

City name



Edinburgh

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Neighborhoods

Google Map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1BZiyqQYro7KZ7ey2AjNiLNpr0vCSPq0&ll=55.92271931336242%2C-3.192546499999982&z=12>

Video: [How to draw neighborhoods](#)

1. Firth & food (Leith, The Shore, Ocean Terminal)

Link to photograph

Firth and foodies.jpg

Tags

Accessible, Artisan, Affordable, Bars, Food

Description

Gone are the days of swearing sailors, fishwives, and – nah, just kidding, seamen still cuss and fish still get wed. But this former industrial and dock area has reinvented itself as the <i>firth</i> place to go for foodies (sorry). Board the must-visit Royal Yacht Britannia, then hunt for the best restaurants.

Local tip

Several breweries in the area do tours and tasting experiences. I especially like the Lind & Lime Gin distillery!

Alerts/safety info

👉 Avoid Linksview House and surrounding highrises, potentially unsafe for visitors

Fun fact

🍷 In 2021, <i>Time Out</i> placed Leith among the world's five coolest neighborhoods

2. Cultural mashup (Elm Row, Easter Rd., Great Junction St.)

Link to photograph

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPEYzbxDxSY/> @haysviews

Tags

Hipsters, Multicultural, Bars, Artisan, Residential

Description

The port's gateway to the city has always been popular with foreign settlers, and it's still diverse and lively today. With reasonable housing prices and closeness to the center, it's no wonder! Find Polish, Indian, and African shops and cuisines mingling with artisan cafes, restaurants, and indie stores.

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info

🚗 Difficult to drive and park due to construction

🌙 Avoid residential areas between the main roads at night, especially as you go north

3. Touristburgh (Old Town, Princes St.)

Link to photograph

📁 Touristburgh.jpg

Tags

Historic center, Entertainment, Festivals, Museums

Description

Some visitors never quite leave the Royal Mile, and there's no shame in that. Take your inner romantic for a wee stroll to soak up centuries-old architecture, cobblestone streets, and narrow alleys (aka *closes*). It's busy year round, but the crowds don't dampen Old Town's magic.

Local tip

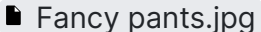
Parking is hard to find and very expensive here. Check the Edinburgh Council [website](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roads-travel-parking) for spots and charges, and note that New Town has free parking after 5:30pm and on weekends.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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4. Fancy pants (New Town)

Link to photograph



Tags

Elite, Residential, Boutiques, Embassies, LGBTQ+

Description

Remember Eagleton and Pawnee from *Parks and Rec*? New Town's genesis was similar: those with the dosh left Old Town's crowded, dirty streets to build a gorgeous Georgian paradise next door. Think grand houses and private gardens. Today, you can mingle with the posh folk among embassies, elite shopping, and fancy hotels.

Local tip

Go luxury shopping at Multrees Walk or Harvey Nichols, or find high-quality but more affordable shops at St. James Quarter. While there, do visit Bonnie & Wild for Scottish food and The Alchemist for cocktails!

Alerts/safety info

🌙 Avoid London Road Gardens at night – it's unlit and potentially unsafe

🌈 Google "Pink Triangle Edinburgh" to find a small area full of LGBTQ+ pubs and clubs

5. Upscale boho (Stockbridge, Dean Village)

Link to photograph



Tags

Art, Artisan, Bohemian, picturesque, Food

Description

How do you know someone lives in Stockbridge? Don't worry, they'll tell you. There's a lot to brag about: beautiful buildings and green spaces, cool restaurants and brunch cafes, art galleries and farmer's markets... even a whole street of trendy thrift stores. What's Scots for "jealous AF"?

Local tip

Go to the bridge across the Water of Leith and look down. Can you see one of Anthony Gromley's statues? There's a whole series of them in the stream!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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6. Money talks (Union Canal, Fountainbridge, Port Hamilton)

Link to photograph

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cib3eOONZdP/> @arko.bhattacharya

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CmZ9KWvo1cC/> Lothian Rd @frecklesandfro

Tags

Bars, Expats, Offices, Urban

Description

Shh, don't say it looks like London! Business hotels, suits, lots of glass... This is clearly the financial district, but it has plenty of other charms, from a lovely canal with tranquil walkways to excellent restaurants, bars, and clubs. Hit up Lothian Road for swingin' nightlife!

