

2-day Edinburgh Itinerary

Edinburgh

Edinburgh: A Journey Through History and Culture

Welcome to Edinburgh, Scotland's majestic capital, where medieval history meets Georgian elegance. This comprehensive 2-day guide will immerse you in the city's rich heritage, stunning architecture, and vibrant culture, perfect for first-time visitors.

Historical Overview

Edinburgh has been Scotland's capital since the 15th century, featuring a dramatic landscape where the Old Town's medieval fortress sits atop volcanic rock, contrasting with the New Town's Georgian grandeur. This UNESCO World Heritage site seamlessly blends its historic charm with modern vitality.

Iconic Landmarks

- **Edinburgh Castle:** A historic fortress dominating the city skyline from its perch on Castle Rock.
- **Holyrood Palace:** The official residence of the British monarch in Scotland.
- **St. Giles' Cathedral:** A stunning example of Gothic architecture in the heart of the Royal Mile.
- **Scott Monument:** A Victorian Gothic monument dedicated to Sir Walter Scott.

Cultural Treasures

- **National Museum of Scotland:** A treasure trove of Scottish history and world cultures.
- **Royal Yacht Britannia:** The former royal yacht of Queen Elizabeth II.
- **Scottish National Gallery:** Home to Scotland's finest collection of art.
- **Camera Obscura:** A fascinating world of optical illusions and city views.

Charming Neighborhoods

- **Victoria Street:** A picturesque curved street known for its colorful shops.
- **Dean Village:** A tranquil former milling village by the Water of Leith.
- **Grassmarket:** A historic market place with stunning castle views.
- **Stockbridge:** A village-like neighborhood known for its boutiques and cafes.

Edinburgh Lifestyle

- Cuisine: Sample traditional Scottish fare, from haggis to whisky.
- Café Culture: Enjoy cozy cafés where J.K. Rowling wrote Harry Potter.
- Shopping: From Royal Mile souvenirs to Princes Street fashion.

Green Spaces

- Princes Street Gardens: Beautiful gardens beneath Edinburgh Castle.
- Royal Botanic Garden: A peaceful haven of diverse plant life.
- Arthur's Seat: An ancient volcano offering panoramic city views.

Practical Travel Tips

- Transportation: The city center is walkable; buses and trams available for longer distances.
- Best Times to Visit: Summer (June-August) for festivals or Spring/Fall for fewer crowds.
- Language: English is widely spoken with a distinctive Scottish accent.
- Weather: Pack layers and rain gear regardless of season.

2-Day Itinerary Highlights

Day 1: Edinburgh Castle, St. Giles' Cathedral, Holyrood Palace, Victoria Street, The Vennel

Day 2: National Museum of Scotland, Scott Monument, Dean Village, Princes Street Gardens, Royal Yacht Britannia

This guide presents a curated selection of over 30 locations, allowing you to customize your Edinburgh experience. Each stop offers insight into the city's rich history and cultural heritage.

Edinburgh is more than just a destination; it's a journey through time where every cobblestone tells a story. As you explore the winding closes, marvel at gothic spires, and experience the warmth of Scottish hospitality, you'll understand why Edinburgh captures the hearts of visitors from around the world.

Let this enchanting city inspire your imagination and create lasting memories during your stay. Enjoy your adventure in Edinburgh!



