‘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 - Author
Advice on travelling to Edinburgh

Before you travel to Edinburgh, please ensure you are aware of the latest health and safety guidance and travel restrictions. Further information can be found via the Scottish Government’s website: https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-travel-and-transport/

The Guidance includes:

- Not travelling if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been told to self-isolate
- Observing physical distancing measures
- Regular use of hand sanitiser and regular handwashing
- Planning ahead and checking if businesses and attractions are open and welcoming visitors
- Being considerate of local communities and their precious resources
- Supporting the local tourism industry by eating local, seeing local and buying local.

Test and Protect Scotland App

The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland’s Test and Protect is a free, mobile phone app designed to help us protect each other and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

The app will alert you if you have been in close contact with another app user who tests positive for coronavirus. And if you test positive, it can help in determining contacts that you may have otherwise missed while keeping your information private and anonymous.

Download the Protect Scotland app from the Apple Store and Google Playstore.

New marketing campaign for Scotland’s capital
Forever Edinburgh
The Story Never Ends
If Edinburgh’s characterful streets, historic buildings and beautiful outdoor spaces could speak what stories would they tell? A question that is being answered through the new marketing campaign ‘Forever Edinburgh - The Story Never Ends’.

Delivering a huge awareness boost amongst domestic visitors, the campaign brings to life the Capital’s dynamic stories and the unique experiences to be had around every corner of the city.

Alongside showcasing all the city has to offer in its city centre and eclectic neighbourhoods, the campaign also shines a light on its abundance of outdoor spaces, including coastal and waterway locations, as it looks to demonstrate the versatility of the city for a holistic visitor experience throughout the year.

A series of hero films, inspiring imagery, dedicated story-themed content and itineraries are available on edinburgh.org

Designed to support local businesses in their recovery from the pandemic and encourage footfall from both locals and tourists back into the city centre and its surrounding neighbourhoods, #ForeverEdinburgh will take over the existing ‘This Is Edinburgh’ social media accounts and website, changing the name and gaining an audience of almost half a million followers across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

This is good news for followers — along with new and updated branding, they can expect to see more updated and refreshed content on social media as #ForeverEdinburgh’s new channels become the go-tos for community news and events, promotional offers and useful information about Edinburgh, including how to explore and rediscover the city centre and local communities safely. The channels will also highlight a vast range of Edinburgh’s incredible local businesses and attractions.

Residents and visitors are being encouraged to join in the conversation and share their stories of their experiences in and around this beautiful location by using #ForeverEdinburgh
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.

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 firework 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. The Castle welcomes around 2.1 million visitors each year.

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 of Forth to set their time-pieces accurately, still drops at one o’clock, six days a week. This is also where the Collective Gallery is situated – a new contemporary art gallery based in the City Observatory which dates back to 1818.

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 cliffs 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.
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.
- 1822 King George IV began his historic visit to Edinburgh.
- 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.
- 1914 The Usher Hall, Edinburgh’s concert hall, opens to the public.
- 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.
- 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 Fringe and Edinburgh International Festival celebrate their 70th anniversaries, while the city marks 250 years since James Craig’s New Town Plan was adopted.
- 2021 The Royal Highland Show celebrate their 200th anniversary.
- 2022 Virgin Hotel open their first hotel in the UK and across Europe.
- 2022 Edinburgh Fringe and Edinburgh International Festival celebrate their 75th anniversaries.
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
9 - 18 June 2022
One of Edinburgh’s coolest and most exciting festivals, Hidden Door is taking place at the old Royal High School on Calton Hill. 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. https://hiddendoorarts.org

Meadows Festival
2022 Festival dates TBC.
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. meadowsfestival.co.uk

Pride Edinburgh
25 June 2022
Pride Edinburgh is Scotland’s National LGBTQ+ Festival. Scotland’s first Pride festival took place in Edinburgh in 1995. Taking place around June or July each year, the traditional Pride Edinburgh march celebrates diversity and personal identity as well as providing a platform for politicians, community activists, and most importantly individuals turn out to march through the streets of Edinburgh to celebrate Pride. prideedinburgh.com

