“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 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.
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 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 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.

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 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

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.
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.
- 1870 Fettes College opens.
- 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.
OktoberFest
31 October – 4 November 2018
Over one long weekend you can experience everything that makes a real Oktoberfest – right in the Scottish capital. With live music and full Oktoberfest decoration, waiters and waitresses in Lederhosen and Dirndls will bring you special brewed Bavarian beer, Bratwurst, Schnitzel and Pretzels in a giant tent for 1,800 people. Enjoy the feeling of being in an authentic Oktoberfest celebration with friends in a buzzing, friendly and exciting atmosphere.

edinburgh-oktoberfest.co.uk

Edinburgh Art Fair
23-25 November 2018
Established in 2005 the EAF is Scotland’s longest running modern and contemporary Art Fair. Every November between 60 and 70 exhibiting galleries from around the UK, Ireland and abroad arrive in Edinburgh to showcase the work of their artists under the one roof of the city’s Corn Exchange. With so many visiting artists, the EAF also provides an opportunity to view and purchase artwork that you would never normally find in Scotland.

artedinburgh.com

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 – a fantastic Christmas celebration, and great fun for the whole family! With ice skating, music, events and of course the famous German Market selling gifts, drinks, delicious food and an atmosphere unmatched anywhere else in the city, Edinburgh’s Christmas is the place to revel in the festive spirit with friends and family alike.

edinburghschristmas.com

Giant Lanterns of China
16 November 2018 – 17 February 2019
The Giant Lanterns of China return to Edinburgh Zoo this winter. Join in for a new and exciting adventure as Scottish myths, ancient Chinese legends and incredible creatures come to life. Escape into a world of folktales and fantasy with over 450 beautifully crafted lanterns lighting a magical trail through the Zoo. For 50 legendary nights, the zoo is home to unicorns, giants, kelpies and even the Loch Ness Monster, alongside animals past and present. This unique and special event also includes handmade crafts from Chinese artisans, with seasonal hot drinks and snacks to keep you warm.

edinburgh.org/whats-on/giant-lanterns-of-china

Edinburgh’s Hogmanay
30 December 2018 – 1 January 2019
One of the world’s best places to see in the New Year, Edinburgh’s Hogmanay (the Scottish word for New Year’s Eve) is a party like none other. The celebrations kick off with a torchlit procession through the city on the 30th December, with events continuing on the evening of the 31st including a ceilidh, a silent disco, the concert in Princes Street Gardens, and of course the street party running the length of Princes Street.

edinburghshogmanay.com

Six Nations Rugby at Edinburgh Murrayfield
2 February, 9 February, 9 March 2019
The dates for the next Six Nations Rugby Tournament have been announced, and they’ll see Scotland take on Italy, Ireland and Wales respectively on home turf at BT Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. The atmosphere across the city is buzzing on match days, and you’ll find a welcoming and friendly yet good natured sense of competition between fans. Head to any of the bars in the city centre before you make your way to the stadium to soak in the atmosphere.

sixnationsrugby.com
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.

See all the objects at edinburgh.org/101
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 reveals 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.

#8 St Bernard’s Well
Building a City
An 18th century neo-classical temple over a mineral spring with highly decorative interior pump house.
edinburgh.org/101/#object8

#23 The Tattoo Drumstick
Arts & Performance
A drumstick from Edinburgh Castle’s 1948 military performance picked up by a little girl and kept for decades.
edinburgh.org/101/#object23

#33 David Hume’s lucky toe
Books, Words & Ideas
edinburgh.org/101/#object33

#51 Chloroform Inhaler
City of Innovation
A glass vessel designed for the inhalation of chloroform before surgery.
edinburgh.org/101/#object51

#67 Pickering’s Gin Tap
Everyday Living
A bar tap serving draft gin from a small-batch micro distillery.
edinburgh.org/101/#object67

#85 Ceiling of The Thistle Chapel
Faith and Nation
Early 20th century chapel dedicated to the Order of The Thistle.
edinburgh.org/101/#object85

#98 Book made from the skin of William Burke
On the Dark Side
A chilling memento of one of Edinburgh’s most notorious serial killers.
edinburgh.org/101/#object98
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.
**Outlaw King**  
*Released 9 November 2018*

Director David Mackenzie makes his return to Scotland following the Oscar-nominated Hell or High Water with the ambitious, historical epic Outlaw King. The film opened the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and will premiered in Edinburgh on 19 October, ahead of its Netflix release on November 9th. Outlaw King spent seven days filming in Edinburgh, but there was over a month of preparation during which the production team built a medieval village around Craigmillar Castle. The castle, which also features in Outlander season 3, appears alongside in. Scenes also shot at Seacliff Beach in East Lothian.


