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 markets 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.

“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”

Alexander McCall Smith
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 are 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 is one Scots Mile long (around 225 yards longer than a ‘standard’ mile). 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 1120s. 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 still be seen today. Tucked away, this is an area that feels – and looks – very different to the city centre, but is only moments away.

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 Castle
Edinburgh Castle dominates the Edinburgh city skyline and has housed many Scottish monarchs including Queen Margaret and Mary Queen of Scots. The Castle is still a functioning barracks, as well as the focal point of spectacular fireworks displays at Hogmanay and during August’s festivals. With its rich history and stunning views across Edinburgh and beyond from within the city centre, it’s a must-see when in the capital. The one o’clock gun is fired at exactly 1pm six days a week, drawing large crowds to watch.

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 the city earn the nickname ‘Athens of the North’ The twelve columns of the National Monument, built to commemorate Scottish service men who died during Napoleonic Wars but never finished, towers majestically over the city. Calton Hill 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 - soon to re-open as a gallery.

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
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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 Menzies opens book shop on Princes Street.
- 1869 Sophia Jex-Blake becomes first female medical student.
- 1874 Heart of Midlothian Football Club is founded.
- 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 Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe celebrate their 70th anniversaries, while the city marks 250 years since James Craig’s New Town Plan was adopted.
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.

Leith Festival  
9 - 17 June 2018
Celebrate Leith with a programme of events including music, dance, arts and historic tours, kicking off with the Leith Gala Day and Pageant on 9 June, and ending with the Leith Festival Tattoo on 17 June. An annual event, the Leith Festival is perfect for discovering more about everything that makes Leith one of Edinburgh’s most exciting and unique areas.

leithfestival.com

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival  
13 - 22 July 2018
The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival presents a super-charged line-up that will delight Edinburgh Festival regulars and first-timers alike, and is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018. Venues across the capital will play host to the finest jazz and blues talent from all corners of the globe. Dance along to bop to boogie-woogie to blues-rock, from samba to swing to soul there’s something in the programme to suit every mood and musical taste.

edinburghjazzfestival.com

Kiltwalk Edinburgh  
16 September 2018
Kiltwalk is a unique Scottish charity, allowing walkers to raise money for any charity they like, with funds raised receiving an extra 40% donation from the organisers. Events are held throughout Scotland and open to all - the Edinburgh routes are 6, 10 and 26 miles long, meaning there’s an option for everyone who wants to raise money for charity by getting out there in a kilt.

thekiltwalk.co.uk

Edinburgh International Television Festival  
22 - 24 August 2018
The Edinburgh TV Festival is the biggest and most prestigious media event in the UK, bringing together all parts of the television and digital world to celebrate creativity, diversity and inspirational talent and debate the major issues facing the industry. The festival draws delegates from the major networks and production companies internationally, and 2018 will see Michaeala Coel deliver the keynote James MacTaggart Lecture.

thetvfestival.com

Edinburgh Riding of the Marches  
16 September 2018
The Edinburgh Riding of the Marches promotes and facilitates the annual re-enactment of the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches and all its associated traditions. Entirely volunteer-led, the event sees hundreds of spectators line the Royal Mile to watch the more than 300 horses and their riders make their way up towards Edinburgh Castle, in a tradition going back to 1513.

edinburghridingofthemarches.com

Scottish International Storytelling Festival  
19 - 31 October 2018
The Scottish International Storytelling Festival, produced by TRACS at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, is one of the most admired storytelling events in the world and the largest of its kind. The 30th Scottish International Storytelling Festival will celebrate Growing Stories, with a feast of botanically-led events, from walking tours to intimate storytelling gatherings at the Scottish Storytelling Centre and throughout Scotland.

tracscotland.org/festivals/scottish-international-storytelling-festival

Edinburgh events  November 2017 - January 2018

Edinburgh Riding of the Marches  
16 September 2018

Leith Festival  
9 - 17 June 2018

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival  
13 - 22 July 2018

Kiltwalk Edinburgh  
16 September 2018

Edinburgh International Television Festival  
22 - 24 August 2018

Scottish international Storytelling Festival  
19 - 31 October 2018

Edinburgh events  November 2017 - January 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.

Sitting at number 101 is Greyfriars Bobby - chosen in a public vote by Edinburgh residents as the city’s favourite object. Together, the collections reveal Edinburgh’s fascinating past like never before.

