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 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 city.

“The city whispers: come
Look at me, listen to the beating of my heart
I am the place you have seen in dreams
I am a stage for you to play upon
I am Edinburgh”

Alexander McCall Smith
Edinburgh’s Heritage
Edinburgh has been inhabited since the Bronze Age; its first settlement can be traced to a hillfort established in the area, most likely on the castle rock. Here’s just a few areas that form part of Edinburgh’s rich heritage…

Royal Mile
The Royal Mile is at the centre of Edinburgh’s Old Town and as its name suggests, the thoroughfare is one mile long. 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 be seen today. Tucked away, this is an area that feels – and looks very different – to the city, but is only a matter of 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 Maggie and Mary Queen of Scots. With its rich history and beautiful scenery, it’s a must see when in Edinburgh.

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 to coin the city’s nickname ‘Athens of the North’. The National Monument which was built to commemorate Scottish service men who died during Napoleonic Wars. However, funds ran out and it was never completed, leaving twelve majestic columns, towering over the city. It 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.

Arthur’s Seat
Set within Holyrood Park, a short walk from Edinburgh’s Royal Mile in the heart of the city, Arthur’s Seat is an extinct volcano, which sits 251m above sea level and gives excellent views of the city. Within the park you’ll also find St Anthony’s Chapel – a 15th century medieval chapel, Salisbury Crags – a series of 150 foot cliff faces dominating Edinburgh’s skyline, as well as Duddingston Loch – a fresh water loch rich in birdlife.

Grassmarket
Nestled in the heart of Edinburgh’s historic Old Town, the Grassmarket is one of the most vibrant, picturesque and convivial areas of the city. A paradise of independent merchants, designers and artisans, it’s home to some of the best restaurants in Edinburgh as well as some of the most animated and eclectic bars.
As a UNESCO world heritage site – voted the fifth most impressive in the world – history is an integral part of Edinburgh’s appeal. Whether it’s the city’s architectural development, or the political and educational significance of its residents, there are many dates over the years that are important to Edinburgh.

The city’s past is filled with significant moments, and a few notorious ones too.

- Around 340 million BC The castle rock is created by volcanic activity.
- Around 900 BC First archaeological evidence of human settlement on the castle.
- 1130 David I builds a formidable royal castle on the rock. It includes a chapel dedicated to his mother Queen Margaret, which still stands.
- 1500 Edinburgh has a population of about 12,000.
- 1528 King James V enters city with an army, to assert his right to rule; Holyrood Palace is built for him.
- 1582 Edinburgh University is founded.
- 1652 A ‘journey coach’ to London is introduced, it takes a fortnight to make the journey.
- 1670 The Botanic Garden is founded.
- 1677 The first coffee house opens in the city.
- 1700 The population of Edinburgh is about 50,000.
- 1735 Golf is first played on Bruntsfield links.
- 1744 The world’s first golf club (the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers) is founded.
- 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.
- 1869 Sophia Jex-Blake becomes first female medical student.
- 1874 Heart of Midlothian Football Club is founded.
- 1875 Hibernian Football Club is founded.
- 1892 McVitie & Price Ltd, biscuit makers, are founded and located on Rose Street, devise Digestive Biscuits.
- 1916 Bank of Scotland has first female employee.
- 1941–1945 The Honours of Scotland are secretly buried in David’s Tower at Edinburgh Castle.
- 1943 Eduardo Paolozzi begins studying at the Edinburgh College of Art.
- 1961 The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is published.
- 1970 City hosts the 9th Commonwealth Games.
- 1984 The Gallery of Modern Art opens on Belford Road.
- 1986 City hosts the 13th Commonwealth Games.
- 1993 First Edinburgh Hogmanay Street Party held as an organised event and Irvine Welsh publishes Trainspotting.
- 1997 JK Rowling’s first novel The Philosopher’s Stone is published with an initial print-run of 1,000 copies. The book is said to have been written in The Elephant Café in Edinburgh.
- 1999 The Scottish Parliament is opened by HM The Queen at Holyrood.
- 2008 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.
Culture and events

Home to so many fantastic cultural attractions, it’s unsurprising that Edinburgh is globally recognised as one of the most vibrant, beautiful and interesting cities in the world.

The first city in the world to be named a UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh offers so many opportunities to spend a day immersing yourself in its rich literary heritage on one of the city’s popular tours.