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

 Beware speeding cyclists along the Union Canal

7. Posh Victorian (Morningside, The Grange, Bruntsfield)

Link to photograph

https://www.instagram.com/p/B_mhTKMDwJF/ @tinainplaces

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B3XCeBFi03v/> @rose_winchester22

Tags

Locals, residential, expensive, heritage

Description

Fans of fanciful Victorian architecture: check out this neighborhood for loads of 19th-century townhouses and mansions, plus an entire street (Minto) of B&Bs in lovely old homes. Have your camera ready while walking through, and pop into an artisan bakery or wine bar for a treat.

Local tip

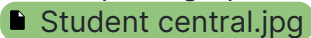
Look for Holy Corner – a crossroads with a church on each side – where you'll find McLarens, a bistro with heavenly waffles.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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8. Books & bars (University of Edinburgh, Marchmont, The Meadows, Newington, Bruntsfield Links)

Link to photograph

 Student central.jpg

Tags

Students, Bars, Parks, Campuses

Description

In the city that inspired *Harry Potter*, you'd expect the university to feel magical – and it does! Especially in the courtyard of Old College. Muggle students fill the bars and bistros with youthful energy, but you can always head to the Meadows or Bruntsfield Links for a quiet break.

Local tip

The Library Bar at the university is one of the most beautiful in the city! And be sure to look for the plaque on the corner of Nicholson and Drummond, the site of the former cafe where J. K. Rowling wrote her novels.

Alerts/safety info

🌙 Avoid the Meadows at night – it's a rowdy drinking spot

9. Party people (George St. and Cowgate)

Link to photograph

https://www.instagram.com/p/CjeNbsPD_AC/ @lukasz_kowalonek

Tags

Nightlife, bars, parties, live music

Description

Edinburgh has plenty of nightlife to keep you livin' it up into the wee hours, but posh George St. and the more laid-back Cowgate stand out. Think cocktail dresses and smart trousers for the former, and trad pubs with live music and ceilidh dancing in the latter. Can't decide? Flip a coin. Regrets are for the morning.

Local tip

Cowgate pubs are especially popular among 20- and 30-somethings. My personal favorite is Stramash – check their [website](https://stramashedinburgh.com/) for live music and dancing events.

Alerts/safety info

🌙 Avoid narrow closes in Cowgate at night

10. Park place (New Town, Inverleith, Trinity, Broughton)

Link to photograph



Tags

Parks, Residential, Architecture, Food, Locals

Description

Like the infamous Monopoly property, this park-filled area may be less "landed on" by tourists... but it sure packs a punch for a pleasant family afternoon. Between the botanical garden's glass houses, Inverleith's play areas, and Starbank's spring cherry blossoms, each park boasts something special. Look for little free libraries!

Local tip

Head to The Fishmarket Newhaven for some of the city's best fish and chips, along with beautiful views of the lighthouse.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NO-GO zones

1. Muirhouse

Muirhouse is potentially unsafe for visitors

2. Niddrie

Niddrie is potentially unsafe for visitors


3. Wester Hailes

Wester Hailes is potentially unsafe for visitors

Classic sights

1. Edinburgh Castle

Photo

 [Edinburgh Castle.jpg](#)

Coordinates

55.94859498505289, -3.1999240074244906

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/NqxbB1S82E9DeGsg6>

Description

Without the castle, there would be no city: this dramatic hilltop fortress started as a key Iron-Age defense and became a mighty stronghold against the Auld Enemy (looking at you, England) until the 17th century. Visit for an atmospheric immersion in Scottish history or for the sheer beauty of the place.

