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What is Travelers’ Choice Best of the Best?This award is our highest recognition and is presented annually to those businesses that are the Best of the Best on Tripadvisor, those that earn excellent reviews from travelers and are ranked in the top 1% of properties worldwide.Learn moreSponsored by Johnnie Walker Princes StreetHistory, culture, and non-stop festivals—Edinburgh is jam-packed with things to do around the clock. An easy way to get to know the city is by taking a long walk around the center to see the World Heritage Sites in Old Town, trendy shops and restaurants in New Town, and a handful of museums and galleries in both. Take a break for afternoon tea and scones at a cozy tea room or duck into a traditional pub to grab a bite and a drink. And if you do find yourself at a festival, the city’s got tons: from live music performances in the summer to traditional Burns Night celebrations honoring the poet Robert Burns (complete with bagpipes, haggis, and whisky), in the winter. Pick a category to filter your recs$$ - $$$ • Scottish, Bar, British$$ - $$$ • Bar, European, British$$ - $$$ • European, Healthy, Scottish$$ - $$$ • French, European, ScottishMICHELIN$$$$ • European, British, ScottishFrom storied distilleries to immersive tasting experiencesExplore moreFrom a striking castle to whiskey tastings, plus spooky night toursRead onEat your way through Edinburgh at any budgetIt doesn’t matter how often I return to Edinburgh; there’s always somewhere new to eat. The city of seven hills has everything from lavish tasting menus and Michelin-starred restaurants to cafes and fast food joints. I don’t think I’ve ever eaten in the same restaurant twice. Here’s my guide to the high-end eateries and the low-tier takeaways.Samantha Priestley, Yorkshire, UKThis small and intimate restaurant on the Royal Mile served my partner the best venison he’s had to date (seriously, he still talks about it). We ordered from the a la carte menu rather than choosing the tasting menu, but it looked so good on other tables that we regretted not getting it. The staff here is kind and attentive. Our helpful waiter even told us where to go in town to buy our favorite cheese from the cheese board.We had lunch at this Mexican place behind the rows of High Street shops while we waited for our train. It’s perfect for a fast meal. They serve street-food-style Mexican dishes, the service is quick, and the food is good. We ordered tacos, quesadillas, and the crispy cauliflower bites, and everything was tasty.Number One at The BalmoralWe were lucky enough to stay at the iconic Balmoral Hotel for a few nights, but you don’t have to be a guest here to dine in their Michelin-starred restaurant, Number One. The tasting menu has seven courses that include local dishes ranging from langoustine from the Isle of Skye to Roe deer from a nearby estate. You can also request a three-course dinner menu ahead of time if you prefer.Don’t be fooled by the name of this cute little café in the Morningside neighborhood of the city; they serve much more than hummus! That said, the hummus here is the best I’ve ever had, and if you do like a simple bowl of hummus and some flatbread, you’ll be in heaven. It’s a Lebanese café, so they also serve tabbouleh, falafel, and spiced cakes. The food is delicious, and the atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming.Dean Banks At The PompadourUpstairs in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel is The Pompadour, a Michelin-starred restaurant. There’s a bit of a nautical theme, which we liked, and the menu is seafood-heavy. The 10-course tasting menu includes an Arbroath Smokie and Blue Finned Tuna but also a vegan menu. Go for the wine pairing, or delve straight into the long list of whiskeys with the Whisky Flight Experience.The Alchemist Edinburgh St James QuarterThis bar and restaurant in New Town creates unusual and bizarre cocktails that arrive in the kind of containers you probably used in chemistry class. But they also serve good bar food that works perfectly for a night out or lunch. They serve a collection of dishes as varied as their cocktails - mostly Asian-inspired and including Tempura Hake and Katsu Curry, though you can also choose a simple chicken in a basket or a steak.The Cellar Door RestaurantEdinburgh gets busy on weekend nights, and we stupidly hadn’t booked anywhere to eat dinner. We walked into The Cellar Door, not expecting any luck, but the manager kindly seated us by the bar upstairs. While downstairs was busy, upstairs was quiet and suited us perfectly. I had the spring rolls to start, followed by roasted carrot risotto. They do a six-course tasting menu with a wine pairing, which I’m definitely getting next time.We had half a day in the coastal area of Portobello on our last visit to Edinburgh, and we stopped for a quick lunch in Miro’s on the Prom. It sits opposite the beach, on the promenade, and serves light bites and cakes. We ordered the haggis fritters, which are a must-try while you’re in Edinburgh. There’s a laid-back seaside atmosphere in this quiet café, but it does get busy on weekends.Down a side street off the Royal Mile, Monteith’s is underground in the basement of the building. We had small plates at the bar on our first visit and returned a second time for the venison loin and the mushroom and goat’s cheese Wellington. The food is impressive, but the atmosphere makes it unique. The cozy low lighting, tartan upholstery, and intimate bar area bring home the hidden basement feeling.We stopped here for a quick burger for lunch before visiting the Surgeon’s Hall Museum. If you’re vegan or have someone vegan in your party, this is a top-quality café that serves the best vegan burgers I’ve tried in Edinburgh. The burgers all come with chips, and you get a lot of food for the money, but leave room for the cheese-free cheesecake; it’s not to be missed.Explore more from our sponsorsEdinburgh is a phenomenally popular destination, with around 3.5 million people visiting every year. Even so, thanks to the city's complex history, topography, and layout, much of it stays well off the beaten path. As a result, it's easy to see amazing sights while leaving the crowds behind!Edinburgh is full of surprises, lot of historic things to find, nice romantic restaurants, great night life, and a cheeky smile on every corner; The city centre is a very easy place to navigate by foot, it also has very good transport links, bus, tram, trains, it also has very good airport connections. If you are not sure what you are looking for you can always stand at the top of the castle for a fantastic panoramic view over the whole city.Edinburgh is a truly cosmopolitan City that has something for everyone. The City is relatively small, so it is easy to get around and see a lot in a few days.flyingEdinburgh Airport is the main airport that services the city. Airlink bus service runs between the airport and Waverley Station, which is within walking distance of Edinburgh Castle and the Old Town. trainTrains run by LNER (formerly Virgin trains) depart from London regularly and often make stops at major cities along the way.busEdinburgh Bus Terminal welcomes long-haul coaches from various destinations throughout the United Kingdom, including London, Manchester, and Glasgow. Major operators include Megabus and National Express. Scotland is a country that’s prone to rain; showers can strike and last all day even during the summer months. To maximize your chance of dry skies, visit during the month of May, when daylight hours last longer and rainfall sees its annual low. Average daily temperatures in May are highs around 14 C/58 F and lows around 6 C/44 F.May, along with September, also sees fewer crowds and lower prices outside of the UK’s school summer holidays.For one of the world’s best comedy festivals, visit Edinburgh in August, when the Edinburgh Fringe Festival sees millions of visitors come to the 3-week-long jaunt. Other festive celebrations include Burns Night at the end of January; the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August; and the raucous Hogmanay New Year’s Eve celebrations.busPublic buses are regular and easy to use and travel all around the city. Contactless payment is accepted, offering a quicker, easier and cheaper method than cash payment.tramEdinburgh has a tram system that services stops from York Place in the city center to the airport and Newhaven. All trams are wheelchair accessible and have Wi-Fi onboard. To plan your journey, visit and ride shareTaxis in Edinburgh may be hailed on the street. Minicab services offers advance bookings. Rideshare services such as Uber and Talixo are readily available. drivingThere are seven park and ride schemes operating in and around Edinburgh, which all you to park outside of the city center and then catch a bus in. There are also multi-storey car parks through the center, including at Waverley Station and Holyrood Road. For more information on parking, check out the following link: aware that many roads are bus-only, one-way only, or pedestrians-only. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)230 V/ 50 Hz. Plug sockets are type G. For plug types, you can reference the international guide: isn’t generally expected in Scotland but it's appreciated for great service.A few pounds for anyone helping with your bags and a few pounds per day of your stay for the housekeeping staff is appreciated.10 percent would be appreciated, but isn’t expected.Rounding up to the nearest pound should suffice.It is customary to give at least five pounds for a short tour or 10 percent of the bill for longer, more extensive tours.The federal legal age for buying and drinking alcohol is 18 years old.Allow others to disembark before boarding, don’t take up more than one seat, and stand to offer seating to pregnant women or someone with a disability.Spitting is considered rude in any public setting.These questions and answers were created by AI, using the most common questions travelers ask in the forums.What tour options are available in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, Edinburgh offers a diverse range of tour options catering to different interests. These include historical tours of the city's famous sites like the Royal Mile and the underground vaults, bike tours, and guided hiking trips in nearby natural landscapes like the Pentland Hills.Some travelers mentioned that while Edinburgh has guided bike tours, options like Tartan Bicycle Company and EZ Bike Tours are popular, albeit some tours may require navigating hilly terrains. For hiking enthusiasts, guided day trips to the Pentland Hills or bespoke hiking adventures are suggested by users.Travelers have called out specific tours for those interested in history and literature, such as the Mercat Tours and The Real Mary King’s Close, which provide insights into the city's past without the scare tactics of a ghost tour. Additionally, tours focusing on Scottish writers and themes like Harry Potter and Outlander are available, enhancing the cultural experience.For those willing to explore beyond the city, forum users recommend day tours to the Scottish Highlands, Glencoe, and Loch Lomond, offering a mix of stunning landscapes and historical sites. Companies like Rabbies and Timberbush are frequently mentioned for these excursions.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are some recommended restaurants in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, travelers highly recommend Howies, Dine, and The Witchery for dining in Edinburgh. Howies is noted for its good service and atmosphere, making it a recurring recommendation across different discussions.For seafood enthusiasts, Fishers in both the city and Leith was frequently suggested, with its good food and ambiance highlighted. For Italian food lovers, Rico’s offers a more upmarket experience, while Domenicos in Leith is praised for its relaxed vibe and quality dishes.Travelers have called out The Dome for its stunning interior and The Witchery for its romantic setting. Both establishments are recommended for special occasions due to their unique atmospheres and quality dining experiences.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. Where can I store my luggage in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, travelers can store luggage at several locations in Edinburgh. Waverley Station offers a staffed left-luggage office adjacent to Platform 2. The Edinburgh Bus Station provides self-service lockers.For many users, alternative luggage storage services like Stasher and Unbaggaged.com have proven to be convenient. Stasher offers various locations around the city, including some hotels, while Unbaggaged.com provides a service that picks up, stores, and returns your bags.Some travelers mentioned the cost of lockers at the bus station as £8 for a small locker, £10 for a medium, and £12 for a large, per 12-hour period. However, prices may vary, so checking current rates is suggested.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are good accommodation options in central Edinburgh?According to forum posts, travelers have found good accommodation options in central Edinburgh at various hotels and guest houses. The Travelodge Edinburgh Central Rose Street and the Premier Inn at York Place are frequently recommended due to their accessibility and proximity to central attractions and transportation hubs like Waverley Station.Some users noted the Travelodge on Meuse Lane as less than ideal due to its run-down entrance, suggesting instead the Travelodge on Rose Street for better access. Additionally, the Old Waverley Hotel, though slightly more expensive, is favored for its central location and accessibility.For those looking for budget options, the Holiday Inn Express at York Place was mentioned as a comparable choice to the Premier Inn, offering similar amenities and included breakfast, which could be a budget-friendly feature.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the airport transfer options in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, travelers can choose between the tram and the Airlink 100 bus to travel from Edinburgh Airport to the city center. The tram is preferred by some due to its immunity to traffic snarls and costs £6.50 each or £9 for a return ticket, with a slight discount if booked in advance.Some travelers mentioned a newer service, the Airport Express bus, which also connects the airport to the city center. This option is highlighted as potentially the best choice for reaching the Premier Inn City Centre Royal Mile, as it stops conveniently at South St. David Street near the hotel.For those preferring direct transport, taxis are available, with a typical fare to the city center costing around £25-£30. This option is favored by those with lots of luggage or preferring a more comfortable journey directly to their destination.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are some recommended family-friendly activities in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, popular family-friendly attractions in Edinburgh include the National Museum, Camera Obscura, Dynamic Earth, and the Edinburgh Zoo. The Museum of Scotland is also recommended for its interactive exhibits suitable for children.For outdoor activities, some travelers suggest visiting the Botanic Gardens, Inverleith Park, and Portobello Beach. The Royal Mile offers street artists and historical sites that can engage children, and there are several play areas like the one on the east side of the Meadows.Travelers have called out unique experiences such as riding on the tram, attending junior parkruns at the Meadows or Inverleith Park, and exploring the giraffe art trail. A train ride over the Forth Bridge to North Queensferry is also recommended for its scenic views and appeal to children interested in trains.For visits in August, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe offers numerous child-friendly shows and activities, adding a cultural dimension to a family visit.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the festive events in Edinburgh during Christmas?According to forum posts, the Edinburgh Christmas Markets start on November 17th, featuring areas in Princes Street Gardens with attractions like the big wheel and rides. The markets are free and unticketed, although they may implement queueing during peak times for safety. The markets have been described by some travelers as not very Christmassy or representative of Edinburgh, but opinions vary.Travelers have highlighted special light displays such as the Christmas at the Botanics event at the Royal Botanic Garden, which features illuminated trails and festive installations. Another mentioned event is the Castle of Light at Edinburgh Castle, offering a themed light experience. These events are ticketed and popular among visitors.Forum users also mentioned other festive entertainment options like pantomime shows at local theaters and carol concerts at key venues such as St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. The Christmas at the Botanics event also offers seasonal beverages like spiced cider and mulled wine, enhancing the festive experience.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the taxi services like in Edinburgh?According to forum posts, Edinburgh offers a variety of taxi services, including traditional black cabs and Uber. There are three main black cab companies: City Cabs, Central Taxis, and Comcab, all regulated and metered by the Edinburgh Council.Travelers have called out that taxis can be hailed directly from the streets or booked online through the respective company apps. The cost of a taxi ride from Edinburgh Airport to the city center is approximately £23-25. Prices are metered and can vary depending on the time and traffic.Some travelers noted that taxis are generally available even for shorter distances within the city, which is compact and mostly walkable. For areas outside central Edinburgh, like South Queensferry or Dunfermline, it's advised to book taxis from local companies to ensure availability for return trips.Travelers have found the taxi services in Edinburgh reliable. Apps for both black cabs and Uber are functional and used frequently by visitors, providing a convenient option for those looking to navigate the city or travel to nearby areas.