From major galleries and museums, to theatre, comedy and music, there are discoveries to be made around every corner, and a year long calendar of exciting festivals and events to suit all tastes and ages.

Monkey Business - 09 December 2016 - 23 April 2017
This fascinating exhibition features more than 50 new taxidermy specimens and articulated primate skeletons, alongside models, interactives, photography and film.
Discover how they communicate and use tools. Find out how primates have been impacted by humans, including the ways in which many species are threatened with extinction through habitat loss and hunting.

Adults £10, Concessions £8, Children (5-15) £7
National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street EH1 1JF

Burns’ Night - 25 January 2017
Celebrate the birthday of Scotland’s national poet, Robert Burns, with special events taking place across Edinburgh. Burns Night officially falls on Wednesday the 25th January, but there’s a lot going on during the entire week before and after, from ceilidhs to poetry readings as well as a Burns Supper on the Royal Yacht Britannia. Find a full list of what’s going on to celebrate Scotland’s bard on our website.

Various locations across Edinburgh
edinburgh.org/whats-on/burns-night

We’re Going on a Bear Hunt - 20 January 2017 - 21 January 2017
Join the intrepid family of adventurers and their musical dog on their quest to find a bear; as they wade through the gigantic swishy swashy grass, the splishy splashy river and the thick oozy, squelchy mud! Expect catchy songs, interactive scenes and plenty of hands-on adventure – plus a few special surprises!

£13.00
King’s Theatre, 2 Leven Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LQ

You Are Here: A Journey Through Maps - July 2016 - 02 April 2017
What is a map? The National Library of Scotland’s free exhibition You Are Here asks that question, taking you on a cartographic journey from Edinburgh to the ends of the earth. Maps feature on phones, tablets, satnav and even paper. Enter into the wonderful world of maps and map-making. Find out more on the National Library of Scotland website.

Free
National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1EW

Edinburgh’s Georgian Shadows - 23 February - 26 March 2017
One of the centrepieces of Edinburgh’s UNESCO World Heritage area, the city’s New Town turns 250 years old in 2017.
To celebrate this significant milestone in Edinburgh’s history, six of the New Town’s most interesting and history-rich buildings will be bathed in light from 5:30pm until 8:30pm from 23 February until 26 March, drawing attention to their beautiful architecture and distinct features.

George Street
T2 Trainspotting

The setting for Irvine Welsh’s book Trainspotting and its iconic 1996 film adaptation, Edinburgh returns to cinemas screens for the 2017 sequel, T2 Trainspotting, which reunites the original cast 20 years later.

Arthur’s Seat

Dominating Edinburgh’s skyline, and minutes’ walk from both the Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Palace, Arthur’s Seat features in T2 Trainspotting, where Renton and Spud look out over the city. Various cast and crew members were spotted relaxing in between takes during filming in 2016. Get to know Holyrood Park with a hike up to the summit, or take part in a running tour with Edinburgh Marathon Festival.

getfittours.com


Grassmarket

Playing host to scenes from T2 Trainspotting and nestled in the heart of Edinburgh’s historic Old Town, behind Edinburgh Castle, the Grassmarket area is one of the most vibrant, picturesque and lively areas of the city. A paradise of independent merchants, designers and artisans, the Grassmarket is bursting with some of the best shopping Edinburgh has to offer. Visit the area with a dramatic and unparalleled view of Edinburgh Castle.

grallergrassmarket.co.uk

Victoria Street

Forming a gentle curve from George IV Bridge down to the Grassmarket, Victoria Street is one of Edinburgh’s picturesque streets and replaced a crucial, but difficult to navigate, thoroughfare in Edinburgh’s Old Town. Featured in a night-time get-away scene in T2 Trainspotting, keep an eye out for a number of Edinburgh’s independent shops and restaurants in the background.

The Royal Mile

The centre of the Old Town, the Royal Mile leads from Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament building up to Edinburgh Castle, intersecting South Bridge and George IV Bridge. Featured in both Trainspotting and T2 Trainspotting, walking the mile allows you to follow in the same steps as Spud, Begbie, Renton and Sick Boy.

Edinburgh Airport

Scotland’s busiest airport and the world’s gateway to Edinburgh, the airport offers routes to locations across the globe, with 333 flights per day serving an average of over 33,000 passengers. The airport was Scotland’s first ‘Provenance Airport’, using local produce wherever possible, and recently began selling Edinburgh Gin in its Duty Free area.