Local tip

If you're planning to see other castles, save money by getting the Explorer Pass [here](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/explorer-passes/). You'll have five days to visit any of over 30 historic places throughout the country.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

Website

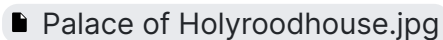
<https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/467459/edinburgh-castle/>

2. Palace of Holyroodhouse

Photo



Coordinates

55.95283383825326, -3.1723469412822323

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/1fxZybJP32wKWBQR9>


Description

Holyrood, what a house! When the monarch isn't in residence, take a self-guided audio tour of this grand palace and get the tea on what happened when Mary, Queen of Scots spent six stormy years here in the 16th century. Included is admission to the iconic medieval ruins of Holyrood Abbey.

Local tip

Invest in an audio guide for this one – it's a really great tour in numerous languages.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

 The abbey is currently closed to visitors

Website

<https://www.rct.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/372168883180012/palace-of-holyroodhouse/>

3. St. Giles' Cathedral

Photo



Coordinates

55.94957336291561, -3.190918953060869

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/z88Cf4fJijSAqxdG9>


Description

Founded by King David (not the Psalms guy, the Scottish one) in the 12th century, this church has undergone rebuilding, remodeling, and even religious conversion to become the majestic stunner it is today. Try to catch a classical music concert for a full aesthetic experience, and don't miss the ornate Thistle Chapel.

Local tip

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Fun fact

 Technically it's a high kirk and not a cathedral, but the historical name was kept

Website

<https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/502117174/st-giles-cathedral/>

4. Royal Yacht Britannia

Photo

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cly_uzKNUAC/ @los.ricardos

Coordinates

55.98215473281702, -3.1772604780803255

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/8rNpQqmvVpxwBDjU7>

Description

The Crown fans may recognize this ship from the show's fifth season – it was the royal family's floating vacation home from the '50s until its decommissioning in the '90s. Step aboard to see why it was Elizabeth II's happy place, and cap the experience with a hot cuppa in the Royal Deck Tea Room.

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/861021/the-royal-yacht-britannia/>

5. Greyfriars Kirkyard

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CIszEdgMCvg/> @tangotravels_fr ([full-size version here](#))

Coordinates
55.94666703925464, -3.191647817423073

Google Maps
<https://goo.gl/maps/M6kVnEzDHJziG3uZ7>

Description

Where did J. K. Rowling get those weird wizard monikers? Apparently from this churchyard, where many of Edinburgh's notables were buried alongside folk with notable names like Moodie, Cruikshanks, and Tom Riddell. But the real star is Greyfriars Bobby, a statue of the famous Skye terrier who refused to leave his master's grave.

Local tip

Many guides offer tours where they'll tell you all about the Covenanters, Bobby, and J. K. Rowling. They're technically free, but donations are encouraged: the recommended amount is 10-20 pounds.

Alerts/safety info


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Website
<https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/>

Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/317089909018235/greyfriars-kirkyard/>

6. Arthur's Seat

Photo

 Arthur_s Seat 1.jpg

Coordinates
55.944093265311444, -3.1618136245418995

Google Maps
<https://goo.gl/maps/XXDWcFkmUfEkzS4D7>



Description

Behold, thy quest: hike up through Holyrood Park to the summit of this dramatic little mini-mountain, where a revelation awaits thee. It's unlikely the clouds will part and a booming voice will command you to seek the Holy Grail, but you'll have glorious visions in the form of extensive views of the region.

Local tip

For an unforgettable experience, time your hike to meet the sunrise at the top.

Alerts/safety info

 Choose your shoes wisely
 Slippery on rainy days

Website

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/holyrood-park/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/223282394/arthurs-seat/>

7. National Museum of Scotland

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl3dKINICZ2/> @m_nakagawa21

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ChHHVSVK5L7/> @nimra_arshad_

Coordinates

55.94700402801025, -3.190577796684311

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/48LwaW6KmR868DrS9>

Description

Less "yawn, dusty old stuff" and more "wow, look at that!" Scottish history lovers can travel up six levels of time in the modern building, or the generally curious can explore natural science, culture, design, and technology amid the grand architecture of the Victorian side. You can even meet Dolly the sheep on Level 1.

