

TOURIST MAP

Edinburgh Tourist Map

14 top sights, hidden gems and a walking route through the centre. Numbers follow the walking order. Red numbers are worth a separate trip.



● Top sight on the route ● Worth the trip ● Hidden gem — Walking route 4.5 km · 1 h 00

1	Edinburgh Castle	Old Town and the Royal Mile	8	Scott Monument	New Town and Princes Street
2	St Giles' Cathedral	Old Town and the Royal Mile	9	Scottish National Gallery	New Town and Princes Street
3	Mary King's Close	Old Town and the Royal Mile	10	Arthur's Seat	path from Holyrood
4	Royal Mile	Old Town and the Royal Mile	11	National Museum of Scotland	5 min walk
5	Museum of Edinburgh	Old Town and the Royal Mile	12	Surgeons' Hall Museums	7 min walk
6	Palace of Holyroodhouse	Holyrood and Arthur's Seat	13	Royal Yacht Britannia	tram to Ocean Terminal
7	National Monument of Scotland	Calton Hill	14	Dean Village	20 min walk

Getting around

- The centre is walkable, with steep streets and steps: the route on the map walks down the Royal Mile from the castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, climbs Calton Hill by Jacob's Ladder and returns along Princes Street to the Mound.
- Edinburgh Waverley, the main railway station, lies in the valley between the Old Town and the New Town. The tram runs from Edinburgh Airport through Haymarket and Princes Street to St Andrew Square, for Waverley, then down Leith Walk to Ocean Terminal and Newhaven.
- Off the route: the National Museum of Scotland is a 5-minute walk south of St Giles' and Surgeons' Hall Museums a 7-minute walk down South Bridge; paths climb from the palace through Holyrood Park to Arthur's Seat; Dean Village is a 20-minute walk west from the Mound.
- The Royal Yacht Britannia: tram to Ocean Terminal, or Lothian bus 35 from the Canongate and South Bridge or 34 from Princes Street.
- Visitor help in person: the Lothian TravelHubs and the Waverley station information point are listed on <https://touristoffice.org/edinburgh-tourist-office/>

About this map

The sights, photos and descriptions come from touristoffice.org/edinburgh/, where each sight has opening details, tickets and a longer guide. Addresses come from OpenStreetMap. The walking route was computed with the Valhalla pedestrian profile; its time excludes the visits. Hours and access change, check before you go. Edition: October 2026.

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The 14 top sights

In walking order, with the full address of each one. Red numbers are worth a separate trip: they sit outside the centre, so the line below each one gives the transport to use.



1 Edinburgh Castle Old Town and the Royal Mile

Edinburgh Castle crowns Castle Rock, a volcanic plug at the head of the Royal Mile, and, with some 26 recorded sieges, is often called the most besieged place in Britain. Inside stand the Honours of Scotland, the nation's crown jewels, and St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest surviving building in the city. Mons Meg, the giant medieval siege gun, and the Scottish National War Memorial sit within its walls, and the One O'Clock Gun fires across the city every day except Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Address The Esplanade, Edinburgh EH1 2NG

Ticketed, timed entry, open daily from 09:30. Tickets often sell out, so booking ahead is advised.



2 St Giles' Cathedral Old Town and the Royal Mile

St Giles' Cathedral, the High Kirk of Edinburgh, has been a place of worship on the Royal Mile for around 900 years, its founding traditionally dated to 1124. It became the centre of the Scottish Reformation under John Knox, who preached here from 1559, and is often called the mother church of world Presbyterianism. Its distinctive crown steeple is a landmark of the Old Town skyline, and inside, the Thistle Chapel, built between 1909 and 1911 for the Order of the Thistle, is carved with elaborate stalls and heraldry.

Address High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1RE

Ticketed for visitors since 5 October 2026, with free entry for residents of Scotland and under-16s.



3 Mary King's Close Old Town and the Royal Mile

The Real Mary King's Close is a warren of 17th-century streets and houses sealed beneath the City Chambers off the Royal Mile. Once a crowded network of tenements, the closes were partly demolished and built over in the 18th century, leaving rooms and passageways preserved underground. Guided tours led by costumed characters recount daily life, the plague years and the ghost stories the site is known for, including the tale of a girl named Annie. The hour-long walk passes through low, dark spaces on uneven ground.

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

Photo: "Mary King's Close" by Mario RM [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mary_King%27s_Close_\(Mario_RM\)_-_Flickr.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mary_King%27s_Close_(Mario_RM)_-_Flickr.jpg) (CC BY-SA 2.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/).

Ticketed, guided tours only, with booking advised.



