

STIG ALBECK

TRAVEL TO EDINBURGH



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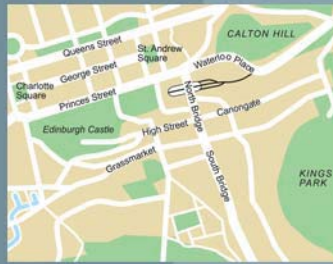
Edinburgh



Area Map



Activities



City Map

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Edinburgh

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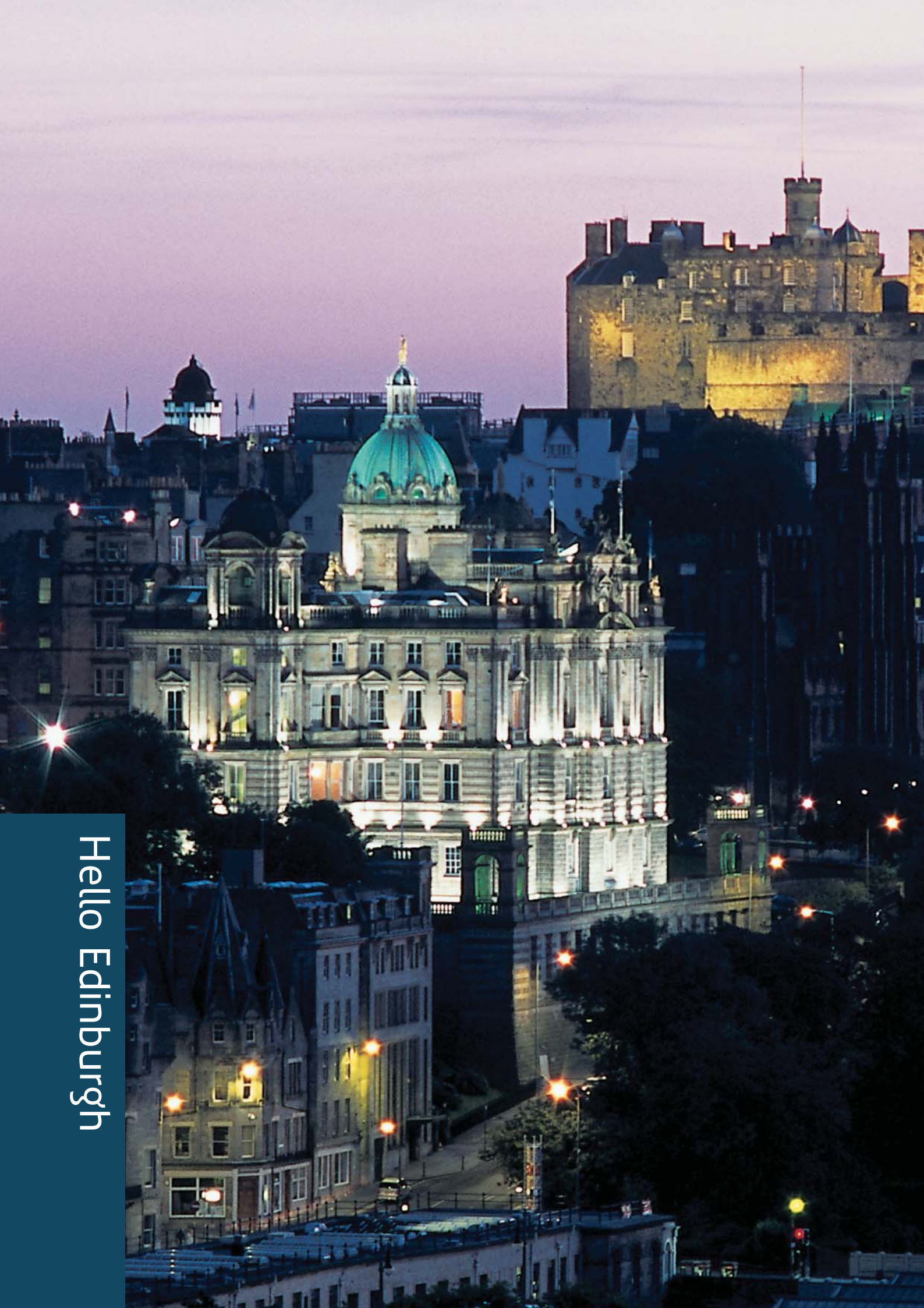
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Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board

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Hello Edinburgh

A visit to Edinburgh

www.edinburgh.org

www.visitscotland.com

Edinburgh is the old and charming capital of Scotland, where kilts and bagpipe music can be experienced in the streets. The sandstone buildings, the numerous exciting backyards in the old part of the city, the hills offering breathtaking views in and around the city and the fantastically beautiful surroundings are just a few of the things you can experience when visiting the city.

Edinburgh Castle is quite literally the high point of the city with its dramatic location at the top of a cliff in the city centre. Below, the Royal Mile runs through many of the sights of the old city sections, while the new, elegant neighbourhood with the famous Princes Street as its main street lies nearby. A thoroughly Scottish atmosphere permeates Edinburgh – kilt and bagpipe shops are everywhere and the next establishment serving haggis or a glass of Scotch whisky is never far away.

Historical outline

The first settlers arrived in Edinburgh around 850 BC, probably attracted by the naturally favourable defensive position of the 134-metre-high Castle Rock, which serves as a fine lookout post over the water to the north. In the 500s the English moved north from England and colonised the south-eastern regions of Scotland. It was during this time that Edinburgh acquired its name, when King Edwin of Northumberland built his castle here. It was originally called Edwinsburgh. The castle at Edinburgh was long the southernmost border of Scotland. It was not until 1018, during the reign of King Malcolm II, that the border came to be delineated along the River Tweed.

The fact that the city no longer merely consisted of a castle on the border, but became the centre of a Scottish region, contributed to the rapid development in trade below Castle Rock in the eleventh century. In the 1100s the first large, permanent habitations were established in the area below the castle and thus the city of Edinburgh became a reality.

Edinburgh received a municipal charter in 1329 under Robert the Bruce, which further contributed to the growth of the city. During the following century, the city became the leading city in Scotland and, in 1437, the nation's capital. A few years later, in the mid-1400s, city walls were built surrounding the habitation and the market areas.

The city continued to grow and the area within the city walls quickly became cramped. Thus, Edinburgh was expanded vertically by several storeys (with time, it has reached an impressive twelve storeys in height), and this distinguished it from many other cities of the time. In addition to an increase in population, the city underwent a cultural and scientific development. Institutions of education and businesses (for instance, in the field

of printing) were founded in Edinburgh during this period. The city was now the leading one in the region.

The year 1513 came to mark a turning point in the city's development. The Scottish king, James IV, and his 10,000 soldiers fought at the Battle of Flodden. He was killed, and for a while, the development of Edinburgh stood still.

The English king, Henry VIII, wanted his son to marry King James IV's sister, Mary, but the Scots sent Mary to France. Edinburgh was then attacked by England under Henry VIII's leadership.

It was during these decades in the mid-1500s, that it came to religious conflicts in the light of the Reformation. The conflicts between the Catholics and the supporters of the Reformation culminated in 1560, when the Scottish parliament founded the Scottish Protestant Church, which was independent of the Papal States in the Vatican. The Pope's authority vanished, and Latin was relegated to use only at the High Mass.

King James VII became king of both England and Scotland and settled in London. The influence of Edinburgh was thus further decreased and religious discrepancies flared up once again.

In 1633, King Charles I suggested introducing a diocese in Scotland. This merely fed the fire of Christian conflict. After a few years, the Presbyterian community won the religious struggle. The incident contributed to a new period of cultural and intellectual growth in Edinburgh.

The Act of Union of 1707 reduced the political influence of the city and established one united parliament for both England and Scotland, thus leaving Scotland to be governed from London. The last half of the 1700s was a period of solid growth with respect to both population and economy. The population quadrupled to 400,000

during this period. The old sections of the city were redeveloped and new areas with many beautiful Georgian buildings were established. The city that visitors meet with today has come into existence over centuries of construction work and interesting historical incidents. It has been influenced by twentieth-century redevelopment of certain parts of the city at the same time that the modern Edinburgh has been established.