Almond Rd, Newbridge EH12 9DN

Edinburgh’s Trams

Showing just how much the city has changed in 20 years, the trams are an ideal way of getting around Edinburgh, running from York Place near Edinburgh Waverley train station to Edinburgh Airport. Renton returns to Edinburgh and rides atop the city’s newest mode of transport, past Fraser’s at the West End of Prince’s Street.

edinburghtrams.com
Twelve festivals over twelve months, mean as many as 3,000 designated festival events in Edinburgh, attracting artists, audiences and media from every continent and over 70 countries.

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival - 14 - 23 July 2017
The biggest festival of its kind in Britain presents over 140 gigs at 13 venues over 10 days. The best international musicians rub shoulders with top Scottish talent to present unique collaborations and musicianship. Highlights of previous programmes include Roy Hargrove, Joe Temperley, Chick Corea, China Moses and Van Morrison.
edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk

Edinburgh Art Festival - 27 July - 27 August 2017
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 - 4 - 28 August 2017
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 - 4 - 28 August 2017
Inaugurated in 1947 as a celebration of peace through the arts, the Edinburgh International Festival showcases the very best and most prestigious international companies. Featuring opera, music, theatre and dance from around the world, the International Festival is one of the most accessible events of its league, with tickets starting at £8.
edf.co.uk

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - 4 - 26 August 2017
The Tattoo is an iconic Edinburgh institution, and a sellout year after year after year. Music, dance and precision display with the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, cultural troupes, singers and the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.
edintattoo.co.uk

Edinburgh International Book Festival - 12 - 28 August 2017
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 - October 2017
For centuries live oral storytelling, blended with music and song, has carried Scotland’s voices from generation to generation -and round the world. The Storytelling Festival is a ten-day celebration of traditional and contemporary storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, bringing together artists and audiences from Scotland and beyond.
edinburghfestivalcity.com

Edinburgh’s Hogmanay - 30 December 2016 - 1 January 2017
Join the torchlight procession as 25,000 people carry their torches through the heart of Edinburgh. Dance beneath the stars with 80,000 revellers at the world famous Street Party, with live music stages, traditional Ceilidh dancing, and some of today’s hottest names in pop and rock music. Gasp at the famous Midnight Moment fireworks lifting from Edinburgh Castle as the crowds break into a rendition of the world’s favourite Scottish song, Auld Lang Syne.
edinburghshogmanay.com

Edinburgh International Science Festival – 1-16 April 2017
The world’s first celebration of science and technology, and one of Europe’s largest science events, this two-week festival made of talks, workshops and demonstrations is known for its creative, provocative and fun programming. Covering subjects as diverse as the science of ghosts, chocolate and laughter to the legacy of Charles Darwin and the views of Richard Dawkins.
siencefestival.co.uk

The Imaginate Festival—27 May - 4 June 2017
Ideal for family audiences, The Imaginate Festival brings local and international performers together to present a wonderful programme of fun-filled, free shows for children and young people. Now the UK’s largest festival of performing arts for this age group, it will kick off in Edinburgh before touring the rest of Scotland.
imaginate.org.uk

The Edinburgh International Film Festival – 21 June – 2 July 2017
Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, EIFF seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent, in a setting steeped in history. Showcasing the best in international film and documentary genres, past premieres have included Dr Zhivago, Taxi Driver, Manhattan, Blade Runner, Back to the Future, Pulp Fiction, ET: The Extra Terrestrial, The Motorcycle Diaries, and Oscar triumph The Hurt Locker.
edfilmfest.org.uk
Attractions

Pandas to pop-art, dinosaurs to Dolly the Sheep, Edinburgh boasts art galleries, museums, parks and much more, all within easy walking distance. 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, watch the One o’clock gun being fired at Edinburgh Castle. Despite its elegant setting, Edinburgh is a city that never stands still.

National Museum of Scotland
Discover the delights of the natural world, explore ancient civilisations and enthuse at treasures from around the world. Following a £14.1m refurbishment, ten new galleries open this summer, introducing more than 250 new interactive visitor activities, with a focus on the wonders of science, technology and design.

Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF
+44 (0) 300 123 6769
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
Young people and adults will enjoy finding out about growing up through the ages, from toys and games to health and school days. Hands-on activities, including a puppet theatre and dressing up area, together with a fantastic museum shop, help to make your visit a memorable one.

