



24 Hours in Edinburgh

Edinburgh is undoubtedly one of the most unique, culturally diverse and historically rich cities in the world. It captures the heart, mind and imagination of all who are lucky enough to wander through its cosmopolitan streets, medieval closes or discover any of its many hidden gems.

We have carefully created a handy **24 hour itinerary** to help you experience the best of what Edinburgh has to offer.

08:00 Princes Street Gardens

Princes St, EH2 2HG

Rise and shine. Let's start our list of what to do with a gentle and relaxing stroll in Princes Street Gardens. Resting in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, this beautiful public park separates the New Town from the Old Town. Explore the tiered gardens and discover statues, monuments and stunning floral displays. In summer, be sure to look out for the floral clock as you enter the gardens at the foot of the Mound. During the summer months the gardens are a popular choice for those wishing to relax in the sunshine with a book, picnic or a cup of tea in the outdoor cafe. Take a moment to enjoy the gardens in the early morning light.

09:00 Scott Monument

E. Princes St Gardens, EH2 2EJ

Time to work off some of those breakfast calories with a bit of a climb - 200 feet, or 287 steps to be exact! It's worth it. The views across the capital from the top of this sandstone tower are spectacular. Constructed as a tribute to author Sir Walter Scott, it is the largest monument to a writer anywhere in the world and has dominated the Princes Street skyline since its completion in 1846. Bill Bryson likened it to a 'gothic rocket ship', and as you approach you'll see just how appropriate his description is. It's possible to stop at various levels as you climb so catch your breath and enjoy the changing vistas at each landing stage. As you reach the top, soak up the magnificent view that lies ahead. It will be the first of many fabulous attractions that you'll enjoy today.

11:00 National Galleries of Scotland

The Mound, EH2 2EL

Just two minutes walk from the Scott Monument, at the foot of The Mound, you'll find the National Galleries of Scotland complex. Comprised of the Royal Scottish Academy building and the National Gallery of Scotland. Made up of two magnificent neo-classical designs by William Henry Playfair, it houses works by many old masters, including Titian, Da Vinci, Raphael and Vermeer, as well as other pre-eminent artists such as Monet, Degas, Constable, Turner and Cezanne. Best of all, entry is free (although there is sometimes a small charge for dedicated exhibitions)! There are three other buildings that make up the NGS – the Dean Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art in the West End, and the National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street.

12.30 Lunch at the Scottish Café

The Mound, EH2 2EL

You won't have to go far to sample some of this finest Scottish fare. Located on the ground floor of the National Galleries, overlooking the magnificent Princes St Gardens is the award winning Scottish Cafe & Restaurant which offers fresh, simple, sustainable Scottish food. More than sixty Scottish artisan producers supply the restaurant with an ever changing choice of the finest seasonal ingredients. The café also uses produce grown from their Scottish Kitchen Garden, an acre of land five miles from the restaurant. The harvest from the garden is showcased on the monthly changing menu.

14.00 National Museum of Scotland

Chambers Street, EH1 1JF

Directly across the road from Greyfriars Bobby is the National Museum of Scotland housing collections celebrating the nation's culture, history and people. It's a great way to explore Scottish history from the primeval age right up to the modern era, and the 360 degree views of Edinburgh from the roof garden are spectacular. Entry is free but some featured exhibitions may carry a cover charge.

16:00 Edinburgh Castle

Castlehill, EH1 2NG

The number one choice for tourists in Edinburgh, a trip to the capital isn't complete without a visit to the city's most iconic landmark – Edinburgh Castle. Towering over the city, perched majestically on top of a volcanic outcrop, you can see it from miles around. Aim for last entry, because that's arguably the best time to enjoy what the Castle has to offer, as it's usually quieter, and offers the chance to look out over the city below as dusk falls. There is a lot on show at the Castle though so if

you're desperate to see absolutely everything; it might be worth considering going in the morning, or at least a little earlier, instead.

18:00 Dinner at The Dome

14 George Street, EH2 2PF

Foodies will love Edinburgh's eclectic mix of dining choices. In a city littered with award-winning eateries, and top restaurants, not to mention the most Michelin stars outside of London, you certainly won't go hungry. With so much to choose from, we'd suggest stopping off at The Dome, located in George Street in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town. Originally the old Physicians Hall (1775) and then a bank, it reopened in 1996 and is now a renowned bar and restaurant – a superb venue to meet friends and colleagues for coffee, cocktails, lunch or dinner.

20:00pm: The Real Mary King's Close

2 Warriston's Close, High Street, EH1 1PG

The Real Mary King's Close is buried deep beneath Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The city's deepest secret; a warren of hidden streets that have remained frozen in time since the 17th Century. For years, the hidden closes of Old Town Edinburgh have been shrouded in myths and mysteries, with blood curdling tales of ghosts and murders, and of plague victims being walled up and left to die, come and hear these fascinating stories.

22.30 The Grassmarket

Grassmarket, EH1 2JR

Following the ghostly goings-on you might be in need of a stiff drink to calm your nerves. Fortunately the bustling Grassmarket is close at hand. With an excellent selection of lively pubs and bars in the area you can be assured of a warm Scottish welcome at all times. Originally a marketplace for horse and cattle from the 14th century right up until the early 19th century, the Grassmarket was also renowned for its public executions and is undoubtedly the historic heart of the city.

There are few cities in the world more distinctively iconic than Edinburgh and we've put this pack together to provide just a snapshot of what our stunning city has to offer. There is even more information available on our local guide to Edinburgh www.thisisedinburgh.com.