



New Town Hotel's Guide to Edinburgh

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NEW TOWN HOTEL



The History of Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a city built on stories. From ancient volcanic rock to the grand Georgian streets, every corner holds a piece of Scotland's past. The city began as a fortress on Castle Rock, gradually growing into the winding lanes of the Old Town.

By the 18th century, Edinburgh blossomed into the "Athens of the North," a centre of learning, literature, philosophy, and architecture.

This era gave rise to the elegant New Town — now part of Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage status.

Today, Edinburgh blends medieval charm with modern creativity. Its festivals draw visitors from around the world, while its narrow closes and grand squares continue to inspire writers, artists, and dreamers.

Fun facts

- 1 Edinburgh Castle is built on an extinct volcano.
- 2 The city has more listed buildings than anywhere else in the UK outside London.
- 3 J.K. Rowling wrote much of Harry Potter here.
- 4 The Royal Mile isn't exactly a mile; it's about 1.12 miles long.
- 5 Edinburgh hosts the world's largest arts festival – The Fringe.





Sightseeing

- 1 Edinburgh Castle - Sitting proudly above the city, the Castle offers sweeping views and centuries of royal history. Allow 1–2 hours.
- 2 The royal mile - A lively street connecting the Castle to Holyrood Palace, filled with shops, hidden closes, and street performers.
- 3 Holyrood Palace - The King's official Scottish residence. Explore beautifully preserved rooms and gardens.
- 4 Arthur's seat - A gentle hike up an ancient volcano with some of the best views in town. Great for sunrise or sunset.
- 5 Scott monument - A striking Gothic tower honouring Sir Walter Scott. Climb the stairs for impressive views.
- 6 National Museum of Scotland - Free entry and suitable for all ages — from natural history to world cultures.
- 7 Dean village - a tranquil, historic riverside enclave along the Water of Leith, known for its picturesque stone buildings, leafy paths, and charming escape from Edinburgh's city bustle.



Activities

- 1 Edinburgh Zoo - Home to over 1,000 animals and the famous penguin parade.
- 2 Camera Obscura & World of Illusions - Fun for families — a mix of optical illusions, mirror mazes, and rooftop views.
- 3 The Scotch Whisky Experience - A smooth introduction to Scotland's national drink, with guided tasting experiences.
- 4 Edinburgh Dungeon - Interactive, spooky, and surprisingly funny.
- 5 Ghost Tours - Explore Edinburgh's darker past with underground vaults and haunted tales.
- 6 Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - A peaceful escape filled with beautiful plants and glasshouses.



Day trips – exploring beyond Edinburgh

- 1 Glasgow (50 minutes by train) - Vibrant art scene, fantastic museums, and great shopping. Don't miss the Kelvingrove Museum.
- 2 St Andrews (1 hr 20 min) - A charming coastal town known for its university, beaches, and the Old Course — the home of golf.
- 3 Stirling (45 minutes) - Visit Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument for a deep dive into Scotland's medieval history.
- 4 Dundee (1 hr 15 min) - Modern waterfront, V&A Dundee, and growing food culture.
- 5 The Borders (1 hour) - Rolling countryside, abbey ruins, and quaint towns like Melrose and Kelso.

'Our recommendations for food'

- 1 New Town Hotel Bar & Restaurant
- 2 Fazenda
- 3 Chaophraya
- 4 Six by Nico
- 5 Dishoom
- 6 Angels with Bagpipes
- 7 Tattu
- 8 Ka Pao
- 9 The Scran & Scallie



‘Our recommendations for drinks’

- 1 New Town Hotel Bar
- 2 Cold Town House
- 3 Bramble Bar
- 4 Botanist
- 5 Alchemist
- 6 The Fox and Faun
- 7 Encore
- 8 Indigo Yard
- 9 Molly Malones

Nightlife

- 1 West Side Rodeo
- 2 Manahatta
- 3 Freddies
- 4 Boston Bar

Shopping

- 1 St James Quarter - Edinburgh’s newest shopping destination with major brands, eateries, and a modern indoor design.
- 2 Multrees Walk - Home to luxury names like Harvey Nichols, Burberry, and Louis Vuitton.
- 3 Princes Street - Famous for high-street shopping with stunning views of the Old Town.
- 4 George Street - Stylish boutiques, designer brands, and elegant cafés.
- 5 Grassmarket & Victoria Street - Colourful, independent shops perfect for gifts and unique finds.
- 6 The Royal Mile - A mix of craft shops, Scottish goods, and traditional souvenirs.
- 7 Stockbridge Market (Sundays) - Artisanal food, crafts, and a local atmosphere.

Get in touch



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