



# EDINBURGH



Edinburgh is the **capital of Scotland** and one of the most fascinating cities in Europe. It has a population of about 500,000 people and is located on the east coast of the country, overlooking the North Sea.

The city is famous for its rich history, impressive architecture, beautiful parks, and lively cultural life. Edinburgh is built on a series of ancient volcanic hills, giving it a unique landscape with spectacular viewpoints. Its historic centre has been declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** because of its outstanding historical and architectural importance.

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## A Brief History

Edinburgh has a history of more than one thousand years. During the Middle Ages it became the political and religious centre of Scotland and later served as the country's capital.

For centuries it was protected by its impressive castle, built on top of an extinct volcano called **Castle Rock**. The city played a key role during the Wars of Scottish Independence and was home to many important Scottish kings and queens.

Today, Edinburgh combines medieval streets, Georgian elegance, and modern culture, making it one of the most visited cities in the United Kingdom.

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## Edinburgh Castle

The most famous landmark in the city is **Edinburgh Castle**, which dominates the skyline from Castle Rock.

The castle has served as:

- a royal residence
- a military fortress
- a prison
- a symbol of Scotland

Inside the castle visitors can admire:

- the **Scottish Crown Jewels**

- the **Stone of Destiny**, used during the coronation of Scottish and British monarchs
- the **Great Hall**
- the **National War Museum**

Every day (except Sundays) at one o'clock, the famous **One O'Clock Gun** is fired, a tradition that began in 1861 to help ships in the harbour tell the correct time.

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### The Royal Mile

The **Royal Mile** is the most famous street in Edinburgh.

It stretches for about one mile from Edinburgh Castle to the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, the official Scottish residence of the King.

Walking along the Royal Mile, visitors will find:

- historic buildings
- souvenir shops
- traditional Scottish pubs
- cafés
- museums
- bagpipe players
- street performers

It is always full of life and is one of the best places to experience Scottish culture.

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### Holyrood Palace

At the end of the Royal Mile stands the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**.

It has been the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland for centuries.

One of the palace's most famous residents was **Mary, Queen of Scots**, who lived there during the sixteenth century. Visitors can explore the royal apartments, the beautiful gardens, and the ruins of Holyrood Abbey.

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### St Giles' Cathedral

Located on the Royal Mile, **St Giles' Cathedral** is one of Scotland's most important churches.

Its beautiful stained-glass windows, impressive crown-shaped tower, and peaceful interior make it one of Edinburgh's architectural treasures.

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### Arthur's Seat

For those who enjoy walking, **Arthur's Seat** is one of the city's greatest attractions.

This extinct volcano rises more than 250 metres above sea level and offers breathtaking panoramic views over Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside.

The climb takes approximately one hour and is suitable for most visitors.

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### Princes Street and Princes Street Gardens

**Princes Street** is Edinburgh's main shopping street.

Across the road lie the beautiful **Princes Street Gardens**, a large public park where visitors can relax while enjoying fantastic views of Edinburgh Castle.

The gardens are especially popular during spring and summer and host the city's famous Christmas Market in winter.

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### Scottish Culture

Edinburgh is known as the **City of Festivals**.

Every August it hosts several international festivals, including:

- the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, the largest arts festival in the world
- the Edinburgh International Festival
- the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

During these events, the city is filled with actors, musicians, comedians, dancers, and artists from all over the world.

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### Traditional Scottish Food

While visiting Edinburgh, you may try:

- Haggis
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- Fish and chips
- Scotch pie
- Cullen skink (fish soup)
- Shortbread
- Scottish tablet
- Cranachan (traditional dessert)

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Edimburgo è la **capitale della Scozia** ed è una delle città più belle e ricche di storia d'Europa. Sorge sulla costa orientale del Paese ed è costruita su antiche colline vulcaniche che le conferiscono un paesaggio unico. Il suo centro storico è stato dichiarato **Patrimonio dell'Umanità dall'UNESCO** per il suo straordinario valore storico e architettonico.

La città ha oltre mille anni di storia ed è stata il cuore politico e culturale della Scozia. Il suo simbolo è il maestoso **Castello di Edimburgo**, costruito sulla cima di Castle Rock, un antico vulcano spento. All'interno si conservano i Gioielli della Corona scozzese, la Pietra del Destino e numerose testimonianze della storia del Paese.

Dal castello parte il celebre **Royal Mile**, la strada storica che conduce al **Palazzo di Holyroodhouse**, residenza ufficiale del sovrano britannico in Scozia. Lungo questo percorso si trovano la **Cattedrale di St Giles**, musei, negozi di souvenir, pub tradizionali e numerosi artisti di strada che animano l'atmosfera.

Per chi ama la natura, la salita ad **Arthur's Seat**, un vulcano spento alto oltre 250 metri, offre uno dei panorami più spettacolari della città.

Tra gli altri luoghi da visitare vi sono **Princes Street**, principale via dello shopping, i **Princes Street Gardens**, la **Scottish National Gallery** e il caratteristico quartiere della New Town.

Edimburgo è conosciuta anche come la **Città dei Festival**. Ogni estate ospita il celebre **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, il più grande festival artistico del mondo, insieme a numerosi eventi internazionali di musica, teatro e danza.

Passeggiando per la città si possono ascoltare suonatori di cornamusa, visitare antichi edifici, assaggiare specialità scozzesi come l'haggis e vivere un'autentica esperienza della cultura scozzese.