities.
4778 Lawnmarket, EH1 2NT
+44 (0) 131 226 5856
nts.org.uk

Gardener’s Cottage
The Gardener’s Cottage is committed to creating and serving excellent food using the best local produce. With the focus on seasonal cooking and social dining, a six course set menu is served in the evenings on long communal dining tables. Lunch is a la carte and brunch is served at the weekends.
Royal Terrace, EH7 5DX
+44 (0) 131 558 1221
thegardenerscottage.co

Water of Leith
Offering 24 miles of idyllic walking and cycling pathways along the leafy riverside, the spot around the old 19th century mills of Dean Village is one of its most popular spots. Wander down from Stockbridge to the vibrant bars and restaurants of Leith.
edinburgh.org

St Giles’ Roof Top Tours
Not only offering panoramic views of the city and Royal Mile, the rooftop tour gives visitors a rare glimpse into how the cathedral has been altered over the years. You’ll hear all sorts of tales about the tower and even get up close to the medieval beams and bells of St Giles’
St Giles’ Cathedral, EH1 1RE
stgilescathedral.org.uk
Stay
From the Penthouse at G&V to the affordable style of Motel One, Edinburgh is blessed with some wonderful places to rest your head.

There’s unashamed luxury at The Balmoral or the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa.

For quirky intimacy, Hotel du Vin, housed in the old asylum in heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town. Or if you adore intimate retreats, the city boasts a plethora of boutique hotels, tucked away in quiet corners.

The Balmoral
The Balmoral is located in the heart of Edinburgh, in a prime position for exploring the city’s many historical and cultural sites, from Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Museum to the City Art Centre and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. It’s also perfectly positioned for browsing the designer boutiques and department stores of Multrees Walk and the ideal base during the Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

1 Princes St, EH2 2EQ
+44 (0) 131 556 2414
rococofirtelhotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/the-balmoral-hotel

Hotel Indigo Princes Street
There are many reasons to book a room at Hotel Indigo Edinburgh if you’re planning a visit to the Scottish capital. The hotel can be found on the world-famous Princes Street, while also being conveniently located adjacent to Waverley Train Station. The hotel affords spectacular views across the city’s Old Town and Edinburgh Castle.

20 Princes Street, EH2 2AN
+44 (0) 131 556 4901
cairnhotelgroup.com/hotels/hotel-indigo-edinburgh/

Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian
Undergoing a recent £24 million investment and renovation programme, ‘The Caley’, as it is affectionately known among Edinburgh locals, has embodied the very best in Scottish hospitality for over a hundred years. Situated at the west end of Princes Street, this former Victorian railway hotel nestles in the shadow of the historic Edinburgh Castle and is just a two-minute walk from the designer stores and fashionable bars of George Street.

The Caledonian, Princes St, EH1 2AB
+44 (0) 131 222 8888
waldorfastoriaedinburgh.com

The Principal Edinburgh Charlotte Square
Overlooking one of Edinburgh’s prettiest private garden squares, The Principal Edinburgh Charlotte Square — formerly The Roxburghe Hotel — consists of seven inter-connecting Georgian townhouses in the heart of the New Town. After a multi-million restoration and refurbishment, all of the bedrooms and suites have been given a smart, new look, inspired by the golden age of travel and a genuine sense of Scottish hospitality.

38 Charlotte Square, EH2 4HQ
+44 (0) 131 240 5500
phcompany.com/principal/edinburgh-charlotte-square

Adagio Aparthotel Edinburgh Royal Mile
Live like a local in the heart of Edinburgh with your own apartment, complete with its own kitchen and living space. Located on the historic Royal Mile, the Adagio is within walking distance of Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Waverley Train Station and places you right in the heart of the city’s hustle and bustle in a comfortable space to call home while you’re here.

231 Canongate, EH8 8BH
+ 44 (0) 871 322 8299
adagio-city.com

Fraser Suites
Located within a stone’s throw from Edinburgh Castle and just off the Royal Mile on St Giles Street is the 130-year old building that houses Fraser Suites Edinburgh. A range of suites suit all budgets whether you’re travelling on business or for pleasure, with a group or on your own. If you’re in town for a day, a weekend or long term, at Fraser Suites Edinburgh you can be assured you’ll be taken care of from the moment you step through the door.

12 – 26 St Giles’ St, EH1 1PT
+44 (0) 131 221 7200
edinburgh.frasershospitality.com/en
Awards

With 90% of Edinburgh residents saying they are proud of their beautiful city in a recent YouGov poll, we quite agree with all of the awards and accolades to our city. Here’s a few highlights from the last year or so...

2017

- Edinburgh named one of the best cities in the UK for self-employed workers according to the Scotsman
- Edinburgh voted one of the world’s favourite destinations to visit in Autumn by a panel of 10,490 people in 142 countries for European Best Destinations
- Ranked 1st in the 2016/17 Foreign Direct Investment strategy category for Global Cities of the Future, Edinburgh has been named the best large city in Europe to invest in, owing in part to its internationally-recognised strategy to encourage investment
- Edinburgh has been named the UK’s greenest city after mapping firm Euri UK conducted an analysis of open park spaces in cities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 49.1% of the city is green space
- In 2017, research conducted by Expert Market found Edinburgh was the best place in the UK to launch a start-up business, thanks to fast internet connectivity and modern digital infrastructure, affordable office space and a large pool of quality university graduate talent
- Zoopla has named Edinburgh the UK’s top property hotspot, beating all other UK cities including London and Glasgow, with homes on sale typically attracting 145% more interest from house hunters than average