4 Royal Mile Old Town and the Royal Mile

The Royal Mile is the spine of Edinburgh's Old Town, a succession of streets running downhill from the Castle esplanade to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. It runs downhill for a little over a mile, and along the way it passes St Giles' Cathedral, the City Chambers and dozens of narrow closes and wynds branching off to either side. Tenements rise above shops, cafes and museums, while the historic Tron Kirk stands on the High Street beside South Bridge. Walking its full length is the classic way to trace the medieval city.

Address Castlehill to Canongate, Old Town, Edinburgh

Free to walk at any hour.



5 Museum of Edinburgh Old Town and the Royal Mile

The Museum of Edinburgh occupies Huntly House, a bright ochre 16th-century merchant's house on the Canongate stretch of the Royal Mile. Its maze of low-ceilinged rooms traces the story of the city through decorative arts, silver and glass, and holds an original copy of the National Covenant of 1638. A favourite exhibit is the collar and feeding bowl of Greyfriars Bobby, the loyal terrier of Edinburgh legend. The Latin mottoes across its facade earned the house the nickname of the Speaking House.

Address 142 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DD

Photo: "Edinburgh, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh Museum" by Allie_Caulfield [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2017-08-26_09-09_Schottland_050_Edinburgh,_The_Royal_Mile,_Edinburgh_Museum_\(37587040512\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2017-08-26_09-09_Schottland_050_Edinburgh,_The_Royal_Mile,_Edinburgh_Museum_(37587040512).jpg) (CC BY 2.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/).

Free, usually open Wednesday to Sunday.



6 Palace of Holyroodhouse Holyrood and Arthur's Seat

The Palace of Holyroodhouse stands at the foot of the Royal Mile and serves as the monarch's official residence in Scotland. Built beside Holyrood Abbey, it is best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots, whose apartments and the chamber where her secretary David Rizzio was murdered can still be seen. The State Apartments, the Great Gallery hung with portraits of Scottish monarchs, and the roofless abbey and gardens make up the visit, with Holyrood Park rising directly behind.

Address Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DX

Ticketed, usually closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. As a working royal residence it can close at short notice, so it is worth checking before a visit.



7 National Monument of Scotland Calton Hill

The National Monument of Scotland crowns Calton Hill, an unfinished replica of the Parthenon begun in 1826 as a memorial to Scots who died in the Napoleonic Wars. Funds ran out after only twelve columns were raised, and the half-built colonnade earned nicknames such as Scotland's Folly. Its classical form helped give Edinburgh its reputation as the Athens of the North, and today it stands among a cluster of monuments on the hill, with wide views over the city, the Firth of Forth and Arthur's Seat.

Address Calton Hill, Edinburgh EH7 5AA

Free. Calton Hill is open to walk at any hour.



8 Scott Monument New Town and Princes Street

The Scott Monument is a Victorian Gothic spire raised in East Princes Street Gardens in memory of Sir Walter Scott, with a marble statue of the writer and his dog Maida beneath its canopy. Joiner George Meikle Kemp won the design contest under the name "John Morvo", then drowned in the Union Canal in 1844, two years before the monument's inauguration. Narrow spiral stairs climb through a series of viewing galleries to the top, high above Princes Street.

Address East Princes Street Gardens, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2DQ

Photo: "City of Edinburgh, Scott Monument" by Olliebailie commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:City_of_Edinburgh_-_Scott_Monument_-_20230412114258.jpg (CC BY-SA 4.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Ticketed guided climb by narrow spiral stairs, with tickets from the kiosk on arrival.



9 Scottish National Gallery New Town and Princes Street

The Scottish National Gallery fills William Playfair's Ionic temple on the Mound, which opened in 1859, nine years after Prince Albert laid its foundation stone. The collection runs from the Renaissance to the late 19th century, with Scottish painting alongside European masters, and Raeburn's *The Skating Minister* is among its best-known works. The building sits between the Old Town and the New Town, above Princes Street Gardens.

Address The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL

Free, some exhibitions ticketed.



10 Arthur's Seat Holyrood and Arthur's Seat

Arthur's Seat is the rocky summit of an extinct volcano rising at the centre of Holyrood Park, directly behind the Palace of Holyroodhouse. At 251 metres it is the highest of Edinburgh's seven hills, and paths climb to it from near the palace, rewarding walkers with sweeping views over the Old Town, the Firth of Forth and the hills of Fife beyond. The surrounding park, edged by the Salisbury Crags escarpment on its western side, stays open all year, its roads closed to motor traffic during the day at weekends.

Address Holyrood Park, Queen's Drive, Edinburgh

Worth a separate trip · 2.0 km SE of the centre · path from Holyrood · Free. The park and its paths are open year round.



11 National Museum of Scotland Grassmarket and the Southside

The National Museum of Scotland on Chambers Street gathers the nation's collections under one roof, from Scottish history and archaeology to natural history, world cultures, science and design. The soaring Victorian Grand Gallery, with its cast-iron columns and glass roof, adjoins a modern sandstone wing, and highlights range from Dolly the Sheep to the Lewis Chessmen. A rooftop terrace looks out over the Old Town. It is one of Scotland's most visited attractions.