Local tip

Take a lift to the museum's rooftop terrace for stunning views of the city, the castle, and Pentland Hills.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

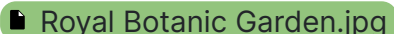
<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/281517673/national-museum-of-scotland/>

8. Royal Botanic Garden

Photo

 Royal Botanic Garden.jpg

Coordinates

55.96499874272499, -3.209111036967533

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/k6RHnaDmpHFFvwWF9>

Description

There's a crazy plant lady in all of us who will not rest until she's surrounded by green, so keep her happy with a trip to this globally respected botanical garden – the

second-oldest in the UK. Visitor favorites include the rock garden, the azalea lawn, and the Victorian tropical palm house.

Local tip

If you're visiting around Christmas, book entry to the light trail. It's one of the best I've seen.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

🔒 Glasshouses currently closed for restoration and construction

Website

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/453856232/royal-botanic-garden-edinburch/>

9. Real Mary King's Close

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ci0zgonMrGx/> @ancestral.time.traveler Photos 2 and 4

Coordinates

55.94992031472257, -3.1905113127758318

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/DK46DpT7Bnyzpnaf6>

Description

Instead of razing the neighborhood, the Royal Exchange just built over Mary King's Close, sealing its houses and alleys underground. Now it's a spooky historical attraction with tours led by drama students in period costume. If you can stomach the story of Annie's doll, you can handle any of their sensational stories.

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.realmarykingsclose.com/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/3892949/the-real-mary-kings-close/>

10. Scott Monument

Photo

■ Scott Monument 1.jpg

Coordinates

55.952378780640686, -3.193275003461114

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/Cdu6rPGydA5qZ5v76>

Description

Look closer at that ornate Gothic rocket, and you'll see statues of characters from Sir Walter Scott's stories, including Ivanhoe, Robert the Bruce, and Mary, Queen of Scots. Peek inside the museum room for exhibitions of the author's life, then ascend a 287-step spiral staircase to a viewing platform overlooking the city.

Local tip

All tours to the top are guided and take about 30 minutes. Check the time slots in advance.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/scott-monument>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/216938504/scott-monument/>

11. Camera Obscura

Photo

■ Camera Obscura.jpg

Coordinates

55.948954149384335, -3.1956814428622295

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/jz1oRyrSn99GgUfi9>

Description

You'll need to rebuild trust with your eyes after winding through this tower of illusions, including a mirror maze, a "spinning" tunnel, and other optical tricks. Enjoy an urban panorama from the rooftop, and on bright days, take a city tour in a Victorian-era chamber using only daylight, lenses, and a mirror.

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website


<https://www.camera-obscura.co.uk/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/611558/camera-obscura-and-world-of-illusions/>

12. Calton Hill

Photo

 Calton Hill.jpg

Coordinates

55.95504893376729, -3.1827574240964145

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/dHb4ht4P9k748YiG6>

Description

Except for the weather, you might think you're in Greece: the Parthenon-inspired National Monument is just one of several classical memorials on "Edinburgh's acropolis." And much like the Athenian version, it offers breathtaking bird's-eye views of the capital.

Local tip

Locals agree: this is the best spot for sunsets, especially in the summer. But you can catch a dramatic, fiery skyline in any season.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://ewh.org.uk/world-heritage-sites/calton-hill/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/215088470/calton-hill/>

Local favorites

1. Dean Village

Photo

 Dean Village.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9518243, -3.2180573

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/CgcbZfxBStKf3hyBA>

Description

Forget Disney villages: this romantic 12th-century neighborhood is the real deal. Follow a narrow cobblestone lane along the Water of Leith for postcard-perfect views of old mill remains and storybook architecture, especially the red sandstone Well Court. Bonus points if it's a traditionally gray Scottish day!

Local tip

Not far away you'll find Circus Lane, a picturesque residential neighborhood of mews houses. It's very popular for photos, and in early May you can catch the wisteria blooming.

Alerts/safety info

👉 Be respectful of the residents; don't enter private courtyards

Website

<https://deanvillage.org/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/223351398/dean-village/>

2. Stockbridge Market

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cdg8TCrMoHL/> @acwlv.25

📷 Stockbridge Market.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9575021, -3.2082985

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/JjzFqbUbVQWezexU7>

Description

On Sundays, Stockbridge is the place to be for local produce, handmade goods, and street food sold under rows of yellow and white tents. The neighborhood itself is worth a goosey gander for its eclectic shops and eateries. Be sure to poke your beak into the oft-snapped, mews-lined Circus Lane.