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. Top Attractions Edinburgh: Accessible Highlights Guide Where to Stay Festivals Practical Information Meet Edinburgh Makers Resident Rewards City Passes Edinburgh 900 Page 2 Geography & Travel Cities & Towns Cities & Towns C-G Gaelic: Dun Eideann Edinburgh, capital city of Scotland, located in southeastern Scotland with its centre near the southern shore of the Firth of Forth, an arm of the North Sea that thrusts westward into the Scottish Lowlands. The city and its immediate surroundings constitute an independent council area. The city and most of the council area, including the busy port of Leith on the Firth of Forth, lie within the historic county of Midlothian, but the council area also includes an area in the northwest, around South Queensferry, in the historic county of West Lothian.Physically, Edinburgh is a city of sombre theatricality, with much of this quality deriving from its setting among crags and hills and from its tall buildings and spires of dark stone. Edinburgh has been a military stronghold, the capital of an independent country, and a centre of intellectual activity. Although it has repeatedly experienced the vicissitudes of fortune, the city has always renewed itself. Today it is the seat of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive, and it remains a major centre for finance, law, tourism, education, and cultural affairs. Area council area, 102 square miles (264 square km). Pop. (2001) city, 431,393; council area, 476,626; (2011) city, 459,366; council area, 482,640. EdinburghEdinburgh, Scotland.Although Edinburgh absorbed surrounding villages and the Firth of Forth ports between 1856 and 1920, its aesthetic and political heart still lies in its small historic core, comprising the Old Town and the New Town. The Old Town, built up in the Middle Ages when the fear of attack was constant, huddles high on the Castle Rock overlooking the surrounding plain. The New Town, in contrast, spreads out in a magnificent succession of streets, crescents, and terraces. The medieval Old Town and the Neoclassical New Town were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995. “This profusion of eccentricities, this dream in masonry and living rock is not a drop-scene in a theatre,” wrote Robert Louis Stevenson, the 19th-century Scottish novelist, essayist, and poet who was born in the New Town, “but a city in the world of reality.” The contrasts that make Edinburgh unique also make it typically Scottish, for, despite its reserved exterior, it is also a city capable of great warmth and even gaiety. Historically, its citizens have also been capable of great passion, especially in matters royal or religious. In 1561, for example, a mob spurred by the fiery Protestant preacher John Knox tried to break into the private chapel in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where Mary, Queen of Scots (1542–67), newly returned from France, was attending a Roman Catholic mass. In 1637 a riot in the cathedral of St. Giles in protest against a new service book provoked a Scottish revolt against Charles I and precipitated the War of the Three Kingdoms, which engulfed the whole of Britain in the 1640s and ended in Charles’s execution (see Bishops’ Wars; English Civil Wars). In 1736 the burgh nearly lost its royal charter following the lynching of John Porteous, captain of the city guard. The Porteous riots and lynching were a type of violent gesture common to the history of most old cities. Yet, even in this moment of deranged passion, the city manifested its complex character: needing a hanging rope, the mob descended on a shop and bought one. A city long renowned for a somewhat inflexible respectability—when West Princes Street Gardens were turned over to the general public in 1876, smoking was forbidden—Edinburgh concurrently maintained a fascinating netherworld of ribaldry and drunkenness. A poet, jurist, or novelist of sufficient distinction might succeed in inhabiting both worlds. One who clearly did was William Brodie, a member of respectable society—deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights and Masons and a town councillor—who by night was the mastermind behind a gang of burglars. Brodie was convicted and hanged in 1788 for his crimes, and his double life is reputed to have been part of the inspiration for Stevenson’s Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886). Brodie’s Close, a public house on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, is named after him. Such “Edinburgh characters” abounded during the flourishing Neoclassical period of the 18th and 19th centuries known as the Augustan Age, when the city’s authors, critics, publishers, teachers, physicians, and scientists formed an intellectual elite of world influence. With the subsequent relapse of the city into a more provincial role, such noted eccentrics became virtually extinct. Countries and Capitals Quiz Blake Ehrlich Archie Rule Turnbull Michael Lynch Edinburgh occupies some 7 miles (11 km) of north-facing slope between the Pentland Hills and the broad Firth of Forth estuary, where it merges with the once-independent seaport of Leith. Upthrusts of lava punctuate this slope. One of them, called Arthur’s Seat, the centrepiece of the royal park, has an elevation of 823 feet (251 metres) and dominates the city’s southeastern flank. The valleys between these striking hills were scoured deep and clean by glacial action in the Pleistocene Epoch. Edinburgh has been built on top of and around these obstacles so that the nearer one comes to the city centre, the more spectacular is the juxtaposition of natural and built environment, with terraces of stone confronting soaring thrust. At the city’s core is the Old Town’s Castle Rock, a plug of black basalt sealing the vent of an extinct volcano. It stands 250 feet (76 metres) above the valley floor and is crowned by the famous Edinburgh Castle, which, subtly floodlit every night, stirs even the habituated townsfolk. Glacial ice once flowed from the west and around the Castle Rock’s flanks, depositing the accumulated debris of a lateral moraine east of the rock to create a crag and tail formation. Along the crest of this tail, and down its steep sides, the Old Town was built from the 12th century onward. Some 600 feet (180 metres) north of the Castle Rock, across the valley that is now Princes Street Gardens, lies the New Town, a district that was planned and built in successive phases between 1767 and 1833. It offers a dignified tribute to the international taste of the Enlightenment and to the surveyor’s set square. Its design was overly regular to begin with, but later developments—as can be seen at the west end of Princes Street—paid more respect to natural contours and softened the regimentation of the right angle with curves and crescents. The New Town’s northwestern boundary is roughly the line of Edinburgh’s only substantial stream, the Water of Leith. The stream’s brief course from the Pentlands to the sea provided power for the mills of a series of villages—Dalry, Dean, Stockbridge, Silvermills, and Canonmills—that experienced significant growth from the early 17th century onward. These villages, which sprang up largely as industrial centres with paper and textile mills, are now embedded in the 19th-century matrix of the town, providing fashionable, bijou residences. One of the best things to do in Edinburgh is to climb Arthur's Seat, located within the ancient grounds of Holyrood Park. This inactive volcano sits 251 metres above sea level and offers 360-degree views of Edinburgh and the Lothians - it's quite something to feel like you're in the middle of the Highlands in central Edinburgh. The site is rich in geological, archaeological and historical interest and there are plenty of different paths to follow. Discover the medieval remains of St Anthony's Chapel, see fascinating geological features such as Samson's Ribs, or watch the ducks and swans on Duddingston Loch. If you're looking for a wheelchair and buggy accessible trail, then taking a stroll to St Margaret's Loch is for you.Top tip: Climbing up to the top of this dormant volcano is hungry work! Why not pack a picnic and savour it from the best 'seat' in Edinburgh? Discover other walks around EdinburghDramatically positioned atop Castle Rock overlooking the city, this should be a must-see on your list of places to visit in Edinburgh. Ascend the historic Royal Mile and take your time exploring Edinburgh Castle, admiring the medieval architecture and discovering the treasures within. The chapel in the castle dates back to the 1130s, making it the oldest building in the city and the complex also houses important Scottish artefacts, such as the Honours of Scotland - the oldest crown jewels in the UK. Take a guided tour with a castle steward, or listen to the audio guide, available in eight languages. Make sure you check out their 2025 summer concert programme, where the esplanade is transformed for open air gigs!Top tip: Tickets often sell out quickly, especially during the summer months. Make sure to book early to avoid disappointment! Listen out for the firing of the One O'Clock Gun from the castle grounds, which can be heard daily (except on Sundays). Ships in the Firth of Forth once set their maritime clocks according to the sound of the shot. Plan your trip to Edinburgh Castle Experience a concert at the castle in 2025 On Public Transport Route Accessible Parking Or Drop-off Point Level Access Cafe or RestaurantThe Scott Monument was built in 1832 to commemorate the death of one of Scotland's best loved writers, Sir Walter Scott. The Gothic spire is decorated with carvings of characters from his novels and stands at the eastern end of Princes Street Gardens. Edinburgh was the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, so it's not surprising that this is the largest memorial to a writer in the world, standing at just over 200 feet high. You can climb the 287 steps to the top for panoramic views of the city and visit the Museum Room inside the monument, which holds an exhibition on Scott's life and work.Top tip: Not a fan of heights? Not to worry, you can get a great view of the monument with your feet firmly on the ground from the bottom of the Playfair Steps on The Mound. At the base of the monument, you'll also find a statue of Scott himself with his beloved dog. Take in the view from the Scott Monument Discover UNESCO destinations in the citySee Edinburgh's Old Town from a completely different perspective with a trip to The Real Mary King's Close. This award-winning attraction takes you back in time to the 17th century, with the chance to wander underground streets and uncover the layers of history of the people who lived and worked in these towering tenements, now hidden beneath the Royal Mile. The tours bring these stories to life and give you a real sense of what life was like back then - we recommend you book in advance to guarantee your place. Top tip: Check out the latest events and experiences taking place throughout 2025, from Pride History Tours in June to atmospheric Lantern Led Tours in October. Step back in time at the Real Mary King's Close See what's on this seasonFor outstanding views, get up early and climb to the top of Calton Hill to experience the sunrise over the city. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to a collection of historic monuments, most notably the National Monument, which was inspired by the Parthenon in Athens.Top tip: Thinking of staying in Scotland this New Year's Eve? One of the best things to do in Edinburgh at night on Hogmanay is to climb Calton Hill and take in the annual firework display above the castle. Many festivals in Edinburgh, such as the Celtic Beltane Fire Festival, are also celebrated here. Explore Calton Hill and the National MonumentScotland is known for having unpredictable weather, and if you happen to get caught in the rain you might be wondering what to do in Edinburgh. The answer is easy: visit the National Museum of Scotland, one of the best indoor attractions in Edinburgh. Even better, entry is free! With over 20,000 unique artefacts to see, it's also one of the best things to do in Edinburgh with kids. Spend the day learning about the catacombs of Egypt, the wonders of nature, Scottish history or modern-day technology. They also run a changing programme of events and exhibitions, which in 2025 includes Maps: Memories from the Second World War and Monkeys: Our Primate Family.Top tip: If the sun makes an appearance, head up to the rooftop terrace to enjoy one of the best views of the city. Discover the National Museum of Scotland See the latest exhibitions taking place in the museum On Public Transport Route Hearing Loop Level Access Accessible toilets WiFi Cafe or RestaurantNew to the area and just 25 minutes from Edinburgh city centre is Europe's largest wave pool at Lost Shore Surf Resort. There's a wave pool, surf school, surf shop and teaching academy that provides everything you need, whether you're just beginning or if you're a more advanced surfer. The state-of-the-art resort is nestled within a complex that also includes a bar, café, restaurant, luxury accommodation, sauna and wellness treatments, so there really is something for everyone to enjoy even if surfing isn't your thing! Their trendy foodie offering is run by Canteen, with stripped back interiors and views across the water. They're open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and host guest kitchens from some Edinburgh favourites, including Civerinos and Five March.This attraction in Edinburgh is fun for all the family - we dare you not to be amazed, whatever your age! There are five floors of interactive curiosities and illusions to explore, so lose yourself in the puzzling mirror maze or try to keep your balance in the exhilarating Vortex Tunnel.Top tip: Be sure to get an allocated show time so you don't miss out on seeing the 169-year-old Camera Obscura in action. This Victorian spectacle is a truly unique way to see Edinburgh and takes sightseeing to the next level. Visit the Camera Obscura and World of Illusion Pets Welcome Hearing Loop WiFiAt the opposite end of the Royal Mile to the castle is the Palace of Holyroodhouse - the King's official residence in Edinburgh. It's packed full of royal history, from Mary Queen of Scots to Bonnie Prince Charlie. The ornate palace was built next to Holyrood Abbey, which dates back to 1128, when King David I founded the abbey after he had a vision of a stag with a cross between its antlers when out hunting in the grounds around Arthur's Seat. Top tip: Visit the King's Gallery for the latest art exhibitions and events taking place in Holyroodhouse. New for 2025 is Royal Portraits: A Century of Photography. Discover the Palace of Holyroodhouse See what's on at the King's GalleryNo trip to the Royal Mile is complete without a visit to the award-winning Scotch Whisky Experience for a dram of fine whisky! The attraction offers a range of tour experiences that will suit first timers and whisky lovers alike. Take a tour of the virtual distillery and learn about the distilling process, then discover the art of whisky blending in a guided sensory presentation.Top tip: After you become somewhat of a whisky connoisseur, why not continue into the attraction's Amber Restaurant? You can try modern Scottish cuisine alongside another dram. Visit the Scotch Whisky Experience Find whisky bars in Edinburgh Hearing Loop Accessible Parking Or Drop-off Point Level Access Accessible toilets WiFi Cafe or RestaurantLooking for somewhere fun to take the kids that's also educational? Dynamic Earth is a fantastic attraction for the whole family. The interactive adventure takes brave young explorers on a journey through space and time to learn how the forces of nature shaped Earth over millions of years, against the backdrop of Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat. They host a regular programme of exciting exhibitions and events, which in 2025 include the Edinburgh Science Festival and their Planetarium Lates series.Top tip: Dynamic Earth is part of the National STEM Engagement Campaign and has a whole host of events for kids to enjoy. Events at Dynamic Earth 2025 Parking On Public Transport Route Hearing Loop Accessible Parking Or Drop-off Point Level Access Accessible toilets WiFi Cafe or RestaurantThe Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art comprises of two impressive buildings containing masterpieces from the 1900s to present day. Take in art by Matisse, Picasso and Emin, as well as Scottish contemporaries. The landscaped grounds of the galleries also feature sculptures by Tony Cragg and Barbara Hepworth, amongst others. Don't miss their latest exhibitions for 2025, including work by Ian Hamilton Finlay and Everlyn Nicodemus. Nearby is a beautiful walk along the Water of Leith to the trendy village of Stockbridge, where you can grab a bite or explore the independent shops.Top tip: After enjoying coffee and a slice of cake in the gallery's cafe, don't miss the recreation of Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi's original studio in Modern Two. Check out the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Browse the latest exhibitions taking place Parking On Public Transport Route Hearing Loop Accessible Parking Or Drop-off Point Accessible toilets WiFi Cafe or RestaurantThere are plenty of attractions around Edinburgh away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre. Lauriston Castle and Gardens is the perfect place to go for anyone visiting Edinburgh looking for Scottish history, peace and quiet and arresting views out across the Firth of Forth. Step back in time as you explore the castle's wonderfully preserved Edwardian interiors, and don't miss the daily guided tour to learn more about its fascinating background. You can also pick up a sweet treat from Mimi's Bakehouse in the grounds, popular with locals and visitors alike.Top tip: Get some fresh air and explore the woodland walk that surrounds the castle, then retreat to the tranquil Japanese Garden, a true hidden gem in Edinburgh. Discover Lauriston Castle Parking On Public Transport Route Pets Welcome Accessible Parking Or Drop-off Point Accessible toilets WiFi Cafe or Restaurant “Edinburgh made a great impression upon us; it is quite beautiful & totally unlike anything I have seen.”