After 1945, the city became an international centre for finance and education. In addition to this cultural development, the former position of Edinburgh as the home of the government has been re-established. A new Scottish parliament has been established, and Edinburgh is once again the absolute political centre of Scotland.

Today, Edinburgh is considered one of the best places to live in Great Britain, due to a flourishing culture, a low crime rate, and a highly-educated population – all of these are things from which tourists benefit.

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Tour 1: Edinburgh

1. Edinburgh Castle



Castle Esplanade

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.nms.ac.uk/war

Edinburgh Castle is visible from every part of the city, as it is located on one of Edinburgh's mountaintops; an extinct volcano. The first castle was built on this strategically well-placed mountain back in the sixth century, while present-day Edinburgh Castle was established in the 1100s and subsequently enlarged and rebuilt during the many centuries which followed.

One enters Edinburgh Castle at the forecourt, the Castle Esplanade, which provides the setting for the annual traditional Edinburgh Tattoo, where you can experience military marches and bagpipe music.

The Edinburgh Castle area contains a number of different buildings and offers magnificent views of Edinburgh and the surrounding area.

One enters the grounds through the Gate House and immediately comes to the fortified areas - among these is the Half Moon Battery. The next building one passes through is the Portcullis Gate, after which one finds oneself in the Middle Yard, which is the beginning of the actual fort and castle area. At Middle Yard you can see The One

O'Clock Gun, which is fired every day except Sunday at precisely 13:00 hours.

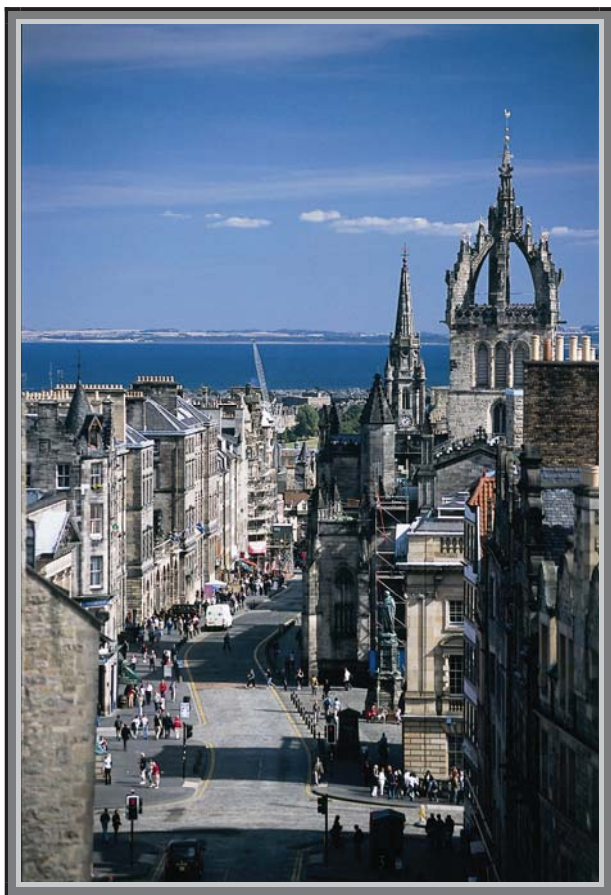
This tradition originates from a time when ships needed a source according to which to set their marine chronometers correctly when sailing out. If you walk up the rounded stairs, the Lang Stairs, you will reach the Upper Yard, where you will find the little St. Margaret's Chapel, built by King David I in the 1100s. The chapel is believed to be the oldest surviving building in Edinburgh. In the area outside the chapel you can see the Mons Meg cannon from the 1400s. The canon was fired in 1558 to salute the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the French king, Francois II. On that occasion, the 150-kilo cannonball used was found near the botanical gardens, 3 kilometres from the spot.

At the top of Edinburgh Castle, you will find Crown Square, which is the centre of the complex. The Scottish National War Memorial from 1927, a memorial for the Scots who died in the First World War, is located on the square.

The building houses the National War Museum of Scotland. The museum describes Scottish war history through the last centuries and exhibits a number of uniforms and weapons.

Also located at Crown Square is the castle building, Royal Palace, and the Great Hall, built in 1511 as an assembly hall for the parliament of Scotland. Royal Palace was built in the 1400s and houses the Scottish Crown Jewels, which are forged in Scottish gold. The beautiful crown was first used at the crowning of Robert the Bruce in 1306. The Royal Palace also presents interestingly decorated Royal Apartments. Another place of interest is the New Barracks, which lies to the west and is the largest building on the grounds. It was built in the 1790s in neo-classicist style.

2. Royal Mile



Gatorna Castle Hill, Lawnmarket, High Street och Canongate

The Royal Mile, Edinburgh's main street, consists of four successive streets: Castlehill, Lawnmarket, High Street and Canongate. The name Royal Mile originates from the fact that it is a mile long and that it connects the city's two castles, Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Castle Hill, Lawnmarket, and High Street are the busiest streets, where most of the famous buildings and sights are located, while Canongate is a quieter street with low buildings. However, it does have its share of interesting buildings and museums.

3. Tartan Weaving Mill & Exhibition

555 Castlehill/Royal Mile

www.geoffreykilts.co.uk/tartanweavingmill.htm

The former water reservoir of the Royal Mile now houses the great Tartan Weaving Mill and an exhibition of the traditional Scottish highland

dress. You can try on a genuine Highland costume and learn about the history of the various national costumes and clans.

4. Camera Obscura and World of Illusions

549 Castlehill/Royal Mile

www.camera-obscura.co.uk

Camera Obscura is the name of one of Edinburgh's most spectacular attractions. At the top of the old building you can sit in a room around a wooden plate where the entire city of Edinburgh is reflected and thus shown as a moving picture through revolving mirrors. The place was opened back in 1853 by an optician who wanted to give the citizens of the city a new attraction at a time when movie theatres did not exist and the photograph had barely been invented.

The other floors of the house are the home of the museum World of Illusions, which creates numerous optical illusions, such as holograms and reflected images. The museum is a fun and interesting place for curious souls.

5. Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre

354 Castlehill

www.whisky-heritage.co.uk

The Scotch Whiskey centre tells the story of the production and history of whiskey. The journey from the ingredients: barley, yeast, and water, to the finest single malt whiskey is a fascinating one, and a tour of the centre will teach you the difference between the three different types of whiskey; malt, grain, and blended.

Various samples will give visitors an impression of the great regional differences in whiskeys. If you are interested in whiskey and haven't planned a visit to a distillery, this centre is a must.

6. The Hub

Castlehill

www.thehub-edinburgh.com

The former Highland Tolbooth, St. John's Church, is now the home of The Hub, the information centre for the Edinburgh Festival. The church was closed down in 1979. The Gothic spire of the building is the highest in central Edinburgh and can be studied from the top of the nearby Camera Obscura.

7. Gladstone's Land

477 Lawnmarket

www.nts.org.uk/Property/25

With its more than 350 years, Gladstone's Land is the oldest preserved residence on the Royal Mile. The building is named after one of its former owners, the merchant Thomas Gladstone. Today, the house is partially a museum, which has attempted to recreate the atmosphere of a typical wealthy household from Edinburgh ca. 1620.

The highlight of the tour of the open apartment is the original painted ceiling in the best room, facing The Royal Mile. The ceiling is typical of the 1600s, but only a few of its kind are preserved, and the one in Gladstone's Land is among the best kept.

8. The Writers' Museum

Lady's Stair Close, Lawnmarket

www.cac.org.uk

The Writer's Museum is situated in Lady Stair's House from the 17th century, in a courtyard behind Lawnmarket. The museum is dedicated to Scotland's great literary figures, such as Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, and Robert Louis Stevenson. The museum displays manuscripts, personal belongings, and portraits and produces temporary exhibitions which feature contemporary authors.