Local tip

Around the corner at 33 India Place there's the famous @pottedgarden, a staircase decorated with flower pots. If you post a photo, don't forget to tag their Instagram – they love visitors and appreciate your admiring posts.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

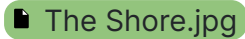
<http://www.stockbridgemarket.com>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/5138483/stockbridge-market/>

3. The Shore

Photo



Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
55.9750765, -3.1717952

Google Maps
(none)

Description

A little taste of Amsterdam in Leith, and a feast for the belly just as much as for the eyes with artisan cafes, bistros, and Michelin restaurants clamoring for your gastronomic attention. Some, namely the King's Wark, have been pleasing palates since the 15th century.

Local tip

I recommend breakfast and coffee at the Victor Hugo deli, brunch at The Granary, lunch and a pint on the terrace of Teuchters Landing, and a fancy dinner at The Kitchin. Famous chef Tom Kitchin is often at the latter, along with celebrity guests.

Alerts/safety info

👇 Avoid Linksview House and surrounding highrises, potentially unsafe for visitors

Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/4675834/the-shore/>

4. Cramond Island

Photo



Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
55.990159, -3.290832

Google Maps
<https://goo.gl/maps/H4myMPjXKaud1G7C7>

Description

Cramond's terrific trifecta includes the beach with its seaside paths and overhead planes, the inn with its famed fish and chips, and, of course, the island with its WWII fortifications and spectacular views of the Firth of Forth. You can walk there along the causeway when the tide's out, but keep an eye on the time!

Local tip

While you're in the area, pay a visit to Lauriston Castle. You can get coffee and cake at Mimi's Little Bakehouse while enjoying sea views, then explore the Kyoto Friendship Garden on the grounds.

Alerts/safety info

🙄 Check the tide schedule before crossing

Website

<https://www.cramondassociation.org.uk/information-leaflets>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1869740819951766/cramond-island/>

5. Dr Neil's Garden

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj3rQ7Elrui/> @jnor235 Photo 1

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9405562, -3.1489495

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/sU3vSo31Ve6v4mrJ7>

Description

Every medical worker needs their oasis: far better than a call room, the doctors Neil made their own botanical garden. Sawbones and civilians alike will benefit from tranquil time out among the conifers and heathers, rhododendrons and azaleas. Don't forget to fill your coffee prescription with a view over Duddingston Loch.

Local tip

Around the corner, the Sheep Heid Inn (est. 1360) has quality food, cozy tavern-like interiors, a courtyard, and a skittles (bowling) alley you can book in advance. Rumor has it Elizabeth II loved to stop here for a tippie!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.drneilsgarden.co.uk>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/drneilsgarden/>

6. Colinton Tunnel

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ci5XWn2sfVI/> @rachel.graphy

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9078969, -3.2600544

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/E3N9ZTcXU81h1wAB6>

Description

Hop on the inspiration train as you walk through this old railway tunnel, now transformed into an extended mural celebrating Scotland's history and culture. Just follow the words of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "From a Railway Carriage" painted along the way!

Local tip

The tunnel is part of the same conservation trust that runs the Water of Leith walkway. Visit their [website](https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/) for a free Audio Trail that guides you through the walkway's 20 most significant landmarks.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.waterofleith.org.uk/art-and-attractions/colinton-tunnel-mural/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/635521946898378/the-colinton-tunnel/>

7. Rosslyn Chapel

Photo

 Rosslyn Chapel.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.8553785, -3.1601938

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/2p6gozyfLCTeFV1PA>

Description

Dan Brownians will recognize this chapel from *The Da Vinci Code*, but the stones of the 15th-century stunner have even cooler (and much truer) stories to tell. Pick up an official guidebook for a walking tour written by the Earl of Rosslyn himself.