42 High St, Royal Mile, EH1 1TD
+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

Free attractions
Mercat Tours
Taking you deeper into the past than a guidebook ever could, Mercat Tours knowledgeable guides bring the city’s stories alive in rich, engaging detail. Whether it’s a historic or ghost tour, you’re guaranteed to experience a side to Scotland’s capital that most visitors miss.
Mercat House, 28 Blair Street, EH1 1QR
+44 (0) 131 225 5445  mercattours.com

Edinburgh Zoo
Over 600,000 annual visitors can’t be wrong! Edinburgh Zoo is a must for any animal lover visiting Edinburgh. Get close to over 1,000 rare and endangered animals, or join one of the many educational events and activities - ranging from keeper talks through to hands-on animal encounters.
Edinburgh Zoo 134 Corstorphine Road, EH12 6TS
+44 (0) 131 334 9171  rzss.org.uk

Surgeons’ Hall Museum
Learn more about our fascinating bodies, the histories of dentistry, medicine and surgery and the vital part that Scottish research played in all three. First developed as a teaching museum, Surgeons’ Hall Museum opened to the general public in 1832, making it Scotland’s oldest museum. The venue features interactive displays and exhibits, which will help visitors discover the stories and breakthroughs that have shaped modern surgical practice.
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, EH8 9DW
+44 (0) 131 557 1711  museum.rcsed.ac.uk

The Scott Monument
The largest monument to any writer in the world, The Scott Monument commemorates Edinburgh’s iconic writer, Sir Walter Scott. There are 287 steps to the top of the Scott Monument, from where you can enjoy breath-taking views of Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside.
You can also find out about Sir Walter Scott and the monument in the museum room.
E. Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh, EH1 2EJ
+44 (0) 131 529 4068 edinburghmuseums.org.uk

The Usher Hall
Scotland’s only five-star concert hall, The Usher Hall is famed for hosting a range of concerts and performances from the worlds of rock, pop, classical, jazz, world and folk music. Offering a packed programme to suit all tastes, this beautiful Edwardian building is well-loved by performers and audiences alike thanks to its magnificent acoustics.
Usher Hall, Lothian Road, EH1 2EA
+44 (0) 131 228 8616  usherhall.co.uk

Royal Yacht Britannia
Home to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over 1,000,000 miles around the world the Royal Yacht Britannia is the UK’s no.1 attraction (TripAdvisor). Now berthed in Edinburgh, you can follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences.
Ocean Terminal, Leith, EH6 6JJ
+44 (0) 131 555 5566  royalyachtbritannia.co.uk
Food and drink
With more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the UK. Including four Michelin stars, Edinburgh has a wealth of fantastic places to eat and drink. A stroll along The Shore, will take you to Martin Wishart’s or Tom Kitchin’s gastronomical establishments. 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 when you visit Edinburgh, a cosmopolitan city that loves its grub. Look out for the Edinburgh Restaurant Festival in October.

Côte
Inspired by the brasseries of Paris, Côte champions relaxed all-day dining, serving authentic French classics made from great quality, fresh ingredients.
51 Frederick Street, EH2 1LH
+44 (0) 131 202 6256
cote-restaurants.co.uk

Fishers in the City
A spacious and stylish space in the centre of Edinburgh - the epitome of a classic city centre eatery. Fishers in the City is set in an old converted warehouse on Thistle Street. The contemporary surroundings offer the perfect venue for a casual lunch or intimate night out. A firm favourite with locals and visitors to the city for over 10 years.
58 Thistle Street, EH2 1EN
+44 (0) 131 225 5109
fishersrestaurants.co.uk

The Tower
Views of Edinburgh Castle and the spectacular skyline of the Royal Mile feature on the menu of James Thomson’s rooftop Tower Restaurant. Fresh, impeccably cooked food, star on an inventive menu, while deft service and inspirational wines, perfectly match the chic and glamorous rooftop setting. Also open for brunch, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.
Tower Restaurant, Chambers Street, EH1 1JF
+44 (0) 131 225 3003
tower-restaurant.com

The Dining Room at The Scotch Malt Whiskey Society
At The Dining Room, everything is pre-paired for your delight. With the world’s widest selection of exclusive single cask whiskies available along with an extensive wine list, the delicious dishes are expertly paired with their perfect partners for a memorable sensory experience.
28 Queen St, Edinburgh EH2 1JX
+44 (0) 131 220 2044
diningroomedinburgh.co.uk

Our restaurants, pubs and bars keep winning awards for good reasons…
Wahaca
At Wahaca, diners will be able to get a real taste of Mexican street food with their many vibrant food options, including signature dishes such as slow-cooked pork pibil tacos and sweet potato & caramelised onion taquitos.