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**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, 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.


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**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, Craigmillar Castle, Bakehouse Close and Tweeddale Court in Edinburgh’s Old Town and the splendid Signet Library are all featured in Season 3.


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**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.org/edinburgh-on-film](http://edinburgh.org/edinburgh-on-film)
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...

**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.

[tracscotland.org](http://tracscotland.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](http://edinburghchristmas.com)

**Edinburgh Marathon Festival** 25 - 26 May 2019
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](http://edinburghmarathon.com)

**Edinburgh International Science Festival** 6-21 April 2019
Europe’s biggest celebration of science returns to Edinburgh in April 2019 - the two-week festival gives audiences amazing experiences through a diverse programme of innovative events. In honour of the 50th anniversary of the Moon landings, the 2019 Festival theme is Frontiers, exploring the boundaries of knowledge and the spirit of adventure and enquiry that drives science, technology, engineering and maths. Within this theme, specific areas of focus will include Healthcare Frontiers, Engineering Frontiers, Digital Frontiers, Environmental Frontiers and Planetary Frontiers.

[sciencefestival.co.uk](http://sciencefestival.co.uk)

**The Imatinate Festival** 25 May - 2 June 2019
Ideal for family audiences, The Imatinate 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.

[imagine.org.uk](http://imagine.org.uk)

**The Edinburgh International Film Festival** 19 June – 30 June 2019
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](http://edfilmfest.org.uk)

**Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival** 12-21 July 2019
Edinburgh Jazz Festival was set up in 1978 by banjo-player and guitarist, Mike Hart with an initial focus on traditional jazz and a host of events taking place in pubs. The artistic policy has always been to concentrate on musical excellence and to champion spontaneous creativity: music making on the spot in Edinburgh. Today, the festival presents some of the very best musical talent from across the globe.

[edinburghjazzfestival.com](http://edinburghjazzfestival.com)

**Edinburgh Art Festival** 25 July - 25 August 2019
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](http://edinburghartfestival.com)

**Edinburgh Festival Fringe** 2 - 26 August 2019
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](http://edfringe.com)

**Edinburgh International Festival** 2 - 26 August 2019
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.

[eif.co.uk](http://eif.co.uk)

**The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** 2 - 24 August 2019
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.

[edintattoo.co.uk](http://edintattoo.co.uk)

**Edinburgh International Book Festival** 10 - 26 August 2019
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](http://edbookfest.co.uk)
Attractions

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.
Free Attractions

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 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

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

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

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 complimented 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 herbooks, 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
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  zss.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, 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

**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  oyalyachtbritannia.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.
Hawksmoor Edinburgh
A short walk from Waverley station, Princes Street and just off St Andrew Square, Hawksmoor Edinburgh is located in the beautiful former national Bank of Scotland Banking Hall. In Edinburgh, Hawksmoor draws on the amazing produce that Scotland has to offer, featuring seafood from around the Scottish coast and beef from grass-fed native breed cattle.

23 West Register Street,
Edinburgh EH2 2AA
thehawksmoor.com/locations/Edinburgh

The Refinery
Perfectly located in the heart of Edinburgh, The Refinery is a laid back but glamorous hub in the city’s thriving drinking and dining scene. A simply stunning setting combining industrial sophistication with Scottish comforts. Day or night, from business breakfasts to long dinner dates, The Refinery St Andrew Square is your escape from the everyday.

5 St Andrew Square,
Edinburgh EH2 2BD
drakeandmorgan.co.uk/the-refinery-st-andrew-square

Badger & Co.
Housed in the former home of Wind in the Willows author Kenneth Grahame, Badger & Co. serves a menu inspired by local and seasonal produce and also offers the opportunity of an exclusive private dining room, where you can feast on beasts and take a trip to the restaurant’s outdoor riverbank area. With fine drinks, food and amazing cocktails, there’s so much to be discovered at Badger & Co...