Itinerary Preview

2 days

DAY 01

Edinburgh Castle

St Giles' Cathedral

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Victoria Street

DAY 02

National Museum of Scotland

Scott Monument

Dean Village

Princes Street Gardens





Daily Events



Day 1

09:00

Edinburgh Castle

Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NG, UK

11:00

11:45

St Giles' Cathedral

High St, Edinburgh EH1 1RE, UK

13:45

14:30

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DX, UK

16:30

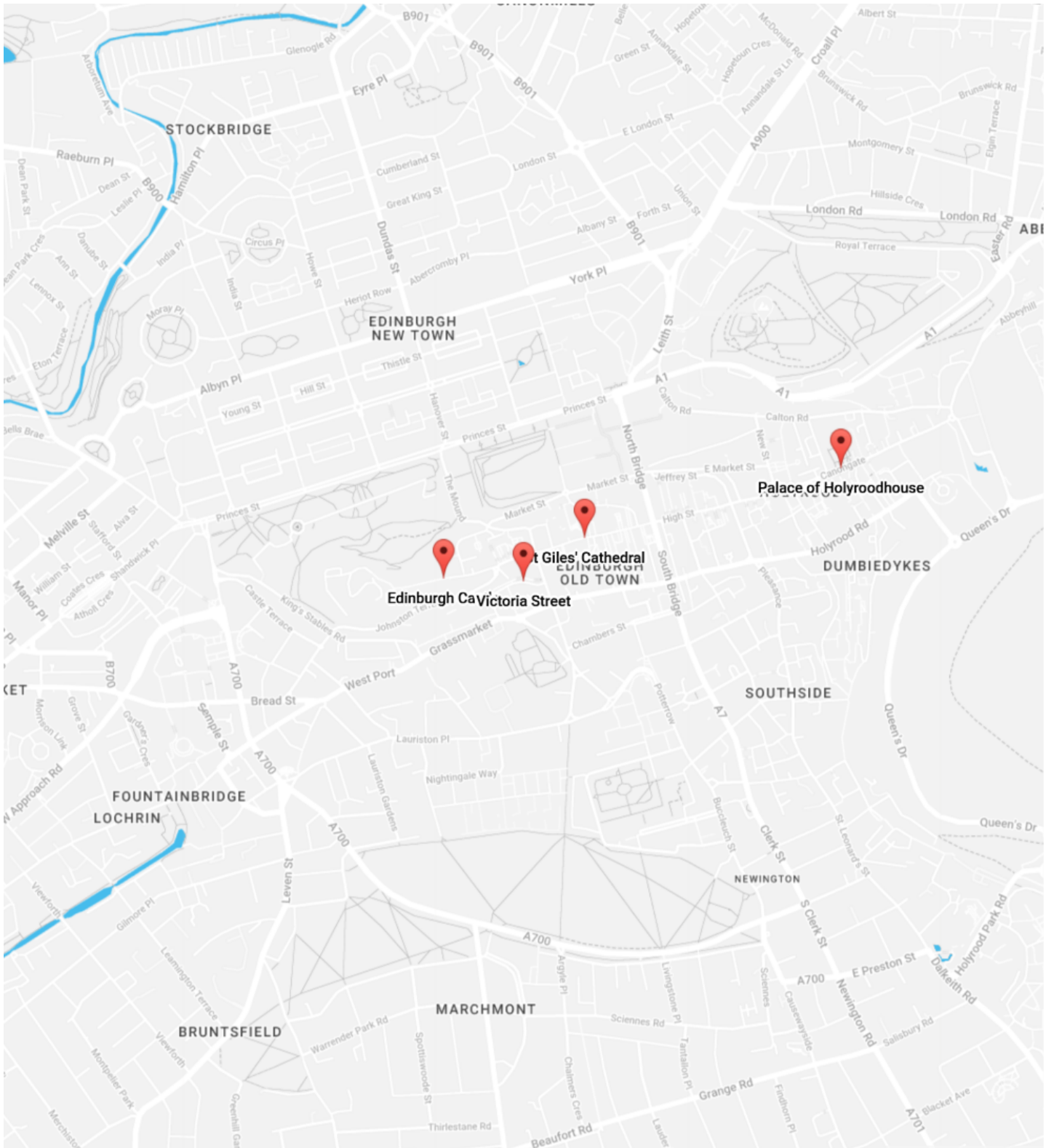
17:15

Victoria Street

Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1, UK

19:15

Map for Day 1



Day 2

09:00

National Museum of Scotland

Chambers St, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, UK

11:00

11:45

Scott Monument

E. Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh EH2 2EJ, UK

13:45

14:30

Dean Village

Dean Path, Edinburgh EH4 3AY, UK