—Queen Victoria’s journal, September 1842.Edinburgh may have changed somewhat since the young Queen Victoria’s assessment almost two centuries ago, but there is no denying that its description as a place of great beauty remains. From the cobbled streets of the Old Town to the sweeping sandstone Georgian townhouses of the New Town, it is a city that is endlessly picturesque.Scotland’s capital has been home to the country’s monarchs since medieval times, and the oldest parts of the city were shaped by the presence of royalty. Edinburgh Castle, where kings and queens lived until the 17th century, sits at the top of the Royal Mile. The Palace of Holyroodhouse, which became a royal residence in the 16th century, sits at the bottom. Edinburgh Castle holds the distinction of being the birthplace of the first monarch of the United Kingdom—King James VI of Scotland who found himself also King of England on the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603.Today, King Charles spends one week of the summer at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the sovereign’s only official residence in Scotland as Balmoral is a private home. He is welcomed to Edinburgh with the Ceremony of the Keys, an ancient ritual where he is presented with the keys to the city then hands them back.Jason Cameron//Getty ImagesDean Village in Edinburgh.One of the things that makes Edinburgh so special is that it has a bit of everything all in one place. A bracing walk up Arthur’s Seat or along the Salisbury Crags can be followed instantly by a fine dining experience, world class shopping, a visit to a palace, castle, national museums, galleries and even a game of golf or a trip to the seaside.The city is bustling at any time of the year, but if you want to feel right at the center of things then time your visit for the Festival or Hogmanay. The annual International and Fringe Festival in August is a feast of creativity, as professional and amateur artists of every kind from across the globe descend on Edinburgh. And there is nothing like bringing in the new year in Scotland’s capital, with a street party on Princes Street and a spectacular fireworks display from the castle. When the clock strikes midnight, take part in the world’s biggest rendition of Auld Lang Syne in the home country of its creator.Scotland’s Bard Robert Burns also penned a powerful tribute to Edinburgh and its royal links in his Address to Edinburgh, describing it thus;“Edina! Scotia's darling seat! All hail thy palaces and tow’rs. Where once beneath a Monarch's feet, Sat Legislation's sov'reign pow’rs!”Pool//Getty ImagesA cavalry presentation outside of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.What To See For a royal-themed stay, going inside the King’s official residence is a must. The Palace of Holyroodhouse is open all year apart from on a few occasions when it is needed as a working residence. Nestled in the shadow of extinct volcano Arthur’s Seat and next to the Scottish Parliament, the Palace started life as an Abbey almost 900 years ago under the instruction of King David I of Scotland. The Great Gallery now houses portraits of Scottish monarchs, and the King’s Gallery shows temporary exhibitions of works from the Royal Collection. The four-hectare gardens, where the King hosts garden parties in the summer, can also be explored. Entrance to the Palace is paid, but access to the Physic Garden next door, which recreates an original 1670 garden on the Palace grounds, is free. For more information about the Palace of Holyroodhouse and its opening times see here.Head up the Royal Mile past shops, restaurants and cafes (and Canongate Kirk where Zara and Mike Tindall were married) and you will get to St Giles Cathedral. The splendid Gothic cathedral is where Queen Elizabeth II’s coffin was taken for the public to pay their respects and is home to the Order of the Thistle, Scotland’s highest order of chivalry.Go right to the top of the Royal Mile, and you’ll be at Edinburgh Castle, home to the Honours of Scotland which are the oldest Crown Jewels in Britain. During festival season, the castle hosts the legendary Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.One of Edinburgh’s most unique royal-themed tourist attractions is moored in the trendy Leith neighborhood to the north of the city. The Royal Yacht Britannia has been open to the public since 1998 after famously being decommissioned in 1997. The self-guided tours are fascinating and allow you to get right up close to the royal living quarters as well as see what life was like for the scores of staff below deck. The attraction has also just opened a new visitor center featuring historical photographs of the royal family.Andrew Merry//Getty ImagesSalisbury Crags offer unparalleled views of the city.What to DoFor spectacular views of the whole city take a walk up Arthur’s Seat or the adjoining Salisbury Crags. Arthur’s Seat may look daunting but it’s surprisingly manageable even for small children (this writer’s youngest child was five when she first scampered up in minutes, leaving her parents huffing and puffing in her wake). The route up is not particularly treacherous but caution is required near to the summit. For those who want the views with less walking, there is a car park more than half way up in Holyrood Park.Panoramic views of Edinburgh can also be found from Calton Hill, accessed from the end of Princes Street in the New Town. This part of the city, marked as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to iconic Scottish monuments and the City Observatory.Edinburgh has an abundance of museums and galleries. The National Museum of Scotland has free general admission, as do all the national galleries located around the city. The spectacular sanctuary that is the Royal Botanic Garden is also free to enter.Queen Elizabeth II was a regular at Edinburgh’s theaters and concert venues. She danced an eightsome reel at a ball in 1982 in the Assembly Rooms, which continues to be a thriving events venue. In 1962, she hosted Norway’s King Olav V for a night out at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, and the royal variety performance was held at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre in 2003.Patrick Donovan//Getty ImagesVictoria Street is rumored to have been the inspiration for the Harry Potter universe’s Diagon Alley.A big part of Edinburgh’s recent history has been its status as the home of Harry Potter. The original Elephant House cafe where JK Rowling wrote her first book is closed due to a fire. However, it has temporarily relocated to nearby Victoria Street, said to be the inspiration for the book's Diagon Alley. There are also plenty of tours and shops dedicated to the famous wizard.And although not strictly royal-themed, the royals are a family of dog-lovers so don’t miss the chance to walk past the famous statue of Greyfriars Bobby located outside Greyfriars Kirkyard. It commemorates the Skye Terrier who, legend has it, sat at his owner’s grave for 14 years until his own death.John and Tina Reid//Getty ImagesWhere to StayYou won’t find a spot more central than the Balmoral Hotel, with the address 1 Princes Street. And it’s not just the name that gives it a royal connection—it was apparently a favorite lunch spot of the Queen Mother.For a more tranquil location there is Prestonfield House Hotel near to Arthur’s Seat. Designed by King Charles II’s architect William Bruce in 1687, today’s decor is a modern take on regal opulence. The hotel is celebrated for afternoon tea. If you are a golf fan don’t forget to check out Prestonfield Golf Club next door.Owned by the same business as Prestonfield House is The Witchery by the Castle. The acclaimed hotel and restaurant is right at the gates of Edinburgh Castle in a building dating back to the 16th Century.For accommodation that’s a bit different without sacrificing on luxury then check out Britannia’s sister ship, Fingal. The floating Fingal Hotel is the closest you can get to staying on Britannia itself.Where to Eat and Drink Café Royal tucked away behind Princes Street is Scotland’s oldest Oyster Bar and serves seafood alongside traditional Scottish dishes. Often billed as Scotland’s oldest pub, the Sheep Heid Inn near to Holyrood Park holds the distinction of being one of the few places Queen Elizabeth II was spotted dining privately.If you’re visiting Britannia, consider popping to the nearby Newhaven Harbour for acclaimed fish and chips from the Fishmarket. Also nearby is popular seafood restaurant The Ship on the Shore.They may not have specific royal links, but Edinburgh is home to seven Michelin-starred restaurants. The guide also recommends several others including the Scran and Scallie in Stockbridge, a personal favorite.Destination spot The Dome on George Street is a top choice for afternoon tea and cocktails.davidhills//Getty ImagesJenners department store on Princes Street.Where to ShopYou can’t visit Edinburgh and fail to take in the shopping on Princes Street, including the stylish new St James Quarter at one end of the iconic street. Celebrated Princes Street department store Jenners, which Queen Elizabeth visited in 1988, is currently undergoing an extensive restoration but is expected to reopen in the next two years.For a calmer shopping experience, head to the upscale neighborhood of Stockbridge which has independent boutiques and delis including artisan Scottish cheese shop J Mellis. In the Leith area you will find the home of kiltmakers Kinloch Anderson, who have a royal warrant from the King and offer a wide range of clothing including bespoke tartan and tweed design services.The Grassmarket near to Edinburgh Castle has some of the city’s most charming independent shops and cafes. Prince William visited a community project in the area in 2021, where he was given tartan gifts for Kate and their three children.Victoria MurphyContributing EditorTown & Country Contributing Editor Victoria Murphy has reported on the British Royal Family since 2010. She has interviewed Prince Harry and has travelled the world covering several royal tours. She is a frequent contributor to Good Morning America. Victoria authored Town & Country book The Queen: A Life in Pictures, released in 2021. Visiting Edinburgh city in Scotland? EdinburghTips.com is the tourist guide with the best city trip information, tourism tips for exploring sights and places to visit in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. Tourist guide for a city trip Edinburgh (Scotland) Are you planning to go on a Edinburgh city trip? Welcome at our travel guide where you will find the best tips and tourist info for visiting Edinburgh Scotland. We offer you all the tourist information you need to visit the Scottish capital with a city trip. On this online travel guide you will find the best hotels, tips for activities and the most interesting things to do in Edinburgh, so you can be well-informed and prepared for your city break. If you follow our tips on this page, you are guaranteed to experience an amazing Edinburgh city trip. Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland since the Middle Ages, which is also reflected in the historic center of the city. The city has approximately 519,000 inhabitants and is the second largest city in Scotland after Glasgow. Edinburgh city lies to the east on the sea and lies on the south side of the Firth of Forth. Edinburgh was once just a fortress on the volcanic Castle Rock, but after being conquered several times - Celts, Romans, English and Scots have built the city – it has grown into the city nowadays, where today the Scottish Parliament is located. The skyline of the capital of Scotland Festivals: Visit the Royal Military Tattoo Tourism Edinburgh: Famous Festivals The Fringe Festival in the summer months attracts many tourists to the Scottish city every year. The festival consists of performances of music, opera, dance and theatre, with the most famous international artists and instrumentalists showing their performances to the world. In the month of August, a second festival will take place in the capital, namely the Royal Military Tattoo, where a world-famous military and musical show is given. Various armies from all over the world participate in this. At the end of August you can also visit the International Film Festival of Edinburgh Scotland. Places to visit in Edinburgh city In addition to its many cultural events and festivals, Edinburgh is also known for its Edinburgh sightseeing and tourist attractions. These must-sees places to visit during your city trip to Edinburgh are mainly found in the districts Old Town and New Town of the city. These two neighborhoods are on the World Heritage List of UNESCO and for a good reason. Edinburgh is also a UNESCO City of Literature as part of the Creative Cities Network project. Royal sightseeing in Edinburgh Scotland One of the most famous places to visit in Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, is the Edinburgh Castle. It is a castle built on volcanic soil and has served as a royal palace and garrison castle for centuries. Today, the castle is home to a number of museums, including the National War Museum. The Palace of Holyroodhouse, the current residence of the royal family during a visit to Scotland, is also a real eye-catcher. Finally, the former Royal Yacht Britannia is located in Edinburgh harbor in Leith and is now open to all. The New Town Gregorian district of the capital of Scotland Places to visit: Greyfriars Kirkyard at your Scottish city trip Museums to visit in the Scottish capital In addition to the National War Museum in the Edinburgh Castle, there are also dozens of other museums worth visiting in the city. For example, visit the Camera Obscura and World of Illusions, which is housed in a former conservatory near the Castle. Or take some time to visit the Scottish National Gallery in the Princess Street Gardens. Learn about economics and coins at the Museum of the Mound, housed in the former headquarters of the Bank of Scotland. For whiskey lovers there is also the Scotch Whiskey Experience, a museum about and to taste Scotch whisky, which is also included in the popular Edinburgh Pass. The diversity of the various museums in Edinburgh Scotland makes a museum trip a must on your city trip. A city trip with children A visit to Edinburgh doesn't have to be boring, even for the youngest among us. In Edinburgh Scotland, for example, you will find the Edinburgh Zoo, where you can view special animal species such as the giant panda and the koala. Or visit the monument to Greyfriars Bobby, John Gray's Sky Terrier, one of Edinburgh's best-known tales that has even been released several times on the white cloth. More Edinburgh tourist information Edinburgh's most famous street is the Royal Mile, which runs between the Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Castle and consists of a succession of several smaller streets. On the Royal Mile you can also see the St. Giles Cathedral, a twelfth-century cathedral. A ten minute walk from the Royal Mile you can also visit the Scott Monument in memory of the famous Ivanhoe author Sir Walter Scott. The Scott Monument is located next to the famous Princes Street Gardens. Also visit Holyrood Park, which is built on a number of hills, the main one being Arthur's Seat. Do you want to avoid the hustle and bustle of Edinburgh city? Then walk to Calton Hill, from where you have a spectacular view of Edinburgh city and where you can find a number of famous monuments, such as the Nelson Monument. Top 20 Edinburgh Sightseeing The most famous tourist attraction remains Edinburgh's castle on Castle Rock. Today you can take a guided tour to visit some of the castle's famous chambers and there are a number of museums in the castle, such as the National War Museum. Edinburgh is a city full of medieval history with castles, numerous museums, beautiful sights and fun events. The city is more than just the Royal Mile and the Castle. During your city trip, it is advisable to view the top 20 sights below. Old Town is the area where most of Edinburgh's tourist attractions are located. The Royal Mile is the main street through Old Town starting at Castle Rock, on which Edinburgh Castle is located, to Holyrood Palace. Today, Holyrood House is the residence of the British Royal Family when they visit Scotland. Holyrood Palace contains a number of highlights of the city, such as the Great Gallery, the Queen Gallery and the Palace Gardens. Fortunately, many attractions are within walking distance. In this article you can read about the transport options in the city and about the transport options to and from Edinburgh Airport. Due to the central position of Edinburgh, there are also many day trips possible to the area around the Scottish capital. For example, you can visit the Scottish Highlands with the sharp mountain peaks and famous lakes, such as Loch Ness. The Underground Vaults, also known as the South Bridge Vaults, are a fascinating and eerie part of the city's history. Located beneath the bustling streets of Edinburgh, these underground chambers were constructed in the late 18th century as part of the South Bridge. The Edinburgh City Pass is a convenient way for tourists to explore the city's top attractions while saving money and time. It’s designed to provide easy access to a range of popular sites and experiences. Review of all different Edinburgh city cards. Best time to visit Edinburgh Scotland Edinburgh and Scotland have a temperate maritime climate with mild winters and cool summers. It is striking that there is approximately half as much precipitation as in Glasgow, for example, which may be a result of the location of the city on the Firth of Forth, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. However, the weather can be an important factor for people when they want to visit Edinburgh for a city trip. The best time for tourism to visit the city is therefore in spring. The temperatures are pleasant during this period and the chance of prolonged precipitation is minimal. However, many people also visit Edinburgh in the summer (particularly August), when there are many festivals in the city, such as the Edinburgh Festival. Weather Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec minimum (°C) 0 0 1 3 5 8 10 10 9 6 2 1 maximum (°C) 6 6 8 11 14 17 18 18 16 13 8 6 hours of sunshine / day 1 2 3 5 5 6 5 5 4 3 2 1 rain (mm) 20 17 19 16 16 16 15 17 18 19 19 19 Video: Impression Edinburgh city trip Where is the capital of Scotland? Links Scotland, Rome Sightseeing, Edinburgh, Reykjavik, Athens Greece, Krakow sights, Rom, Pompeii and Barcelona. Edinburgh Festival Fringe The Scotch Whisky Experience This glittering, state-of-the-art space is dedicated to wellbeing – with a hammam, salt room, bio sauna and more. Relax at One Spa The Royal Yacht Britannia Granton Castle Walled Garden Capital city of Scotland This article is about the capital of Scotland. For other uses, see Edinburgh (disambiguation). Place in ScotlandEdinburgh Dùn Èideann (Scottish Gaelic)Capital city, lieutenancy and council areaSkyline of Central Edinburgh, with the Dugald Stewart Monument (forefront) and Edinburgh Castle (background)Scott MonumentScottish Parliament BuildingRoyal Scottish Academy BuildingSt Giles' CathedralArthur's Seat FlagCoat of armsNicknames: Auld ReekieEdinaAthens of the NorthMotto(s): Latin: Nisi Dominus Frustra, lit. 