32 Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3HT
badgerandco.com

Grand Café at the Scotsman
Set within the Scotsman’s former advertising hall, the Grand Café’s spectacular double height space seats one hundred and fifty covers across its spectacular ground floor and balcony, filled with light, character and beautiful period features. Inspired by the ‘Grand Cafes’ of Europe, the new North Bridge venue promises a welcoming, relaxed drinking and dining experience to suit all tastes and occasions.

20 North Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1TR
scotsmanhotel.co.uk/eat-drink/grand-cafe

The Witchery
Hidden in a collection of historic buildings at the gates to Edinburgh Castle, James Thomson’s Witchery is the most spectacularly atmospheric dining destination in the city. The stunning decor and legendary food have ensured the Witchery by the Castle has become a much loved Edinburgh institution. Dine in the rich baroque surroundings of the original oak-panelled Witchery or among the elegant candle-lit charms of the Secret Garden.

The Witchery by the Castle, Castlehill, The Royal Mile,
Edinburgh EH1 2NF
thewitchery.com

Twenty Princes Street
Twenty Princes Street with its massive picture windows overlooking Princes Street effortlessly blends visionary design with exceptional dining & drinking. Whether it’s a lazy lunch, a catch up with colleagues or an enchanting dinner you’ll discover seasonal, handcrafted dishes, using fresh, locally sourced ingredients that are perfectly presented.

20 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AN
twentyprincesstreet.co.uk
**The Kitchin**
Tom and Michaela Kitchin opened their restaurant, The Kitchin on Edinburgh’s Leith waterfront in 2006. The restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 2007 and award after award has followed since. The Kitchin 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
theivyedinburgh.com

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**Burgers and Beers Grillhouse**
Burgers and Beers carefully take the time to select the best produce locally from award-winning butchers, dedicating between 40-60 hours a week to hand-making all of our burgers on site. Even their burger buns come from an artisan French bakery. As they take time and pride in sourcing the best local produce, their aim is to be the best burgers you can find in the entire Scottish capital.

192a High Street, Royal Mile Edinburgh EH1 1RW
burgersandbeersgrillhouse.co.uk

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**o’Oliviero**
Classically sophisticated Italian cuisine awaits guests at this restaurant on the Grassmarket. You’ll find an ambience 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 EH12JR
olivieros.co.uk

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**Hard Rock Cafe**
Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh offers guests a delectable menu featuring house-made entrées prepared with a touch of local flavour. 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 EH2 2PF
hardrock.com/cafes/edinburgh

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**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
facebook.com/meltmongers

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**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 the year-round programme of fun events including Swedish Midsummer, Garden Parties, Lucia plus many more..

129 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG
bodabar.com/akva
Brew Lab Barista Training
Fancy yourself a coffee afficionado? 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 dedicate brewing lab from their award wining 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

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 EH3 9LP
re-union.org.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
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

Red Bus Bistro
Get on board and enjoy either an Afternoon tea, Gin Tea or Gourmet Burger Experience on a vintage 1966 Routemaster Bus, while you take in the stunning sights that Edinburgh has to offer. This unique experience is perfect for special occasions, or just to enjoy a meal while you get to know the city better – want something a little more private? You also have the option to hire the bus for exclusivity, making it great for parties.

redbusbistro.co.uk

Edinburgh Restaurant Festival
Bringing together Michelin Star restaurants, neighbourhood bistros, street food eateries 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

At the Market
Every weekend, locals and visitors can explore three neighbourhood markets in Stockbridge, Leith and The Grassmarket. From artisan fresh bread, seasonal vegetables and piping hot street food to local art, jewellery and second hand-books, you are guaranteed to find a tasty bargain.

edinburgh.org/things-to-do/activities/markets/

See more of Edinburgh’s award winning Food and Drink at edinburgh.org/food
Shopping

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.

There’s no risk of unimaginative shopping in this cosmopolitan city.
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 fashionistas’ dream Harvey Nichols is packed with all the names you’d expect to find in the city’s finest shopping area.

St. Andrew Square, EH1 3DQ
multreeswalk.co.uk

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 Pam Jenkins. For kilts – traditional or modern – head to 21st Century Kilts, where many a star from Madonna to Robbie Williams have been dressed.

Thistle Street, EH2 1EN

Grassmarket
A creative hub for the city, the Grassmarket offers a unique specialist shopping experience. With over 90% of the shops independent, its 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.