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival
15 - 24 July 2022
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 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 amazing music to some great venues. edinburghjazzfestival.com

Edinburgh Summer Sessions
7 - 14 August 2022
Edinburgh Summer Sessions, at Princes Street Gardens, is back, with an amazing line up for 2022. With tickets on sale now, this is the ideal opportunity to hear artists like Michael Kiwanuka, Simply Red, Tom Jones, Simple Minds and Travis in the gorgeous Princes Street Gardens, with the iconic Edinburgh Castle as your backdrop. usherhall.co.uk https://smmrsessions.com/edinburgh

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Beyond Borders International Festival
27 and 28 August 2022
Beyond Borders International Festival 2022 is due to return to Traquair House this summer. 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. beyondbordersscotland.com
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.

The city 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 Forever Edinburgh website: edinburgh.org/edinburgh-on-film

Fast & Furious 9
Released 2021
This is an internationally successful franchise. This film is directed by Justin Lin, starring Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, John Cena, (Te) and Tyrese Gibson to name a few. This is the ninth chapter in the saga and has earned around $6 billion around the world. Filmed in Edinburgh over 19 days in 11 different areas of the city centre, locations included Waterloo Place, George Street, Cockburn Street, Victoria Street, Royal Mile, Melville Street and the Museum of Scotland.

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga
Released 2020
A feel-good film about chasing your dreams, friendship, rivalry and of course, singing! This musical comedy parody focuses on aspiring Icelandic musicians Lars (Will Ferrell) and Sigrit (Rachel McAdams) who are given the opportunity to represent their country at the Eurovision Song Contest. Film locations included the Royal Mile, Ross Fountain, Calton Hill and the Grassmarket.

The Princess Switch: Switched Again and The Princess Switch 3: Romancing the Star.
Released 2020 and 2021
Sequels to The Princess Switch, starring Vanessa Hudgens. The story follows Duchess Margaret as she unexpectedly inherits the throne to Montenaro. Both films involved some spectacular scenery, country houses and castles in and around Edinburgh including the Dome on George Street, a market scene in Parliament Square, Hopetoun House, Gosford House in East Lothian, Manderston in the Scottish Borders and Barnbougle Castle.

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.
Outlaw King
Released 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 Craigmillar Castle. The castle, which also features in Outlander season 3, appears alongside scenes shot at Seacill Beach in East Lothian.

Avengers: Infinity War
Released 2018
The nineteenth film in one of the world's biggest and beloved movie franchises, Avengers: Infinity 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 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.
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**
28 – 29 May 2022
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**
7 – 15 May 2022
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. This is now the UK’s largest festival of performing arts for this age group.
imaginate.org.uk

**Edinburgh Science Festival**
9 June – 24 April 2022
One of Europe's largest Science Festivals consisting of a large number of exciting events. There is an eclectic mix of discussions, performances, exhibitions and events. The theme of the 2022 festival is Revolutions - focusing on the power of circles and revolutionary approaches to everything from personal to planetary health.
sciencefestival.co.uk

**Edinburgh International Film Festival**
12 – 20 August 2022
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, and Pulp Fiction amongst others.
edfilmfest.org.uk
Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival
15 - 24 July 2022
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 Art Festival
28 July – 28 August 2022
More than 40 museums, galleries and pop-up spaces come together in August to programme the Edinburgh Art Festival, with free entry to most exhibitions. It presents the best, most exciting and intriguing work in visual arts practice.
edinburghartfestival.com

Edinburgh Festival Fringe
5 - 29 August 2022
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 Festival
5 - 28 August 2022
Presenting a programme featuring the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre, the Edinburgh International Festival was established in 1947 as a world class cultural event to bring together audiences and artists from around the world, and over 70 years has gone from strength to strength.
eif.co.uk

Edinburgh International Book Festival
13 - 29 August 2022
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 Edinburgh, the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature. The 2022 Festival will take place from the beautiful indoor and open, grassy outdoor spaces of the University of Edinburgh’s Edinburgh College of Art on Lauriston Place.
edbookfest.co.uk