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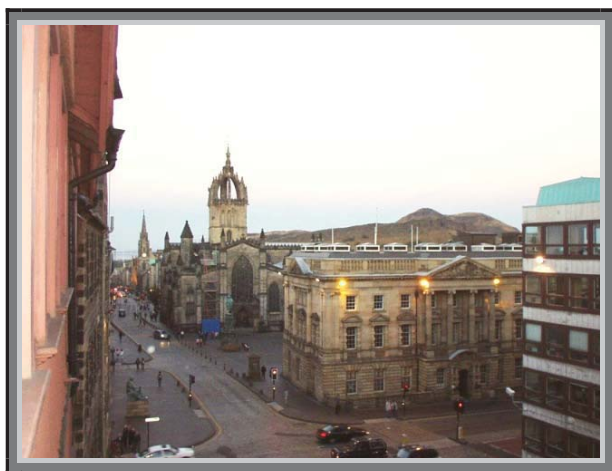
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9. The Heart of Midlothian

Parliament Square

Built into the cobblestone pavement of Parliament Square, one finds the so-called Heart of Midlothian. It records the position of the entrance to the 15th-century prison, Old Tolbooth Prison. The heart is a symbol of the sorrows and unfortunate destinies caused by the place. The name Midlothian originates from the region, The Lothians, which surrounds Edinburgh.

10. St. Giles' Cathedral



Parliament Square

www.stgilescathedral.org.uk

Edinburgh's cathedral was founded in the 1120s in Roman style. The name St. Giles' is a tribute to the patron saint of cripples and lepers, a very popular saint in the Middle Ages. However, the present church stems primarily from the end of the 1300s and 1400s. Historically, the church is of great significance to the Scottish history, since it was here that John Knox, the Scottish leader of the Protestant Reformation, preached in the 1500s.

Among the details of the church are the beautiful stained glass windows dating from the 19th century, which are considered among the best in Scotland. The Thistle Chapel from 1911 was built for the knights of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. It is a small and beautiful chapel with a decorative interior. Today, the church functions as a Church of Scotland parish

church for part of Edinburgh's Old Town and you are welcome to attend one of the Sunday services.

The crown spire of St. Giles' Cathedral is a symbol of the Crown and the significance of this church.

11. The City Chambers

High Street, Royal Mile

www.edinburgh.gov.uk

The City Chambers is the home of the Edinburgh city council. The blueprints of the buildings were approved in 1753, although the buildings themselves were not raised at that time. In the yard, you will find a statue of Alexander the Great. Once the rural deanery was located here, and it is also the place at which Mary Queen of Scots spent her final hours.

12. Mercat Cross

Parliament Square

Mercat Cross is the name of the octagonal building behind St. Giles' Cathedral. It served as the place from which royal proclamations and other official announcements were read to the public. The site of the original Mercat Cross is marked by a cobblestone surface near the current building, which was built in 1885. Pieces of the Mercat Cross from the 1300s are incorporated into the present building.

13. Parliament House

Parliament Square

The stately building, Parliament House, was the meeting-place of the Scottish Parliament from 1639 to 1707. Following the Act of Union of 1707 and the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament (Scotland being thereafter ruled over by the Parliament in London), the former Parliament building became the home of the Scottish High Court.

14. 3D Loch Ness Experience

Parliament Square/Royal Mile

www.3dlochness.com

At the Loch Ness Centre in central Edinburgh, you can hear the facts behind the many stories which flourish about the sea serpent in Loch Ness Lake in northern Scotland. The 3D-show takes 20 minutes and takes you through a series of eyewitness accounts, photographs and actual investigations of the alleged animal in Loch Ness. The tales are based partly on scientific research and partly on subjective statements, but what do you think? Could the tale of the sea serpent be true?

15. The Police Centre

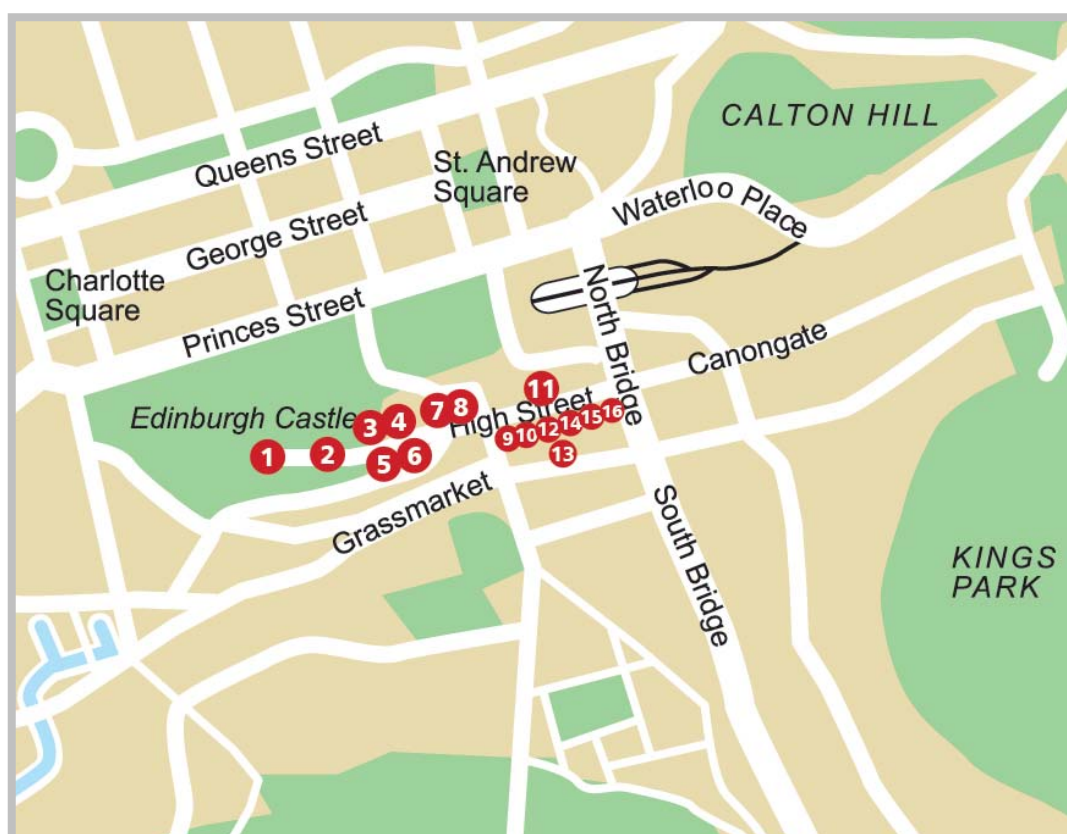
High Street, Royal Mile

The Police Centre is a small police museum describing the history of Edinburgh's police. You can see old uniforms, weapons, and a special exhibition about some of the most hard-core criminals throughout time.

16. Tron Kirk

High Street, Royal Mile

The former parish church, Tron Kirk, is one of the most characteristic buildings on the Royal Mile. The church was built in the period from 1636 to 1647 at the request of King Charles I. The style was inspired by contemporary Dutch church architecture. The spire was destroyed in a fire in 1824 and the new spire was constructed in 1828. From 1952 Tron Kirk functioned no longer as a parish church. The City Council bought the building and part of the church now serves as the city's tourist information centre.



Tour 2: Edinburgh

17. Tweeddale Court

High Street, Royal Mile

Numerous courtyards are connected to the streets of the Royal Mile by long, narrow lanes. Some of these have very decorative entrances – one of them is Tweeddale Court. The courtyard buildings are often quite stately. At the back of Tweeddale Court you will find the Tweeddale Mansion, which was occupied by Dame Margaret Kerr, daughter of the 1st Earl of Lothian. Since 1984 the mansion has been the home of the Scottish Poetry Library. On the eastern side of High Street, between North/South Bridge and Canongate, you will find many of these narrow streets. They offer many new, interesting places for the main street visitors. It is just a matter of exploring.

18. John Knox's House

Canongate, Royal Mile

www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

The beautiful John Knox's House was built in the 1400s and rebuilt in the following century. It is thought to have been the home of the Scottish religious reformist John Knox, as well as the place where he died in 1752, hence the name. The house is now a museum about the life and work of John Knox, and it is a fine example of a townhouse from that period.

