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# Edinburgh

2019/20

GUIDE WITH CITY MAPS



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# WELCOME TO... Edinburgh

**This is your guide to some of the best places to visit in and around one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in Europe.**

## **Using this Guide...**

We'll give you the lowdown on some of the things to see and do; shops, attractions, restaurants, bars and cafes, and plenty more - all you have to do is explore and enjoy them!

For simplicity, we've split the Guide into seven sections; getting around, attractions, tours, speciality shops, eating & drinking, museums & galleries, and nightlife.

To make sure you don't get lost in Edinburgh's warren of loans, wynds and closes, everything listed in the Guide is included on the maps on pages 6-9.

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# Your Essential Edinburgh



Edinburgh Castle

## Key Fortress

One of the strongest fortresses in the kingdom, Edinburgh Castle has been at the centre of Scottish life for more than 900 years. It has served as a royal palace, arsenal, gun foundry,

state prison, place of safe-keeping for the Crown Jewels, and more recently as an infantry barracks.

Before you reach the Castle, pause on the esplanade, laid out in 1753 as a parade ground for troops. This was the spot where in the 16th and 17th centuries more than 300 women, accused of being witches, were burned to death at the stake.

## The Medieval Town

Well established by 1100, Edinburgh was recognised as the capital of Scotland by 1350. The Old Town stretches, like a herringbone, down the ridge below the Castle with just one major street and a host of narrow closes (alleys) leading directly off it. Try walking down any of the closes and you'll soon realise how steep this ridge is!



Lady Stair's Close

## World's First High Rise Housing

Small in size, the Old Town was contained on three sides by a wall and to the north by the waters of the Nor Loch, now Princes Street Gardens. With a rapidly increasing population and nowhere new to build, houses grew higher and higher. By the late 1600s some were reaching nine storeys or more.

Gladstone's Land, at the upper end of the Royal Mile, is one of the few old houses remaining from this period. Built in 1550 and recently restored, it will give you a good idea as to how people lived and worked in overcrowded 17th century Edinburgh.



Gladstone's Land



West Bow Well

## Public Wells

Living in the Old Town had its problems. Water had to be collected from public wells, two of which you can still see, and carried up many flights of stairs. With no flush toilets, residents used to open their windows in the evening and, after shouting ‘Gardyloo’, tip their ‘foul nuisances’ into the closes below. Venture into a close and you’ll get an idea of how hazardous it could be to get back to your lodging in the evening!



Georgian House



St Giles Cathedral

## A New Town

The big improvement came in the late 1700s. The town council bought farmland to the north and announced a competition to build a new town there. This was won in 1766 by a 26 year old architect, James Craig. The Georgian New Town that you see today, with its wide straight streets, large open spaces and individual houses, is much as he designed it.

By the end of the 18th century most well off residents had moved north from the Old Town to the spacious New Town. Visit the Georgian

House in Charlotte Square with its large drawing room and dining room to get an excellent idea of how people once lived and entertained.