'Without the Lord, all is in vain'Edinburgh City shown within ScotlandEdinburghLocation within ScotlandShow map of ScotlandEdinburghLocation within the United KingdomShow map of the United KingdomCoordinates: 55°57′N 3°11′W / 55.950°N 3.183°W / 55.950; -3.183Sovereign stateUnited KingdomCountryScotlandFoundedBefore 7th century ADBurgh charter1124City status1633Unitary authority1 April 1996Administrative HQEdinburgh City ChambersGovernment[1] • TypeCouncil • BodyThe City of Edinburgh Council • ControlNo overall control • MPs 5 MPs Scott Arthur (L) Tracy Gilbert (L) Ian Murray (L) Chris Murray (L) Christine Jardine (LD) • MSPs 6 MSPs Ash Regan (Alba) Angus Robertson (SNP) Daniel Johnson (L) Gordon MacDonald (SNP) Ben Macpherson (SNP) Alex Cole-Hamilton (LD) Area[2] • Total102 sq mi (263 km2) • Rank23rdPopulation (2022)[2] • Total514,990 • Rank2nd • Density5,060/sq mi (1,955/km2)Time zoneUTC+0 (GMT) • Summer (DST)UTC+1 (BST)Postcode areasEH1–17, EH28–30Dialling codes0131ISO 3166 codeGB-EDHGSS codeS12000036Websitewww.edinburgh.gov.uk UNESCO World Heritage SiteOfficial nameOld and New Towns of EdinburghCriteriaCultural: ii, ivReference728Inscription1995 (19th Session) UNESCO World Heritage SiteOfficial nameThe Forth BridgeCriteriaCultural: i, ivReference1485Inscription2015 (39th Session) EdinburghFlag of Edinburgh History Etymology Burning of Edinburgh Mary, Queen of Scots Greyfriars Kirk Burke and Hare Kingdom of Scotland Act of Union 1707 Parliament of Scotland David Hume Edinburgh Review Holyrood Abbey Treaty of Edinburgh Edinburgh town walls Old Town New Town Robert Adam James Craig Church of Scotland Disruption of 1843 Thomas Aikenhead Deacon Brodie North British Railway Visit of King George IV Sir Walter Scott Edwin of Northumbria Devolution Burgh Lothian Edinburgh Stock Exchange Porteous Riots Silvermills Tron riot Greyfriars Bobby Great Fire of Edinburgh Governance City of Edinburgh Council Lord Provost of Edinburgh Scottish Parliament Buildings and landmarks Arthur's Seat Balmoral Hotel Brass Founders' Pillar Bute House Calton Hill Craiglockhart Castle Edinburgh Castle Edinburgh International Conference Centre Forth Rail Bridge Forth Road Bridge Governor's House Holyrood Palace National Monument New College Old College Parliament House Princes Street Gardens Ross Fountain Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Scott Monument Scottish Parliament Building St Andrew's House St Giles' Cathedral Victoria Quay Museums and galleries Fruitmarket Gallery The Georgian House Museum of Edinburgh National Museum of Scotland National War Museum Dynamic Earth Public art Royal Scottish Academy Scottish National Gallery Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Theatres and concert halls Bedlam Theatre Edinburgh Arena (proposed) Edinburgh Playhouse Festival Theatre King's Theatre Queen's Hall Reid Concert Hall Royal Lyceum Theatre St Cecilia's Hall Traverse Theatre Usher Hall Economy Bank of Scotland Caledonian Brewery Edinburgh Park Edinburgh BioQuarter Fort Kinnaird Ocean Terminal Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Widows Standard Life Transport A1 road Airport Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Edinburgh City Bypass Edinburgh Crossrail Edinburgh Waverley railway station Haymarket railway station Lothian Buses Trams Health and education Edinburgh College Edinburgh College of Art Heriot-Watt University Hospitals Moray House School of Education Napier University Queen Margaret University Schools Scotland's Rural College University of Edinburgh Festivals Edinburgh Festival Fringe Edinburgh International Book Festival Edinburgh International Film Festival Edinburgh International Festival Edinburgh International Television Festival Hogmanay Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Related Geography of Edinburgh Beer in Edinburgh Graveyards and cemeteries in Edinburgh vte Edinburgh[a] is the capital city of Scotland and one of its 32 council areas. The city is located in southeast Scotland and is bounded to the north by the Firth of Forth and to the south by the Pentland Hills. Edinburgh had a population of 506,520 in 2020,[6] making it the second-most populous city in Scotland and the seventh-most populous in the United Kingdom. The wider metropolitan area had a population of 912,490 in the same year.[7] Recognised as the capital of Scotland since at least the 15th century, Edinburgh is the seat of the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the highest courts in Scotland, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland. It is also the annual venue of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The city has long been a centre of education, particularly in the fields of medicine, Scottish law,

literature, philosophy, the sciences, and engineering. The University of Edinburgh was founded in 1582 and is now one of three universities in the city. The financial centre of Scotland, Edinburgh is the second-largest financial centre in the United Kingdom, the fourth-largest in Europe, and the thirteenth-largest in the world.[8] The city is a cultural centre, and is the home of institutions including the National Museum of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, and the Scottish National Gallery.[9] The city is also known for the Edinburgh International Festival and the Fringe, the latter being the world's largest annual international arts festival. Historic sites in Edinburgh include Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the churches of St. Giles, Greyfriars and the Canongate, and the extensive Georgian New Town built in the 18th and 19th centuries. Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town together are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site,[10] which has been managed by Edinburgh World Heritage since 1999. The city's historical and cultural attractions have made it Britain's second-most visited tourist destination, attracting 5.3 million visits, including 2.4 million from overseas, in 2023.[11] Edinburgh is governed by the City of Edinburgh Council, a unitary authority. The City of Edinburgh council area had an estimated population of 514,990 in 2022,[2] and includes outlying towns and villages which are not part of Edinburgh proper. The city is in the Lothian region and was historically part of the shire of Midlothian (also called Edinburghshire). Main article: Etymology of Edinburgh "Edin", the root of the city's name, derives from Eidyn, the name for the region in Cumbric, the Brittonic Celtic language formerly spoken there. The name's meaning is unknown.[12] The district of Eidyn was centred on the stronghold of Din Eidyn, the dun or hillfort of Eidyn.[12] This stronghold is believed to have been located at Castle Rock,[13] now the site of Edinburgh Castle. A siege of Din Eidyn by Oswald, king of the Angles of Northumbria in 638 marked the beginning of three centuries of Germanic influence in south east Scotland that laid the foundations for the development of Scots, before the town was ultimately subsumed in 954 by the kingdom known to the English as Scotland.[14] As the language shifted from Cumbric to Northumbrian Old English and then Scots, the Brittonic din in Din Eidyn was replaced by burh, producing Edinburgh. In Scottish Gaelic din becomes dùn, producing modern Dùn Èideann.[12][15] The city is affectionately nicknamed Auld Reekie,[16][17] Scots for Old Smoky, for the views from the country of the smoke-covered Old Town. A note in a collection of the works of the poet Allan Ramsay explains, "Auld Reeky...A name the country people give Edinburgh, from the cloud of smoke or reek that is always impending over it."[18] In Walter Scott's 1820 novel The Abbot, a character observes that "yonder stands Auld Reekie—you may see the smoke hover over her at twenty miles' distance".[19] Thomas Carlyle comments on the phenomenon: "Smoke cloud hangs over old Edinburgh, for, ever since Aeneas Silvius's time and earlier, the people have the art, very strange to Aeneas, of burning a certain sort of black stones, and Edinburgh with its chimneys is called 'Auld Reekie' by the country people".[20] The 19th-century historian Robert Chambers asserted that the sobriquet could not be traced before the reign of King Charles II in the late 17th century. He attributed the name to a Fife laird, Durham of Largo, who regulated the bedtime of his children by the smoke rising above Edinburgh from the fires of the tenements. "It's time now bairns, to tak' the beuks, and gang to our beds, for yonder's Auld Reekie, I see, putting on her nicht-cap!".[21] Edinburgh has been popularly called the Athens of the North since the early 19th century.[22] References to Athens, such as Athens of Britain and Modern Athens, had been made as early as the 1760s. The similarities were seen to be topographical but also intellectual. Edinburgh's Castle Rock reminded returning grand tourists of the Athenian Acropolis, as did aspects of the neoclassical architecture and layout of New Town.[22] In 1818, naturalist Edward Daniel Clarke called Edinburgh "a very correct model of a Grecian city", pointing out perceived similarities between both cities and their ports (respectively, Leith and Piraeus).[22] Intellectually, the Scottish Enlightenment, with its humanist and rationalist outlook, was influenced by Ancient Greek philosophy.[23] In 1822, English landscape painter Hugh William Williams organised an exhibition that showed his paintings of Athens alongside views of Edinburgh, and the idea of a direct parallel between both cities quickly caught the popular imagination.[24] When plans were drawn up in the early 19th century to architecturally develop Calton Hill, the design of the National Monument directly copied Athens' Parthenon.[25] Tom Stoppard's character Archie of Jumpers said, perhaps playing on Reykjavík meaning "smoky bay", that the "Reykjavík of the South" would be more appropriate.[26] The city has also been known by several Latin names, such as Edinburgum, while the adjectival forms Edinburgensis and Edinensis are used in educational and scientific contexts.[27][28] Edina is a late 18th-century poetical form used by the Scottish poets Robert Fergusson and Robert Burns. "Embra" or "Embro" are colloquialisms from the same time,[29] as in Robert Garioch's Embro to the Ploy.[30] Ben Jonson described it as "Britaine's other eye",[31] and Sir Walter Scott referred to it as "yon Empress of the North".[32] Robert Louis Stevenson, also a son of the city, wrote that Edinburgh "is what Paris ought to be".[33] Main article: History of Edinburgh Surgeons' Hall, one of the Greek Revival buildings that earned Edinburgh the nickname "Athens of the North" The earliest known human habitation in the Edinburgh area was at Cramond, where evidence was found of a Mesolithic camp site dated to c. 8500 BC.[34] Traces of later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements have been found on Castle Rock, Arthur's Seat, Craiglockhart Hill, and the Pentland Hills.[35] When the Romans arrived in Lothian at the end of the 1st century AD, they found a Brittonic Celtic tribe whose name they recorded as the Votadini.[36] The Votadini transitioned into the Gododdin kingdom in the Early Middle Ages, with Eidyn serving as one of the kingdom's districts. During this period, the Castle Rock site, thought to have been the stronghold of Din Eidyn, emerged as the kingdom's major centre.[37] The medieval Welsh-language poem Y Gododdin describes a war band from across the Brittonic world who gathered in Eidyn before a fateful raid; this may describe a historical event around AD 600.[38][39][40] In 638, the Gododdin stronghold was besieged by forces loyal to King Oswald of Northumbria, and around this time, control of Lothian passed to the Angles. Their influence continued for the next three centuries until around 950, when, during the reign of Indulf, son of Constantine II, the "burh" (fortress), named in the 10th-century Pictish Chronicle as oppidum Eden,[41] was abandoned to the Scots. It thenceforth remained, for the most part, under their jurisdiction.[42] The royal burgh was founded by King David I in the early 12th century on land belonging to the Crown, though the date of its charter is unknown.[43] The first documentary evidence of the medieval burgh is a royal charter, c. 1124–1127, by King David I granting a toft in burgo meo de Edenesburg to the Priory of Dunfermline.[44] The shire of Edinburgh seems also to have been created during David's reign, possibly covering all of Lothian at first, but by 1305 the eastern and western parts of Lothian had become Haddingtonshire and Linlithgowshire, leaving Edinburgh as the county town of a shire covering the central part of Lothian, which was called Edinburghshire or Midlothian (the latter name being an informal, but commonly used, alternative until the county's name was legally changed in 1947).[45][46] Edinburgh, showing Arthur's Seat, one of the earliest known sites of human habitation in the area Edinburgh was largely under English control from 1291 to 1314 and from 1333 to 1341, during the Wars of Scottish Independence. When the English invaded Scotland in 1298, Edward I of England chose not to enter Edinburgh but passed by it with his army.[47] In the middle of the 14th century the French chronicler Jean Froissart described it as the capital of Scotland (c. 1365), and James III (1451–1488) referred to it in the 15th century as "the principal burgh of our kingdom".[48] In 1482 James III "granted and perpetually confirmed to the said Provost, Bailies, Clerk, Council, and Community, and their successors, the office of Sheriff within the Burgh for ever, to be exercised by the Provost for the time as Sheriff, and by the Bailies for the time as Sheriffsdepute conjunctly and severally; with full power to hold Courts, to punish transgressors not only by banishment but by death, to appoint officers of Court, and to do everything else appertaining to the office of Sheriff; as also to apply to their own proper use the fines and escheats arising out of the exercise of the said office."[49] Despite being burnt by the English in 1544, Edinburgh continued to develop and grow,[50] and was at the centre of events in the 16th-century Scottish Reformation[51] and 17th-century Wars of the Covenant.[52] In 1582 Edinburgh's town council was given a royal charter by King James VI and I permitting the establishment of a university;[53] founded as Tounis College (Town's College), the institution developed into the University of Edinburgh, which contributed to Edinburgh's central intellectual role in subsequent centuries.[54] Edinburgh in the 17th century In 1603 King James VI of Scotland succeeded to the English throne, uniting the crowns of Scotland and England in a personal union known as the Union of the Crowns, though the two kingdoms remained separate realms governed in personal union.[55] In 1638 King Charles I's attempt to introduce Anglican church forms in Scotland encountered stiff Presbyterian opposition, culminating in the conflicts of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms.[56] Subsequent Scottish support for Charles II's restoration to the throne of England resulted in Edinburgh's occupation by Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth of England forces – the New Model Army – in 1650.