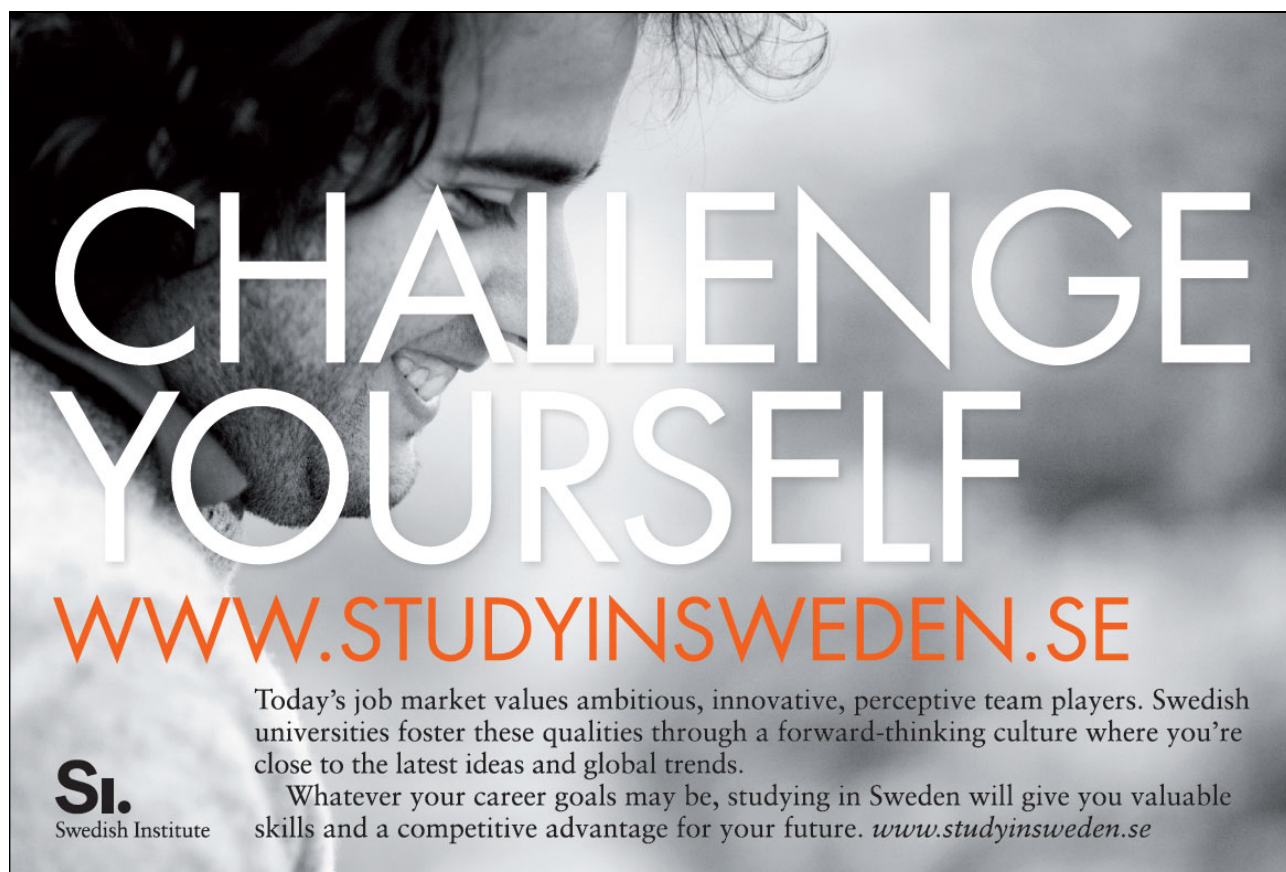
19. Canongate Tolbooth

163 Canongate, Royal Mile

www.cac.org.uk

The city's old tollbooth was built in 1591 and served as a collection point for tolls and other taxes for the City Council. The building also housed other public functions, such as a courtroom and a prison. The distinctive, projected clock was installed in 1820 to replace the former clock, which had hung here since the 1600s.

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It now houses a museum exhibit on the people of Edinburgh, The People's Story.

20. The Museum of Edinburgh

142 Canongate, Royal Mile

www.cac.org.uk

The Museum of Edinburgh exhibits the history of the city from prehistory to the present. In addition to many informative descriptions, the museum displays many objects such as decorative arts and crafts and colourful shop signs. The museum takes up part of the Huntly House, an aristocratic home dating from the 1500s. However, the house has been expanded during the following centuries.

21. Canongate Kirk

Canongate, Royal Mile

www.canongatekirk.com

Canongate Kirk is one of Edinburgh's centrally located parish churches. It was consecrated in 1691 and is architecturally distinct from other buildings of the period. Many famous Scots are buried in the graveyard (Kirkyard) behind the church, such as the economist Adam Smith and the author Robert Ferguson.

22. Old Free Church of Scotland

Canongate, Royal Mile

The church in front of Holyroodhouse was built in 1850 as the Holyrood Free Church of Scotland. It no longer functions as a church, but as one of the workshops of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

23. Palace of Holyroodhouse



Canongate, Royal Mile

www.royal.gov.uk

The Palace of Holyroodhouse is located at the eastern end of the Royal Mile and is the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh. The beautiful Baroque palace was built in the 1500s, but was expanded and remodelled a hundred years later.

One can see the interior of the palace when the queen is not in residence. Among the highlights are the exquisite collection of tapestries, the Great Gallery with portraits of Scottish kings, the royal apartments, and the throne room.

The castle is probably best known for having housed Mary Queen of Scots during her brief reign. She was married in the adjacent church, Holyrood Abbey, which is now a beautiful, romantic ruin. The impressive fountain in front of the palace was built at the request of Queen Victoria.

23a. Holyrood Abbey

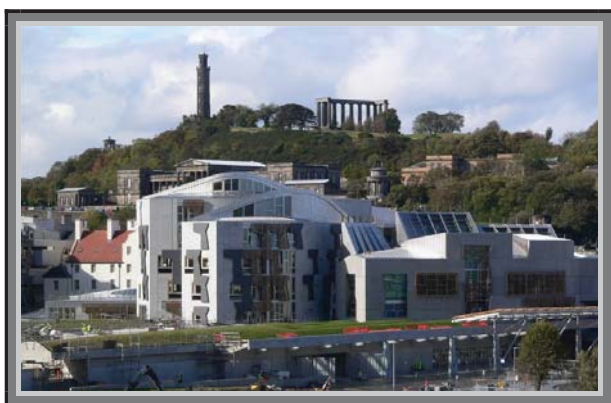
King David I founded Holyrood Abbey in 1128 at this exact spot, supposedly because he had had a vision here. Several Scottish kings are buried in the church, Mary Queen of Scots was married here, and King Charles I was crowned here in 1633.

In 1768 the roof of the church collapsed, and in spite of its glorious history, the building was left to fall into the ruin it is today.

23b. The Queen's Gallery

The Queen's Gallery art museum forms part of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The museum showcases temporary exhibitions of art from the royal collection. The museum opened in 2002 in connection with the jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

24. The Scottish Parliament



Holyrood Road

www.scottish.parliament.uk

The new and contemporary Scottish Parliament was built from 1998 to its opening in 2004, almost 300 years after the parliament was transferred to London as a result of the Act of Union between England and Scotland in 1707.

The building was designed by Enric Miralles. One can visit the parliament and watch the debates when the members are in the chamber. There are infinite architectural details in the building's interior as well as in the large, outdoor gardens. A walk in the gardens is an excellent way to get a good impression of the place.