Edinburgh’s Hogmanay
30 December 2022 to 1 January 2023
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.
edinburghshogmanay.com

Edinburgh Oktoberfest
2022 Festival dates TBC.
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 tradition 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!
edinburgh-oktoberfest.co.uk

Scottish International Storytelling Festival
14 - 30 October 2022
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 celebration of traditional and contemporary storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, bringing together artists and audiences from Scotland and beyond.
sisf.org.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. Explore Scottish history, art, design, fashion and the wonders of science, technology and design.
Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF
+44 (0) 300 123 6789 | nms.ac.uk

The Potter Trail
Muggles welcome. Visit and learn about the Edinburgh locations that inspired JK Rowling to create her famous characters and scenes from the much-loved Harry Potter books. Along with visiting where she wrote her books, visitors will learn about the real live witches and wizards of medical Edinburgh.
Tours depart outside Greyfriars Bobby statue on George IV Bridge, across from the National Museum of Scotland.
pottertrail.com

Scottish National Portrait Gallery
The Scottish National Portrait Gallery is in the heart of Edinburgh and houses one of the best collections of fine art in the world. From Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, to contemporary figures such as Tilda Swinton and Billy Connolly, come meet the people who have helped shape the nation’s identity at home and abroad.
1 Queen St, Edinburgh, EH2 1UD
+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, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR
+44 (0) 131 248 2909 | rbge.org.uk

City Art Centre
The home of around 3,500 works of Scottish art in the form of paintings, watercolours, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture and tapestries including works by McTaggart, Fergusson, Peploe and Eardley. Visitors can enjoy a varied programme of temporary exhibitions from throughout the world including the City’s national recognised collection.
2 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DE
+44 (0) 131 529 3993 | edinburghmuseums.org.uk
Paid Attractions

Johnnie Walker Princes Street
A new whisky visitor experience opened in 2021. The drinks giant’s investment transformed the former House of Fraser department store into a series of private dining areas, modern sensory tasting rooms, personalised tour and tasting experiences, and live performance areas. The new rooftop bar, The Explorers Bothy stocks 150 rare bottles and one-of-a-kind cask editions for visitors to enjoy alongside stunning views of Edinburgh Castle.
https://www.johnniewalker.com/en-gb/visit-us-princes-street/

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.
134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6TS
+44 (0) 131 334 9171 | edinburghzoo.org.uk

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

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.
Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2EA
+44 (0) 131 228 1155 | usherhall.co.uk

Dynamic Earth
Experience the primeval 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 9AS
+44 (0) 131 550 7900 | dynamicearth.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 Best UK Attraction (Which? Magazine). 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 Drive, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6JL
+44 (0) 131 555 5566 | royalyachtbritannia.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. 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, Edinburgh, EH8 9DW
+44 (0) 131 527 1717 | museum.rcsed.ac.uk
Food and Drink

With more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the UK, Edinburgh has a wealth of fantastic places to eat and drink. Head to Leith for an eclectic mix of food options – from high end luxury and Michelin star perfection to pub grub and local food markets with everything in between. 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 around 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

Bonnie & Wild
With an unrivalled range of food stalls to choose from, Bonnie & Wild’s Scottish Marketplace in St James Quarter is Edinburgh’s first food hall and brings together some of the best independent food and drink producers in Scotland. Within one easily accessible venue, Bonnie & Wild showcases more than a dozen independent restaurants, bars and shops, alongside three bars, a private dining area and events space.
5 St James Quarter (Fourth Floor), 415 – 417 St James Crescent, Edinburgh, EH1 3AE
https://bonnieandwildmarket.com/

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. They also have an exclusive private dining room and a new outdoor terrace, which offers stunning views of Edinburgh Castle. 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

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

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.
North Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1TR
grandcafedinburgh.co.uk

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. 78 Commercial Quay, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6LX

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

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 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

Hendersons
For a range of wholesome vegan and vegetarian food made with fresh, organic, local and sustainable produce, you can't go wrong with Hendersons, which re-opened in Brunstfield in September 2021. 7-13 Barclay Place, Edinburgh, EH10 4HW. hendersonsrestaurant.com

