Edinburgh  Meander down the Royal Mile, puzzle over Rosslyn Chapel's symbols, explore Edinburgh Castle, sip a whisky (or two); the two days will fly by.

Oxford  Christ Church College, the Bodleian Library, punting and Tolkien's favourite pub does for starters in this extraordinarily atmospheric city. 1¼ hrs to London

London  Go royal (Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle), go cultural (West End theatres, V&A), go shopping (Harrods, Borough Market); just make sure you go. 1 hr to Edinburgh