Grassmarket, EH1 2HS

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.

West End, EH12 5AU

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.

George Street, EH2 3BU

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 coupled with high street flagship stores including the likes of H&M, Debenhams, Zara, Dr Martins and All Saints and Waverley Mall. A high-street lovers’ paradise, with some of the city’s best views of Edinburgh Castle.

Princes Street, EH2 4AD
**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 tranquility 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 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 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
roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/the-balmoral-hotel

The Scotsman Hotel
Named for the ground-breaking national newspaper who took up residence in the beautiful Baroque buildings, The Scotsman of today is a luxury hotel which retains many original features, including luxurious floor to ceiling wood panelled rooms, grand marble staircase and stained glass windows. Set across several floors, many of the bedrooms offer truly unrivalled views of Edinburgh Castle, The Mound, Carlton Hill and The Princes Street Gardens.

20 North Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1TR
scotsmanhotel.co.uk

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
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
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
adagio-city.com

Hotel Indigo Edinburgh
A handsome listed building set behind the Georgian facade of five original residential properties, the interior of Hotel Indigo’s Edinburgh city centre hotel combines historic interest with well-chosen features of contemporary design. A stylish boutique hotel with 60+ individually designed rooms, Hotel Indigo offers supremely comfortable beds in spacious rooms in the heart of Edinburgh’s city centre.

51 - 59 York Place Edinburgh EH1 3JD
edinburgh.hotelindigo.com
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’s Leith area named ‘one of the Coolest Neighbourhoods in the World’ by Time Out magazine
- Edinburgh rated most vibrant area in Scotland in the Vibrant Economy Index published by consultants Grant Thorton
- Edinburgh named one of the best cities in the world for students by higher education data analysts QS
- Edinburgh reported as the ‘best’ place for tech in UK in Tech Nation’s 2018 industry report
- 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 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
- 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 full of wide open spaces, and is the UK’s greenest city, with 112 parks, as well as more trees per head of population than any other city in the UK.
- Edinburgh’s residents are the happiest of the largest 10 cities in the UK - 97% are satisfied with Edinburgh as a place to live.
- Edinburgh Airport is Scotland’s busiest airport with more than 30 airlines serving 120+ worldwide destinations.
- 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.
- 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. **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

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.
What would you do in Edinburgh in 24 hours?

Click thumbnail or head to youtu.be/U_fyv4OTc0w

Find all of our videos on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/thisisedinburgh
Edinburgh City Pass

Sightseeing just got a lot more interesting with the **Edinburgh City Pass**. Experience amazing local sights with a difference. Go ghoulish and ghastly or historic and hilarious or all four at once. Dig deep into Edinburgh’s not-so-well-known past with your ticket to the city.

Get up close and personal with characters you’ll never forget (no matter how hard you try), like bodysnatcher bad boys Burke & Hare. Visit Victorian vaults. Roam out onto the River Forth. Defy the curses of wild witch Annie Finnie.

Get the ultimate inside info from local tour guides - it’s Edinburgh, but not as anyone else knows it.
Your *Edinburgh City Pass* is valid for one, two, or three days and includes free entry to 17 handpicked attractions plus intimate, memorable local tours, many with local guides who can spin the best stories this side of Robert Louis Stevenson.

You also receive your Inside Edinburgh Guide with map, local tips galore and offers to make sure you get the very most from your trip.

The *Edinburgh City Pass* is a winner for all ages, a great way to save money and time, and your portal to a city you never knew existed.

**- One day pass: £45 per adult / £20 per child**
**- Two day pass: £55 per adult / £26 per child**
**- Three day pass: £65 per adult / £30 per child**

Find out more at edinburgh.org/pass

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**What’s included in your pass?**

**Auld Reekie Tours**

**John Knox House**

**Stewart Brewing**

**Edinburgh Butterfly & Insect World**

**Our Dynamic Earth**

**Gilmerton Cove**

**National Mining Museum of Scotland**

**Forth Boat Tours**

**Museums & Galleries Edinburgh**

**The Edinburgh Dungeon**

**Hopetoun House**

**National Trust for Scotland – Newhailes House & The Georgian House**

**Scottish Seabird Centre**

**City of Edinburgh Tours**
This is Edinburgh
Information Pack
Autumn/Winter 2018-19

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

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