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Edinburgh

17-20 OCTOBER 2024

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SCOTLAND



■ COUNTRY FACTS

Head of State:	King Charles III
Head of Government:	First Minister John Swinney
Capital:	Edinburgh
Population:	5,54 million (2019)
Currency:	Scottish Pound (English Pound is accepted)
Time Zone:	BST+1 (British summertime from 31 March - 27 October 2024)
Dialling Code:	+44
Language:	Four official languages; English, Gaelic, Scots, and British Sign Language
Religion:	65% Christian with Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, and Jewish minorities
Climate:	Temperate Oceanic climate
Temperatures:	8 - 15 degrees Celsius / 46-59°F (Sep - Nov)
Electricity:	230 Volts / 50Hz
Plug Type:	Type G - 3 pin square
National Drink:	Whisky
National Food:	Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, Black pudding



Source: <https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/europe/united-kingdom/scotland/>
Flag Credit: Flag of Scotland. (2024, May 15). In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Scotland

■ A BRIEF HISTORY

According to written history, the Romans arrived in Scotland in the 1st Century. The tribes at the time, known as the Picts, put up a fearsome resistance and the Romans eventually left Scotland by 212 AD. The Vikings arrived in the 9th Century.

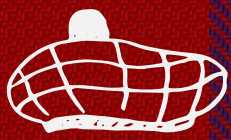
In 1296, Edward I, an English monarch believed that he should rule over Scotland resulting in the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297) and the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) until his successor, Edward II, finally agreed to recognise Scotland as an independent state in 1328.

Elizabeth I, who ruled over England, died in 1603 and because she was not married and did not have children, the English crown passed to the next heir, James VI, King of Scotland. Scotland and England were then under the same monarch as a union of crowns. In 1707 a Treaty reinforced the union between Scotland and England. However, the Jacobite who were in favour of independence were not happy to accept this union. As a result, many Jacobite Risings occurred, culminating in the Battle of Culloden in 1746 which saw the Jacobites severely defeated by the British forces.

Scotland voted for a devolved government in 1997 and the new government body met in Edinburgh on 12 May 1999. This devolution means that the country's economy, education, health, justice, housing, environment, transport, taxation, and consumer advocacy is in the hands of the Scottish government.

Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Wales form part of the sovereign state of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Each country is bound to the crown; however, they remain independent and have their own identity, including a national flag.

Source: <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislative scrutiny/act-of-union-1707/overview/union-of-the-crowns/>
Stuart, Royal Tartan: Credit © Crown Copyright Scottish Register of Tartans



EDINBURGH HISTORY



Credit: Hello Scotland



Credit: The National Wallace Monument, Stirling



Credit: Hello Scotland



Edinburgh in the latter part of the eighteenth century, was the centre of the Scottish Enlightenment. Voltaire once said, "We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation." By the first half of the 18th century, rising prosperity was evidenced by the growth of the Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, and British Linen Bank, all based in the city.

The Cowgate of Edinburgh was a street full of big houses for the rich, however overcrowding inside the Old Town city walls was reaching breaking point and the outdated city fabric did not suit the professional and merchant classes who lived there. Edinburgh had become one of the most densely populated, overcrowded and insanitary towns in the whole of Europe. To prevent an exodus of wealthy citizens from the city to London, the boundary of the Royal Burgh of Edinburgh was extended and work on the New Town began in 1767.

The South bridge was constructed of nineteen arches, all of which are now almost entirely enclosed by buildings on both sides, exposing only the largest arch, where the street crosses the Cowgate. The Irish potato famine and the Highland Clearances left thousands of people without homes and therefore contributed to a huge increase in the Capital's population, with many people seeking a better life in Edinburgh. The Cowgate area became known as "Little Ireland" in the 1840's and 1850's, at which point living conditions in the city were at their worst.

Those people that could afford houses in the New Town moved and Edinburgh for the first time became socially segregated. The literary giant the city was began to change and it developed as an industrial centre that included baking, distilling, brewing, coachbuilding, and the manufacturing of machinery used in paper mills.

Since the 1920's and more particularly since the 1960's Edinburghers grew more conscious of their Scottish individuality, identity and outlook and saw themselves as more European than part of the English culture. Post World War II saw Edinburgh expanding higher education in areas of medicine, surgery, electronics, and advanced research as well as expansion of culture through theatre and festivals. Conservation of the city's stone heritage has preserved history.