16 South St Andrew Street, EH2 2AU
+44 (0) 131 202 6850
wahaca.co.uk/edinburgh

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill
This restaurant has opened to coincide with the re-launch of the Edinburgh Carlton hotel under the Hilton brand, diners can expect a traditional Steakhouse menu which also features some of Marco's favourite classics such as seared yellowfin tuna steak with panzanella salad and Wheeler's fish curry with mango.

19 North Bridge, EH1 1SD
+44 (0) 131 472 3022
mpwrestaurants.co.uk

The Chop House - Market Street
Edinburgh’s second Chop House bar and butchery has now opened in the vibrant new development, The Arches. Their ethos is all about sharing for the whole table, by serving large cuts of beef, group starters and side dishes.

Arch 15, East Market Street, EH8 8FS
+44 (0) 131 629 1551
smithandgertrude.com

Gin71
The next time you’re heading out for a gin and tonic why not check out Edinburgh’s newest gin bar, Gin 71. With an impressive 71 different gins on offer, there’s bound to be an option for every taste bud.

9 South Charlotte Street, EH2 4AS
+44 (0) 131 225 5808
gin71.com

Meltmongers
Make way for Edinburgh’s first grilled cheese place! It’s the hot melting cheese in a crispy buttery pocket of toasted goodness that truly makes it everyone’s comfort food. Depending on what you fancy, Meltmongers also offer sweet treats such as peanut butter and banana fried melt with optional Nutella.

80 Bruntsfield Place, EH10 4HG
+44 (0) 7740 869 359
facebook.com/meltmongers

Burn’s Night – 25th January
Raise a glass to Scottish poet Robert Burns at the annual Burn’s Night. This country-wide event enables people to join in the celebrations, by enjoying traditional haggis neeps and tatties, Scottish music and sharing some of Burn’s famous works.

Various venues
edinburgh.org

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, EH3 9LP
+44 (0) 131 261 8529
re-union.org.uk

Scotch Whisky Experience
Become part of the whisky making process as you take a swirling, bubbling ride through a virtual whisky experience. Go on to learn the secrets of the Scotch whisky regions and the art of whisky blending with their guided sensory presentation. Tours finish in the fascinating McIntyre Bar, where you can indulge your newfound passion for Scotch whisky.

354 Castlehill, EH1 2NE
+44(0) 131 220 0441
scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk

Eat Walk Edinburgh
For a slightly different touring perspective of Edinburgh, you can’t do much better than a culinary exploration with Eat Walk Edinburgh. Dropping into some first class restaurants, bars and shops, while learning a little about Edinburgh’s history along the way, visitors will meet the locals who enthuse in the very best food and drink Edinburgh and Scotland has to offer.

23 Ivy Terrace, EH11 1P J
+44 (0) 7740 869 359
eatwalkedinburgh.co.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 find a tasty bargain.

stockbridgemarket.com
Shopping

There’s no risk of unimaginative shopping in this cosmopolitan city.

From the revolving doors 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 offer creative and unusual wares.

Multrees Walk

Multrees Walk is the heart of luxury shopping in Edinburgh. Designers such as Mulberry, Louis Vuitton, Burberry and Tommy Hilfiger create treasure trove of shops. Links of London and Swarovski help shoppers to sparkle while the fashionistas’ dream, Harvey Nichols, is packed full of labels such as Alexander McQueen, Donna Karan and Chloe.

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

Thistle Street

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

Thistle Street, EH2 1EN

Grassmarket

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

Grassmarket, EH1 2HS

The West End

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

West End, EH12 5AU

George Street

Home to some of Edinburgh favourite high street and designer stores, including Hollister, LK Bennett, The White Company, Anthropologie and French Connection. Shops to satisfy every fashion lover’s needs.