The Ivy
Located in the prestigious St Andrew Square in the heart of Edinburgh's new town, this is an all-day British brasserie featuring the best of modern British dishes in a relaxed dining atmosphere. 6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2BD
theivyedinburgh.com

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
hardrockcafe.com

Gin Tasting Canal Tour
Setting sail from Fountainbridge, 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. summerhalldrinkslab.co.uk/cruises

Scotch 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 breath-taking views, and afterwards, take a seat in Amber, the restaurant, for mouth-watering food - and the option of more whisky, of course. 354 Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NE
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

Brew Lab Barista Training
Fancy yourself a coffee aficionado? Brew Lab offer a number of different levels of classes for you to learn the ins and outs of creating the finest espresso with just the right cream - and they can even help you improve your latte art. Learn in their dedicate brewing lab from their award winning baristas, and when you’re done, relax and stick around into the evening sampling their delicious food and drinks. 6-8 South College St, Edinburgh, EH8 9AA
brewlabcoffee.co.uk/training

Red Bus Bistro
Get on board and enjoy either an Afternoon tea or Gin Tea on a vintage 1966 Routemaster Bus. Take in some of the stunning sights that Edinburgh has to offer, while enjoying delicious home-cooked Scottish cuisine, all produced from locally sourced suppliers and freshly cooked onboard. Tours depart from Waterloo Place. redbusbistro.co.uk

At the Market
Every weekend, locals and visitors can explore four neighbourhood markets in Stockbridge, Leith, The Grassmarket and on Castle Terrace. 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/

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brewlabcoffee.co.uk/training

Radge Chaat
Newly opened in August 2021, Radge Chaat is a new street food venture by chef Tony Singh. A familiar face on UK television, Tony offers Scots a taste of Indian street food by introducing them to ‘chaat’ - a savoury snack which originated in India and is often served from roadside stalls or food carts. 5 West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9QN.
tonySingh.co.uk/about-radge-chaat
Shopping

There are plenty of shopping options in Edinburgh. There is the absolute indulgence of Harvey Nichols and Multrees Walk or the second-hand emporia of Stockbridge or the fine art and antique showrooms in the New Town. In the West End and Grassmarket creative and unusual wares tempt and excite in the original stores and independent boutiques. There’s no risk of unimaginative shopping in this cosmopolitan city.

St James Quarter

Opened in June 2021 the new centre houses 85 shops and numerous restaurants. The phase one opening line-up brings together top brands that include: Zara, Mango, Pull & Bear, Rituals, H&M, Kurt Geiger, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, as well as Dune, Bross Bagels and Salemo Pizza, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy. The centre also sees many exciting brands making their Scotland debuts including Peloton, Bonnie & Wild, & Other Stories, Bershka and Stradivarius. More shops, restaurants and bars, a luxury hotel, boutique Everyman Cinema and 152 New Eidyn residential apartments are due to open in 2022.

Multrees Walk

Multrees Walk is the heart of luxury shopping in Edinburgh. Designers such as Mulberry, Louis Vuitton, Burberry, BOSS, Michael Kors and Strathberry create a treasure trove of shops. 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.

Thistle Street

Nestled behind George Street, Thistle Street is one of Edinburgh’s best kept secrets filled with premium boutiques such as Jane Davidson, ALC and Biscuit. For a stylish and unique collection of baby and children’s clothing, be sure to visit Selenita.

George Street

Home to some of Edinburgh’s favourite high street and designer stores, including Hollister, LK Bennett, The White Company, Anthropologie, 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.

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.

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 Paper Tiger with its toy department, books and gifts. International womenswear boutique, Oskia and award-winning jewellers, Lily Luna. Remus, interior design pioneers and purveyors of home-based curiosities.

