



Edinburgh

POP 460,400 / AREA 116 SQ KM

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ The Kitchin (p796)
- ➔ Gardener's Cottage (p795)
- ➔ The Dogs (p796)
- ➔ Ondine (p795)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Witchery by the Castle (p793)
- ➔ Hotel Missoni (p793)
- ➔ Sandaig Guest House (p794)

Why Go?

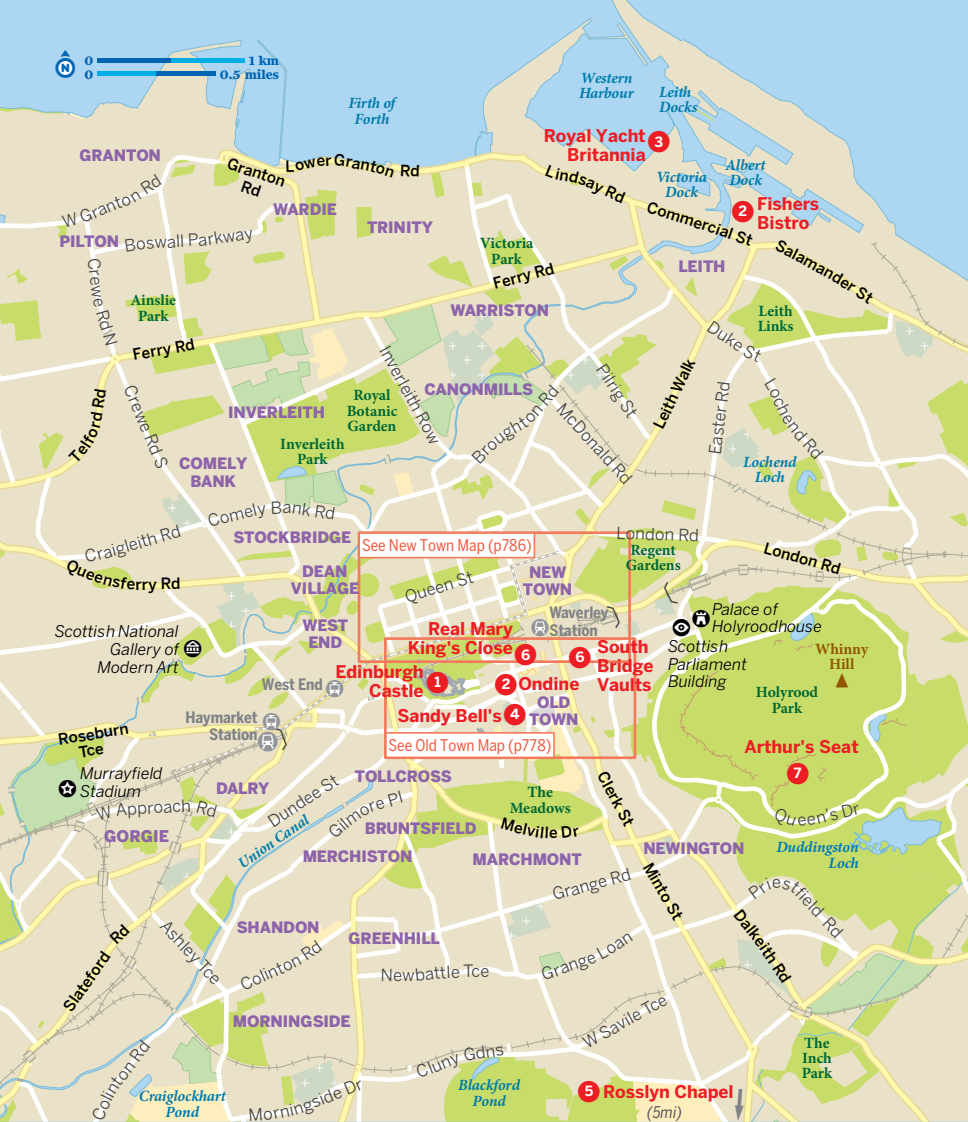
Edinburgh is a city that begs to be explored. From the vaults and wynds (narrow lanes) that riddle the Old Town to the urban villages of Stockbridge and Cramond, it's filled with quirky come-hither nooks that tempt you to walk just a little bit further. And every corner turned reveals sudden views and 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** (p773)
- 2 Enjoying the finest of Scottish seafood at **Ondine** (p795) or **Fishers Bistro** (p796)
- 3 Nosing around the Queen's private quarters on the former **Royal Yacht Britannia** (p785) at Leith
- 4 Listening to live folk music at **Sandy Bell's** (p798)
- 5 Trying to decipher the Da Vinci code at mysterious **Rossllyn Chapel** (p788)
- 6 Exploring Edinburgh's subterranean history in the haunted vaults of **South Bridge** (p784) and **Real Mary King's Close** (p778)
- 7 Climbing to the summit of the city's miniature mountain, **Arthur's Seat** (p780)