25. Dynamic Earth

Holyrood Road

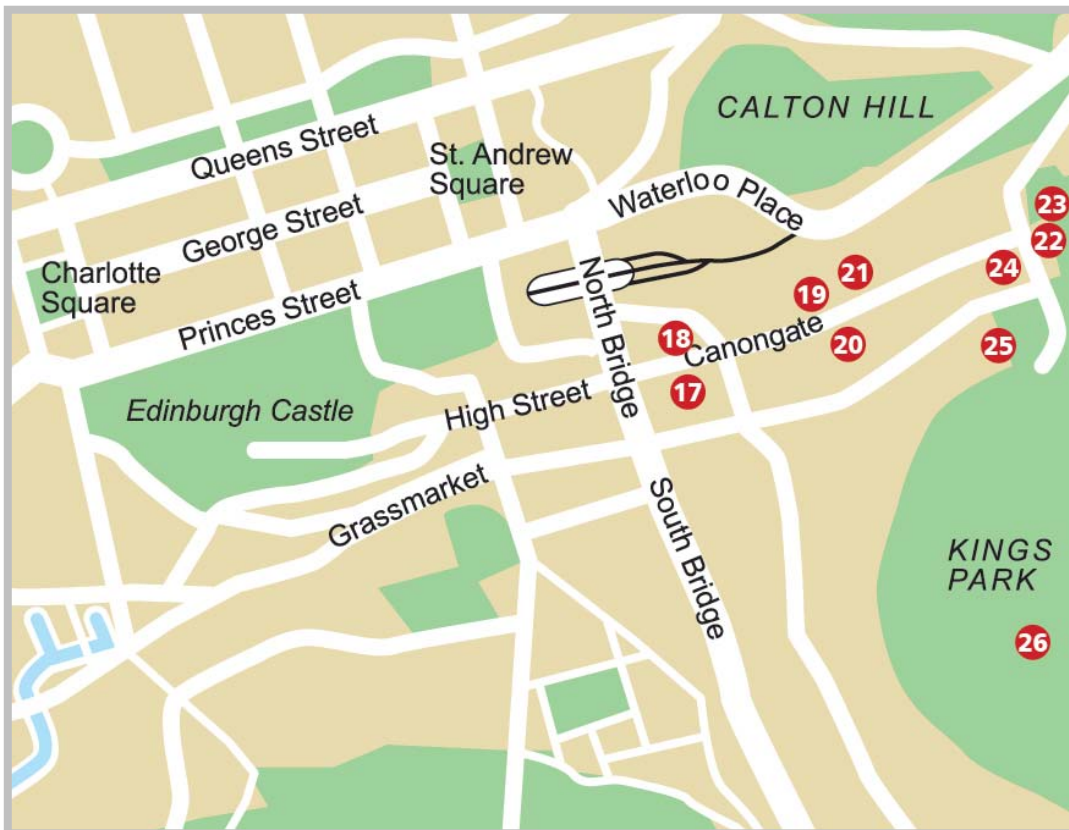
www.dynamicearth.co.uk

Dynamic Earth offers a journey through the origin of life and the history of the earth. This highly recommendable attraction was created for the celebration of the new millennium. The special effects in Dynamic Earth are numerous and spectacular. In various exhibitions one experiences great shows and presentations, for instance, about the Big Bang. One can travel through the various climates, animals, and plants on the Earth, walk on volcanoes, and visit polar areas and the tropics. One can also travel to the future in the well-made Future Dome, where one can attempt to influence the course of life on our planet.

26. Arthur's Seat

Queen's Drive

Situated behind the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the city of Edinburgh itself, the extinct volcano, Arthur's Seat, serves as a beautiful backdrop. A climb to the top offers an incredible panoramic view of the city. Arthur's Seat rises to a height of 251 metres. From the area south of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, there are many good paths accessing the different hills in the area, among others the outermost, steep edge facing the city of Edinburgh.



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Tour 3: Edinburgh

27. Royal Museum of Scotland

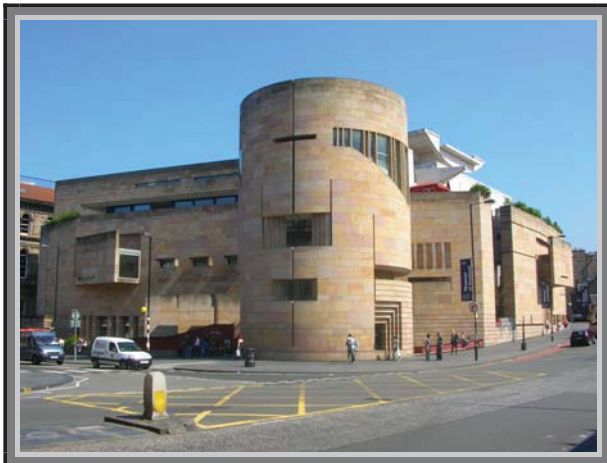
Chambers Street

www.nms.ac.uk/royal

The Royal Museum of Scotland and the adjoining building Museum of Scotland are both a part of The National Museum of Scotland. The Royal Museum, which is built in Victorian style with a glass-roofed atrium, houses exhibitions with an international perspective in the fields of art, culture, nature and science.

The collections are exciting and eclectic; one can witness natural history, industrial technology and decorative arts from Scotland and the rest of the world, dating from ancient times until today.

28. Museum of Scotland



Chambers Street

www.nms.ac.uk/scotland

The Museum of Scotland opened in 1998 in this fascinating sandstone building, which is one of the landmarks of the neighbourhood.

With its more than 10,000 articles on exhibit, the museum tells the story of Scotland and its people. Effects date from the earliest finds to the country's time as a kingdom to present-day Scotland. From the restaurant on the top floor, there is a beautiful view of the Old Town and Edinburgh Castle.

29. Greyfriars Kirk



Greyfriars Place

www.greyfriarskirk.com

Greyfriars Kirk was built in 1612 and is known as the place where the National Covenant was signed in 1638. The National Covenant is synonymous with the Scottish religious Reformation.

The church is an oasis, away from the busy streets of Edinburgh, surrounded by buildings that shield it from the traffic. Surrounding the church is a graveyard with gravestones and memorial tablets on the graveyard walls as well as on the ground.

The name stems from the pre-Reformation Franciscan order of the Grey Friars.

30. Grassmarket

Grassmarket

The open square, the Grassmarket, used to be one of Edinburgh's marketplaces as well as the main site of the public executions, which took place in the many gallows that were positioned here until the 1700s. Fortunately, nowadays the square is much more pleasant, and both it and the surrounding streets abound with bars and places to eat.

31. Victoria Street

Victoria Street

Many will probably recognize Victoria Street from photographs of Edinburgh. The street unites Grassmarket Square below with the streets stretching towards the hill on which Edinburgh Castle stands above. Some of the highest buildings in the city are located on this street. Above the north end of Victoria Street is Victoria Terrace, which is reached by a staircase at the north end of the street. Victoria Street is famous for the many colourful shop facades that can be found both in Edinburgh and the rest of Britain.

32. Kings Stables Road

Kings Stables Road

King Stables Road lies in continuation of the Grassmarket. The street in itself is not a tourist attraction, but you will find the entrance to the Princes Street Gardens north of Edinburgh Castle here. On the way from the Grassmarket to the Princes Street Gardens you can enjoy a magnificent view of Edinburgh Castle and its striking location at the top of the city.



Tour 4: Edinburgh

33. Calton Hill



Ingång från Waterloo Place

The 100-metre-high Calton Hill is situated northeast of the Old Town, and from the top there is a fantastic view of Edinburgh Castle, the city, Arthur's Seat and the nearby Firth of Forth to the north. Many interesting buildings and monuments are situated at the top of Calton Hill.

33a. Nelson's Monument

Nelson's Monument is the fort-like building with the central, high tower. It was erected during the years from 1807 to 1815 to commemorate Lord Nelson and the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar. At the top of the tower is a mast from which a time-ball is dropped on weekdays at exactly 12 noon, to give the ships in the Firth of Forth a chance to set their marine chronometers.

33b. National Monument

The National Monument is built to commemorate the Scots who died in the Napoleonic Wars in the beginning of the 1800s. The construction began in 1822 and was supposed to be a copy of the Parthenon on Acropolis in Athens, but money ran out and the construction stopped with only twelve of the planned columns completed. Today, the building still looks unfinished. The city of Glasgow offered to cover the costs of completing the construction, but Edinburgh was too proud to accept this offer from the competing Scottish city.

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33c. Dugald Stewart Monument

This Greek-style monument was built as a memorial to the Scottish philosopher Dugald Stewart. It is modelled on the Monument of Lysicrates in Athens.

33d. City Observatory

www.astronomyedinburgh.com

The centrally placed buildings on Calton Hill are the home of the City Observatory. One can clearly see the domed building, from which it is possible to look at the stars. The oldest building in the complex is from 1776, while the monumental central building is from 1818.