Local tip

Take a beautiful woodland walk through Roslin Glen, and check out the ruins of Rosslyn Castle nearby.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website


<https://www.rosslynchapel.com>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/215028469/rosslyn-chapel/>

8. Craigmillar Castle

Photo

 Craigmillar Castle.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9256810, -3.1408279

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/MwPEWko78EX1Vbhx5>

Description

After witnessing a friend's murder, giving birth, and surviving a frightening illness all in one year, Mary, Queen of Scots chose this castle to recover in – so take a hint, and let its majestic ruins be your refuge from the Edinburgh crowds. Does it seem familiar? You might have spotted it in *Outlander* and *Outlaw King*.

Local tip

If you're planning to travel throughout Scotland, get the Explorer Pass on the Historic Scotland [website](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/explorer-passes/). One pass gives you five days to explore over 30 castles, abbeys, and cathedrals.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website


<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/craigmillar-castle/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/217970244/craigmillar-castle/>

9. Portobello Beach & Promenade

Photo

 Portobello Beach.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
55.9550814, -3.1106909

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/ms7gK1yDQtDEB6Rj8>


Description

Move over, Ibiza! Portobello is... probably not an up-and-coming beach town star, but it is a local favorite for dog-walking, family outings, and fun in the (occasional) sun. Banter aside, the fine sand, blue sea, and elegant architecture set the perfect scene to drop your inhibitions and indulge in some – um, ice cream.

Local tip

On first Saturdays, you can catch the Portobello Market with local food and crafts. I also recommend pizza from Civerinos Slice and ice cream from Miro's.

Alerts/safety info

 Large crowds on public holidays

Website


<https://portobellobeach.com/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/309812326595615/portobello-beach/>

10. National Galleries of Scotland

Photo

 National Galleries of Scotland.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
55.950880967331095, -3.227500223435542

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/XbRpuS77vgibKkNVA>

Description

Yes, it's plural – not just one gallery, but four! Together, the main art museum, the portrait gallery, and the two modern art museums hold an incredible variety of

masterworks, both historical and contemporary, Scottish and international. Admission is free; let the cultural bender begin!

Local tip

Even if you're not into art, I always recommend a visit. You'll see some world-famous works, and the interiors themselves are breathtaking. Also, the portrait gallery cafe has delicious lunch on a budget!

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/scottishnationalgallery/>

11. Lost Close whisky tasting

Photo

 and 

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

55.9494390, -3.1898735

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/FR7wDUM5DNBPVfsN7>

Description

A wee dram in Edinburgh is always special, but one in a mysterious underground street is next level. Buried in a fire and eventually forgotten, this 16th-century Old Town close has been rediscovered and now sets the scene for lively storytelling and atmospheric beer and single malt sampling.

Local tip (when relevant)

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.thelostclose.com>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/106191147550325/the-lost-close/>



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Instaspots

1. Victoria Street

Coordinates:

55.948062, -3.194461


Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/egvEgoDzeYZUKXAJ6>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a7qM7ixA5kQy7Va1So_BjA9QwFRH2Rz7?usp=sharing

Photographer's tip:

Some of the best views are on West Bow starting from the Grassmarket hotel, and on the terrace above Victoria Street. Come early in the morning to avoid crowds, or visit in the evening to capture the colorful street with lit-up shop windows.

Alerts/safety info

 Watch out for cars

Website

[no website]

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/356357823/victoria-street/>

2. Advocate's Close

Coordinates:

55.949797, -3.191265

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/pE2Q2pGAqAKychBW7>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OTRyPiqzC3As1bQip5GI3vMncyqdtPuQ?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip:

One of the Royal Mile's most interesting alleys, Advocate's Close has a great view of the Scott Monument and part of Victoria Street. Use a lower exposure to better capture the background, and focus on the scenery more than the model for more character.