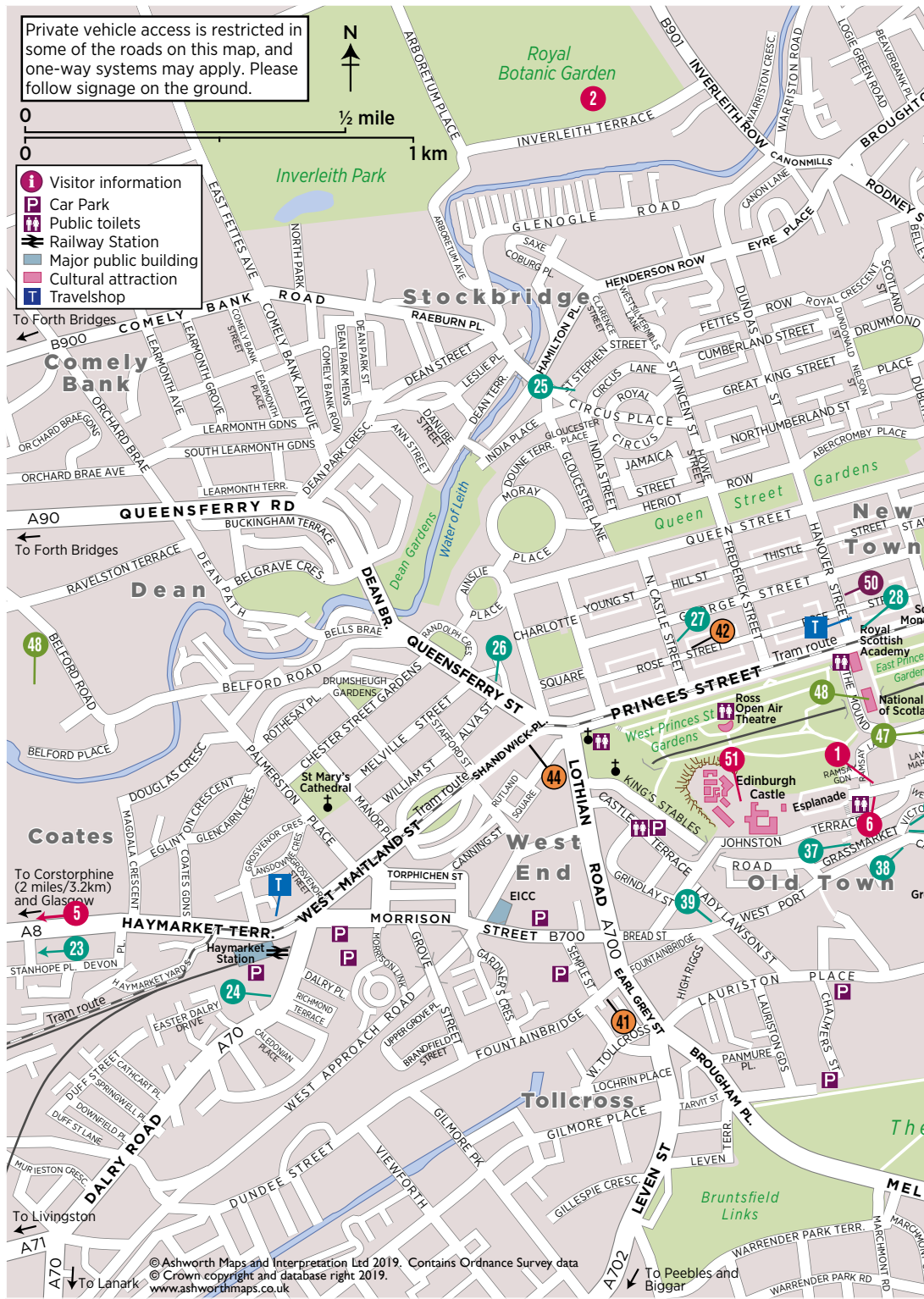
## The Heart of Edinburgh

Stop outside St Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh’s principal church for over a thousand years. This is the heart of Edinburgh. Beside St Giles in Parliament Square are the original Scottish Parliament Building, completed in 1639 and in use until the Union with England in 1707, the Law Courts and the burgh’s Mercat or Market Cross.

If you are a birder, look up at St Giles. This is the only place in Britain where white storks have bred. A pair built their nest on the tower in 1416. If you are a dog lover, gaze in awe at the statue of the 5th Duke of Buccleuch in front of the main entrance. He was the first person to import Labrador dogs into Britain from Canada.

1 km

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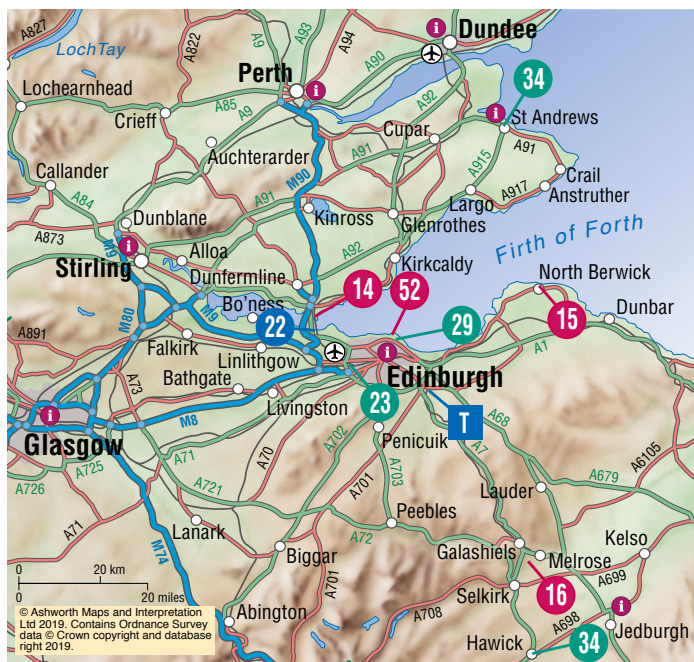
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# Getting Around

Edinburgh has a great value, modern, reliable public transport network which makes getting around the City very easy. As the main bus operator, Lothian is dedicated to delivering an outstanding customer experience offering a City-wide network with regular travel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Another great way of getting from one end of the city to the other is by tram. Edinburgh's tram runs from Edinburgh Airport to York Place in the east end of the city centre, with regular stops on popular places such as Princes Street and Haymarket Train Station.