Address Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Worth a separate trip · 0.7 km S of the centre · 5 min walk · Free entry, with a charge for some special exhibitions.



12 Surgeons' Hall Museums Grassmarket and the Southside

Surgeons' Hall Museums, run by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, hold one of the oldest medical collections in Scotland. Housed in William Playfair's neoclassical building on Nicolson Street, the galleries cover pathology, the history of surgery and dentistry, with specimens, instruments and the story of the murderers Burke and Hare, including a pocketbook made from William Burke's skin. The displays include human remains, which some visitors may find distressing.

Address Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW

Worth a separate trip · 0.8 km S of the centre · 7 min walk · Ticketed, open daily except over Christmas and New Year, no booking required.



13 Royal Yacht Britannia Leith

The Royal Yacht Britannia carried the Royal Family on state visits and holidays for 44 years and is now moored at Ocean Terminal in Leith. Launched at Clydebank in 1953, she logged over a million nautical miles before decommissioning in 1997, and Charles and Diana honeymooned aboard in 1981. The visit runs through the bridge, the state apartments, the crew's quarters and the engine room.

Address Ocean Terminal, Ocean Drive, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ

Photo: "Royal Yacht Britannia" by Billy McCrorie commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Royal_Yacht_Britannia_-_geograph.org.uk_-_3476258.jpg (CC BY-SA 2.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/).

Worth a separate trip · 3.3 km N of the centre · tram to Ocean Terminal · Ticketed, with an audio tour.



14 Dean Village Dean Village and Stockbridge

Dean Village is a former milling village in the steep valley of the Water of Leith, a short walk from the West End. Grain was milled here for over 800 years, with eleven mills working at one time, and the red sandstone Well Court housing rises above the river. Thomas Telford's Dean Bridge now passes high overhead, and the Water of Leith Walkway follows the river through the village.

Address Bell's Brae, Dean Village, Edinburgh EH4 3BJ

Worth a separate trip · 1.8 km W of the centre · 20 min walk · Free, open streets and riverside path.

32 hidden gems

Smaller places from the same guide, each with its address. Those outside the map frame show their distance from the centre.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Free garden entry, with arboretum, rock garden and woodland paths.

Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ · 1.8 km NW of the centre, outside the map

Grassmarket

This historic market square beneath the Castle rock is free to browse.

Grassmarket, Old Town, Edinburgh EH1 2LJ

William Wallace and Robert the Bruce Statues

Alexander Carrick's Wallace and Thomas Clapperton's Robert the Bruce were set in the castle gatehouse niches in 1929.

Gatehouse, Edinburgh Castle, The Esplanade, Edinburgh EH1 2NG

Miss Jean Brodie Steps

Maggie Smith walked down the Vennel in the 1969 film.

The Vennel, off the Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HU

Lauriston Castle

Rebuilt around 1590, this tower house was left to the nation by William and Margaret Reid.

2 Cramond Road South, Edinburgh EH4 6AD · 5.9 km W of the centre, outside the map

Great Hall Ceiling, Scottish National Portrait Gallery

William Hole painted the Great Hall's ceiling with the constellations of the northern sky in gold against deep blue.

1 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD

Cafe Royal

Planned in 1861 around a ground-floor gas showroom, it became a hotel and oyster bar before opening.

19 West Register Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AA

Camera Obscura & World of Illusions

Maria Short moved her Calton Hill observatory to the Royal Mile in 1853.

549 Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2ND

Old Calton Burial Ground

Opened in 1718, it holds Robert Adam's round tomb for David Hume and a statue of Abraham Lincoln, dedicated in 1893.

27 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3BQ

Cramond Island

Concrete pylons lining its causeway were built as a Second World War anti-boat boom.

Cramond Island causeway, Cramond foreshore, Edinburgh · 7.9 km NW of the centre, outside the map

Bennets Bar

George Lyle designed this pub in 1891.

8 Leven Street, Tollcross, Edinburgh EH3 9LG · 1.6 km SW of the centre, outside the map

Greyfriars Bobby Statue

William Brodie modelled this bronze dog from life for a fountain commissioned by Baroness Burdett-Coutts, unveiled in 1873.

Candlemaker Row at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 2QB

Princes Street Gardens

The valley gardens below the Castle esplanade are a free public park split by the Mound.

Princes Street Gardens, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Witches' Well

John Duncan designed this fountain, commissioned by Patrick Geddes in 1894.

Castlehill, at the foot of the Castle Esplanade, Edinburgh EH1 2NH

Tolbooth Tavern

The pub fills the ground floor of the Canongate Tolbooth, built in 1591 for Sir Lewis Bellenden.