To assist in rifling such a vast trove, 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

Edinburgh.org/101/edinburgh101
Edinburgh on Film

Edinburgh has played a starring role as a superb film location for some of the UK’s best-loved productions. From blockbusters such as Avengers: Infinity War to Trainspotting and Sunshine on Leith, Scotland’s capital is just as used to playing a leading role on the big screen as it is on the world stage.

Avengers: Infinity War
Released April 2018

The nineteenth film in one of the world’s biggest and beloved movie franchises, Avengers: Infinity War stars Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Mackie, Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany. Filmed partly on location in Edinburgh over seven weeks, Avengers: Infinity War was the largest and most complex shoot ever to film in Edinburgh’s historic Old Town and city centre, and the film’s biggest on-location shoot.

The Edinburgh scenes featured in the film include an epic battle on the Royal Mile, on the roof of St Giles’ Cathedral and in Waverley Train Station, complete with explosions and a reunion of some of the film’s central characters.

Outlander Season 3
Released September 2017

Adapted from the best-selling book series by Diana Gabaldon, Outlander follows the story of Claire Randall, a nurse who travels back in time to 1743 from her native 1945. For the first time in the series, locations in the city of Edinburgh make an appearance: the lecture theatre at Summerhall, Craigmullar Castle, Bakehouse Close and Tweeddale Court in Edinburgh’s Old Town and the splendid Signet Library are all featured in Season 3.

Edinburgh on Film

Edinburgh has provided a stunning, evocative and versatile backdrop for big screen productions and television series alike. Its compact nature and popularity make it the perfect film tourism destination and launchpad for other locations across Scotland that have appeared in some of the world’s best loved and enduring films. Find location maps, guides and information about other productions made in the city on the This is Edinburgh website.
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

Ideal for family audiences, The Imagineate 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.
imaginate.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 premiers 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 - 27 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 200 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 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.
edintattoo.co.uk

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 come together to present a wonderful programme of books and ideas, 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.
edbookfest.co.uk

Scottish International Storytelling Festival - 19 - 31 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.
tradscotland.org

Edinburgh’s Christmas - 16 November 2018 - 5 January 2019
Edinburgh’s Christmas is a spectacular, six-week season of festive entertainment in the heart of the city. With the German Market and Winter Wonderland taking over Princes Street Gardens, and open air ice skating in St Andrew Square, there’s no more magical place to be than Edinburgh to celebrate the festive season.
edinburghchristmas.com

Twelve festivals over twelve months means thousands of designated festival events in Edinburgh, attracting artists, audiences and media from every continent and over 70 countries. Below are just a few of Edinburgh’s best annual events…
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 £14.1m 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 Portrait 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, EH9 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

**Museum of Childhood**
Reopened in early 2018 after a £200,000 refurbishment, young people and adults alike will enjoy finding out about growing up through the ages in the Museum of Childhood. Exhibits range from toys and games to health and school days and are complemented by a range of hands-on activities, including a puppet theatre and dressing up area. A fantastic museum shop, help to make your visit a memorable one.
42 High St, Royal Mile, EH1 1TG
+44 (0) 131 529 4142
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**

**National Museum of Scotland**

**Scottish National Portrait Gallery**

**Scottish Parliament**

**Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

**Museum of Childhood**

**The Potter Trail**
Paid 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 1QR
+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 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

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, from where you can enjoy breath-taking 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 2EJ
+44 (0) 131 529 4068
edinburghmuseums.org.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
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.

Copper Blossom
Homemade, local and fresh are Copper Blossom’s watchwords. Located on one of the city’s best streets for shopping, in the warmer months the outside area has the perfect view of Edinburgh Castle. Copper Blossom brings freshly made food and elegant cocktails made using seasonal, sustainable produce to Edinburgh’s city centre.

107 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3ES
+44 (0) 131 297 2630
copperblossom.co.uk

Contini George Street
Offering a fusion of Scottish and Italian food, Contini George Street is the perfect place to dine with friends. A menu created with sharing in mind features fresh, delicious flavor combinations, showcasing the very best Italian ingredients and the pick of Scotland’s larder. The extensive wine list of more than 55 Italian wines includes a ‘to go’ price - so you can take your favourite bottle home with you.