George Street, EH2 3BU

Princes Street

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

Princes Street, EH2 4AD
The Stand
If you're looking for a laugh, then don’t miss out on The Stand. Major acts and local hopefuls take the mike in this comedy basement. They also run free lunchtime shows!
5 York Place, EH1 3EB
+44 (0) 131 558 7272
thestand.co.uk

Secret Gardens
Edinburgh is a city of secret gardens all hidden in plain sight. Just off the Royal Mile, Dunbar’s Close, beside the Scottish Book Trust, brings a little bit of tranquillity to the hubbub of the tourist streets. Or take in the Archivist’s Garden, tucked behind HM Register House on Princes Street.
thisisedinburgh.com

Gladstone’s Land
The house of wealthy merchant and landlord Thomas Gladstones showcases high-rise living, 17th-century style, at the beating heart of Edinburgh’s historic Royal Mile. In six rooms the authentically restored tenement shows how people went about their lives at a time when the cramped Lawnmarket was very much a living, breathing, working part of one of the world’s fastest-growing and influential cities.
477B Lawnmarket, EH1 2NT
+44 (0) 131 226 5856
nts.org.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 à la carte and brunch is served at the weekends.
Royal Terrace, EH7 5DX
+44 (0) 131 558 1221
thegardenerscottage.co

Water of Leith
Offering 24 miles of idyllic walking and cycling pathways along the leafy riverside, the spot around the old 19th century mills of Dean Village is one of its most popular spots. Wander down from Stockbridge to the vibrant bars and restaurants of Leith.
thisisedinburgh.com

St Giles’ Roof Top Tours
Not only offering panoramic views of the city and Royal Mile, the rooftop tour gives visitors a rare glimpse into how the cathedral has been altered over the years. You'll hear all sorts of tales about the tower and even get up close to the medieval beams and bells of St Giles’
St Giles’ Cathedral, EH1 1RE
stgilscathedral@rai.org.uk
From the Penthouse at G&V to the affordable style of Motel One, Edinburgh is blessed with some wonderful places to rest your head. There’s unashamed luxury at The Balmoral or the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa.

For quirky intimacy, Hotel du Vin, housed in the old asylum in heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town. Or if you adore intimate retreats, the city boasts a plethora of boutique hotels, tucked away in quiet corners.

**Hilton Edinburgh Carlton**
After a full refurbishment in 2016, the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton is situated right in between the old and new towns, only a short walk to Waverley and all the main attractions. With a Marco Pierre White restaurant and excellent amenities, the Hilton is a perfect base for work or pleasure in Scotland’s capital.

19 North Bridge, EH1 1SD
+44 (0) 131 472 3000
hilton.com

**Gleneagles Hotel**
Escape the city and indulge in the luxurious Gleneagles Hotel, located only one hour from Edinburgh. Whether its sport or relaxation, the hotel caters to all with their large outdoor Jacuzzi and a 5km walking track around the impressive golf courses.

Auchterarder, PH3 1NF
+44 (0) 800 389 3737
gleneagles.com

**Kinross House**
This idyllic estate is located 25 miles north of Edinburgh providing guests with the opportunity to stay and dine in the most luxurious of surroundings. The house also offers impressive views towards the ruins of Loch Leven Castle.

Kinross, KY13 8ES
+44 (0) 1577 865 626
kinrosshouse.com

**The Chester Residence**
This chic five star serviced apartment offers guests a chance to live life like a local in Edinburgh’s New Town. The Chester Residence is set in a Georgian townhouse located in the West End, making it convenient for Princes Street and other city attractions.

9 Rothesay Pl, EH3 7SL
+44 (0) 131 226 2075
chester-residence.com

**hub by Premier Inn Edinburgh Royal Mile**
This new Premier Inn is set in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old town – just a short stroll from tourist hotspots including the Royal Mile, the Cowgate, and the Grassmarket. Guests staying at this high tech hotel can enjoy its slick one-touch room controls and customise lighting and temperature with their app.

33 East Market Street, EH8 8BG
+44(0) 871 527 9644
premierinn.com

**Brooks Hotel**
A hidden gem three star boutique bed and breakfast set in Edinburgh’s vibrant Haymarket area offering a cozy, luxurious experience at an affordable price. Their courtyard is a summer suntrap which offers guests a chance to relax and escape the city bustle.

70-72 Grove St, EH3 8AP
+44 (0) 131 228 2323
brooksedinburgh.com

Stay
Awards

With 90% of Edinburgh residents saying they are proud of their beautiful city in a recent YouGov poll, we quite agree with all of the awards and accolades to our city. Here’s a few highlights from the last year or so...