[57] In the 17th century Edinburgh's boundaries were still defined by the city's defensive town walls. As a result, the city's growing population was accommodated by increasing the height of the houses. Buildings of 11 storeys or more were common,[58] and have been described as forerunners of the modern-day skyscraper.[59][60] Most of these old structures were replaced by the predominantly Victorian buildings seen in today's Old Town. In 1611 an act of parliament created the High Constables of Edinburgh to keep order in the city, thought to be the oldest statutory police force in the world.[61] A painting showing Edinburgh characters (based on John Kay's caricatures) behind St Giles' Cathedral in the late 18th century Following the Treaty of Union in 1706, the Parliaments of England and Scotland passed Acts of Union in 1706 and 1707 respectively, uniting the two kingdoms in the Kingdom of Great Britain effective from 1 May 1707.[62] As a consequence, the Parliament of Scotland merged with the Parliament of England to form the Parliament of Great Britain, which sat at Westminster in London. The Union was opposed by many Scots, resulting in riots in the city.[63] By the first half of the 18th century, Edinburgh was described as one of Europe's most densely populated, overcrowded, and unsanitary towns.[64][65] Visitors were struck by the fact that the social classes shared the same urban space, even inhabiting the same tenement buildings; although here a form of social segregation did prevail, whereby shopkeepers and tradesmen tended to occupy the cheaper-to-rent cellars and garrets, while the more well-to-do professional classes occupied the more expensive middle storeys.[66] During the Jacobite rising of 1745, Edinburgh was briefly occupied by the Jacobite "Highland Army" before its march into England.[67] After its eventual defeat at Culloden, there followed a period of reprisals and pacification, largely directed at the rebellious clans.[68] In Edinburgh, the Town Council, keen to emulate London by initiating city improvements and expansion to the north of the castle,[69] reaffirmed its belief in the Union and loyalty to the Hanoverian monarch George III by its choice of names for the streets of the New Town: for example, Rose Street and Thistle Street; and for the royal family, George Street, Queen Street, Hanover Street, Frederick Street and Princes Street (in honour of George's two sons).[70] The consistently geometric layout of the plan for the extension of Edinburgh was the result of a major competition in urban planning staged by the Town Council in 1766.[71] In the second half of the century, the city was at the heart of the Scottish Enlightenment,[72] when thinkers like David Hume, Adam Smith, James Hutton, and Joseph Black were familiar figures in its streets. Edinburgh became a major intellectual centre, earning it the nickname "Athens of the North" because of its many neo-classical buildings and reputation for learning, recalling ancient Athens.[73] In the 18th-century novel The Expedition of Humphry Clinker by Tobias Smollett one character describes Edinburgh as a "hotbed of genius".[74] Edinburgh was also a major centre for the Scottish book trade. The highly successful London bookseller Andrew Millar was apprenticed there to James McEuen.[75] From the 1770s onwards, the professional and business classes gradually deserted the Old Town in favour of the more elegant "one-family" residences of the New Town, a migration that changed the city's social character. According to the foremost historian of this development, "Unity of social feeling was one of the most valuable heritages of old Edinburgh, and its disappearance was widely and properly lamented."[76] Edinburgh, c. 1920 Despite an enduring myth to the contrary,[77] Edinburgh became an industrial centre[78] with its traditional industries of printing, brewing and distilling continuing to grow in the 19th century and joined by new industries such as rubber works, engineering works and others. By 1821, Edinburgh had been overtaken by Glasgow as Scotland's largest city.[79] The city centre between Princes Street and George Street became a major commercial and shopping district, a development partly stimulated by the arrival of railways in the 1840s. The Old Town became an increasingly dilapidated, overcrowded slum with high mortality rates.[80] Improvements carried out under Lord Provost William Chambers in the 1860s began the transformation of the area into the predominantly Victorian Old Town seen today.[81] More improvements followed in the early 20th century as a result of the work of Patrick Geddes,[82] but relative economic stagnation during the two world wars and beyond saw the Old Town deteriorate further before major slum clearance in the 1960s and 1970s began to reverse the process. University building developments, which transformed the George Square and Potterrow areas, proved highly controversial.[83] HM Queen Elizabeth II and First Minister Donald Dewar at the opening of the Scottish Parliament, 1999 Since the 1990s a new "financial district", including the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, has grown mainly on demolished railway property to the west of the castle, stretching into Fountainbridge, a run-down 19th-century industrial suburb which has undergone radical change since the 1980s with the demise of industrial and brewery premises. This ongoing development has enabled Edinburgh to maintain its place as the United Kingdom's second largest financial and administrative centre after London.[84][85] Financial services now account for a third of all commercial office space in the city.[86] The development of Edinburgh Park, a new business and technology park covering 38 acres (15 ha), 4 mi (6 km) west of the city centre, has also contributed to the District Council's strategy for the city's major economic regeneration.[86] In 1998, the Scotland Act, which came into force the following year, established a devolved Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive (renamed the Scottish Government since September 2007[87]). Both based in Edinburgh, they are responsible for governing Scotland while reserved matters such as defence, foreign affairs, and some elements of income tax remain the responsibility of the Parliament of the United Kingdom in London.[88] In 2022, Edinburgh was affected by the 2022 Scotland bin strikes.[89] In 2023, Edinburgh became the first capital city in Europe to sign the global Plant Based Treaty, which was introduced at COP26 in 2021 in Glasgow.[90] Green Party councillor Steve Burgess introduced the treaty. The Scottish Countryside Alliance and other farming groups called the treaty "anti-farming".[91] Victoria Street in October 2021 Situated in Scotland's Central Belt, Edinburgh lies on the southern shore of the Firth of Forth. The city centre is 2+1⁄2 mi (4.0 km) southwest of the shoreline of Leith and 26 mi (42 km) inland, as the crow flies, from the east coast of Scotland and the North Sea at Dunbar.[92] While the early burgh grew up near the prominent Castle Rock, the modern city is often said to be built on seven hills, namely Calton Hill, Corstorphine Hill, Craiglockhart Hill, Braid Hill, Blackford Hill, Arthur's Seat and the Castle Rock,[93] giving rise to allusions to the seven hills of Rome.[94] Occupying a narrow gap between the Firth of Forth to the north and the Pentland Hills and their outrunners to the south, the city sprawls over a landscape which is the product of early volcanic activity and later periods of intensive glaciation. [95]:64–65 Igneous activity between 350 and 400 million years ago, coupled with faulting, led to the creation of tough basalt volcanic plugs, which predominate over much of the area.[95]:64–65 One such example is the Castle Rock which forced the advancing ice sheet to divide, sheltering the softer rock and forming a 1 mi-long (1.6 km) tail of material to the east, thus creating a distinctive crag and tail formation.[95]:64–65 Glacial erosion on the north side of the crag gouged a deep valley later filled by the now drained Nor Loch. These features, along with another hollow on the rock's south side, formed an ideal natural strongpoint upon which Edinburgh Castle was built.[95]:64–65 Similarly, Arthur's Seat is the remains of a volcano dating from the Carboniferous period, which was eroded by a glacier moving west to east during the ice age.[95]:64–65 Erosive action such as plucking and abrasion exposed the rocky crags to the west before leaving a tail of deposited glacial material swept to the east.[96] This process formed the distinctive Salisbury Crags, a series of teschenite cliffs between Arthur's Seat and the location of the early burgh.[97] The residential areas of Marchmont and Bruntsfield are built along a series of drumlin ridges south of the city centre, which were deposited as the glacier receded.[95]:64–65 Other prominent landforms, such as Calton Hill and Corstorphine Hill, are also products of glacial erosion.[95]:64–65 The Braid Hills and Blackford Hill are a series of small summits to the south of the city centre that command expansive views looking northwards over the urban area to the Firth of Forth.[95]:64–65 Panorama of Edinburgh, 2025 Edinburgh is drained by the river named the Water of Leith, which rises at the Colzium Springs in the Pentland Hills and runs for 18 miles (29 km) through the south and west of the city, emptying into the Firth of Forth at Leith.[98] The nearest the river gets to the city centre is at Dean Village on the north-western edge of the New Town, where a deep gorge is spanned by Thomas Telford's Dean Bridge, built in 1832 for the road to Queensferry. The Water of Leith Walkway is a mixed-use trail that follows the course of the river for 19.6 km (12.2 mi) from Balerno to Leith.[99] Excepting the shoreline of the Firth of Forth, Edinburgh is encircled by a green belt, designated in 1957, which stretches from Dalmeny in the west to Prestongrange in the east.[100] With an average width of 3.2 km (2 mi) the principal objectives of the green belt were to contain the outward expansion of the city and to prevent the agglomeration of urban areas.[100] Expansion affecting the green belt is strictly controlled but developments such as Edinburgh Airport and the Royal Highland Showground at Ingliston lie within the zone.[100] Similarly, suburbs such as Juniper Green and Balerno are situated on green belt land.[100] One feature of the Edinburgh green belt is the inclusion of parcels of land within the city which are designated green belt, even though they do not connect with the peripheral ring. Examples of these independent wedges of green belt include Holyrood Park and Corstorphine Hill.[100] Map showing the areas of central Edinburgh Edinburgh includes former towns and villages that retain much of their original character as settlements in existence before they were absorbed into the expanding city of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.[101] Many areas, such as Dalry, contain residences that are multi-occupancy buildings known as tenements, although the more southern and western parts of the city have traditionally been less built-up with a greater number of detached and semi-detached villas.[102] The historic centre of Edinburgh is divided into two by the broad green swathe of Princes Street Gardens. To the south, the view is dominated by Edinburgh Castle, built high on Castle Rock, and the long sweep of the Old Town descending towards Holyrood Palace. To the north lie Princes Street and the New Town. The West End includes the financial district, with insurance and banking offices as well as the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Skyline of the Edinburgh Old Town Edinburgh's Old and New Towns were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 in recognition of the unique character of the Old Town with its medieval street layout and the planned Georgian New Town, including the adjoining Dean Village and Calton Hill areas. There are over 4,500 listed buildings within the city,[10] a higher proportion relative to area than any other city in the United Kingdom. The castle is perched on top of a rocky crag (the remnant of an extinct volcano), and the Royal Mile runs down the crest of a ridge from it, terminating at Holyrood Palace. Minor streets (called closes or wynds) lie on either side of the main spine, forming a herringbone pattern.[103] Due to space restrictions imposed by the narrowness of this landform, the Old Town became home to some of the earliest "high rise" residential buildings. Multi-storey dwellings known as lands were the norm from the 16th century onwards, with ten and eleven storeys being typical, and one even reaching fourteen or fifteen storeys.[104] Numerous vaults below street level were inhabited to accommodate the influx of incomers, particularly Irish immigrants, during the Industrial Revolution. The street has several fine public buildings such as St Giles' Cathedral, the City Chambers and the Law Courts. Other places of historical interest nearby are Greyfriars Kirkyard and Mary King's Close. The Grassmarket, running deep below the castle, is connected by the steep double terraced Victoria Street. The street layout is typical of the old quarters of many Northern European cities. The New Town was an 18th-century solution to the problem of an increasingly crowded city, which had been confined to the ridge sloping down from the castle. In 1766 a competition to design a "New Town" was won by James Craig, a 27-year-old architect.[105] The plan was a rigid, ordered grid, which fitted in well with Enlightenment ideas of rationality. The principal street was to be George Street, running along the natural ridge to the north of what became known as the "Old Town". To either side of it are two other main streets: Princes Street and Queen Street. Princes Street has become Edinburgh's main shopping street and now has few of its Georgian buildings in their original state. The three main streets are connected by a series of streets running perpendicular to them. The east and west ends of George Street are terminated by St Andrew Square and Charlotte Square respectively. Skyline of the Edinburgh New Town The latter, designed by Robert Adam, influenced the architectural style of the New Town into the early 19th century.[106] Bute House, the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland, is on the north side of Charlotte Square.[107] The hollow between the Old and New Towns was formerly the Nor Loch, which was created for the town's defence but came to be used by the inhabitants for dumping their sewage. It was drained by the 1820s as part of the city's northward expansion. Craig's original plan included an ornamental canal on the site of the loch,[70] but this idea was abandoned.[108] Soil excavated while laying the foundations of buildings in the New Town was dumped on the site of the loch to create the slope connecting the Old and New Towns known as The Mound. In the middle of the 19th century the National Gallery of Scotland and Royal Scottish Academy Building were built on The Mound, and tunnels for the railway line between Haymarket and Waverley stations were driven through it. The Southside is a residential part of the city, which includes the districts of St Leonards, Marchmont, Morningside, Newington, Sciennes, the Grange and Blackford. The Southside is broadly analogous to the area covered formerly by the Burgh Muir, and was developed as a residential area after the opening of the South Bridge in the 1780s. The Southside is particularly popular with families (many state and private schools are here), young professionals and students (the central University of Edinburgh campus is based around George Square just north of Marchmont and the Meadows), and Napier University (with major campuses around Merchiston and Morningside). The area is also well provided with hotels and "bed and breakfast" accommodation for visiting festival-goers. These districts often feature in works of fiction. For example, Church Hill in Morningside, was the home of Muriel Spark's Miss Jean Brodie,[109] and Ian Rankin's Inspector Rebus lives in Marchmont and works in St Leonards.[110] The Shore, Leith Leith was historically the port of Edinburgh, an arrangement of unknown date that was confirmed by the royal charter Robert the Bruce granted to the city in 1329.[111] The port developed a separate identity from Edinburgh, which to some extent it still retains, and it was a matter of great resentment when the two burghs merged in 1920 into the City of Edinburgh.[112] Even today, the parliamentary seat is known as "Edinburgh North and Leith". The loss of traditional industries and commerce (the last shipyard closed in 1983) resulted in economic decline.[113] The Edinburgh Waterfront development has transformed old dockland areas from Leith to Granton into residential areas with shopping and leisure facilities and helped rejuvenate the area. With the redevelopment, Edinburgh has gained the business of cruise liner companies, which now provide cruises to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands. The coastal suburb of Portobello is characterised by Georgian villas, Victorian tenements, a beach and promenade, and cafés, bars, restaurants and independent shops. There are rowing and sailing clubs, a restored Victorian swimming pool, and Victorian Turkish baths. The urban area of Edinburgh is almost entirely within the City of Edinburgh Council boundary, merging with Musselburgh in East Lothian. Towns within easy reach of the city boundary include Inverkeithing, Haddington, Tranent, Prestonpans, Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg, Loanhead, Penicuik, Broxburn, Livingston and Dunfermline. Edinburgh lies at the heart of the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City region, with a population in 2014 of 1,339,380.