If you fancy travelling further afield, Glasgow, a lively, bustling place, distinctive and full of character, is less than an hour away from

Edinburgh Waverley with trains departing every 15 mins. Or take a ride on Scotland's newest railway line, the Borders Railway. Stop off at Newtongrange for the nearby National Mining Museum, alight at Galashiels for bus and taxi connections to the surrounding Borders Towns, or stay on to the end of the line at Tweedbank and visit Abbotsford House.

The beautiful, historic city of Stirling (with its own castle to rival Edinburgh's) is 50 mins away by rail, or Falkirk (for the Falkirk Wheel and The Kelpies), Linlithgow, North Berwick and Dunfermline are all within 30/ 35 mins.



CitySightseeing Edinburgh



Edinburgh Train Station



Edinburgh Trams



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[trafficscotland.org](http://trafficscotland.org)  
[www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

## Quality Assurance

Tourism businesses are inspected by the national tourist board, VisitScotland, and are graded on the quality of service and standard of facilities provided.



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Emergency	999
Mobile Phone Emergency	112

## Taxi

City Cabs	0131 297 1262
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## Theatres

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The Queens Hall	0131 668 2019
Traverse Theatre	0131 228 1404
Royal Lyceum Theatre	0131 248 4848
Edinburgh Playhouse	0844 871 3014

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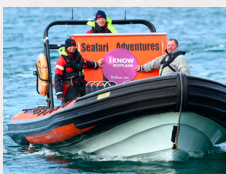
St Giles Cathedral during the  
Edinburgh Festival Fringe



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Our Coo Vans will be on the moo-ve throughout Scotland, with our Coo-visors delivering excellent local advice on what to see and do. Look out for them at events and attractions.



Our accredited Information Partners are based throughout Scotland and can offer tailored advice to help you make the most of your visit. Find them at [visitscotland.com/iknow](http://visitscotland.com/iknow)

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# Attractions

The Edinburgh area boasts a myriad of amazing attractions, so whether you're aged 4 or 104, you're in for a treat! After a visit to iconic Edinburgh Castle, there is endless fun at the nearby Camera Obscura and World of Illusions. At The Real Mary King's Close, join an expert guide to explore past lives deep beneath the historic streets. Or have a dram at The Scotch Whisky Experience.

At the other end of the Royal Mile are Dynamic Earth, Scotland's geological attraction

with exploding volcanoes and freezing icebergs, and royal residence the Palace of Holyroodhouse. For a fun filled day not far from the city centre visit Edinburgh Zoo. In the Borders explore Abbotsford, home of writer Sir Walter Scott, on the banks of the Tweed.

It doesn't matter if you're here with family, friends, or on your own, you'll soon discover that there's plenty to entertain everyone. Check out more of what's on offer over the next few pages.

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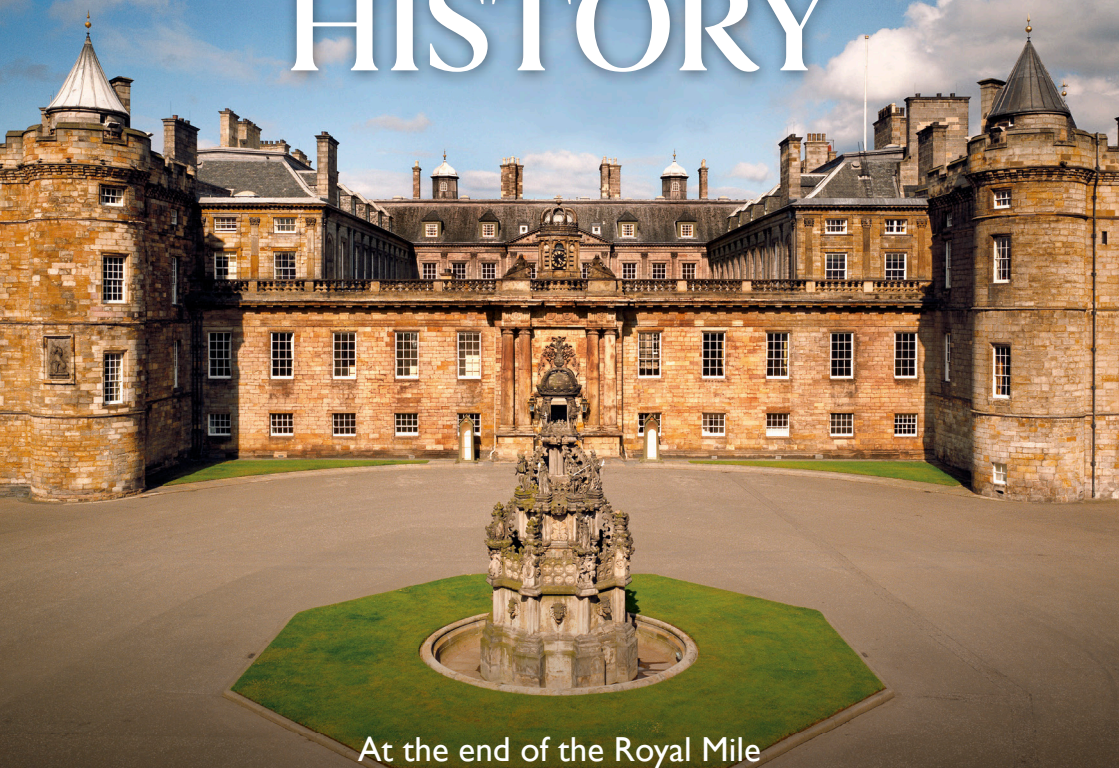
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# Tours