St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ

multreeswalk.co.uk

St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ

multreeswalk.co.uk

St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ

multreeswalk.co.uk

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multreeswalk.co.uk

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multreeswalk.co.uk

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multreeswalk.co.uk
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. High street stores include the likes of H&M, Dr Martins, Marks and Spenser and Office. A high-street lovers’ paradise, with some of the city’s best views of Edinburgh Castle. Find popular brands, such as Game, New Look and The Body Shop all under one roof in Waverly Market.
Princes Street, Edinburgh, 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.
Castlehills, 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.
1 Royal Terrace Gardens, London Road, Edinburgh 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, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1RE | stgilescathedral.org.uk

Hidden Gems
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 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, Edinburgh, EH2 2EQ | roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/the-balmoral-hotel/

Fingal
Long-awaited and certain to exceed expectations, Fingal is one of Edinburgh’s 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.

51 - 59 York Place Edinburgh EH1 3JD
edinburgh.hotelindigo.com

Kimpton 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 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, Edinburgh, 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

Waldorf Astoria,The Caledonian, Princes St, Edinburgh, EH1 2AB
Make the most of the great outdoors in Scotland’s beautiful capital city. Venture outside and discover the city’s cobbled streets, fashionable walkways and ancient alleys. From the picturesque West End sprinkled with stylish boutiques, gift shops, florists and interior shops to the bustling streets of George and Princes Streets and the colourful Grassmarket and ancient Royal Mile, the beauty of Edinburgh city centre is its compact size. A walkable city, you can easily explore the architecture, history, shops, theatres and museums on foot.

**Princes Street Gardens** is a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of the city’s main shopping street. Enjoy the beautiful seasonal floral displays, historical statues and grand monuments.

**Holyrood Park and Arthur’s Seat** are popular with energetic walkers throughout the year. Small Lochs, craggy cliffs, natural fauna and superb views will reward an energetic stride around this landmark overlooking the capital.

**The Meadows** to the south of the city is a popular spot for outdoor sports and ball games.

**Inverleith Park** is a perfect spot for a gentle stroll and an opportunity to admire the cityscape. Popular with dog walkers and those with young children, it has a play park and boating pond which sees boating enthusiasts steer their remote-controlled vessels through the water.

**Water of Leith Visitor Centre** is a great starting point for a gentle walk along its banks. The Water of Leith starts its journey in the Pentland Hills and winds its way through the picturesque Dean Village before arriving at the Shores of Leith and Firth of Forth.

**Corstorphine Hill** is a popular nature reserve in the North West of the city. Enjoyed by dog walkers and ramblers, listen out for woodpeckers or see if you can spot a kestrel. Night-time visitors include badgers and tawny owls.

**Portobello Beach** offers a delightful alternative to the city centre. This beach is a much-loved escape for most Edinburgh locals, and offers a great view of the sunset.

**Cramond** is a popular spot with walkers and roller-bladers with beautiful views of the Firth of Forth. When the tide is out, a walk across its famous causeway will lead you to Cramond Island, where you can have a picnic and watch the seabirds.

**The Pentland Hills** overlook Edinburgh to the south of the city. Over 100km of signposted paths guide walkers through an oasis of green hills and lochs. With views of the surrounding area, there are also cycle and pony trails offering lots of ways to explore this beautiful outdoor sanctuary.

**The Midlothian Snowsports Centre** overlooks the city from the Pentland Hills. Open all year round, the centre offers skiing enthusiasts the opportunity to experience the thrill of the UK’s largest artificial ski slope. A jump slope and learning slopes means that visitors of all levels can take advantage of first class tuition. Dare devils will also love the excitement of the centres tubing runs.

Discover more at edinburgh.org.uk/things-to-do/activities/outdoors
Day trips from Edinburgh

Explore beyond Edinburgh city limits and discover all the Lothians region has to offer. From sweeping silver beaches, diverse wildlife, exciting museums and legendary golf course, the Lothians has all you need for a great day out.

Scottish Borders
The Borders are picture perfect. Absorb the essence of Scotland in rolling hills and heather-clad moors, winding rivers, and farmland, not forgetting the Berwickshire coastline ideal for water sports.

Visit Abbotsford House, Sir Walter Scott’s 1800s mansion on the banks of the River Tweed, with his study and landscaped gardens. Uncover the iconic triple peaks of the Eildon Hills in Melrose, a charming town with an impressive history. Don’t miss Melrose Abbey – this Cistercian abbey, now partially ruined, dates from 1136, and it’s believed to be the resting place of Robert the Bruce’s heart.