Website

[no website]

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1720262864939114/advocates-close/>

3. The Vennel viewpoint

Coordinates:

55.946480, -3.197280

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/rRWbKPzuEJHW8swm9>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Mvv8oeTtdLIWgR5xawJMsyP0_F_6yeZ?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

This spot is a hidden gem – but it's getting more popular, so come in the morning for a better chance at photos of just you and Edinburgh Castle. In the evening, though, the castle's lit up, and the Vennel steps look more mysterious.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

Website

[no website]

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1023927782/the-vennel-edinburgh/>

4. Quartermile

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.943617953924154, -3.1920784161251223

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/rcFKY9VLI9a5Krnt9>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ATG96xHvLAd94PFqw7eBFIsR4AXG3hd5?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

Here modern and traditional architecture blend for a unique look. Snap photos between the buildings to capture both styles – one way to fit it all in is to take a wide angle and place the model in the middle.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.qmile.com/quartermile-simpson-hall-conversion-apartments-edinburgh/45/80-0>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/659278154/quartermile/>

5. The Meadows

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.94130139011606, -3.1918790996749946

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/izCuwLLeYc5hdv7Y9>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NGNYIK6Bn9TfOxH6abPiApBUGYkh8PTI?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

If you're visiting in spring, definitely stop here for a cherry blossom photoshoot. Use trees behind the model and branches in the foreground to layer your pictures.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/603796596706231/the-meadows/>

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8. The Witchery

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
55.94883093435276, -3.1956545125862807

Google maps:
<https://goo.gl/maps/gUR8mfFWVzEhfx5j9>

Pics:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1-64EXfRji5oJCSzhx4i51yTo1AtqOitR>

Photographer's tip

Get cool shots while standing in front of or walking into this hidden restaurant. You'll get a naturally framed photo if you take pictures of the courtyard while you're still in the tunnel.

[REDACTED]

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/215863857/the-witchery-by-the-castle/>

9. National Museum of Scotland

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.94699791297727, -3.190579404945894

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/PdmM5pPAAHxh6RxK6>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pVPzs1C4MSb5rXBtYYtYwLWNA7vtQi1R?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

You'll want to start taking photos before you even go in – the stairs outside the museum are an especially good spot. Inside you'll find not only exhibits, but also extraordinary architecture and atmosphere.

Alerts/safety info

📷 Permit required for additional photo equipment

Website

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/281517673/national-museum-of-scotland/>

10. Circus Lane

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.957566, -3.206186

Google maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/2MLMunNVW6zKH5fL6>

Pics:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1LXpcCX6TCJ0ETSJ5MmdRYvZ8sagfRLHV>

Photographer's tip

This small, fairytale-like street is getting more popular, so try to come early! Start with a few shots at the beginning, where the street curves away. My favorite spot, however, is in the middle with a view of St. Stephen's Theatre.

Alerts/safety info

:trumpet: 🎺 Respect the residents; don't be too loud



Website

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/16325465/circus-lane/>

11. Colinton Tunnel

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.90790152315985, -3.2600675348628445

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/8tdDXyHjxsXZaQnEA>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tSZttCi_fYqXkWuD5JBrnwsulkzr-Lzv?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

Take your time and explore all the murals in this tunnel, experimenting with different angles and the variety of messages in the art. Afterward, you can take a lovely hike to Pentland Hills and feel far away from the city buzz.

Alerts/safety info

🌙 Avoid at night

Website

<http://www.colintontunnel.org.uk/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/635521946898378/the-colinton-tunnel/>

12. St. Margaret's Loch

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.953083, -3.160400

Google maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/L9bVnPimMxeHs6zB8>

Pics:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/144tMqOuwux55igolzFj4IWQxp1Tzs-Ls>

Photographer's tip

There are plenty of good angles here – experiment with the lake and St. Anthony's Chapel Ruins in the background. There are lovely swans, too, but remember they can be aggressive.



Alerts/safety info

:swan: 🙅 Don't feed the swans



Website

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/216672445/st-margarets-loch-holyrood-park/>

13. Newhaven Lighthouse

Coordinates from Google Maps

55.982354638041656, -3.19654480597858

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/Z7AewAjfUsQ1EY5r9>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YSkowwL7TROk3S0n9RIM5hpnK_9EwwA4?usp=share_link

Photographer's tip

Take photos in front of the harbor to get both the lighthouse and the yachts in the frame. Try a few walking shots for dynamism, stop in a restaurant for some fish and chips, and then stroll farther on for another lighthouse.

Alerts/safety info

⚠ Watch your step near the water; it can be slippery

Website

[Add a link to the official website]

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/785851601771641/newhaven-lighthouse>

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