With so much to see and do in and around Edinburgh, taking a tour can be a terrific way to cram in as much sight-seeing as possible, especially if your time here is limited.

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# Speciality Shops

Shopping in Edinburgh isn't like most other cities, thanks to a mix of big brands, top designers and one-off boutiques.

For your favourite high street names, make tracks for Princes Street. Further along, George Street is home to a host of upmarket stores, and for designer labels the nearby Thistle Street and Multrees Walk are hard to beat.

If you're after something unique or quirky, then your best bet is to try the Royal Mile, Grassmarket, the West End, Morningside or Stockbridge, where you'll find a range of independent retailers.

On the outskirts of Edinburgh shopping malls, such as The Gyle, and retail parks can be found.

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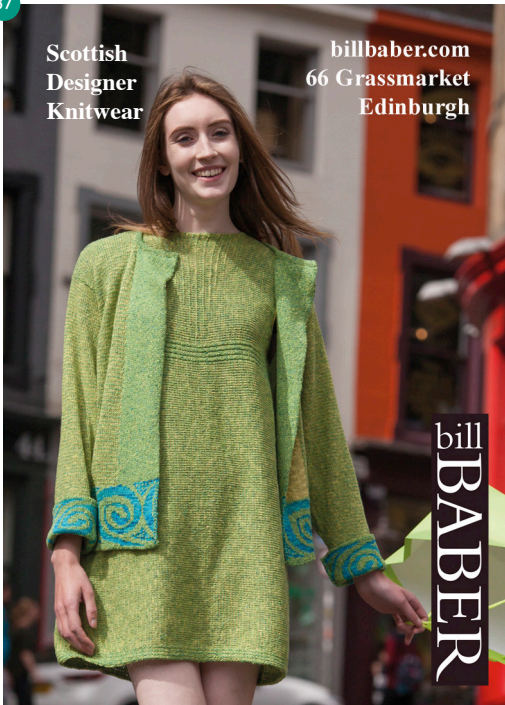


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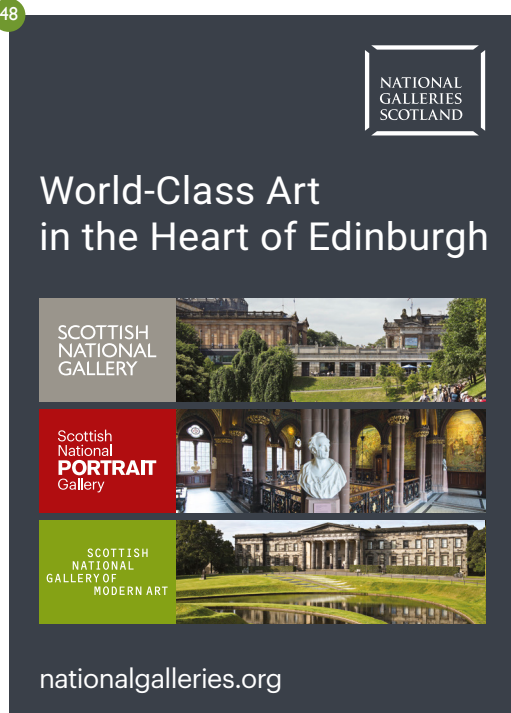
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