In contrast, Peebles and its neighbour Innerleithen have gained iconic status for mountain bikers, while retaining their small town vibe, full of independent shops, hotels and restaurants. Equally iconic, this town for fishing folk, is Kelso sited on the confluence of the rivers Tweed and Teviot. Long a market town, the town square (the largest in Scotland) is lined with independent stores, many featuring local crafts.

edinburgh.org/cityplus/borders

East Lothian
A day out to East Lothian is a must: this beautiful region boasts 40 miles of stunning coastline and some of the best beaches around. East Lothian is a haven for water sports, with a thriving surfing scene in Dunbar and fantastic sailing opportunities in North Berwick. East Lothian’s seaside is a popular day out destination for Edinburgh locals, who flock to the likes of Gullane, Yellowcraig and Belhaven Bay during the warm summer weekends. Discover Glenkinchie Distillery, the National Museum of Flight, the Bass Rock, home to 150,000 birds, and 22 golf courses, earning East Lothian the title ‘Scotland’s Golf Coast’

edinburgh.org/cityplus/east-lothian

West Lothian
Home to lots of parks, West Lothian is perfect for a family day out. Animals lovers should check in at Fives Sisters Zoo at West Calder and the kids will also love Almond Valley, a fantastic outdoor park with a range of farm animals, trampolines, pedal go-karts and more. You’ll also find lots of grand palaces and homes in West Lothian, including the magnificent Linlithgow Palace – the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots. Hopetoun House is a breath-taking 18th century house located near South Queensferry. Marvel at the magnificent interiors and follow up with a walk around the expansive grounds and try spotting some of the local wildlife.

If retail therapy is your thing day trippers will love Livingston Designer Outlet or pop across the road to The Centre with over 155 high street shops.

edinburgh.org/cityplus/west-lothian

Midlothian
Enjoy the beautiful rolling Pentland Hills with over 100km of signposted paths and tracks – the perfect spot for hiking, walking and exploring. Ski the longest dry ski slope in the UK at Midlothian Snowsports Centre or have family fun at Dalkeith Country Park with a range of activities including a kids adventure zone, cycle trails and a new stable yard with local quality produce. Fans of the Da Vinci Code will love Roslyn Chapel which was founded in 1446 and discover the award-winning five-star attraction, the National Mining Museum, which tells the story of coal in Scotland. For history lovers, a trip to the medieval Cistercian monastery, Newbattle Abbey, is a must. Crichton Castle is another must-see which was home to James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell and third husband of Mary Queen of Scots.

edinburgh.org/cityplus/midlothian

Fife
Explore the Kingdom of Fife! Stretching 117 miles, the Fife Coastal Path offers an excellent way to explore the region and is a perfect walking route. If you’d rather explore on wheels, Fife has a big appeal with relatively flat terrain and a network of some 300km of cycle routes. There are plenty of woodlands to explore too. Known as the ‘Home of Golf’ with over 50 courses to choose from, Fife is one of the most sought-after golfing destinations in the world. Visit Kingarrock, located in the grounds of Hill of Tarvit and play golf as it was played 100 years ago! Fife is rich in history and royal connections. Visit the Royal Burgh of Culross, St Andrews Cathedral or Dunfermline Abbey in what was once Scotland’s ancient capital. If you are an Outlander fan, Fife is a must, with filming locations in Falkland, Aberdour Castle and Dysart. From picturesque harbour festivals, quirky music concerts, mouth-watering gourmet food and drink markets to a huge range of outdoor events, Fife certainly has lots going on!

edinburgh.org/cityplus/fife

Scottish Borders
We’re proud of the awards and accolades our city has earned. Here are just a few highlights from recent years...