16:30

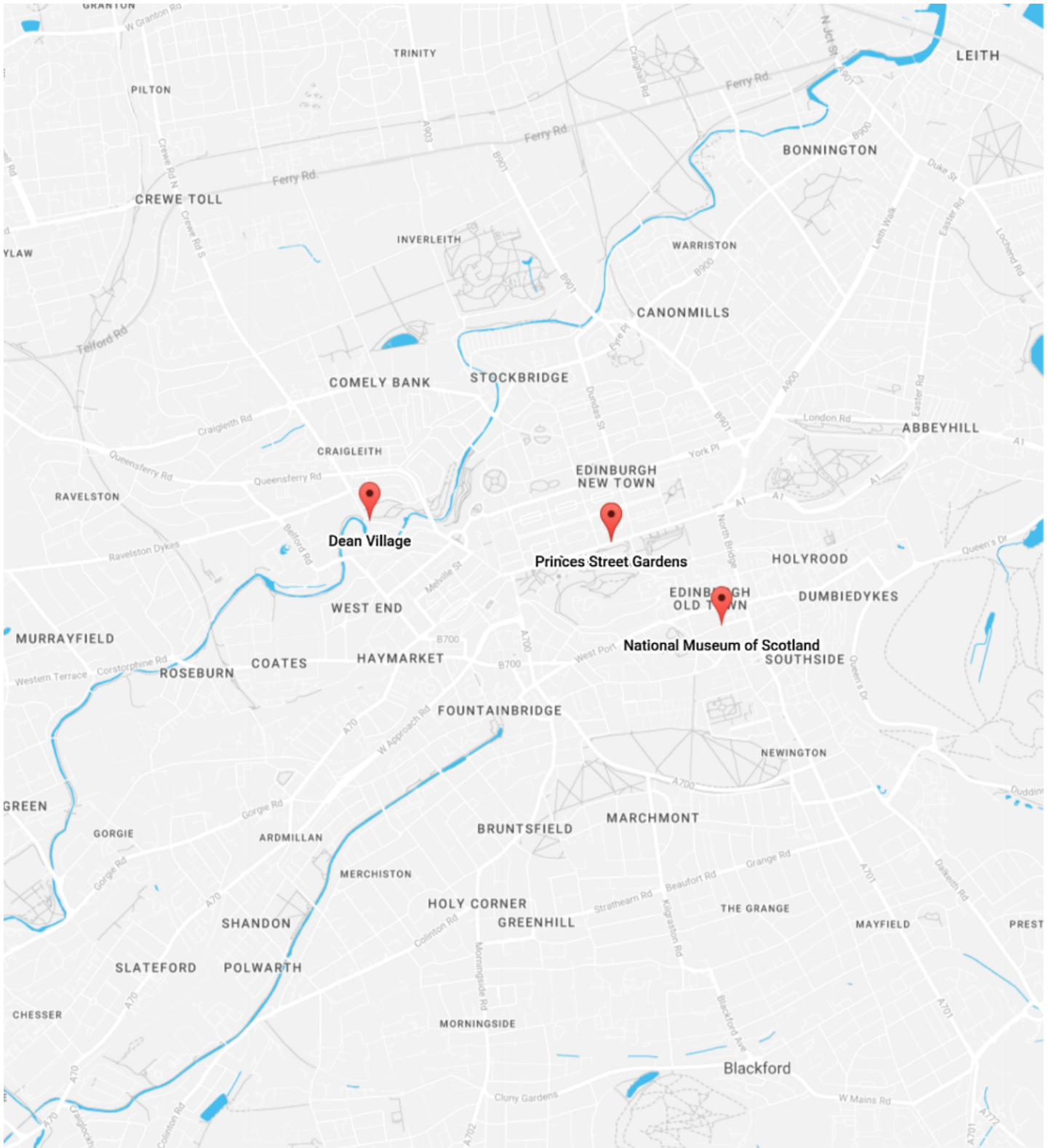
17:15

Princes Street Gardens

Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 2HG, UK

19:15

Map for Day 2





Spots



Fruitmarket

45 Market St, Edinburgh EH1 1DF, UK

Summary:

Bright contemporary art space for local and international exhibitions, with cafe and bookshop.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Phone:

0131 225 2383



Inverleith

Inverleith, Edinburgh EH3 5QD, UK



Ocean Terminal

74 Ocean Dr, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ, UK

Summary:

Airy, contemporary, waterfront mall with mainstream stores, modern dining, cinema and soft play.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Phone:

0131 555 8888



Leith Walk

Leith Walk, Edinburgh, UK



Broughton Street

Broughton St, Edinburgh, UK

Summary:

Charming street with a cluster of antique & vintage shops, clothing boutiques & restaurants.



