

2050 Edinburgh City Vision

A timeline of change: Edinburgh 1984-2016

1984

Edinburgh Population = 425,256

- Cameron Toll Shopping Centre and the Gallery of Modern Art opened
- Mikhail Gorbachev, Chairman for the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Soviet Union, stays at Holyrood Palace during his visit to Scotland
- A 12-month long miners' strike begins in March 1984 and pits the National Union of Mineworkers against Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government intent on free market reform of the nationalised industries, which includes plans for the closure of most of Britain's remaining coal pits.
- The Bank of England issue the last £1 note, with all notes finally withdrawn in November 1984 after 150 years in circulation.
- British unemployment reaches at a record high of around 3,260,000 in June 1984, though a higher percentage of the nation's workforce were unemployed during the Great Depression some 50 years ago
- Widespread famine breaks out in Ethiopia after political conflict with charities believing as many as 10 million people are facing starvation
- Around 36 of Britain and Ireland's top pop musicians gather in a Notting Hill studio to form Band Aid and record the song "Do They Know It's Christmas" in order to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia.
- The first Apple Macintosh goes on sale
- Sony and Philips introduce the first commercial CD Players

1985 – 1991

Edinburgh population falls to a low of 418,000 in 1991

- 1985: Princes Mall opens and Portobello open air pool closes after nearly 50 years
- 1986: Edinburgh hosts the 13th Commonwealth Games at Meadowbank Stadium
- 1987: The 1987 General Election sees Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party secure a third term in office.
- 1989: Fort Kinnaird Shopping Centre opens in Newcraighall
- 1989: National Gallery of Scotland renovated
- 1991: Hailesland Park flats in Edinburgh demolished

1992 – 2001

Edinburgh's population begins to rise again, growing to 448,600 by 2001

- 1992: In the 1992 General Election the Conservative Party are re-elected for a fourth successive term, in their first election under John Major's leadership.
- 1993: First Edinburgh Hogmanay Street Party held as an organised event
- 1993: The Gyle Shopping Centre opens in Edinburgh
- 1994: Murrayfield Stadium is rebuilt

- 1995: The Old and New Towns in Edinburgh are granted World Heritage status.
- 1995: Edinburgh International Conference Centre opens
- 1996: The City of Edinburgh Council is created, replacing former district and regional councils
- 1997: In the 1997 General Election the Labour Party defeat the incumbent Conservatives to win the election in a landslide result, winning 418 seats. Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister.
- 1998: The Museum of Scotland is built as an extension to the Royal Scottish Museum.
- 1998: The Scotland Act is approved, establishing a devolved Scottish Parliament
- 1999: A Scottish Parliament sits in Edinburgh for the first time in 272 years

2002-2011

Edinburgh's population continues to rise, reaching 476,600 by 2011

- 2004: The Scottish Parliament Building opens
- 2005: An estimated 225,000 people march through the city as part of the "Make Poverty History" campaign, calling on world leaders to act at the G8 summit being held at Gleneagles.
- 2007: In the Scottish Parliament election the SNP win a plurality of seats and go on to form the Scottish Executive.
- 2008: The government announced a bank rescue package worth some £500 billion as a response to the ongoing global financial crisis.
- 2009: The Office for National Statistics announced that the United Kingdom's economy was officially in recession for the first time since 1991.
- 2010: The 2010 general election took place, resulting in a hung parliament. The Conservative Party won a plurality of seats. David Cameron becomes prime minister, in a coalition government between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.
- 2010: Pope Benedict XVI is received by Queen Elizabeth at Holyrood Palace at the start of his state visit to Great Britain.
- 2011: The Scottish National Party secures an election victory, winning an overall majority in the Scottish parliament elections.
- 2011: Two giant pandas from China, Yang Guang and Tian Tian, arrive at Edinburgh Zoo

2012-2016

Population in Edinburgh nears the 500,000 mark, reaching 498,810 in 2015

- 2012: The Edinburgh Agreement between the Scottish Government and the UK Government on the terms of the Scottish independence referendum 2014 is signed in Edinburgh
- 2013: Waverley Station roof renovations completed
- 2014: Trams start running in Edinburgh again
- 2014: A referendum is held on whether Scotland should be an independent country. Scotland votes to remain part of the UK by a margin of 55.3% to 44.7%
- 2016: Elections to the Scottish Parliament are held. The Scottish National Party won the election and a third term in government, but fall two seats short of securing an overall majority.
- 2016: A referendum is held in the UK and Gibraltar on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union. The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union in a vote of 51.9% to 48.1%.