[114][115] Sunshine in Princes Street Gardens Like most of Scotland, Edinburgh has a cool temperate maritime climate (Cfb) which, despite its northerly latitude, is milder than places which lie at similar latitudes such as Moscow and Labrador.[116] The city's proximity to the sea mitigates any large variations in temperature or extremes of climate. Winter daytime temperatures rarely fall below freezing while summer temperatures are moderate, rarely exceeding 22 °C (72 °F).[116] The highest temperature recorded in the city was 31.6 °C (88.9 °F) on 25 July 2019[116] at Gogarbank, beating the previous record of 31 °C (88 °F) on 4 August 1975 at Edinburgh Airport.[117] The lowest temperature recorded in recent years was −14.6 °C (5.7 °F) during December 2010 at Gogarbank.[118] Given Edinburgh's position between the coast and hills, it is renowned as "the windy city", with the prevailing wind direction coming from the south-west, which is often associated with warm, unstable air from the North Atlantic Current that can give rise to rainfall – although considerably less than cities to the west, such as Glasgow.[116] Rainfall is distributed fairly evenly throughout the year.[116] Winds from an easterly direction are usually drier but considerably colder, and may be accompanied by haar, a persistent coastal fog. Vigorous Atlantic depressions, known as European windstorms, can affect the city between October and April.[116] Located slightly north of the city centre, the weather station at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) has been an official weather station for the Met Office since 1956. The Met Office operates its own weather station at Gogarbank on the city's western outskirts, near Edinburgh Airport.[119] This slightly inland station has a slightly wider temperature span between seasons, is cloudier and somewhat wetter, but differences are minor. Temperature and rainfall records have been kept at the Royal Observatory since 1764.[120] Climate data for Edinburgh (RBGE),[b] elevation: 23 m (75 ft), 1991–2020 normals, extremes 1960–present Month Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Year Record high °C (°F) 15.0(59.0) 15.2(59.4) 20.0(68.0) 24.1(75.4) 29.0(84.2) 28.4(83.1) 31.6(88.9) 31.4(88.5) 26.7(80.1) 24.4(75.9) 20.6(69.1) 15.4(59.7) 31.6(88.9) Mean daily maximum °C (°F) 7.3(45.1) 8.0(46.4) 9.7(49.5) 12.2(54.0) 14.9(58.8) 17.4(63.3) 19.3(66.7) 19.1(66.4) 16.9(62.4) 13.4(56.1) 9.9(49.8) 7.3(45.1) 13.0(55.4) Daily mean °C (°F) 4.5(40.1) 4.8(40.6) 6.3(43.3) 8.4(47.1) 11.0(51.8) 13.7(56.7) 15.4(59.7) 15.3(59.5) 13.3(55.9) 10.0(50.0) 6.8(44.2) 4.5(40.1) 9.5(49.1) Mean daily minimum °C (°F) 1.7(35.1) 1.7(35.1) 2.9(37.2) 4.7(40.5) 7.1(44.8) 9.9(49.8) 11.6(52.9) 11.5(52.7) 9.7(49.5) 6.7(44.1) 3.8(38.8) 1.6(34.9) 6.1(43.0) Record low °C (°F) −15.5(4.1) −11.7(10.9) −11.1(12.0) −6.1(21.0) −2.4(27.7) 1.1(34.0) 4.4(39.9) 2.2(36.0) −1.1(30.0) −3.7(25.3) −8.3(17.1) −11.5(11.3) −15.5(4.1) Average precipitation mm (inches) 64.7(2.55) 53.1(2.09) 48.5(1.91) 40.8(1.61) 47.6(1.87) 66.2(2.61) 72.1(2.84) 71.6(2.82) 54.9(2.16) 75.7(2.98) 65.3(2.57) 67.4(2.65) 727.7(28.65) Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm) 12.4 9.8 9.8 8.6 9.6 10.4 11.5 10.4 9.9 11.7 11.7 12.3 128.3 Mean monthly sunshine hours 55.2 82.2 117.3 157.3 194.7 161.8 169.9 160.0 130.1 99.4 72.1 49.2 1,449.1 Average ultraviolet index 0 1 2 3 5 6 5 5 3 1 1 0 3 Source: Met Office,[121] KNMI[122] and Weather Atlas[123] Climate data for Edinburgh (Gogarbank),[c] elevation: 57 m (187 ft), 1991–2020 normals Month Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Year Mean daily maximum °C (°F) 6.9(44.4) 7.5(45.5) 9.3(48.7) 12.0(53.6) 14.9(58.8) 17.5(63.5) 19.4(66.9) 19.2(66.6) 16.9(62.4) 13.2(55.8) 9.5(49.1) 7.0(44.6) 12.8(55.0) Daily mean °C (°F) 4.2(39.6) 4.6(40.3) 6.0(42.8) 8.2(46.8) 10.8(51.4) 13.4(56.1) 15.2(59.4) 15.1(59.2) 13.1(55.6) 9.8(49.6) 6.6(43.9) 4.2(39.6) 9.3(48.7) Mean daily minimum °C (°F) 1.5(34.7) 1.6(34.9) 2.7(36.9) 4.3(39.7) 6.7(44.1) 9.4(48.9) 11.0(51.8) 11.0(51.8) 9.4(48.9) 6.5(43.7) 3.6(38.5) 1.4(34.5) 5.8(42.4) Average precipitation mm (inches) 73.0(2.87) 61.1(2.41) 52.5(2.07) 45.9(1.81) 50.2(1.98) 68.8(2.71) 71.9(2.83) 74.7(2.94) 55.2(2.17) 82.7(3.26) 73.7(2.90) 74.9(2.95) 784.3(30.88) Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm) 13.3 10.7 10.3 9.2 10.8 11.1 11.4 11.2 10.5 13.0 12.9 13.1 137.4 Mean monthly sunshine hours 47.4 77.5 111.0 147.7 189.5 159.4 160.9 145.7 125.5 94.1 66.9 37.8 1,363.4 Source: Met Office[124] Main article: Demographics of Edinburgh Population density map The most recent official population estimates (2020) are 506,520 for the locality (includes Currie),[6] and 530,990 for the Edinburgh settlement (includes Musselburgh).[6] Edinburgh has a high proportion of young adults, with 19.5% of the population in their 20s (exceeded only by Aberdeen) and 15.2% in their 30s which is the highest in Scotland. The proportion of Edinburgh's population born in the UK fell from 92% to 84% between 2001 and 2011, while the proportion of White Scottish-born fell from 78% to 70%. Of those Edinburgh residents born in the UK, 335,000 or 83% were born in Scotland, with 58,000 or 14% being born in England.[125] Demographics of Edinburgh by ethnic group Ethnic group 1991[126][127] 2001[128][129] 2011[128][129] 2022[130] Number % Number % Number % Number % White: Total 409,044 97.64% 430,369 95.9% 437,167 91.7% 436,742 84.9% White: Scottish – – 354,053 78.9% 334,987 70.2% 298,533 58.0% White: Other British – – 51,407 11.4% 56,132 11.7% 69,829 13.6% White: Irish 5,518 1.31% 6,470 1.4% 8,603 1.8% 10,326 2.0% White: Gypsy/Traveller[d] – – – – 388 – 256 – White: Polish[d] – – – – 12,820 2.68% 16,351 3.18% White: Other – – 18,439 4.1% 24,237 5.1% 41,449 8.1% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Total 6,979 1.66% 11,600 2.5% 26,264 5.5% 44,070 8.6% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Indian 1,176 0.28% 2,384 0.53% 6,470 1.35% 12,414 2.41% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Pakistani 2,625 0.62% 3,928 0.87% 5,858 1.22% 7,454 1.45% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Bangladeshi 328 – 636 0.14% 1,277 0.26% 2,685 0.52% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Chinese 1,940 0.46% 3,532 0.78% 8,076 1.69% 15,076 2.93% Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Asian Other 910 0.21% 1,201 0.26% 4,583 0.96% 6,441 1.25% Black, Black Scottish or Black British[e] 1,171 0.3% 1,577 0.3% 5,505 1.2% 10,881 2.1% African: Total 603 - 1,285 0.2% 4,474 0.9% 9,462 1.84% African: African, African Scottish or African British 603 – 1,285 0.2% 4,364 0.91% 809 0.16% African: Other African – – – – 110 – 8,653 1.68% Caribbean or Black: Total 568 – 292 – 1,031 0.2% 1,419 0.3% Caribbean 175 – 292 – 505 0.1% 477 0.1% Black – – – – 403 – 80 – Caribbean or Black: Other 393 – – – 123 – 862 0.17% Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: Total – – 2,776 0.6% 4,087 0.8% 12,882 2.5% Other: Total 1,720 0.41% 2,047 0.45% 3,603 0.8% 9,966 1.9% Other: Arab[d] – – – – 2,500 0.52% 4,119 0.8% Other: Any other ethnic group 1,720 0.41% 2,047 0.45% 1,103 0.23% 5,849 1.14% Total: 418,914 100% 448,624 100% 476,626 100% 514,543 100% Some 16,000 people or 3.2% of the city's population are of Polish descent. 77,800 people or 15.1% of Edinburgh's population class themselves as Non-White, which is an increase from 8.2% in 2011 and 4% in 2001. Of the Non-White population, the largest group by far is Asian, totalling about 44 thousand people. Within the Asian population, people of Chinese descent are now the largest sub-group, with 15,076 people, amounting to about 2.9% of the city's total population. The city's population of Indian descent amounts to 12,414 (2.4% of the total population), while there are some 7,454 of Pakistani descent (1.5% of the total population). Although they account for only 2,685 people or 0.5% of the city's population, Edinburgh has the highest number and proportion of people of Bangladeshi descent in Scotland. Close to 12,000 people were born in African countries (2.3% of the total population) and over 13,000 in the Americas. With the notable exception of Inner London, Edinburgh has a higher number of people born in the United States (over 6,500) than any other city in the UK.[130] The proportion of people residing in Edinburgh born outside the UK was 23.5% in 2022, compared with 15.9% in 2011 and 8.3% in 2001. Below are the largest overseas-born groups in Edinburgh according to the 2022 census, alongside the two previous censuses. Place of birth 2022[131] 2011[125] 2001[132] Poland 13,842 11,651 416 India 9,445 4,888 1,733 Mainland China[f] 8,229 4,188 978 United States 6,539 3,715 2,184 Italy 4,885 1,716 1,257 Spain 4,837 2,011 1,058 Ireland 4,774 4,743 3,324 Germany 3,843 3,526 2,760 Hong Kong 3,556 1,622 1,416 Pakistan 3,220 2,472 1,663 Nigeria 2,978 1,186 231 France 2,973 2,039 1,412 South Africa 2,464 1,824 1,331 Greece 2,377 992 575 Australia 2,189 2,086 2,012 Canada 2,079 1,760 1,332 Overall – all overseas-born 120,978 75,698 37,420 Historical populationYearPop.±%180182,560 — 1811102,987+24.7%1821138,235+34.2%1831161,909+17.1%1841166,450+2.8%1851193,929+16.5%1901303,638+56.6%1911320,318+5.5%1921420,264+31.2%1931439,010+4.5%1951466,761+6.3%Source: [133] A census by the Edinburgh presbytery in 1592 recorded a population of 8,003 adults spread equally north and south of the High Street which runs along the spine of the ridge sloping down from the Castle.[134] In the 18th and 19th centuries, the population expanded rapidly, rising from 49,000 in 1751 to 136,000 in 1831, primarily due to migration from rural areas.[95]:9 As the population grew, problems of overcrowding in the Old Town, particularly in the cramped tenements that lined the present-day Royal Mile and the Cowgate, were exacerbated.[95]:9 Poor sanitary arrangements resulted in a high incidence of disease,[95]:9 with outbreaks of cholera occurring in 1832, 1848, and 1866.[135] The construction of the New Town from 1767 onwards witnessed the migration of the professional and business classes from the difficult living conditions in the Old Town to the lower-density, higher quality surroundings taking shape on land to the north. [136] Expansion southwards from the Old Town saw more tenements being built in the 19th century, giving rise to Victorian suburbs such as Dalry, Newington, Marchmont and Bruntsfield.[136] Early 20th-century population growth coincided with lower-density suburban development. As the city expanded to the south and west, detached and semi-detached villas with large gardens replaced tenements as the predominant building style. Nonetheless, the 2001 census revealed that over 55% of Edinburgh's population were still living in tenements or blocks of flats, a figure in line with other Scottish cities, but much higher than other British cities, and even central London.[137] From the early to mid 20th century, the growth in population, together with slum clearance in the Old Town and other areas, such as Dumbiedykes, Leith, and Fountainbridge, led to the creation of new estates such as Stenhouse and Saughton, Craigmillar and Niddrie, Pilton and Muirhouse, Piershill, and Sighthill.[138] Religion of Edinburgh residents, 2022 No religion 56.3% Christian 30.1% Religion not stated 6.6% Muslim 3.5% Hindu 1.6% Buddhist 0.5% Pagan 0.3% Other religion 0.3% Sikh 0.3% Jewish 0.2% Source: 2022 census[139] The High Kirk of Edinburgh, also known as St Giles' Cathedral As per the 2022 census, 13% of the population belonged to the Church of Scotland and 10% to the Catholic Church.[140] Saint Giles is historically the patron saint of Edinburgh.[141] St Cuthbert's, situated at the west end of Princes Street Gardens in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle and St Giles' can lay claim to being the oldest Christian sites in the city,[142] though the present St Cuthbert's, designed by Hippolyte Blanc, was dedicated in 1894.[143] Other Church of Scotland churches include Greyfriars Kirk, the Canongate Kirk, The New Town Church and the Barclay Church. The Church of Scotland Offices are in Edinburgh,[144] as is the Assembly Hall where the annual General Assembly is held.[145] The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh has 27 parishes across the city.[146] The Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh has his official residence in Greenhill,[147] the diocesan offices are in nearby Marchmont,[148] and its cathedral is St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. The Diocese of Edinburgh of the Scottish Episcopal Church has over 50 churches, half of them in the city.[149] Its centre is the late 19th-century Gothic style St Mary's Cathedral in the West End's Palmerston Place.[150] Orthodox Christianity is represented by Pan, Romanian and Russian Orthodox churches, including St Andrew's Orthodox Church, part of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.[151] There are several independent churches in the city, both Catholic and Protestant, including Charlotte Chapel, Carrubbers Christian Centre, Bellevue Chapel and Sacred Heart.[152] There are also churches belonging to Quakers, Christadelphians,[153] Seventh-day Adventists, Church of Christ, Scientist, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) and Elim Pentecostal Church. Muslims have several places of worship across the city. Edinburgh Central Mosque, the largest Islamic place of worship, is located in Potterrow on the city's Southside, near Bristo Square. Construction was largely financed by a gift from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia[154] and was completed in 1998.[155] There is also an Ahmadiyya Muslim community.[156] The first recorded presence of a Jewish community in Edinburgh dates back to the late 18th century.[157] Edinburgh's Orthodox synagogue, opened in 1932, is in Salisbury Road and can accommodate a congregation of 2000. A Liberal Jewish congregation also meets in the city. A Sikh gurdwara and a Hindu mandir are located in Leith.[158][159] The city also has a Brahma Kumaris centre in the Polwarth area.[160] The Edinburgh Buddhist Centre, run by the Triratna Buddhist Community, formerly situated in Melville Terrace, now runs sessions at the Healthy Life Centre, Bread Street.[161] Other Buddhist traditions are represented by groups which meet in the capital: the Community of Interbeing (followers of Thich Nhat Hanh), Rigpa, Samye Dzong, Theravadin, Pure Land and Shambala. There is a Sōtō Zen Priory in Portobello[162] and a Theravadin Thai Buddhist Monastery in Slateford Road.[163] Edinburgh is home to a Bahá'í community,[164] and a Theosophical Society meets in Great King Street.[165] Edinburgh has an Inter-Faith Association.[166] Edinburgh has over 39 graveyards and cemeteries, many of which are listed and of historical character, including several former church burial grounds.[167] Examples include Old Calton Burial Ground, Greyfriars Kirkyard and Dean Cemetery.[168][169][170] Main article: Economy of Edinburgh Further information: Economy of Scotland The Bank of Scotland's head office in central Edinburgh Headquarters of Rockstar North situated in Edinburgh Edinburgh has the strongest economy of any city in the United Kingdom outside London and the highest percentage of professionals in the UK with 43% of the population holding a degree-level or professional qualification.[171] According to the Centre for International Competitiveness, it is the most competitive large city in the United Kingdom.[172] In 2023, its gross domestic product per capita of £69,809 surpassed London's for the first time.[173][174] It also had the highest gross value added per employee of any city in the UK outside London, measuring £57,594 in 2010.[175] It was named European Best Large City of the Future for Foreign Direct Investment and Best Large City for Foreign Direct Investment Strategy in the Financial Times magazine in 2012.[176] As the centre of Scotland's government and legal system, the public sector plays a central role in Edinburgh's economy. Many departments of the Scottish Government are in the city, including the headquarters of the government at St Andrew's House, the official residence of the First Minister at Bute House and Scottish Government offices at Victoria Quay. Other major sectors across the city include administrative and support services, the education sector, public administration and defence, the health and social care sector, scientific and technical services, and construction and manufacturing.[177] When the £1.3bn Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal[178] was signed in 2018, the region's Gross Value Added (GVA) contribution to the Scottish economy was cited as £33bn, or 33% of the country's output. The City Region Deal funds a range of "Data Driven Innovation" hubs which are using data to innovate in the region, recognising the region's strengths in technology and data science, the growing importance of the data economy, and the need to tackle the digital skills gap, as a route to social and economic prosperity.[179][180][181] Tourism is also an important element in the city's economy. As a World Heritage Site, tourists visit historical sites such as Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the Old and New Towns. Their numbers are augmented in August each year during the Edinburgh Festivals, which attract over 4 million visitors, and generate over £400M for the local economy.[182] In May 2024, unemployment in Edinburgh was at 3.5%, in line with the Scottish average of 3.7%.[183][184] In 2022 Edinburgh was the second most visited city in the United Kingdom, behind London, by overseas visitors.[185] Main article: List of Edinburgh festivals Edinburgh Castle illuminated during the Edinburgh Military Tattoo The city hosts a series of festivals that run between the end of July and early September each year. The best known of these events are the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Edinburgh Art Festival and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.