



Edinburgh

POP 498,810

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Castle Terrace (p86)
- ➔ Gardener's Cottage (p83)
- ➔ The Dogs (p83)
- ➔ Ondine (p82)
- ➔ Fishers Bistro (p87)
- ➔ Timberyard (p86)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Witchery by the Castle (p76)
- ➔ Knight Residence (p78)
- ➔ Sheridan Guest House (p79)
- ➔ Southside Guest House (p78)
- ➔ Millers 64 (p79)

Why Go?

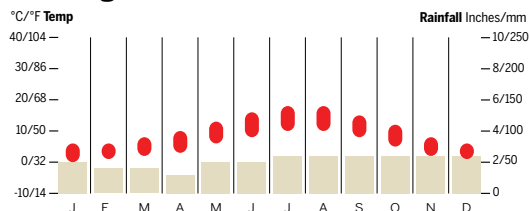
Edinburgh is a city that begs to be explored. From the vaults and wynds (narrow lanes) that riddle the Old Town to the urban villages of Stockbridge and Cramond, it's filled with quirky, come-hither nooks that tempt you to walk just a little bit further. And every corner turned reveals sudden views and 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, late-night drinking, all-night parties and wandering home through cobbled streets at dawn.

All these superlatives come together at festival time in August, 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

Edinburgh



May Good weather (usually), flowers and cherry blossom everywhere and (gasp!) no crowds.

Aug Festival time! Crowded and mad but irresistible.

Dec Christmas decorations, cosy pubs with open fires, ice skating in Princes Street Gardens.



Edinburgh Highlights

- 1 Edinburgh Castle** (p47) Taking in the views from the battlements.
- 2 Royal Yacht Britannia** (p68) Nosing around the Queen's private quarters.
- 3 Arthur's Seat** (p58) Climbing to the summit of the city's miniature mountain.
- 4 Sandy Bell's** (p91) Listening to live folk music.
- 5 Ondine** (p82) Enjoying the finest of Scottish seafood.
- 6 Real Mary King's Close** (p53) Exploring Edinburgh's subterranean history in these haunted vaults.
- 7 Rosslyn Chapel** (p99) Trying to decipher the Da Vinci Code at this mysterious chapel.