2022
- Edinburgh chosen as one of the Top UK City Break destinations to visit in 2022 by Condé Nast Traveller
- Edinburgh revealed as the 9th most relaxing city in the UK, following research undertaken by PlumbNation.
- Edinburgh Castle voted ‘Most Beautiful landmark in UK’ on Tripadvisor.
- Edinburgh rated 7th in Europe and 12th in the world as a city break destination; and 9th in Europe and 17th in the world in the overall “popular” lists on Tripadvisor.
- Research from William Russell has revealed Edinburgh as one of the best cities in the world for a unique getaway.

2021
- Edinburgh voted one of the greatest places in the world by TIME
- Voted the most Instagrammable places to propose in UK in 2021
- Edinburgh wins Best UK City destination (Urban) by National Geographic annual Readers Awards 2021
- Top location in the UK for a dog-friendly getaway by tails.com
- Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens voted most beautiful park in the UK outside London – based on a study of Tripadvisor reviews
- Travel bible Condé Nast has voted Edinburgh as Scotland’s ‘friendliest’ city
- Conde Nast Award – Edinburgh voted the best city in the UK in 2021

2020
- According to The Scotsman, Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden was Scotland’s most popular attraction in 2020
- CN Traveller voted Edinburgh one of the top Honeymoon Destinations of 2020
- Edinburgh is the best UK holiday destinations for families according to The Independent
- Scots crown Edinburgh ‘Capital of Adventure’ following a survey by The Scots Magazine

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 homeowners
- Edinburgh is the only UK city listed in ECA International’s list of the world’s top 20 ‘most liveable’ world cities for European ex-pats
- 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

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 Thornton
- 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
Fun Facts

• Edinburgh city is home to a population of 527,620 (National Records for Scotland, June 2020).
• Edinburgh is full of wide-open spaces, and is the UK’s 2nd greenest city, with 112 parks, as well as more trees per head of population than any other city in the UK.
• Edinburgh is home to five of Scotland’s 10 most visited free attractions and three of the top 10 paid-for attractions.
• Over 4,000 productions have been filmed in the Edinburgh region over the last 25 years, including the likes of Avengers: Infinity War and its sequel Endgame; Fast & Furious 9; Trainspotting and its sequel T2 Trainspotting; The Da Vinci Code; One Day and the drama series, Outlander.
• In 1924 Edinburgh hosted the Eurovision Song Contest, the first time the show had been held in the UK outside London.
• 75% of buildings in Edinburgh city centre are listed.
• Edinburgh’s Royal Mile is actually a Scots Mile - one mile and 107 yards long.
• In 1972 Edinburgh hosted the Eurovision Song Contest, the first time the show had been held in the UK outside London.
• 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.
• In a tradition dating back to 1902, the clock on Edinburgh’s iconic Balmoral Hotel is set three minutes fast to lessen the chances of passengers missing their trains at Edinburgh Waverley Station.
• 90,465 students are in higher education (university and college combined).
• 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 487K 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 ‘Auld Reekie’, Edinburgh has earned itself a few other nicknames over the years. The most famous is ‘Auld Reekie’, which translated from Scots means ‘Old Smoky’, a reference to the dense chimney smoke caused by industrialisation and closely built houses. Now, the air is fresh and clear and an abundance of parks means Edinburgh is surprisingly lush. Visit the secret city-centre oasis of Dunbar’s Close, hidden just off of the Royal Mile.

6. Biscuit brainchild
Dairy 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 502 of the Balmoral Hotel in the city centre.

9. Site for sore eyes
When walking through the city, from New Town to Old, 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 a variety of galleries, theatres, cinemas and music venues. Leading venues include Edinburgh Playhouse, Capital Theatres, Filmhouse, King’s Theatre, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Traverse Theatre and the Usher Hall.
Explore our hub and discover things to do and what’s on in Scotland’s capital at edinburgh.org

**Social Media**
With more than 487,000 followers across Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, Forever Edinburgh’s social media channels are the place to keep up to date with the latest updates, news and photos of our beautiful city.

**Videos**
A picture is worth a thousand words - how much better then is a video? Our YouTube channel is home to several videos that show Edinburgh at its very best.

For more information on Edinburgh, or to speak with us about visiting our great city, please contact:
visit@edinburgh.gov.uk
For urgent enquiries, contact fiona.hunter@edinburgh.gov.uk

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

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