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

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh’s Heritage</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Events</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh Wows</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh’s 101 Objects</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh on Film</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh Festivals</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractions</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Drink</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Gems</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast facts</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 things</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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...

**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.

**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’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…

**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.
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.
- 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.
- 1843 Eduardo Paolozzi begins studying at the Edinburgh College of Art.
- 1856 The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is published.
- 1870 The Botanic Garden is founded.
- 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 Gallery of Modern Art opens on Belford Road.
- 1962 City hosts the 9th Commonwealth Games.
- 1970 The Scottish Parliament is opened by HM The Queen at Holyrood.
- 1976 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.
- 1993 First Edinburgh Hogmanay Street Party held as an organised event and Irvine Welsh publishes Trainspotting.
- 2004 The Scottish Borders Railway Line from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank reopens after nearly 50 years.
- 2014 Tramline from city centre to Edinburgh Airport opens.
- 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.

7 - This is Edinburgh
Culture and Events

Home to so many fantastic cultural attractions, it’s unsurprising that Edinburgh is 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.

Hidden Door Festival
30 May – 1 June 2019
One of Edinburgh’s coolest and most exciting festivals, Hidden Door is returning to the Leith Theatre. Filling the space with music, immersive film and art, the festival is a celebration of artistic delights. Volunteer-run and not-for-profit, Hidden Door transforms disused spaces around Edinburgh, opening them up for exploration - meaning you’ll find something fascinating around every corner, with contemporary artists rubbing shoulders with some of the UK’s best alternative performers and musicians.

Meadows Festival
1-2 June 2019
An annual event since 1974, Meadows Festival is a celebration of local Edinburgh talent - musicians, foodies and performers will descend on the Meadows, creating a festival atmosphere ideal for everyone from families to groups of friends. Enjoy some of the best musical talent the city is home to on the main stage, and explore the market stalls and delicious street food on offer. And if that’s not enough, get involved with some of the other exciting and original events in one of Edinburgh’s best-loved open spaces.

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival
12 - 21 July 2019
More than 170 gigs span from the early days of jazz and blues to the best of the contemporary scene mean the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues festival has something for every mood and musical taste, with the the finest jazz and blues talent from all corners of the globe descending on Edinburgh. From bop to boogie-woogie to blues-rock, from samba to swing to soul, in venues ranging from grandiose Spiegeltents to the opulence of the Festival Theatre to hip jazz clubs, this is a festival that matches mazing music to some great venues.

Edinburgh Pride
22 June 2019
Edinburgh Pride is the Scottish capital’s celebration of diversity and inclusivity. With 2019 marking the 50th anniversary of the stonewall riots, this year’s theme is entitled Edinburgh Pride 2019: This is me. With more than 5,000 people attending in 2018, this year is expected to be bigger and more popular than ever. Entirely free to take part in, details of the 2019 Pride march route will be published on the Pride Edinburgh website, where you will also find more details of other events happening around the city celebrating LGBTI people everywhere.

Edinburgh Summer Sessions
7 - 18 August 2019
Edinburgh Summer Sessions, at Princes Street Gardens, is back, with an amazing line up for 2019. With tickets on sale now, this is the ideal opportunity to hear artists like Florence + The Machine, Primal Scream, Johnny Marr, Madness and Chvrches in the gorgeous Princes Street Gardens, with the iconic Edinburgh Castle as your backdrop. With more special guests to be announced, Edinburgh Summer Sessions offers a series of music concerts with a difference.

Beyond Borders International Festival 2019
4 - 25 Aug 2019
Beyond Borders International Festival 2019 returns to Traquair House this summer for its 10th anniversary. Join in to experience the world in a weekend for this festival of thought, debate, dialogue, music, performing and visual arts, film, and well-being. Hear tales of high political intrigue from diplomats and journalists, absorb literature and storytelling from internationally acclaimed authors and discuss the ever-turbulent political landscape in Scotland and beyond. Full programme to be announced soon.

Edinburgh culture and events
Edinburgh Wows


A visit to Edinburgh will take your breath away. Raise the hairs on the back of your neck. Set your heart thumping. Bring tears to your eyes.

Edinburgh Wows

This city has everything, from incredible theatre and mesmerising dance to outstanding live music from world-class performers. It's all here, all year round, set within the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site formed by our Old and New Towns. Edinburgh Wows is a new campaign promoting the city’s year-round cultural offering - featuring Wonder Weeks designed to help you immerse yourself with truly unforgettable experiences in one of the world’s most breathtaking cities.

Edinburgh has been a source of wonder for centuries. It lies at the heart of Scotland’s history, and was central to the reformation, the Scottish Enlightenment and Scotland’s Renaissance. Its architecture is astonishingly rich and varied, and celebrated all over the world. But above all else, this is a city with a surprise around almost every corner, from the castle on its crag to the bijoux boutiques in the cobbled back streets.