Dynamic Earth

Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh EH8 8AS, UK

Summary:

State-of-the-art family attraction taking visitors through history from the Big Bang to modern day.

Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Phone:

0131 550 7800



The Lyceum

30b Grindlay St, Edinburgh EH3 9AX, UK

Summary:

Prestigious production company and theatre for new drama and touring shows with season ticket deals.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: Closed

Phone:

0131 248 4848



Cramond Island

Cramond Island EH4 6NU, UK

Summary:

Island connected to mainland by causeway at low tide, popular for walks & exploring WWII structures.



Stockbridge Market

Saunders St, Edinburgh EH3 6TQ, UK

Summary:

Sunday food market featuring artisanal goods from local producers & stalls for global street fare.

Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: Closed
Friday: Closed
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Phone:

0131 261 6181



The Queen's Hall

85-89 Clerk St, Newington, Edinburgh EH8 9JG, UK

Summary:

Former chapel, now a 900 capacity venue for classical and jazz concerts and occasional rock gigs.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

Phone:

0131 668 2019



Grassmarket

Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1, UK

Summary:

Sloping Old Town street & former 15th-century livestock market with pubs, boutiques & restaurants.



The Usher Hall

Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2EA, UK

Summary:

Acclaimed auditorium hosting classical music, with occasional jazz, comedy and pop shows.

Phone:

0131 228 1155



Greyfriars Bobby's Bar

30-34 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QE, UK

Summary:

With the statue of loyal hound Bobby outside, the historic local serves cask ales and pub fare.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Tuesday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Wednesday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Thursday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Friday: 12:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Saturday: 12:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Sunday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Phone:

0131 225 8328



Camera Obscura & World of Illusions

549 Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2ND, UK

Summary:

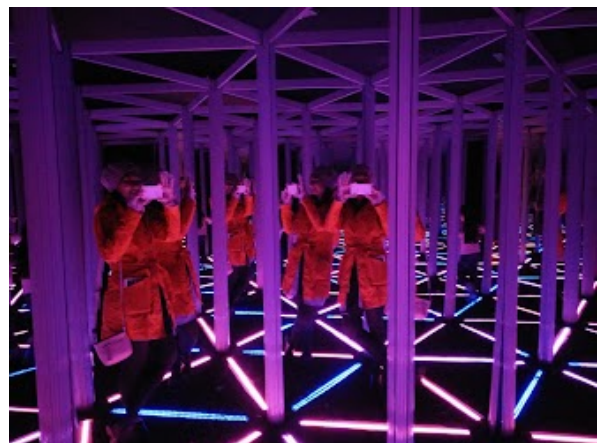
Long-standing tower with 5 floors showcasing hands-on exhibits of whimsical optical illusions.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Tuesday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Thursday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Friday: 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Phone:

0131 226 3709



Arthur's Seat

Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh EH15 3PY, UK

Summary:

Mountain offering hikes from moderate to advanced, plus panoramic city & Firth of Forth views.



Edinburgh Castle

Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NG, UK

Summary:

An 11th-century castle and barracks housing the Crown Jewels and National War Museum of Scotland.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

0131 225 9846



Calton Hill

Calton Hill, Edinburgh EH7 5BN, UK

Summary:

Prominent hill with neoclassical monuments & sweeping views of the city skyline & Edinburgh Castle.