2017

- Edinburgh has been named greenest city in the UK 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 Edinburgh is green space.
- Ranked 1st in the 2016/17 Foreign Direct Investment category for Global Cities of the Future, Edinburgh has been named the best large city in Europe to invest in, owing in part to internationally-recognised strategy to encourage investment.

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

2015

- In 2015 VisitScotland have awarded Edinburgh Bus Tours the five star grading that they have had in previous years.
- The Chester Residence in Edinburgh has also ranked as the seventh best luxury hotel in Europe in the TripAdvisor Traveller’s Choice Awards.
- One of world’s top ten cities (one of three European cities to make top ten rankings), Wanderlust Reader’s Travel Awards also voted in top ten in 2014, February 2015
- Forth most beautiful city in the world as voted for by Rough Guide readers, February 2015
- Rated third safest city in the world in survey by Post Office Travel Insurance, March 2015
- Best UK destination outside London, as voted for by TripAdvisor reviewers, March 2015
- Edinburgh found to be the most desirable place to live out of 130 UK council areas in an independent survey conducted by USwitch, October 2015
- Edinburgh ranked in top 3 best places to live in the UK in report by PwC & think-tank Demos, taking into account of jobs, health, income and skills, work-life balance, house affordability, travel-to-work times, income equality and pollution, November 2015
Fast Facts

- Edinburgh city is home to a population of nearly 500,000, 1.6 million regionally
- Over 4 million people visit Edinburgh every year, generating more than £1.2 billion in to the local economy
- A city of foodies, Edinburgh has more restaurants per head than anywhere else in the UK, including four Michelin Star restaurants
- Edinburgh is full of wide open spaces, 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 and 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
- A city of foodies, Edinburgh has more restaurants per head than anywhere else in the UK, including four Michelin Star restaurants
- 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
- More than 70km of traffic free cycle paths criss-cross the city
- Edinburgh’s Royal Mile is actually 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 Trainspotting, Da Vinci Code, One Day and Cloud Atlas.

Home to universities, Edinburgh as a student population of over 103,000. Over 40% of the working age residents are university graduates.

Edinburgh was the first city to receive UNESCO City of Literature status back in 2004.

There are more than 20,000 beds in Edinburgh and the surrounding area, with over 50% within a 2km radius of the city centre.

More than 70km of traffic free cycle paths criss-cross the city.

Edinburgh’s official social media channels have over 300K Followers and Likes, all curated on thisisedinburgh.com

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 crisp, clear day in Scotland’s capital city are 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
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.

4. Crowded House
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.

5. Name the city
As well as ‘Athens of the North’, Edinburgh has earned itself a few other nicknames over the years. The most famous is ‘Auld Reekie’, which translated from Scots means ‘Old Smoky’, a reference to the dense chimney smoke caused by industrialisation and closely built houses. Now, the air is fresh and clear and an abundance of parks means Edinburgh is surprisingly lush. Visit the secret city-centre oasis 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 world wide selfie hot spots, Edinburgh Castle was just behind the likes of the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and 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.

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
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 world’s most successful musicals and some legendary bands and artists, including Bob Dylan, The Who and Johnny Cash.
Social media

This is Edinburgh’s platforms have been created to effectively highlight the very best of the capital city.

From new openings and hidden gems, to recommendations and special announcements, This is Edinburgh is the city’s official digital hub, sharing real time information, images and video content, which showcases Scotland’s capital city as one of the best places in the world to live and visit.

#ThisisEdinburgh is an ongoing campaign for locals and visitors to share and highlight what makes Edinburgh so special and unique.

Whether it’s an event or attraction, a delicious dish in the latest restaurant, or simply a breath-taking view of the city, all posts that use #ThisisEdinburgh on Twitter and Instagram are curated and displayed on the city’s official website trending page: thisisedinburgh.com/edinburgh

#EdinPhoto is designed to encourage locals and visitors to share their pictures of Edinburgh for the chance to be featured across the This is Edinburgh social platforms

From its dramatic skyline and vibrant festivals full of colour, to its atmospheric cobbled closes and rolling coastal haar, Edinburgh is an ideal muse for any would-be photographer. It also makes it a hugely rich resource and inspiration for Edinburgh’s social media channels.

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
fiona.hunter@marketingedinburgh.org
+44 (0) 131 473 3666

Ali Liddy
Wire Media PR
ali@wearewire.co
+44 (0) 7342 882 380

www.edinburgh.org

Image library: Flickr.com
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