103 George St, Edinburgh EH2 3ES
+44 (0) 131 225 1550
contini.com/contini-george-street

Dishoom
Inspired by Iranian cafés of old and 1920s Bombay, Dishoom’s first foray north of the border has proven just as big a hit as their various restaurants across London. Located within minutes of Waverley Station on the beautiful St Andrew Square, Dishoom and its accompanying bar - The Permit Room - offer a unique setting with food to die for and a drinks menu you’ll want to visit again and again.

3a St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2BD
+44 (0) 131 225 3003
dishoom.com/edinburgh

The Dining Room at The Scotch Malt Whisky Society
Named Scotland’s Restaurant of the year for 2017, The Dining Room presents the world’s widest selection of exclusive single cask whiskies available along with an extensive wine list. Delicious dishes are expertly paired with their perfect partners ensuring you’re left with a memorable sensory experience.

28 Queen St, Edinburgh EH2 1JX
+44 (0) 131 220 2044
thediningroomedinburgh.co.uk

Cucina at the Radisson Collection
Celebrated Bolognan 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.

1 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1AD
+44 (0) 131 240 1666
radissoncollection.com/en/royalmile-hotel-edinburgh/dining

The Garden
Attached to the Principal Edinburgh Charlotte Square, The Garden is a calming green oasis tucked away from the hustle and bustle of The New Town. The perfect place to escape the city and to meet, snack or have drinks, The Garden’s menu is sure to satisfy. Children are welcome, and the restaurant’s ‘Twilight Tea’ means you can enjoy the delights of an afternoon tea long into the evening.

28 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 2HQ
+44 (0) 131 527 4655
gardenedinburgh.com
**The Kitchen**
Tom and Michelle Kitchin opened their restaurant, The Kitchen on Edinburgh's Leith waterfront in 2006. The restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 2007 and award after award has followed since. The Kitchen presents modern British seasonal cuisine influenced by French cooking techniques and an appreciation of the best quality ingredients available from Scotland's fantastic natural larder.

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

**SPOCH**
Specialising in chicken, roast over a charcoal fire on a custom-made rotisserie in the centre of the restaurant, SPOTCH 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.

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

**Akva**
A Swedish bar, cafe and party venue, Akva’s name is inspired by the waters of Edinburgh’s Union Canal and provides a welcoming, fun atmosphere for all - kids and dogs included. The fabulous beer garden is the only place to be when the sun is shining in Edinburgh, and it pays to keep an eye on Garden Parties, Lucia and many more..

**Garden Parties, Lucia plus many more..**

129 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG  
+44(0)131 290 2500  
bodabar.com/akva

**Hard Rock Cafe**
Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh offers guests a delectable menu featuring house-made entries prepared with a touch of local flavours. Other enticing menu options include their Legendary Burger, fresh salads, and hand-crafted cocktails. Whether you’re after formal or relaxed, with your nearest and dearest or with a large group, Hard Rock Cafe is ready for you.

20 George St, Edinburgh EH1 2PF  
+44 (0) 131 260 3000  
hardrock.com/cafe/edinburgh

**Spatchchicken.co.uk**
Specialising in chicken, roast over a charcoal fire on a custom-made rotisserie in the centre of the restaurant, SPOTCH 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.

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

**Meltmongers**
Make way for 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, Edinburgh EH10 4HG  
+44 (0)131 466 9992  
meltmongers.com

**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  
brewalkcoffe.co.uk/training

**Oliviero**
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, Edinburgh EH12 1JR  
+44 (0) 131 226 3706  
olivier.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 with breathtaking views, and afterwards, take a seat in Amber, the restaurant, for mouthwatering food - and the option of more whisky, of course.

354 Castlehill, Edinburgh 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, Edinburgh EH1 9LP  
+44 (0) 131 261 8529  
re-union.org.uk

**Eat Walk Edinburgh**
Get a real taste of Edinburgh with a tour - not just of the city’s streets, but some of its best restaurants and culinary hidden gems. Each group enjoys at least five food tasting stops, while other packages also include drink tasting. You’ll learn stories from Edinburgh’s quirky past while stopping by restaurants and outlets run by the people who love the city. Tours run morning and evening, and special dietary needs are easily catered for.

+44 7740 869359  
eatwalkedinburgh.co.uk

**Edinburgh Restaurant Festival**
Bringing together Michelin Star restaurants, neighbourhood bistros, street food vendors 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.