2016

- Edinburgh voted number one destination in the Daily Telegraph’s ‘Britain’s Best Ten Cities’ award, for third time in a row, January 2016
- The Royal Yacht Britannia has been judged as Scotland’s best visitor attraction every year for the past decade by VisitScotland, January 2016
- Edinburgh voted the fourth most beautiful city in the world by readers of Rough Guide, behind only Paris, Florence and Rome, February 2016
- Convention Edinburgh has been named as a finalist in one of the UK’s biggest tourism industry awards for the second year in a row. It is shortlisted in the category of Best UK Convention Bureau in the Meeting and Incentive Travel (M&IT) Awards, April 2016
- Voted in top 25 Best Coastal Cities in the World, Conde Nast Traveler, June 2016
- Edinburgh is now ranked 35st in the ICCA business tourism world cities ranking, and 20th in its European league tables, June 2016

2015

- In 2015 VisitScotland have awarded Edinburgh Bus Tours the five star grading that they have had in previous years
- The Chester Residence in Edinburgh has also ranked as the seventh best luxury hotel in Europe in the TripAdvisor Traveller’s Choice Awards.
- One of world’s top ten cities (one of three European cities to make top ten rankings), Wanderlust Reader’s Travel Awards (also voted in top ten in 2014), February 2015
- Forth most beautiful city in the world as voted for by Rough Guide readers, February 2015
- Rated third safest city in the world in survey by Post Office Travel Insurance, March 2015
- Best UK destination outside London, as voted for by TripAdvisor reviewers, March 2015
- Edinburgh found to be the most desirable place to live out of 130 UK council areas in an independent survey conducted by USwitch, October 2015
- Edinburgh ranked in top 3 best places to live in the UK in report by PwC & think-tank Demos, taking into account of jobs, health, income and skills, work-life balance, house affordability, travel-to-work times, income equality and pollution, November 2015
10 things you probably didn’t know about Edinburgh:

1. Sunshine on Leith
   Don’t listen to clichés about Scottish weather. With less rainfall than Rome, Frankfurt or New York, your chances of enjoying a crisp, clear day in Scotland’s capital city are pretty good.

2. Half Hangit Maggie
   Edinburgh even has ghost stories without ghosts! Maggie Dickson was executed for concealing the death of her child in 1724. But on the way to be buried she sat straight up in her casket and it was decided that being already officially dead, she couldn’t be hanged again. She went free and lived for another 30 years. A pub bearing her name can be found in the Grassmarket.

3. Spit on the Heart
   Outside St. Giles Cathedral is the Heart of Midlothian, which marks the spot of an old public execution site. Local folklore says that to spit on the heart brings good luck.

4. Crowded House
   The wonder of Edinburgh’s festivals is well known. But did you realise that the city’s population doubles over the month of August to over 1 million?

5. Name that city
   As well as ‘Athens of the North’, Edinburgh has earned itself a few other nicknames over the years. The most famous is ‘Auld Reekie’, which translated from Scots means ‘Old Smoky’, a reference to the dense chimney smoke caused by industrialisation and closely built houses. Now, the air is fresh and clear and an abundance of parks means Edinburgh is surprisingly lush. Visit the secret city-centre oasis of Dunbar’s Close, hidden just off of the Royal Mile.

6. Biscuit brainchilds
   Dolly the Sheep, chequebooks, even the rules of golf – Edinburgh is a hotbed of invention. A lesser known – but no less loved – discovery that the city can also lay claim to is the humble digestive biscuit, created by bakers McVitie and Price in 1892.

7. Say cheese
   A recent survey found Edinburgh Castle is Scotland’s most popular spot for a selfie. Ranked in the top 40 of worldwide selfie hot spots, Edinburgh Castle was just behind the likes of the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and the Empire State Building.

8. Write here
   As the first UNESCO City of Literature, there’s many a story to tell, none better than the fact that JK Rowling both started and finished the Harry Potter series in Edinburgh. The final lines were penned in room 552 of the Balmoral Hotel in the city centre.

9. Site for sore eyes
   When walking through the city, from New Town to Old, take a look at the city’s stunning architecture. All of Edinburgh’s city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

10. Cultural hub
    Edinburgh is home to over sixty galleries and six major performing art theatres – the jewel in the crown being the Edinburgh Playhouse Theatre. The UK’s largest theatre, it’s played host to many of the world’s most successful musicals and legendary bands and artists, including Bob Dylan, The Who and Johnny Cash.
Social media

This is Edinburgh’s platforms have been created to effectively highlight the very best of the capital city.

From new openings and hidden gems, to recommendations and special announcements, This is Edinburgh is the city’s official digital hub, sharing real time information, images and video content, which showcases Scotland’s capital city as one of the best places in the world to live and visit.

Edinburgh’s official social media channels are:

facebook.com/edinburgh   twitter.com/edinburgh   instagram.com/thisisedinburgh

#ThisisEdinburgh is an ongoing campaign for locals and visitors to share and highlight what makes Edinburgh so special and unique.

Whether it’s an event or attraction, a delicious dish in the latest restaurant, or simply a breathtaking view of the city, all posts that use #ThisisEdinburgh on Twitter and Instagram are curated and displayed on the city’s official website trending page: thisisedinburgh.com/edinburgh

#EdinPhoto is designed to encourage locals and visitors to share their pictures of Edinburgh for the chance to be featured across the This is Edinburgh social platforms.

From its dramatic skyline and vibrant festivals full of colour to its atmospheric cobbled closes and rolling coastal haar, Edinburgh is an ideal muse for any would-be photographer and is also a hugely rich resource and inspiration for the city’s social media channels.

This is Edinburgh
Information Pack
2017

For more information on Edinburgh, or to speak with us about visiting our great city, please contact:

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Instagram/ThisisEdinburgh