34. Royal High School

Regent Road

The Royal High School is one of the oldest schools in Scotland, with roots dating back to 1128. Until 1973 it was a school exclusively for boys, but is now co-educational. The main building was built in a grandiose, neo-classical, Greek Doric style in 1829. It is no longer used as part of the school, but is still public property. For a long time the building was considered a potential home for the new Scottish Parliament, but eventually it was decided to build the new Parliament building at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

35. St. Andrew's House

Regent Road

The monumental building St. Andrew's House was built from 1935-1939 in the imposing style of the period with inspiration from Art Deco. It is one of the largest buildings in Edinburgh. Its size can be perceived from the street and from Calton Hill, north of the building. The building stands on the site of one of the city's former prisons. St. Andrew's House was built to house the Scottish Government and still has this function. The official opening ceremony in 1939 was cancelled

due to the beginning of World War II, and took place the following year instead.

36. Register House

2 Princes Street

www.nas.gov.uk

This imposing, domed building was built in 1772-1792 as a public building. It was one of the earliest buildings of the New Town. Today it is the home of the National Archives of Scotland.

37. Balmoral Hotel

1 Princes Street

www.thebalmoralhotel.com

The Balmoral Hotel is Edinburgh's distinguished traditional hotel. It opened in 1902 as the North British Hotel, a typical railway hotel, situated as it is above the Waverly train station.

At the end of the 1980s, the hotel was refurbished and named after the summer residence of the British royal family, Balmoral Castle.

Many celebrities have lived here over the years. Most recently, author J.K. Rowling finished writing the last book in the Harry Potter series in Room 652 on 11 January 2007.

A characteristic mark of the hotel's past as a railway hotel is the clock tower, which has always been set two minutes fast to ensure that people who arrived at the last minute in Waverly Station did not miss their trains.

38. North Bridge

North Bridge

www.thescotsmanhotel.co.uk

North Bridge connects Princes Street with the Royal Mile. The bridge spans the railway ground at Waverly Station, and provides one with a great view of many of the famous buildings of the city.

On the southern side of North Bridge, you will find The Scotsman building, which used to house the newspaper of the same name, but which is now an exclusive hotel.

39. Scott Monument



East Princess Street Gardens

www.cac.org.uk

After the death of the world-famous author Sir Walter Scott in 1832, this stately monument was erected in his honour. It was built from 1841-1844. The tower is 61 metres high, and from the top one has a lovely view of the city and the charming Princes Street Gardens in which the monument stands. From the outside, it is difficult to see how one can get to the top of it, but it is reachable by a narrow spiral staircase.

40. Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Queen Street 1

www.nationalgalleries.org

Scotland's National Portrait Gallery depicts the history of the country from the 1500s to today through paintings of those who influenced the nation's development. You can see royalty, rebels and artists, works by Dali and Picasso, and a sculpture of the author Sir Walter Scott by Bertel Thorvaldsen.

The museum also has a fine collection of Scottish art from the 1900s.

41. National Gallery of Scotland



The Mound

www.nationalgalleries.org

The National Gallery of Scotland contains an exquisite collection of European and Scottish paintings. You can see works by Raphael, Velasquez, van Gogh, and Gauguin. The imposing adjacent building, the Royal Scottish Academy Building, which faces Princes Street, is part of the museum. It was designed by William Henry Playfair and built in 1826.

42. Floral Clock

Princes Street Gardens, The Mound

The Floral Clock is situated in the northeastern corner of the beautiful Princes Street Gardens. This lovely and different attraction was established in 1903. Each year, 20,000 flowers are used for the beautiful decoration.

43. Princes Street

Princes Street

Princes Street is Edinburgh's new main street in that it is the main street of the New Town, which was designed and established north of the Royal Mile, which is the main street of the Old Town. The extremes of the so-called New Town are Charlotte Square to the west and St. Andrew Square to the east, while Princes Street to the south and Queen Street to the north frame the central part of the New Town.

44. Charlotte Square

Charlotte Square

Charlotte Square is considered the most beautiful and harmonious square in the New Town and it is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Charlotte Square was designed by Robert Adam in 1792 in characteristic Georgian style. The square was finished in 1820 as the last part of the first planned areas of New Town. In the middle of the square is an equestrian statue of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's Prince consort.

44a. Georgian House

7 Charlotte Square

This typical Georgian house was built in 1796 and is a beautiful example of the Georgian Style.

Nowadays, the house is a museum and the interior of its three floors dates back to the 1800s, giving a fantastic impression of the living conditions of the time.

45. St. Mary's Cathedral

Palmerston Place

The beautiful, neo-Gothic St. Mary's Cathedral was built in 1879 after the drawings of Sir George Gilbert Scott. With its three spires, it is one of the characteristic buildings in the cityscape of Edinburgh. The high altar depicts the Scottish saints, Columba and Margaret. In the church area, you will find the 17th-century house which now houses the Theological Institute.

46. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

75 Belford Road

www.nationalgalleries.org

The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art contains a very fine collection of art ranging from 1900 to today.

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There are paintings by Scottish artists such as Peplow, Fergusson, Gillies and Redpath, as well as international artists such as Kirchner, Matisse, and Picasso.

The museum is located in a former school building from the 1820s. Outside, you will find the beautifully designed sculpture park.

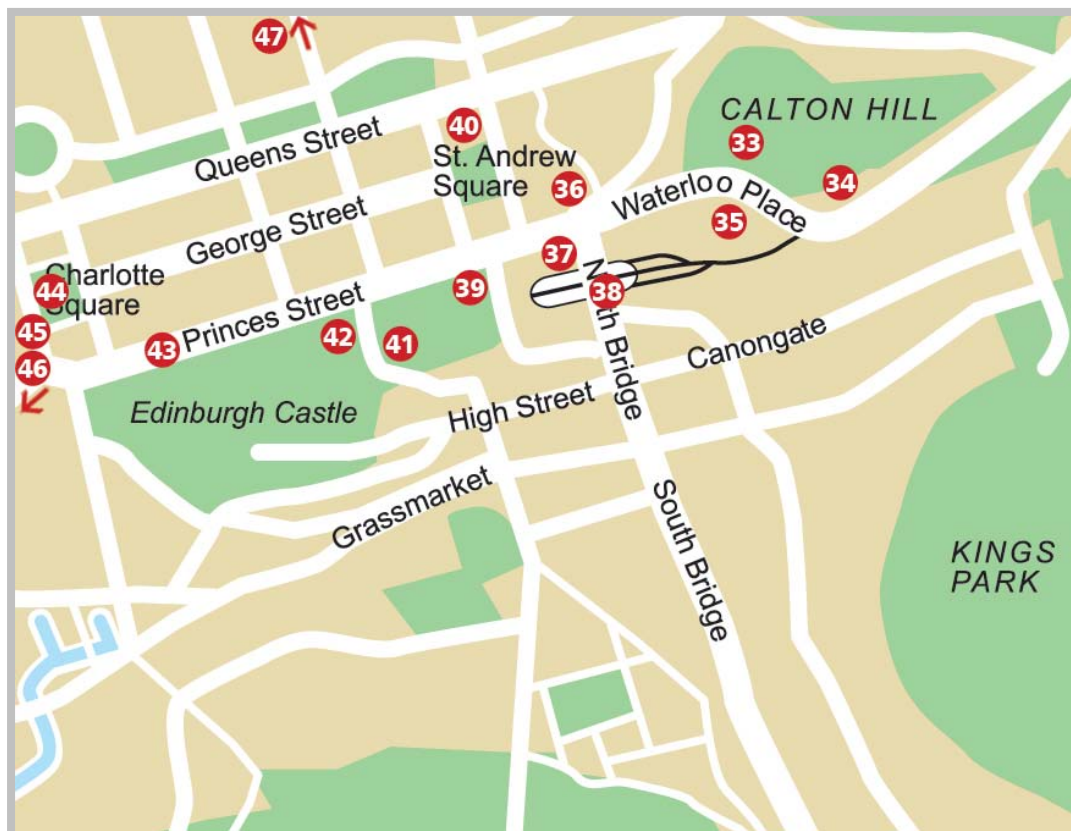
47. Royal Botanic Garden



Inverleith Row 20

www.rbge.org.uk

Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden contains one of the widest ranges of species in the world. It was originally founded at Holyrood in 1670 and has had its present location since 1820. It features a Chinese Hillside, Great Britain's largest Palm House, an orchid house and the famous Rock Garden.



