



Edinburgh

POP 430,000 / AREA 116 SQ KM

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Best Places to Eat

- » Tower (p775)
- » The Dogs (p776)
- » Ondine (p775)
- » Porto & Fi (p775)
- » Café Marlayne (p777)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Missoni (p773)
- » Sheridan Guest House (p775)
- » Southside Guest House (p774)
- » B+B Edinburgh (p774)
- » Ardmor House (p775)

Why Go?

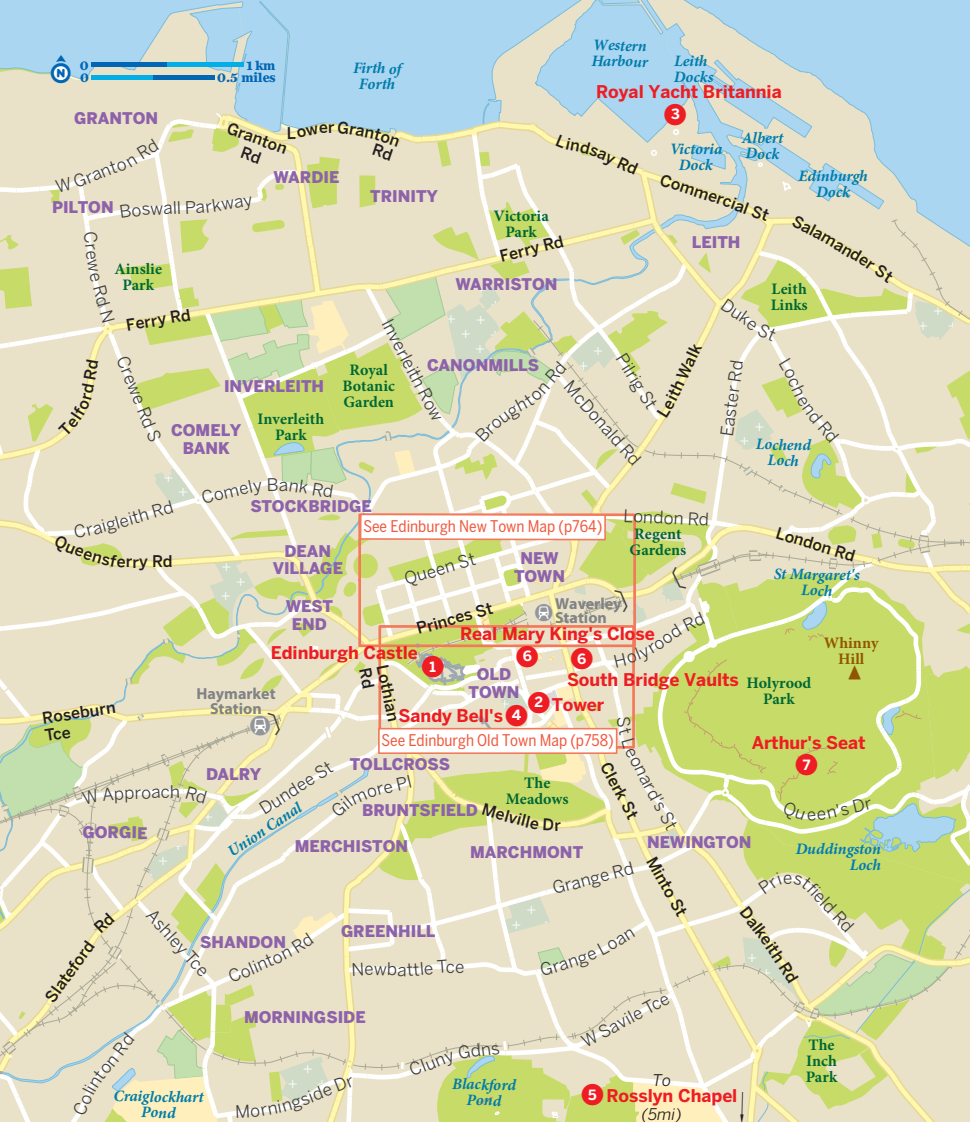
Edinburgh is a city that begs to be explored. From the vaults and wynds (narrow lanes) that riddle the Old Town to the urban villages of Stockbridge and Cramond, it's filled with quirky come-hither nooks that tempt you to walk just a little bit further. And every corner turned reveals sudden views and unexpected vistas – green sunlit hills, a glimpse of rust-red crags, a blue flash of distant sea.

But there's more to Edinburgh than sightseeing – there are top shops, world-class restaurants and a bacchanalia of bars to enjoy. This is a city of pub crawls and impromptu music sessions, mad-for-it clubbing and all-night parties, overindulgence, late nights and wandering home through cobbled streets at dawn.

All these superlatives come together in August at festival time, when it seems as if half the world descends on Edinburgh for one enormous party. If you can possibly manage it, join them.

When to Go

In May there's good weather (usually), flowers and cherry blossom everywhere, and (gasp!) no crowds. August is festival time – crowded and mad, but unmissable. In December there are Christmas decorations, cosy pubs with open fires and ice skating in Princes Street Gardens.



Edinburgh Highlights

- 1 Taking in the views from the battlements of **Edinburgh Castle** (p754)
- 2 Feasting on steak and oysters at the **Tower** (p775) restaurant as the sun sets over the city
- 3 Nosing around the Queen's private quarters on the former **Royal Yacht Britannia** (p766) at Leith
- 4 Listening to live folk music at **Sandy Bell's** (p778)
- 5 Trying to decipher the Da Vinci code at mysterious **Rosslyn Chapel** (p767)
- 6 Exploring Edinburgh's subterranean history in the haunted vaults of **South Bridge** (p761) and **Real Mary King's Close** (p759)
- 7 Climbing to the summit of the city's miniature mountain, **Arthur's Seat** (p761)