[186] The longest established of these festivals is the Edinburgh International Festival, which was first held in 1947[187] and consists mainly of a programme of high-profile theatre productions and classical music performances, featuring international directors, conductors, theatre companies and orchestras.[188] This has since been overtaken in size by the Edinburgh Fringe, which began as a programme of marginal acts alongside the "official" Festival and has become the world's largest performing arts festival. In 2023, over 3700 different shows were staged in 300 venues across the city.[182][189] Comedy has become one of the mainstays of the Fringe, with numerous well-known comedians getting their first 'break' there, often by being chosen to receive the Edinburgh Comedy Award.[190] The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, occupies the Castle Esplanade every night for three weeks each August, with massed pipe bands and military bands drawn from around the world. Performances end with a short fireworks display. As well as the summer festivals, many other festivals are held during the rest of the year, including the Edinburgh International Film Festival[191] and Edinburgh International Science Festival.[192] The summer of 2020 was the first time in its 70-year history that the Edinburgh festival was not run, being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.[193] This affected many of the tourist-focused businesses in Edinburgh which depend on the various festivals over summer to return an annual profit.[194] Main article: Edinburgh's Hogmanay A Viking longship being burnt during Edinburgh's annual Hogmanay celebrations The annual Edinburgh Hogmanay celebration was originally an informal street party focused on the Tron Kirk in the Old Town's High Street. Since 1993, it has been officially organised with the focus moved to Princes Street. In 1996, over 300,000 people attended, leading to ticketing of the main street party in later years up to a limit of 100,000 tickets.[195] Hogmanay now covers four days of processions, concerts and fireworks, with the street party beginning on Hogmanay. Alternative tickets are available for entrance into the Princes Street Gardens concert and Cèilidh, where well-known artists perform and ticket holders can participate in traditional Scottish cèilidh dancing. The event attracts thousands of people from all over the world.[195] On the night of 30 April the Beltane Fire Festival takes place on Calton Hill, involving a procession followed by scenes inspired by pagan old spring fertility celebrations.[196] At the beginning of October each year the Dussehra Hindu Festival is also held on Calton Hill.[197] The Usher Hall Outside the Festival season, Edinburgh supports several theatres and production companies. The Royal Lyceum Theatre has its own company, while the King's Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Theatre and Edinburgh Playhouse stage large touring shows. The Traverse Theatre presents a more contemporary repertoire. Amateur theatre companies productions are staged at the Bedlam Theatre, Church Hill Theatre and King's Theatre among others.[198] The Usher Hall is Edinburgh's premier venue for classical music, as well as occasional popular music concerts.[199] It was the venue for the Eurovision Song Contest 1972. Other halls staging music and theatre include The Hub, the Assembly Rooms and the Queen's Hall. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is based in Edinburgh.[200] Traverse Theatre Edinburgh has two repertory cinemas, The Cameo and the Edinburgh Filmhouse, as well as the independent Dominion Cinema and a range of multiplexes.[201] Large concerts are occasionally staged at Murrayfield Stadium and Meadowbank Stadium, while mid-sized events take place at smaller venues such as O2 Academy Edinburgh. In 2010, PRS for Music listed Edinburgh among the UK's top ten 'most musical' cities.[202] Several city pubs are well known for their live performances of folk music.[203] Like many other cities in the UK, numerous nightclub venues host Electronic dance music events.[204] The main local newspaper is the Edinburgh Evening News. It is owned and published alongside its sister titles The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday by JPIMedia.[205] Student newspapers include, The Journal Scotland wide Universities, and The Student University of Edinburgh which was founded in 1887. Community newspapers include The Spurtle from Broughton, Spokes Bulletin, and The Edinburgh Reporter. The city has many commercial radio stations including Forth 1, a station which broadcasts mainstream chart music, Greatest Hits Edinburgh on DAB which plays classic hits and Edge Radio.[206] Capital Scotland and Heart Scotland also have transmitters covering Edinburgh. Along with the UK national radio stations, BBC Radio Scotland and the Gaelic language service BBC Radio nan Gàidheal are also broadcast. DAB digital radio is broadcast over two local multiplexes. BFBS Radio broadcasts from studios on the base at Dreghorn Barracks across the city on 98.5FM as part of its UK Bases network. Small-scale DAB started in October 2022 with numerous community stations on board. Television, along with most radio services, is broadcast to the city from the Craigkelly transmitting station situated in Fife on the opposite side of the Firth of Forth[207] and the Black Hill transmitting station in North Lanarkshire to the west. There are no television stations based in the city. Edinburgh Television existed in the late 1990s to early 2003[208] and STV Edinburgh existed from 2015 to 2018.[209][210] National Gallery of Scotland National Museum of Scotland Edinburgh has many museums and libraries. These include the National Museum of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, National War Museum, the Museum of Edinburgh, Surgeons' Hall Museum, the Writers' Museum, the Museum of Childhood and Dynamic Earth. The Museum on The Mound has exhibits on money and banking.[211] Edinburgh Zoo, covering 82 acres (33 ha) on Corstorphine Hill, is the second most visited paid tourist attraction in Scotland,[212] and was previously home to two giant pandas, Tian Tian and Yang Guang, on loan from the People's Republic of China. Edinburgh is also home to The Royal Yacht Britannia, decommissioned in 1997 and now a five-star visitor attraction and evening events venue permanently berthed at Ocean Terminal. Edinburgh contains Scotland's three National Galleries of Art as well as numerous smaller art galleries.[213] The national collection is housed in the Scottish National Gallery, located on The Mound, comprising the linked National Gallery of Scotland building and the Royal Scottish Academy building. Contemporary collections are shown in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, which occupies a split site at Belford. The Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street focuses on portraits and photography. The council-owned City Art Centre in Market Street mounts regular art exhibitions. Across the road, The Fruitmarket Gallery offers world-class exhibitions of contemporary art, featuring work by British and international artists with both emerging and established international reputations.[214] The city hosts several of Scotland's galleries and organisations dedicated to contemporary visual art. Significant strands of this infrastructure include Creative Scotland, Edinburgh College of Art, Talbot Rice Gallery (University of Edinburgh), Collective Gallery (based at the City Observatory) and the Edinburgh Annuale. Many small private shops/galleries provide space to showcase works from local artists.[215] The locale around Princes Street is the main shopping area in the city centre, with souvenir shops, chain stores such as Boots the Chemist, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, and H&M.[216] George Street, north of Princes Street, has several upmarket shops and independent stores.[216] At the east end of Princes Street, the redeveloped St James Quarter opened its doors in June 2021,[217] while next to the Balmoral Hotel and Waverley Station is Waverley Market. Multrees Walk is a pedestrian shopping district, dominated by the presence of Harvey Nichols, and other names including Louis Vuitton, Mulberry and Michael Kors.[216] Edinburgh also has substantial retail parks outside the city centre. These include The Gyle Shopping Centre and Hermiston Gait in the west of the city, Cameron Toll Shopping Centre, Straiton Retail Park (actually just outside the city, in Midlothian) and Fort Kinnaird in the south and east, and Ocean Terminal in the north on the Leith waterfront.[218] Main articles: Politics of Edinburgh and City of Edinburgh Council Edinburgh City Chambers is the headquarters of the City of Edinburgh Council. Following local government reorganisation in 1996, the City of Edinburgh Council constitutes one of the 32 council areas of Scotland.[219] Like all other local authorities of Scotland, the council has powers over most matters of local administration such as housing, planning, local transport, parks, economic development and regeneration.[220] The council comprises 63 elected councillors, returned from 17 multi-member electoral wards in the city.[221] Following the 2007 City of Edinburgh Council election the incumbent Labour Party lost majority control of the council after 23 years to a Liberal Democrat/SNP coalition.[222] After the 2017 election, the SNP and Labour formed a coalition administration, which lasted until the next election in 2022. The 2022 City of Edinburgh Council election resulted in the most politically balanced council in the UK, with 19 SNP, 13 Labour, 12 Liberal Democrat, 10 Green, and 9 Conservative councillors. A minority Labour administration was formed, being voted in by Scottish Conservative and Scottish Liberal Democrat councillors. The SNP and Greens presented a coalition agreement, but could not command a majority in the council. This caused controversy amongst the Scottish Labour Party group for forming an administration supported by Conservatives, and led to the suspension of two Labour councillors on the council for abstaining on the vote to approve the new administration.[223] The city's coat of arms was registered by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1732.[224] The Scottish Parliament is located in the Holyrood area of the city.The HQ of the Scottish Government is located at St Andrew's House in the city. Edinburgh, like all of Scotland, is represented in the Scottish Parliament, situated in the Holyrood area of the city. For electoral purposes, the city is divided into six constituencies, which, along with 3 seats outside of the city, form part of the Lothian region.[225] Each constituency elects one Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) by the first past the post system of election, and the region elects seven additional MSPs to produce a result based on a form of proportional representation.[225] As of the 2021 election, the Scottish National Party have four MSPs: Ash Denham for Edinburgh Eastern, Ben Macpherson for Edinburgh Northern and Leith and Gordon MacDonald for Edinburgh Pentlands and Angus Robertson for Edinburgh Central constituencies. Alex Cole-Hamilton, the Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats represents Edinburgh Western and Daniel Johnson of the Scottish Labour Party represents Edinburgh Southern constituency. In addition, the city is also represented by seven regional MSPs representing the Lothian electoral region: The Conservatives have three regional MSPs: Jeremy Balfour, Miles Briggs and Sue Webber, Labour have two regional MSPs: Sarah Boyack and Foysol Choudhury; two Scottish Green regional MSPs were elected: Green's Co-Leader Lorna Slater and Alison Johnstone. However, following her election as the Presiding Officer of the 6th Session of the Scottish Parliament on 13 May 2021, Alison Johnstone has abided by the established parliamentary convention for speakers and renounced all affiliation with her former political party for the duration of her term as Presiding Officer. So she presently sits as an independent MSP for the Lothians Region.[citation needed] Edinburgh is also represented in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom by five Members of Parliament. The city is divided into Edinburgh North and Leith, Edinburgh East and Musselburgh, Edinburgh South, Edinburgh South West, and Edinburgh West, each constituency electing one member by the first past the post system. Since the 2024 UK General election, Edinburgh is represented by four Labour MPs (Tracy Gilbert in Edinburgh North and Leith, Chris Murray in Edinburgh East and Musselburgh, Ian Murray in Edinburgh South, and Scott Arthur in Edinburgh South West), and one Liberal Democrat MP in Edinburgh West (Christine Jardine). Main article: Transport in Edinburgh Edinburgh Airport is the busiest airport in Scotland and sixth busiest in the United Kingdom. Edinburgh Airport is Scotland's busiest airport and the principal international gateway to the capital, handling over 14.7 million passengers; it was also the sixth-busiest airport in the United Kingdom by total passengers in 2019.[226][227] In anticipation of rising passenger numbers, the former operator of the airport BAA outlined a draft masterplan in 2011 to provide for the expansion of the airfield and the terminal building. In June 2012, Global Infrastructure Partners purchased the airport for £807 million.[228] The possibility of building a second runway to cope with an increased number of aircraft movements has also been mooted.[229] A Lothian Bus on North Bridge Travel in Edinburgh is undertaken predominantly by bus. Lothian Buses, the successor company to Edinburgh Corporation Transport Department, operates the majority of city bus services within the city and to surrounding suburbs, with the most routes running via Princes Street. Services further afield operate from the Edinburgh Bus Station off St Andrew Square and Waterloo Place and are operated mainly by Stagecoach East Scotland, Scottish Citylink, National Express Coaches and Borders Buses. Lothian Buses and McGill's Scotland East operate the city's branded public tour buses. The night bus service and airport buses are mainly operated by Lothian Buses link.[230] In 2019, Lothian Buses recorded 124.2 million passenger journeys.[231] To tackle traffic congestion, Edinburgh is now served by six park & ride sites on the periphery of the city at Sheriffhall (in Midlothian), Ingliston, Riccarton, Inverkeithing (in Fife), Newcraighall and Straiton (in Midlothian). A referendum of Edinburgh residents in February 2005 rejected a proposal to introduce congestion charging in the city. [232] A train preparing to depart from Edinburgh Waverley station Edinburgh Waverley is the second-busiest railway station in Scotland, with only Glasgow Central handling more passengers. On the evidence of passenger entries and exits between April 2015 and March 2016, Edinburgh Waverley is the fifth-busiest station outside London; it is also the UK's second biggest station in terms of the number of platforms and area size.[233] Waverley is the terminus for most trains arriving from London King's Cross and the departure point for many rail services within Scotland operated by ScotRail. To the west of the city centre lies Haymarket station, which is an important commuter stop. Opened in 2003, Edinburgh Park station serves the Gyle business park in the west of the city and the nearby Gogarburn headquarters of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The Edinburgh Crossrail route connects Edinburgh Park with Haymarket, Edinburgh Waverley and the suburban stations of Brunstane and Newcraighall in the east of the city.[234] There are also commuter lines to Edinburgh Gateway, South Gyle and Dalmeny, the latter serving South Queensferry by the Forth Bridges, and to Wester Hailes and Curriehill in the south-west of the city. Edinburgh Trams in Shandwick Place Edinburgh Trams became operational on 31 May 2014. The city had been without a tram system since Edinburgh Corporation Tramways ceased on 16 November 1956.[235] Following parliamentary approval in 2007, construction began in early 2008. The first stage of the project was expected to be completed by July 2011[236] but, following delays caused by extra utility work and a long-running contractual dispute between the council and the main contractor, Bilfinger SE, the project was rescheduled.[237][238][239] The line opened in 2014 but had been cut short to 8.7 mi (14.0 km) in length, running from Edinburgh Airport To York Place in the east end of the city. The line was later extended north onto Leith and Newhaven, opening a further eight stops to passengers in June 2023. The York Place stop was replaced by a new island stop at Picardy Place. The original plan would have seen a second line run from Haymarket through Ravelston and Craigleith to Granton Square on the Waterfront Edinburgh. This was shelved in 2011 but is now once again under consideration, as is another line potentially linking the south of the city and the Bioquarter.[240] There were also long-term plans for lines running west from the airport to Ratho and Newbridge and another connecting Granton to Newhaven via Lower Granton Road. Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams are both owned and operated by Transport for Edinburgh. Despite its modern transport links, in January 2021, Edinburgh was named the most congested city in the UK for the fourth year running, though it has since fallen to 7th place in 2022 [241][242] There are 18 nursery, 94 primary and 23 secondary schools administered by the City of Edinburgh Council.