Day Tours from Edinburgh

48. Royal Yacht Britannia



Ocean Terminal, Leith, 4 km NE

www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk

Northeast of Edinburgh lies the port of Leith, which is a district of the Scottish capital. You can see Leith from Edinburgh Castle. The port of Leith is the home of the former royal yacht, Britannia, which was built in 1953 for Queen Elizabeth II.

Visitors can experience the five decks of the ship and see for themselves what life was like on board the royal cruises. Many prominent guests, such as Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela, have been received here.

Among the rooms open to visitors are the queen's bedroom, the official reception room, and the state dining room.

49. Scottish Mining Museum



**Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange,
15 km SE**

www.scottishminningmuseum.com

Southeast of Edinburgh is the interesting Mining Museum, which is located in a coalmine from the 1800s. Coalminers serve as guides in the fascinating mine galleries, where one gets an impression of the daily functions and the engineering work behind the excavations. Here, one can also see Scotland's largest steam engine.

50. Glenkinchie Whisky Distillery

Pencaitland, Tranent, 30 km SE

www.discovering-distilleries.com

The Scottish national drink, whiskey, is made of barley, yeast, and water in the case of malt whiskey. That the Scots are able to create so many taste variations from these three simple ingredients is one of the things that can be learned by visiting a distillery. Glenkinchie produces the so-called single malt whiskey, which is considered the finest type of the three whiskey sorts: malt, grain (made, for example, from wheat), and blended (a blend of the expensive malt and the cheaper grain). Glenkinchie is located in the whiskey area Lowlands, which gives a soft, round whiskey taste, in contrast to the smoked type which comes from Isle and Islay.

A visit to the distillery includes a tour of the production, and you will receive a good and thorough exposition of all the processes from the

raw materials to the finished product. The tour ends with a whiskey tasting in a cosy bar.

51. Tantallon Castle



North Berwick, 45 km E

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

The great castle ruin, Tantallon, is breathtakingly situated at the top of the striking coastal cliff facing the ocean. The castle was built in the 1300s and belonged to the Douglas family. You can clearly see the defence walls and towers of the castle. You will be able to visit parts of this most fascinating castle where you can drink in the atmosphere of Scotland's history.

52. Rosslyn Chapel

Roslin, 15 km

www.rosslynchapel.com

The erection of the small Rosslyn Chapel began in 1456 and is believed to have been finished in the 1490s. The woodcarvings and the abundant

decoration are some of the details that took decades to produce.

The crypt of the chapel has been the burial place of the Sinclair family, descendants of the Norman knights, for generations. The crypt was once reachable from the church, but has been sealed shut for a long time. This has led to many theories about the contents of the crypt – one of the subjects of Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code*.

There are also speculations about the chapel's relation to the order of the Knights Templar. The order was dissolved long before the building of Rosslyn Chapel, but still....?

53. South Queensferry

South Queensferry, 15 km NW

The town of South Queensferry is situated on the south shore of the Firth of Forth, and the village of North Queensberry lies on the north shore. Before the opening of Forth Road Bridge in 1964, there were ferry services between the two cities.

Today South Queensferry is a charming town offering many attractions, not least the impressive bridges spanning the Firth of Forth.

53a. Forth Rail Bridge

www.forthbridges.org.uk

www.oroccopier.co.uk

Forth Rail Bridge, or simply Forth Bridge, is one of the world's most impressive, historic bridges. The enormous steel construction that suspends the double-tracked railroad from Edinburgh to the north, 46 metres above the ocean, was opened in 1890 after seven years of construction. It was one of the most remarkable engineering accomplishments of the time.

To understand the uniqueness of the bridge, one simply has to look at it. It is an icon of the large, riveted steel bridges of the period.

The bridge is 2.5 kilometres long, and the two main spans are 104 metres high. More than 55,000 tons of steel, more than 18,000 cubic metres of granite and over 8 million rivets were used in the construction. The modern suspension bridge, Forth Road Bridge, stands just west of Forth Rail Bridge and is a spectacular sight as well.

There are many great views of the bridges, for instance from Orocco Pier and from the village of North Queensferry..

53b. Dalmeny House www.dalmeny.co.uk

The Dalmeny House mansion is the first in Scotland to be built in the Tudor style, in 1815.

The mansion exhibits an exquisite art collection with paintings by Gainsborough and Raeburn, as well as a large collection of Napoleon's personal belongings.

53c. Hopetoun House www.hopetounhouse.com

Hopetoun House is considered to be the high point of architecture among Scottish manor houses. William Adam and William Bruce were among the architects who designed the beautiful building in the 1700s. It contains interesting art and interior, and a visit gives a fine impression of aristocratic life outside of the large cities.

54. North Queensferry North Queensferry, 18 km NV www.deepseaworld.com

The village of North Queensferry offers great views of the Firth of Fourth bridges and is also the home of one of the greatest aquariums in Great Britain, the Deep Sea World.

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

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55. Stirling

Stirling, 70 km NW

www.stirling-tourism.co.uk

The town of Stirling is one of the most interesting provincial towns of Scotland. It has a rich history and was once the capital of Scotland. One of the dramatic events that took place in the area was the Battle of Stirling in 1648. The battle was fought during the Scottish Civil War.

There are many tourist attractions in the town; Stirling Castle is one of the greatest sights. As Edinburgh Castle, the castle is situated at the top of a cliff in the centre of the city, and thus offers a magnificent view of the beautiful valleys to the west.

56. Glasgow

Glasgow, 75 km W

www.seeglasgow.com

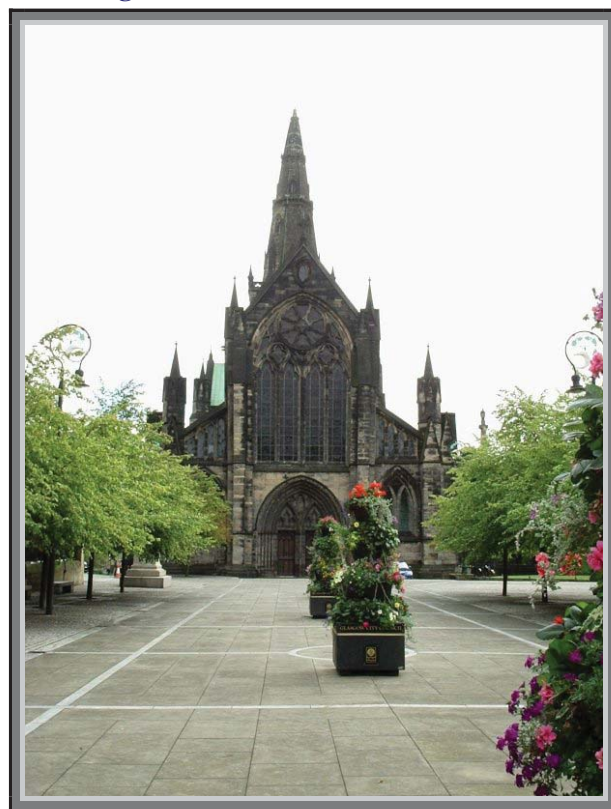
Once Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, was definitively industrial, but in recent decades, the city has developed into a contemporary cultural metropolis with a wide selection of museums, activities, and contemporary architecture – not to mention historic sights.

56a. George Square

George Square

Start your visit on George Square in the city centre. A 25-metre-high statue of Sir Walter Scott dominates the square, but there are also many statues of other famous Scots. The square is the site of the town hall, City Chambers, which was built in 1888 in an exquisite renaissance style. The great entrance rooms and the large halls of the buildings offer interesting sights.

56b. Glasgow Cathedral



Castle Street

www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk

Glasgow Cathedral was founded around the year 1200 and was built up during the next 300 years. Originally Roman Catholic, the church survived the Scottish Reformation, since it quickly became a Protestant church.

The first church on the site was built by the patron saint of Glasgow, Saint Mungo, in 543, and his tomb can be seen in the crypt of the current church. The stained-glass windows of the church are from the last part of the 20th century.

56c. Glasgow Museums



www.glasgowmuseums.com

Glasgow offers a wide range of museums. There is something for everyone. There are several art museums: The Burrell Collection (Pollok Country Park) contains more than 9,000 articles collected by Sir William Burrell and his wife Lady Constance Burrell. You can see works by Degas and Cézanne, and art from ancient China, Greece, Egypt, and Rome.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum (Argyle Street) is the home of one of the finest art collections in the country as well as several exhibitions. The museum has the largest number of visitors in Scotland. The Gallery of Modern Art (Exchange Square) is located in the beautiful neo-classicist building, the Stirling Library. It exhibits Scottish and international art of an extremely high standard.