Edinburgh will make you fall in love. With its arts, its history, its culture. Its one-of-a-kind independent shops and boutiques and incredible high street shopping. Not to mention the seriously good selection of places to eat, drink and enjoy your stay. And, of course, with the city itself. Let us share with you what made us fall in love.

We want you to make the most of every minute you spend in Edinburgh. That’s why we’ve created Wonder Weeks – a suggested guide to some of the city’s best events and brightest performances, events and exhibitions during specific weeks of the year.

Click the thumbnail to watch the video or visit: youtu.be/3CoizD-nLUE

edinburghwows.com
#edinburghwows
Updated with new objects for 2019, 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 riffling 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’s 101 Objects

Discover the rich history of Edinburgh through 101 of its most treasured objects. Celebrating our city’s fascinating, varied and often dark history this unique visitor experience brings Edinburgh’s vibrant past to life right where it all happened.

See all the objects at edinburgh.org/101
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, 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, Craigmiller Castle, Bakehouse Close and Tweeddale Court in Edinburgh’s Old Town and the splendid Signet Library are all featured in Season 3.

Outlaw King
Released on Netflix 9 November 2018

Starring Chris Pine, Outlaw King opened the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and premiered in Edinburgh ahead of its Netflix release. The film spent seven days filming in Edinburgh, but over a month of preparation saw the production team build a medieval village around Craigmiller Castle. The castle, which also features in Outlander season 3, appears alongside scenes shot at Seacliff Beach in East Lothian.

Clique
Released 2017 (Season 1), 2018 (Season 2)

Psychological thriller Clique, from Skins writer Jess Brittain, follows two friends as they embark on their lives as university students in Edinburgh. They soon find themselves drawn to an elite clique of alpha girls led by charismatic lecturer Jude McDermid. Filmed on location in Edinburgh, the series features a host of recognisable spots including The Meadows, Dynamic Earth, Potterrow and Parliament Square to name but a few.

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.
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...

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

Edinburgh International Children’s Festival 25 May - 2 June 2019
Ideal for family audiences, the Edinburgh International Children’s 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

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 premières have included Dr Zhivago, Taxi Driver, Manhattan, Blade Runner, Back to the Future, and Pulp Fiction amongst others.
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. A concentration on musical excellence and championing spontaneous creativity often leads to music making on the spot. Today, the festival presents some of the very best musical talent from across the globe.
edinburghjazzfestival.com

Edinburgh Arts 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.
edinburghtourism.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

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

Scottish International Storytelling Festival 18 - 31 October 2019
For centuries live oral storytelling, blended with music and song, has carried Scotland’s voices from generation to generation - and around 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.
tracescotland.org

Edinburgh Oktoberfest 30 October - 3 November 2019
Edinburgh’s Oktoberfest brings more than just a taste of the Bavarian to the Scottish capital. Hosted in a large beer tent next to West Princes Street Gardens, right in the heart of the city, the area is transformed into a traditional Oktoberfest complete with beer, live music, and a fantastic atmosphere. With space for 1,200, immerse yourself in a celebration of authentic German beer, food, community and music!
edinburghtourism.com

Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 30 December 2019 - 1 January 2020
Hogmanay - the Scottish word for New Year’s Eve - is one of the big celebrations in Edinburgh and a bucket list experience for people from around the world. With celebrations including an awe-inspiring torchlit procession through the city’s streets to ceilidhs to the street party, fireworks and Loony Dook on 1 January, it’s the ultimate way to say goodbye to the old and welcome in the new year.
edinburghtourism.com

Keep up to date with the latest in Edinburgh’s festival calendar at edinburgh.org/discover/edinburgh-festivals.
Edinburgh is a city that never stands still.

**Attractions**

**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

**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 J.K. 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

**Edinburgh is a city that never stands still.**

**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,**
Paid Attractions

The Real Mary King’s Close
Take a tour underground into one of Edinburgh’s most fascinating streets - covered over and left abandoned, you’ll walk the passageways and through the homes and places where the Old Town’s residents once lived and worked. Frozen in time, Mary King’s Close gives you the chance to walk into the city’s dark past, preserved just as it was in the 17th century.

High Street, 2 Warriston’s Close, EH1 1PG
+44 (0) 131 297 1101
realmarykings.com

Dynamic Earth
Experience the primal forces of nature as they shaped our planet; journey through space and time and even go on a 4DVENTURE around the world with one of Edinburgh’s most exciting attractions. Beginning in the distant past you'll learn about how the planet formed and how life began before enjoying a thrilling dome theatre trip to space and beyond.

Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AS
+44 (0) 131 550 7800
dynamicearth.co.uk

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

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

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

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
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 Cafés’ 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

Restaurants, pubs and bars

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.
24  ·  Where to eat

bodabar.com/akva
129 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG
Swedish Midsummer, Garden Parties, Lucia plus many more.
to keep an eye on the year-round programme of fun events including
is the only place to be when the sun is shining in Edinburgh, and it pays
waters of Edinburgh's Union Canal and provides a welcoming, fun
A Swedish bar, cafe and party venue, Akva's name is inspired by the
Akva

olivieros.co.uk
64 The Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH12JR
means there's no reason to resist the authentic Italian cuisine on offer
with friends. Only steps away from Edinburgh Castle in the Old Town
intimate dinner date, comfortable family dinner or special occasions
restaurant on the Grassmarket. You'll find an ambience perfect for an
Classically sophisticated Italian cuisine awaits guests at this
o'Oliviero

theivyedinburgh.com
6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2BD
available from Scotland's fantastic natural larder.
cooking techniques and an appreciation of the best quality ingredients
Kitchin presents modern British seasonal cuisine influenced by French
Michelin star in 2007 and award after award has followed since. The
Edinburgh's Leith waterfront in 2006. The restaurant was awarded a
Tom and Michaela Kitchin opened their restaurant, The Kitchin on
The Kitchin

facebook.com/meltmongers
80 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh EH10 4HG
banana fried melt with optional Nutella.
hot melting cheese in a crispy buttery pocket of toasted goodness
Make way for Edinburgh's dedicated grilled cheese place! It's the
Meltmongers

hardrock.com/cafes/edinburgh
20 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2PF
ready for you.
and hand-crafted cocktails.  Whether you're after formal or relaxed,
enticing menu options include their Legendary Burger, fresh salads,
Burgers and Beers Grillhouse

burgersandbeersgrillhouse.co.uk
192a High Street, Royal Mile Edinburgh EH1 1RW
buns come from an artisan French bakery. As they take time and pride
locally from award-winning butchers, dedicating between 40-60 hours
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

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 expresso 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've done, relax and stick
around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks.
6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH6 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

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 fine a
tasty bargain.
edinburgh.org/things-to-do/activities/markets/

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 expresso 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've done, relax and stick
around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks.
6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH6 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

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 fine a
tasty bargain.
edinburgh.org/things-to-do/activities/markets/

The Kitchen
Tom and Michaella 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 lander.
6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2BD
thenkysedinburgh.com

Evens
Re-union in Edinburgh is an evening of hidden bars, secret
installations and beautiful pop-ups.
Head to 15 Valleyfield Street for the unique event

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 expresso 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've done, relax and stick
around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks.
6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH6 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

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 fine a
tasty bargain.
edinburgh.org/things-to-do/activities/markets/
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.
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

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

St Giles’ Cathedral, EH1 1RE
Stylegescathedral.org.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’
edinburgh.org
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

Fingal
Long-awaited and certain to exceed expectations, Fingal is one of Edinburgh’s newest and most luxurious hotel experiences. Fingal began life based in Oban, facing storm-lashed seas bringing supplies and equipment to some of Scotland’s most remote lighthouses. Today she’s been transformed through a journey of glamour and sophistication, offering luxurious cabins in a truly unique and beautiful situation - and in good company too, with the Royal Yacht Britannia moored close by.

Alexandra Dock, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX
fingal.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

Kimpton Edinburgh Charlotte Square
Overlooking one of Edinburgh’s prettiest private garden squares, Kimpton Charlotte Square — formerly The Principal— 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
kimptoncharlottesquare.com

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 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…

2019
- Edinburgh has more trees than people, and more trees per head of population than any other UK city
- Edinburgh is named one of the best places to live in the UK for those aged under 26 according to analysis by the BBC
- Edinburgh is the best city in Scotland to start a Small or Medium sized Enterprise according to research carried out for Paymentsense
- According to Barclays Mortgages, Edinburgh is home to the UK’s happiest home owners
- Edinburgh is the only UK city listed in ECA International’s list of the world’s top 20 ‘most liveable’ world cities for European expats
- Edinburgh has topped the Scottish SME health index (CYGB)
- Edinburgh is the UK’s top city for economic growth according to property consultants Lambert Smith Hampton
- 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 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 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

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 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 Coastal 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
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 ‘Ruld Rreekie’, 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.

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 UK’s highest concentration of listed buildings anywhere
- 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
- 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 specially created 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
- A city of foodies, Edinburgh is home to four Michelin Star restaurants and a further four awarded the Bib Gourmand
- 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
- 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 specially created 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
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.

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

This is Edinburgh
Click thumbnail or head to youtu.be/qau81Ike0Kc

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

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

What’s included in your pass?
Edinburgh Trams
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
Spring/Summer 2019

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

Fiona Hunter  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Marketing Edinburgh  
marketing@marketingedinburgh.org  
+44 (0) 131 473 3666  
edinburgh.org

Image library: flickr.com/thisisedinburgh  
Tweet us @Edinburgh  
facebook.com/Edinburgh  
instagram.com/ThisisEdinburgh

Every effort is made to ensure that information in this document is correct at time of publication.