167 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BN

Dolly the Sheep

Born at Roslin in 1996 and named after Dolly Parton, she was the first mammal cloned from an adult cell.

National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

The Writers' Museum

Lady Stair's House, built in 1622, holds a plaster cast of Robert Burns's skull, one of only three made.

Lady Stair's Close, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2PA

Heart of Midlothian

A heart of granite setts marks the Old Tolbooth jail, demolished in 1817.

High Street, outside St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh EH1 1RE

Holyrood Abbey Ruins

Founded by David I in 1128, the abbey lost its roof on 2 December 1768, when new stone vaults proved too heavy for the walls.

Palace of Holyroodhouse, Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DX

The Witchery

Boswell's Court was built for merchant Thomas Lowthian around 1600.

352 Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NF

Arthur's Seat Miniature Coffins

Seventeen tiny coffins with carved figures were found on Arthur's Seat in 1836.

National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Jacob's Ladder

Cut into the volcanic rock of Calton Hill and recorded by 1784, this steep stairway climbs from Calton Road towards Regent Road.

Calton Road to Regent Road, Edinburgh

St Bernard's Well

Alexander Nasmyth designed this rotunda of ten Doric columns in 1789 for Lord Gardenstone, over a mineral spring.

Water of Leith Walkway, by St Bernard's Bridge, Stockbridge, Edinburgh EH3 6AS · 1.4 km W of the centre, outside the map

South Bridge Vaults

South Bridge's 19 arches, finished in 1788, were never waterproofed.

28 Blair Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QR

World's End Close

Said to be the last close before the Canongate, it stands where the Flodden Wall's Netherbow Port stood until 1764.

10 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TE

Dunbar's Close Garden

Seamus Filor designed this 17th-century-style garden with three parterres and yew, box and bay hedges.

137 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BW

Beltane Fire Festival

Begun in 1988, this festival gathers on Calton Hill on 30 April, when the May Queen and Green Man lead a procession to a bonfire.

Calton Hill, Edinburgh EH7 5AA

Dr Neil's Garden

GPs Andrew and Nancy Neil began this garden in 1963.

5 Old Church Lane, Duddingston Village, Edinburgh EH15 3PX · 2.9 km SE of the centre, outside the map

Neighbourhoods

Old Town and the Royal Mile

The Royal Mile (4) runs down the ridge from Edinburgh Castle (1) on its volcanic rock, past St Giles' Cathedral (2) and Mary King's Close (3), with narrow closes dropping away on both sides. Lower down, the Canongate passes the Museum of Edinburgh (5) in Huntly House.

Calton Hill

Steps from Waterloo Place and Jacob's Ladder from Calton Road climb to Calton Hill, where the National Monument (7) stands beside the Nelson Monument and the City Observatory. The views take in the Old Town, Leith and the Firth of Forth.

Grassmarket and the Southside

Below the castle, the Grassmarket and Victoria Street lead to Greyfriars Kirkyard and Chambers Street, home of the National Museum of Scotland (11). South Bridge continues to Surgeons' Hall Museums (12) on Nicolson Street.

Leith

Edinburgh's port lies about 3 km north of the centre, near the end of the tram line. The Royal Yacht Britannia (13) is moored at Ocean Terminal, beyond the bars and restaurants of the Shore.

Wojtek the Soldier Bear Memorial

Alan Herriot's 2015 bronze shows Wojtek, a bear enlisted as a Polish Army private, walking with a soldier.

West Princes Street Gardens, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Greyfriars Kirkyard Mortsafes

Two iron mortsafes sit in Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Greyfriars Kirkyard, Greyfriars Place, Edinburgh EH1 2QQ

Wild West Morningside

Western-style facades went up in this lane in the 1990s to promote a furniture store.

Lane off Springvalley Gardens, Morningside, Edinburgh EH10 4TQ · 3.0 km SW of the centre, outside the map

David Hume Statue

Alexander Stoddart's bronze for the Saltire Society shows Hume in a philosopher's toga.

Lawnmarket, outside the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Holyrood and Arthur's Seat

The Palace of Holyroodhouse (6) and the ruined abbey close the foot of the Royal Mile, opposite the Scottish Parliament. Behind them, Holyrood Park climbs past the Salisbury Crags to the summit of Arthur's Seat (10).

New Town and Princes Street

Princes Street faces the castle across Princes Street Gardens, with the Scott Monument (8) in the eastern gardens and the Scottish National Gallery (9) on the Mound. Behind it, the Georgian grid of the New Town runs north through George Street to Queen Street.

Dean Village and Stockbridge

West of Princes Street, the Water of Leith runs through Dean Village (14), a former milling village below Telford's Dean Bridge. The riverside walkway continues past St Bernard's Well to Stockbridge.