[243] Edinburgh is home to The Royal High School, one of the oldest schools in the country and the world. The city also has several independent, fee-paying schools including Edinburgh Academy, Fettes College, George Heriot's School, George Watson's College, Merchiston Castle School, Stewart's Melville College and The Mary Erskine School. In 2009, the proportion of pupils attending independent schools was 24.2%, far above the Scottish national average of just over 7% and higher than in any other region of Scotland.[244] In August 2013, the City of Edinburgh Council opened the city's first stand-alone Gaelic primary school, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.[245] New College of the University of Edinburgh There are three universities in Edinburgh: the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University, and Edinburgh Napier University. Established by royal charter in 1583, the University of Edinburgh is one of Scotland's ancient universities and is the fourth oldest in the country after St Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen.[246] Originally centred on Old College the university expanded to premises on The Mound, the Royal Mile and George Square.[246] Today, the King's Buildings in the south of the city contain most of the schools within the College of Science and Engineering. In 2002, the medical school moved to purpose-built accommodation adjacent to the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France. The university is placed 16th in the QS World University Rankings for 2022.[247] Heriot-Watt University is based at the Riccarton campus in the west of Edinburgh. Originally established in 1821 as the world's first mechanics' institute, it was granted university status by royal charter in 1966. It has other campuses in the Scottish Borders, Orkney, the United Arab Emirates and Putrajaya in Malaysia. It takes the name Heriot-Watt from Scottish inventor James Watt and Scottish philanthropist and goldsmith George Heriot. Heriot-Watt University has been named International University of the Year by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018. In the latest Research Excellence Framework, it was ranked overall in the Top 25% of UK universities and 1st in Scotland for research impact. Edinburgh Napier University was originally founded as Napier College, which was renamed Napier Polytechnic in 1986 and gained university status in 1992.[248] Edinburgh Napier University has campuses in the south and west of the city, including the former Merchiston Tower and Craiglockhart Hydropathic.[248] It is home to the Screen Academy Scotland. Queen Margaret University was located in Edinburgh before it moved outside the city boundary to a new campus in the county of East Lothian on the outskirts of Musselburgh in 2008.[249] Until 2012, further education colleges in the city included Jewel and Esk College (incorporating Leith Nautical College founded in 1903), Telford College, opened in 1968, and Stevenson College, opened in 1970. These have now been amalgamated to form Edinburgh College. Scotland's Rural College also has a campus in South Edinburgh. Other institutions include the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, which were established by royal charter in 1506 and 1681, respectively. The Trustees' Academy of Edinburgh, founded in 1760, became the Edinburgh College of Art in 1907.[250] The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is the main public hospital for the city. See also: List of hospitals in Edinburgh The main NHS Lothian hospitals serving the Edinburgh area are the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, which includes the University of Edinburgh Medical School, and the Western General Hospital,[251] which has a large cancer treatment centre and nurse-led Minor Injuries Clinic.[252] The Royal Edinburgh Hospital in Morningside specialises in mental health. The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, colloquially referred to as the Sick Kids, is a specialist paediatrics hospital. There are two private hospitals: Murrayfield Hospital in the west of the city and Shawfair Hospital in the south; both are owned by Spire Healthcare.[251] Edinburgh has four football clubs that play in the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL): Heart of Midlothian, founded in 1874, Hibernian, founded in 1875, Edinburgh City F.C., founded in 1966 and Spartans, founded in 1951. Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian are known locally as "Hearts" and "Hibs", respectively. Both play in the Scottish Premiership.[253] They are the oldest city rivals in Scotland and the Edinburgh derby is one of the oldest derby matches in world football. Both clubs have won the Scottish league championship four times. Hearts have won the Scottish Cup eight times and the Scottish League Cup four times. Hibs have won the Scottish Cup and the Scottish League Cup three times each. Edinburgh City were promoted to Scottish League Two in the 2015–16 season, becoming the first club to win promotion to the SPFL via the pyramid system playoffs. Edinburgh was also home to four other former Scottish Football League clubs: the original Edinburgh City (founded in 1928), Leith Athletic, Meadowbank Thistle and St Bernard's. Meadowbank Thistle played at Meadowbank Stadium until 1995, when the club moved to Livingston and became Livingston F.C. The Scottish national team has very occasionally played at Easter Road and Tynecastle, although its normal home stadium is Hampden Park in Glasgow. St Bernard's New Logie Green was used to host the 1896 Scottish Cup Final, the only time the match has been played outside Glasgow.[254] The city also plays host to Lowland Football League clubs Civil Service Strollers, Edinburgh University and Spartans, as well as East of Scotland League clubs Craigroyston, Edinburgh United, Heriot-Watt University, Leith Athletic, Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale, and Tynecastle. In women's football, Hearts, Hibs and Spartans play in the SWPL 1.[255] Hutchison Vale and Boroughmuir Thistle play in the SWPL 2.[256] The Scottish national rugby union team play at Murrayfield Stadium, and the professional Edinburgh Rugby team play at the nextdoor Edinburgh Rugby Stadium; both are owned by the Scottish Rugby Union and are also used for other events, including music concerts. Murrayfield is the largest capacity stadium in Scotland, seating 67,144 spectators.[257] Edinburgh is also home to Scottish Premiership teams Boroughmuir RFC, Currie RFC, the Edinburgh Academicals, Heriot's Rugby Club and Watsonians RFC.[258] The Edinburgh Academicals ground at Raeburn Place was the location of the world's first international rugby game on 27 March 1871, between Scotland and England.[259] Rugby league is represented by the Edinburgh Eagles who play in the Rugby League Conference Scotland Division. Murrayfield Stadium has hosted the Magic Weekend where all Super League matches are played in the stadium over one weekend. Tynecastle Park Easter Road Stadium Murrayfield Stadium Meadowbank Stadium Edinburgh Marathon Murrayfield Ice Rink The Scottish cricket team, which represents Scotland internationally, plays its home matches at the Grange cricket club.[260] The Edinburgh Capitals are the latest of a succession of ice hockey clubs in the Scottish capital. Previously, Edinburgh was represented by the Murrayfield Racers (2018), the original Murrayfield Racers (who folded in 1996), and the Edinburgh Racers. The club plays their home games at the Murrayfield Ice Rink and have competed in the eleven-team professional Scottish National League (SNL) since the 2018–19 season.[261] Next door to Murrayfield Ice Rink is a 7-sheeter dedicated curling facility where curling is played from October to March each season. Caledonia Pride is the only women's professional basketball team in Scotland. Established in 2016, the team competes in the UK-wide Women's British Basketball League and plays their home matches at the Oriam National Performance Centre. Edinburgh also has several men's basketball teams within the Scottish National League. Boroughmuir Blaze, City of Edinburgh Kings, and Edinburgh Lions all compete in Division 1 of the National League, and Pleasance B.C. compete in Division 2. The Edinburgh Diamond Devils is a baseball club that won its first Scottish Championship in 1991 as the "Reivers". 1992 saw the team repeat the achievement, becoming the first team to do so in league history. The same year saw the start of their first youth team, the Blue Jays. The club adopted its present name in 1999.[262] Edinburgh has also hosted national and international sports events including the World Student Games, the 1970 British Commonwealth Games,[263] the 1986 Commonwealth Games[263] and the inaugural 2000 Commonwealth Youth Games.[264] For the 1970 Games the city built Olympic standard venues and facilities including Meadowbank Stadium and the Royal Commonwealth Pool. The Pool underwent refurbishment in 2012 and hosted the Diving competition in the 2014 Commonwealth Games, which were held in Glasgow.[265] In American football, the Scottish Claymores played WLAF/NFL Europe games at Murrayfield, including their World Bowl 96 victory. From 1995 to 1997, they played all their games there, from 1998 to 2000 they split their home matches between Murrayfield and Glasgow's Hampden Park, then moved to Glasgow full-time, with one final Murrayfield appearance in 2002.[266] The city's most successful non-professional team are the Edinburgh Wolves who play at Meadowbank Stadium.[267] The Edinburgh Marathon has been held annually in the city since 2003 with more than 16,000 runners taking part on each occasion.[268] Its organisers have called it "the fastest marathon in the UK" due to the elevation drop of 40 m (130 ft).[269] The city also organises a half-marathon, as well as

10 km (6.2 mi) and 5 km (3.1 mi) races, including a 5 km (3 mi) race on 1 January each year. Edinburgh has a speedway team, the Edinburgh Monarchs, which, since the loss of its stadium in the city, has raced at the Lothian Arena in Armadale, West Lothian. The Monarchs have won the Premier League championship five times in their history, in 2003[270] and again in 2008,[271] 2010, 2014 and 2015. For basketball, the city has a basketball club, Edinburgh Tigers.[citation needed] Edinburgh also has Scotland's first onshore artificial open air surfing pool, located at former Craigpark quarry in Ratho.[272] Main article: List of people from Edinburgh See also: List of University of Edinburgh people Sir Walter Scott Greyfriars Bobby Fountain Edinburgh has a literary tradition, which became especially evident during the Scottish Enlightenment. This heritage and the city's literary life in the present led to it being declared the first UNESCO City of Literature in 2004.[273][274] Authors who have lived in Edinburgh include the economist Adam Smith, born in Kirkcaldy and author of The Wealth of Nations,[275] James Boswell, biographer of Samuel Johnson; Sir Walter Scott, creator of the historical novel and author of works such as Rob Roy, Ivanhoe, and Heart of Midlothian; James Hogg, author of The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner; Robert Louis Stevenson,[276] creator of Treasure Island, Kidnapped, and Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes; Muriel Spark, author of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie; Irvine Welsh, author of Trainspotting, whose novels are mostly set in the city and often written in colloquial Scots; [277] Ian Rankin, author of the Inspector Rebus series of crime thrillers, Alexander McCall Smith, author of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series,[278] and J. K. Rowling, author of Harry Potter, who moved to the city in 1993 and wrote much of her first book in Edinburgh coffee shops.[279] Edinburgh produced figures in science and engineering. John Napier, inventor of logarithms, was born in Merchiston Tower and lived and died in the city.[280] His house now forms part of the original campus of Napier University which was named in his honour. He lies buried under St. Cuthbert's Church. James Clerk Maxwell, founder of the modern theory of electromagnetism, was born at 14 India Street (now the home of the James Clerk Maxwell Foundation) and educated at the Edinburgh Academy and the University of Edinburgh,[275] as was the engineer and telephone pioneer Alexander Graham Bell.[275] James Braidwood, who organised Britain's first municipal fire brigade, was also born in the city and began his career there. Other names connected with the city include physicist Max Born, a principle founder of Quantum mechanics and Nobel laureate;[281] Charles Darwin, the biologist who propounded the theory of natural selection;[275] David Hume, philosopher, economist and historian;[275] James Hutton, regarded as the "Father of Geology";[275] Joseph Black, the chemist who discovered magnesium and carbon dioxide, and one of the founders of Thermodynamics;[275] pioneering medical researchers Joseph Lister and James Young Simpson;[275] chemist and discoverer of the element nitrogen Daniel Rutherford; Colin Maclaurin, mathematician and developer of the Maclaurin series,[282] and Ian Wilmut, the geneticist involved in the cloning of Dolly the sheep just outside Edinburgh, at the Roslin Institute.[275] The stuffed carcass of Dolly the sheep is now on display in the National Museum of Scotland.[283] The latest in a long line of science celebrities associated with the city is theoretical physicist, Nobel laureate and professor emeritus at the University of Edinburgh Peter Higgs, born in Newcastle but resident in Edinburgh for most of his academic career, after whom the Higgs boson particle has been named.[284] Edinburgh has been the birthplace of actors like Alastair Sim and Sir Sean Connery, the first cinematic James Bond,[285] the comedian and actor Ronnie Corbett, one of The Two Ronnies,[286] and the impressionist Rory Bremner. Artists from the city include the portrait painters Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir David Wilkie, and Allan Ramsay. The city has produced or been home to musicians Ian Anderson, front man of the band Jethro Tull, The Incredible String Band, the folk duo The Corries, Wattie Buchan, lead singer and founding member of punk band The Exploited, Shirley Manson, lead singer of the band Garbage, the Bay City Rollers, The Proclaimers, Swim School, Boards of Canada and Idlewild. Edinburgh is the birthplace of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair who attended the city's Fettes College.[287] Criminals from Edinburgh's past include Deacon Brodie, head of a trades guild and Edinburgh city councillor by day but a burglar by night, who is said to have been the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's story, the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde,[288] and murderers Burke and Hare who delivered fresh corpses for dissection to the famous anatomist Robert Knox.[289] Another Edinburgh resident was Greyfriars Bobby. The small Skye Terrier reputedly kept vigil over his dead master's grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard for 14 years in the 1860s and 1870s, giving rise to a story of canine devotion which plays a part in attracting visitors to the city.[290] See also: List of twin towns and sister cities in Scotland The City of Edinburgh has entered into 14 international twinning arrangements since 1954.[291] Most of the arrangements are styled as Twin Cities but the agreement with Kraków is designated as a Partner City,[291] and the agreement with Kyoto Prefecture is officially styled as a Friendship Link, reflecting its status as the only region to be twinned with Edinburgh.[291] In June 2024, the City of Edinburgh Council shelved plans for a friendship arrangement with Kaohsiung, Taiwan, after a report raised concerns that the agreement could heighten cyber attacks. A few weeks before the decision, the Chinese Consul General met with Scottish government minister Angus Robertson to protest against the potential agreement. In a letter to the city council, the Chinese representative said signing a sister city agreement "will hurt the feeling of the Chinese people and bring about serious consequences to ... bilateral relations".[292] City Since Munich, Germany 1954 Nice, France 1958[293][294] Florence, Italy 1964 Dunedin, New Zealand 1974 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 1977[295] San Diego, California, United States 1977 Xi'an, China 1985 Segovia, Spain 1985[296] Kyiv, Ukraine 1989 Aalborg, Denmark 1991[297] Kyoto Prefecture, Japan 1994 Kathmandu, Nepal 1994 Kraków, Poland 1995[298] Saint Petersburg, Russia 1995[299][300] Shenzhen, China 2019[301] For a list of consulates in Edinburgh, see List of diplomatic missions in Scotland. Edinburgh portalScotland portalUnited Kingdom portal Outline of Edinburgh National Archives of Scotland OPENCities Tourism in Scotland

^ /ˈɛdmbərə/ ▯, ED-in-bər-ə;[3][4][5] Scots: [ˈɛdɪnbʌrə]; Scottish Gaelic: Dùn Èideann [t̪un ˈeːtʲən̪ˠ] ^ Weather station is located 0.9 mi (1.4 km) from the Edinburgh city centre. ^ Weather station is located 5.9 mi (9.5 km) from the Edinburgh city centre. ^ a b c New category created for the 2011 census ^ Category restructured for the 2011 census ^ This figure does not include Hong Kong and Macau. ^ "Council and Committees". The City of Edinburgh Council. Retrieved 22 December 2024. ^ a b c "Mid-Year Population Estimates, UK, June 2022". Office for National Statistics. 26 March 2024. Retrieved 3 May 2024. ^ "Definition of Edinburgh in Oxford dictionary. Meaning, pronunciation and origin of the word". Oxford Dictionaries. Oxford University Press. 2013. Archived from the original on 13 January 2014. Retrieved 12 January 2014. ^ "edinburgh – Definition, pictures, pronunciation and usage notes". Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Archived from the original on 22 September 2017. 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