Returning 2019  
essentialedinburgh.co.uk/edinburgh-restaurant-festival

See more of Edinburgh’s award winning Food and Drink at edinburgh.org/food
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 and Grassmarket offer creative and unusual wares to tempt and excite you.

Multrees Walk
Multrees Walk is the heart of luxury shopping in Edinburgh. Designers such as Mulberry, Louis Vuitton, Burberry and Tommy Hilfiger create a treasure trove of shops. Links of London and Swarovski help shoppers sparkle, while fashionista’s dream Harvey Nichols is packed with all the names you’d expect to find in the city’s finest shopping area.

Thistle Street
Nestled behind George Street, Thistle Street is one of Edinburgh’s best kept secrets filled with premium boutiques such as Jane Davidson, Kakao by K and Pim Jenkins. For kilts – traditional or modern – head to 21st Century Kilts, where many a star from Madonna to Robbie Williams have been dressed.

Grassmarket
A creative hub for the city, the Grassmarket offers a unique specialist shopping experience. With over 90% of the shops independent, it’s packed with vintage, boutique, arts and crafts. Armstrong’s Vintage Emporium, established in 1840 has garments and accessories from every decade dating back to the Victorian era. Or check out the stunning tailored tweed at Walker Slater and the beautiful creations of the Red Door Gallery.

The West End
The West End shopping area spreads across William Street and Stafford Street. This cobbled oasis of independent retailers and stylish boutiques features Studio One with its classy home accessories, lighting, photo frames and wooden animals. Women’s independent fashion shop Sam Brown and Remus, interior design pioneers and purveyors of home-based curiosities, are also definitely worth a visit.

George Street
Home to some of Edinburgh’s favourite high street and designer stores, including Hollister, LK Bennett, The White Company, Anthropologie and French Connection, George Street is the heart of Edinburgh’s Georgian New Town. Shops to satisfy every fashion lover’s needs are here, with cocktail bars and restaurants to match - the perfect venues to relax in after a hard day’s shopping.

Princes Street
There are many beautiful facades to the old buildings along Princes Street, housing some of the most popular high street shops in Britain. The grandeur of Jenners is flagged with high street flagship stores including the likes of H&M, Debenhams, Zara, Dr Martens and All Saints. A high street lovers’ paradise, with some of the city’s best views of Edinburgh Castle.
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

Camera Obscura & World of Illusions
The Camera Obscura show is a fascinating and highly amusing way to see the city and learn about its history. This unique experience has delighted and intrigued people for over 150 years. Step into a world where real-life collides with technological trickery. Tour Edinburgh’s streets without moving. Pitch your brain against mind-bending illusions. It’s all part of the Camera Obscura and World of Illusions experience.
Castlehill, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2ND
+44 (0) 131 226 3709
camera-obscura.co.uk

Gardner’s Cottage
The Gardner’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 à la carte and brunch is served at the weekends.
Royal Terrace, EH7 5DX
+44 (0) 131 558 1221
thegardenerscottage.co.uk

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 the Radisson Collection to the affordable style of Motel One, Edinburgh spoils you for wonderful places to rest your head. There’s unashamed luxury at The Balmoral or the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa.
For quirky intimacy, try Hotel du Vin, housed in the old asylum in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town. Or if you adore unique 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 perfectly positioned for browsing the designer boutiques and department stores of Multrees Walk and the ideal base during the Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe.
1 Princes St, EH2 2EQ
+44 (0) 131 556 2414
roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/the-balmoral-hotel

Angels Share
At the epicentre of one of the world’s most iconic and historic cities, Angels Share is a showcase and celebration of contemporary Scottish Culture. The bedrooms boast iconic Scots, actors, musicians & sportspeople alike. The hotel celebrates them all equally and the histories they have created in Scotland. Whilst enjoying the history Edinburgh has to offer, Angels Share displays the modern side of cool Scotland without the tartan carpets.
9-11 Hope Street, Edinburgh EH2 4EL
+44 (0) 131 247 7000
angelssharehotel.com

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 Edinburgh Castle and is 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

The Dunstane Houses
Refined, relaxed, a little romantic and a lot luxurious, the Dunstane Houses is an independent, family-run boutique hotel that offers its guests the best of the Scottish capital. Sit in two heritage buildings quite unlike anywhere you’ve ever stayed before, it’s a breath of fresh Orkney air in the heart of Edinburgh. 35 rooms are spread over two properties, each uniquely styled to balance timeless tradition and modern comfort.
4 West Coates, Edinburgh EH12 5RQ
+44 (0) 131 337 6169
dhedinburgh.com
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Awards

With 90% of Edinburgh residents saying they are proud of their beautiful city in a recent YouGov poll, we’re proud of the awards and accolades our city has earned. Here are just a few highlights from recent years...