The Scotch Whisky Experience

354 Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NE, UK

Summary:

Long-running attraction for a journey through the world of Scotch whisky with tours, a shop & a restaurant.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM

Phone:

0131 220 0441



Scott Monument

E. Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh EH2 2EJ, UK

Summary:

Spirelike Victorian memorial in honour of the writer Sir Walter Scott, with 287 steps to the top.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, 1:45 - 3:30 PM

Phone:

0131 529 4068



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Edinburgh EH3 5NZ, UK

Summary:

Manicured 70-acre gardens with palm house and temporary exhibitions, kids' events, tours and cafes.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Phone:

0131 248 2909



Dean Village

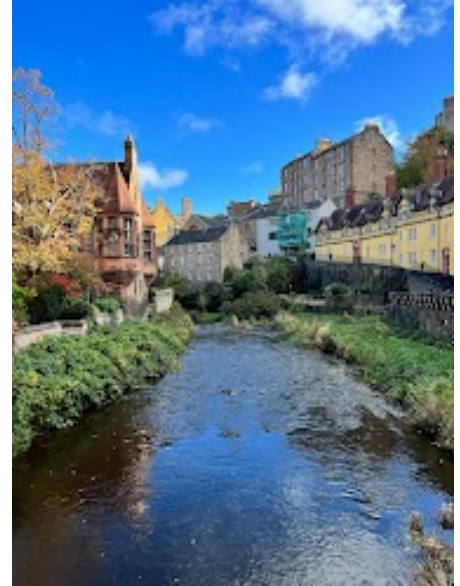
Dean Path, Edinburgh EH4 3AY, UK

Summary:

Bucolic village abutting a tranquil stream, with gardens, 19th-century buildings & a museum.

Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours
Tuesday: Open 24 hours
Wednesday: Open 24 hours
Thursday: Open 24 hours
Friday: Open 24 hours
Saturday: Open 24 hours
Sunday: Open 24 hours



St Giles' Cathedral

High St, Edinburgh EH1 1RE, UK

Summary:

Grand, Gothic medieval building & Presbyterian place of worship where John Knox used to preach.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Phone:

0131 226 0674



Surgeons' Hall Museums

Surgeons Hall Museums, Nicolson St, Edinburgh EH8 9DW, UK

Summary:

Classical 1832 building housing 18th-century anatomy specimens & visiting medical exhibitions.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Phone:

0131 527 1711

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DX, UK

Summary:

The 16th-century palace of the Stuarts, with tours of royal reception rooms, antiques & relics.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone:

0303 123 7306



Palace of Holyroodhouse

Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DX, UK

Summary:

The 16th-century palace of the Stuarts, with tours of royal reception rooms, antiques & relics.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone:

0303 123 7306



Princes Street Gardens

Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 2HG, UK

Summary:

Green Flag park of geological/botanical interest, home to several public monuments and memorials.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Tuesday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Thursday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Friday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Saturday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM - 9:35 PM

Phone:

0131 529 7921



The Royal Yacht Britannia

Ocean Dr, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ, UK

Summary:

Large oceanic liner used by Britain's royal family on official state visits for more than 40 years.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Phone:

0131 555 5566



Museum of Edinburgh

142-146 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DD, UK

Summary:

Reproductions of the city's social and industrial history in a cluster of fine historic buildings.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

0131 529 4143



Victoria Street

Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1, UK

Summary:

Charming street built in the 1800s featuring quaint, old-fashioned landmarks, shops & eateries.



Vennel

Vennel, Edinburgh, UK



National Museum of Scotland

Chambers St, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, UK

Summary:

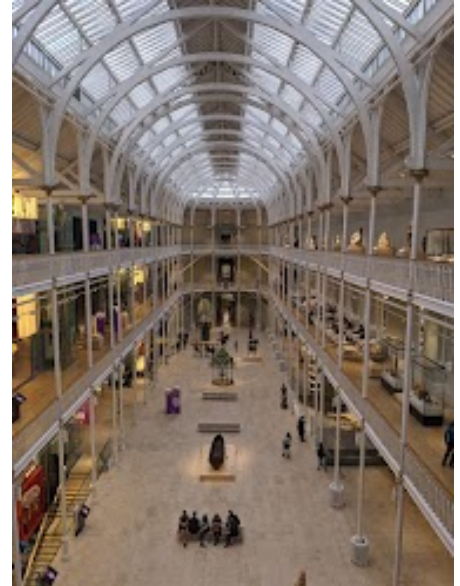
Bright, modern museum housing Scottish industrial history relics, natural history displays & a cafe.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

0300 123 6789



National Galleries of Scotland: National

The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL, UK

Summary:

National collection including European masterpieces & Scottish works, with seasonal exhibitions.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

0131 624 6200