St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art (Castle Street 2) describes the religions of the world through many beautiful works of art. The museum is located in a huge fieldstone building on the site of the palace of the Archbishops of the diocese of Glasgow.

The Provand's Lordship Museum (Castle Street 3) is located in the oldest building of the city. It was built in 1471 and displays interiors from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

The Museum of Transport (Bunhouse Road 1) describes and displays Scottish and international means of transport. Fossil Grove (Victoria Park) is situated in the lovely Victoria Park and exhibits fossils that are 330 million years old.

57. Loch Lomond

Balloch, 110 km W

www.lochlomondshores.com

www.sealifeeurope.com

www.maidoftheloch.co.uk

Songs have been sung about the Loch Lomond Lake, and it is undoubtedly one of Scotland's natural wonders. Loch Lomond is situated on the border between the Highlands in the north and the relatively lower (but still hilly) landscapes in the south, the Lowlands.

Balloch at the southern point of the lake is a good place to start and is also the home of the visitor's centre, Loch Lomond Shores, where you can get information on the lake and the opportunities to take trips on and around the lake.

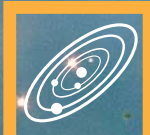
Located near the visitor's centre is the aquarium, Sea-Life, which contains examples of Scottish marine life. From the aquarium, you can go on a tour on the lake aboard the charming old steamers. If you want to take a walk along the lake and see the mountains, the village of Balhama on the east coast is an excellent place. Here, you will find a path along the lake, and it is also possible to hike in the mountains.



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With children in Edinburgh

Deep Sea World (North Queensferry, 18 km NW):
www.deepseaworld.com

Dynamic Earth (Holyrood Road):
www.dynamicearth.co.uk

Edinburgh Dungeon (31 Market Street):
www.thedungeons.com

Edinburgh Zoo (Corstorphine Road):
www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

Movies'n'Motors (Ingliston, 10 km W):
www.moviesnmotors.com

Museum of Childhood (42 High Street, Royal Mile):
www.cac.org.uk

Museum of Flight (East Fortune Airfield):
www.nms.ac.uk

Shopping in Edinburgh

Leith Street, Nicolson Street, Princes Street, Royal Mile (Lawnmarket och High Street)
Cameron Toll Shopping Centre (6 Lady Road):
www.camerontoll.co.uk

Gyle Shopping Centre (21 Gyle Avenue):
www.gyleshopping.co.uk

Jenners Department Store (48 Princes Street):
www.houseoffraser.co.uk

Ocean Terminal (Ocean Drive, Leith):
www.oceanterminal.com

St. James Shopping Centre (Leith Street):
www.stjamesshopping.com

Public transport in Edinburgh

Edinburgh's city transport:
www.lothianbuses.co.uk

Edinburgh Airport:
www.baa.com/main/airports/edinburgh

British Rail:
www.rail.co.uk

Facts about The United Kingdom



Political

Official name	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Capital	London
Form of government	Constitutional monarchy
Head of state	Queen Elizabeth II
Head of Government	Prime Minister Gordon Brown
National Day	23 April (England)
Achieved independence	Has never been governed by other countries
Primary religions	Christianity
Language	English
Area	244 820 km ²
Population (2001)	58 789 000

Borders on

North	The Atlantic Ocean, The North Sea
South	The English Channel, Strait of Dover
East	The North Sea
West	The Atlantic Ocean, Irish Sea, Ireland

Highest mountains

Ben Nevis	1 344 meters
Ben Macdhui	1 309 meters
Braeriach	1 296 meters
Cairn Toul	1 291 meters
Sgor an Lochain Uaine	1 258 meters
Cairn Gorm	1 244 meters
Aonach Beag	1 234 meters
Càrn Mor Dearg	1 223 meters
Aonach Mòr	1 221 meters
Ben Lawers	1 214 meters

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Largest islands

Great Britain	216 777 km ²
Lewis with Harris	2 179 km ²
Isle of Skye	1 656 km ²
Mainland Shetland Hebrides	969 km ²
Mull	875 km ²
Anglesey	714 km ²
Islay	620 km ²
Mainland Orkney Islands	523 km ²
Arran	432 km ²
Isle of Wright	381 km ²

Largest lakes

Lough Neagh	382 km ²
Lower Lough Erne	105 km ²
Loch Lomond	71 km ²
Loch Ness	57 km ²
Upper Lough Erne	44 km ²
Loch Awe	39 km ²
Loch Maree	29 km ²
Loch Morar	27 km ²
Loch Tay	26 km ²
Loch Shin	23 km ²

Longest rivers

River Severn	354 km
River Thames	346 km
River Trent	297 km
River Great Ouse	230 km
River Wye	215 km
River Tay	188 km
River Spey	172 km
River Clyde	172 km
River Tweed	155 km

Largest cities (2006)	
London	8 279 000
Birmingham	2 284 000
Manchester	2 240 000
Leeds/Bradford	1 499 000
Glasgow	1 168 000
Newcastle	880 000
Liverpool	816 000
Nottingham	666 000
Sheffield	641 000
Bristol	551 000

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Administrative divisions

Provinces	Area	Capital
England	London	130 395 km ²
Northern Ireland	Belfast	13 843 km ²
Scotland	Edinburgh	78 772 km ²
Wales	Cardiff	20 779 km ²

Monarchs since 1707

Anne	1707-1714
George I	1714-1727
George II	1727-1760
George III	1760-1820
George IV	1820-1830
William IV	1830-1837
Victoria	1837-1901
Edward VII	1901-1910
George V	1910-1936
Edward VIII	1936-1936
George VI	1936-1952
Elizabeth II	1952-

Prime Ministers since 1945

Winston Churchill	1940-1945 and 1951-1955
Clement Attlee	1945-1951
Anthony Eden	1955-1957
Harold Macmillan	1957-1963
Alec Douglas-Home	1963-1964
Harold Wilson	1964-1970 and 1974-1976
Edward Heath	1970-1974
James Callaghan	1976-1979
Margaret Thatcher	1979-1990
John Major	1990-1997
Tony Blair	1997-2007
Gordon Brown	2007-

Holidays and commemorative days *

1 January	New Year's Day
Easter day/Easter Sunday -2 days	Good Friday
Varying dates	Easter Day
Easter Day + 1 day	Easter Monday
First Monday in May	May Day
Last Monday in May	Spring Bank Holiday
25 December (or first weekday)	Christmas Day (Holiday)
26 December (or second weekday)	Boxing Day (Holiday)

* additional holidays vary from country to country

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Various facts

Currency	British pounds sterling
Currency code	GBP
Time zone	GMT (UTC+0)
Country postal code	GB
Internet domain	.uk
Telephone country code	+44

Climate - London	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	4.9	62
February	4.6	36
March	7.1	50
April	9.0	43
May	12.6	45
June	15.6	46
July	18.4	46
August	17.8	44
September	15.2	43
October	12.0	73
November	7.7	45
December	6.1	59

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Manchester	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	3.1	71
February	4.0	59
March	5.6	58
April	8.1	52
May	11.6	62
June	14.4	71
July	15.8	87
August	15.6	93
September	13.4	82
October	10.1	93
November	6.1	85
December	4.3	87

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Edinburgh	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	3.1	55
February	3.3	41
March	5.2	47
April	7.1	39
May	9.9	50
June	12.8	50
July	14.5	64
August	14.3	69
September	12.3	63
October	9.6	62
November	5.8	63
December	4.1	61

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Belfast	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	4.1	83
February	4.4	55
March	5.6	59
April	7.7	51
May	10.5	56
June	13.4	65
July	14.7	79
August	14.5	78
September	12.5	82
October	9.4	85
November	6.2	75
December	4.7	84

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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Climate - Cardiff	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	4.5	91
February	4.4	64
March	6.0	73
April	8.0	52
May	11.1	62
June	14.0	65
July	16.0	69
August	15.9	77
September	14.0	83
October	11.2	93
November	7.4	98
December	5.6	95

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!