2018

- Edinburgh named the UK's top city for inward investment by global consultancy Arcadis
- The Scottish capital found to be the most attractive city to live and work in a study commissioned by Royal Mail
- Edinburgh named Europe's most influential small city in Colliers International's Cities of Influence report
- The UK's top ranking city for hotel development in Colliers International's UK Hotels Market Index
- Edinburgh was voted the UK's Best Destination for Young People in British Educational Travel Association's British Youth Travel Awards
- Edinburgh was named Scotland's Kindest City in a report commissioned by Travelodge in February 2018
- Edinburgh was voted one of the world's top twenty must-see literary destinations by Expedia.com users
- Readers of Which? voted Edinburgh the best UK destination for a weekend away for the third year in a row

2017

- 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 was named the UK's greenest city after mapping firm Esri 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 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 Costal Cities in the World, Conde Nast Traveler, June 2016
- Edinburgh is now ranked 35th 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
Fast Facts

- Edinburgh city is home to a population of over 500,000, and 1.36 million regionally.
- Over 4 million people visit Edinburgh every year, generating more than £1.45 billion for the local economy.
- A city of foodies, Edinburgh is home to four Michelin Star restaurants and a further four awarded the Bib Gourmand.
- Edinburgh is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- The Sheep Heid Inn at the foot of Arthur’s Seat in Duddingston is Edinburgh’s oldest pub, serving real ale for over 600 years.
- Edinburgh is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Joining Edinburgh’s famous Old and New Towns, The Forth Rail Bridge was awarded World Heritage status in July 2015, 125 years after it opened.
- Edinburgh is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Joining Edinburgh’s famous Old and New Towns, The Forth Rail Bridge was awarded World Heritage status in July 2015, 125 years after it opened.
- 75% of buildings in Edinburgh city centre are listed. The highest concentration of listed buildings anywhere in the UK.
- Edinburgh’s Royal Mile is actually a Scots Mile - one mile and 107 yards long.
- Edinburgh is home to five of Scotland’s 10 most visited free attractions and five of the top 10 paid-for attractions.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was born in Edinburgh, is said to have based his famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes on Professor Joseph Bell, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

- Over 4,000 productions have been filmed in the Edinburgh region over the last 25 years, including the likes of Avengers: Infinity War, Trainspotting and its sequel T2 Trainspotting, The Da Vinci Code, One Day and Cloud Atlas.
- Home to four universities, Edinburgh has a student population of over 80,000. Over 55% of working age residents are university graduates.
- Edinburgh was the first city to receive UNESCO City of Literature status back in 2004.
- There are more than 20,000 beds in Edinburgh and the surrounding area, with over 50% within a 2km radius of the city centre.
- More than 70km of traffic-free cycle paths criss-cross the city.
- Edinburgh’s official social media channels (Instagram, Twitter and Facebook) have over 400K followers combined, with 140,000 unique visitors monthly to edinburgh.org.

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 lovely, 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. **Crowned 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 brainchild**
   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

With more than 400,000 followers across Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, This is Edinburgh’s social media channels are the place to keep up to date with the latest updates, news and photos of our beautiful city.

Use #ThisisEdinburgh and #EdinPhoto to join in online.

Find free-to-use images of Edinburgh at flickr.com/thisisedinburgh

Sign up to our monthly This is Edinburgh enewsletter at edinburgh.org/newsletter
Videos
A picture is worth a thousand words - how much better then is a video? Our YouTube channel is home to a number of videos that show Edinburgh at its very best. Opposite are just a few of our favourites.

Make It Edinburgh
Click thumbnail or head to youtu.be/0j2yhWIDJ9U

What would you do in Edinburgh in 24 hours?
Click thumbnail or head to youtu.be/U_fyv4OTcOw

Edinburgh’s 101 Objects
Click thumbnail or head to youtu.be/hypjuBeky14

Find all of our videos on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/thisisedinburgh
This is Edinburgh
Information Pack
2018

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

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