Edinburgh's final step in regaining its role as the cultural centre and political centre of Scotland was the opening of the new Scottish Parliament and government in Edinburgh and the further infrastructure development done to house Parliament and the Scottish Executive. Edinburgh as we know it today, is the second most populous city in Scotland, built on seven hills and known for its rich culture, history and architecture that attract millions of visitors annually.



EDINBURGH SITES



Credit: Saffron Blaze



Credit: Edinburgh Royal Mile © Edinburgh World Heritage



Palace of Holyroodhouse
Credit: Jane Massey - Royal Collection Trust,
His Majesty King Charles III 2024



Robert the Bruce Statue
Credit: © Ad Meskens/
Wikimedia Commons



Six original bottles

Many of the sights available for visitors to see include:

Edinburgh Castle

[Location](#)

The rock upon which the Castle was built proved a great military advantage and has evolved over many centuries. It served as a military garrison, a residence for the royals as well as a prison and a fortress. Once a royal treasury that housed jewels, records, and riches, the Castle is still home to The Honours of Scotland, the oldest Crown jewels in Britain which can be seen by visitors in the Crown Room.

Scott Monument

[Location](#)

An incredibly striking gothic structure located on Princes Street in Edinburgh that was built to commemorate the great literary, Sir Walter Scott. It is the largest monument dedicated to a writer in the world. Visitors can enjoy breathtaking views from the third-floor platform.

Royal Mile

[Location](#)

Stretching from the Castle to Holyrood House, the Royal Mile, located in Edinburgh's Old Town is the cultural heartbeat of the city. Medieval and modern architecture combine museums and landmark sites, highlighting the history of an area bustling with entertainers and tourists.

Palace of Holyroodhouse

[Location](#)

Standing at the end of the Royal Mile, it is the home of royal history in Scotland and the Kings' official residence in Edinburgh.

Balmoral Hotel

[Location](#)

Balmoral means 'majestic dwelling' in Gaelic. The Hotel was built in 1902 as a railway hotel and has attracted heads of state and eminent figures over the past century. Sir Rocco Forte purchased this luxurious hotel with its clocktower that features prominently on the Edinburgh skyline in 1997. It is combined with the SCOTCH bar that houses over five hundred different whisky labels, considered a must-see in Edinburgh.

The Scottish Whisky Experience

[Location](#)

Located at the top of the Royal Mile and close to the Castle, visitors are taken on a journey of Scottish whisky making. The Diageo Clave Vidiz Whisky Collection, with 3338 bottles of whisky dating back many years with original labels is a remarkable sight even for the non-whisky enthusiast.

Credit: Unusual Venues, The Caves and The Modern City, Encyclopaedia Britannica
Stuart, Royal Tartan: Credit © Crown Copyright Scottish Register of Tartans



DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Edinburgh Castle is built on an extinct volcano.
- 2 The Royal Mile is actually one mile and 107 yards long.
- 3 Edinburgh was the first city in the entire world to have its own fire service.
- 4 Edinburgh has 112 parks and more trees per head of population than any other city in the United Kingdom.
- 5 J.K. Rowling wrote some of Harry Potter in an Edinburgh café (The Elephant) and took inspiration from the landscape for her characters and locations.
- 6 The Encyclopaedia Britannica was first produced in Edinburgh.
- 7 Edinburgh has more listed buildings than anywhere in the world.

Source: <https://worldstrides.com/blog/2016/07/12-facts-edinburgh/>

FAMOUS WRITERS & POETS

David Hume (7 May 1711 - 25 August 1776)

Robert Burns (25 January 1759 - 21 July 1796)

Sir Walter Scott (15 August 1771 - 21 September 1832)

Robert Louis Stevenson (13 November 1850 - 3 December 1894)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (22 May 1859 - 7 July 1930)

J.M. Barrie (9 May 1860 - 19 June 1937)

Source: <https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/culture/10-great-scottish-writers-and-their-renowned-work/>



© Historic Environment Scotland

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DELEGATE PROGRAMME

EARLY BIRDS ARRIVAL – WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER

- 19:15 Meet in the hotel foyer
- 19:30 Depart for pub dinner at nearby **OX184 Restaurant**
Dress Code: Casual
(Address: 184-186 Cowgate, Old Town, Edinburgh, EH1 1JJ)
- 22:00 Return to the hotel
Overnight: Radisson Blu, Edinburgh

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 15:00 - 18:00 Check-in and registration at the Radisson Blu hotel, Edinburgh
- 19:00 Meet in the hotel foyer
- 19:15 Depart for a Welcome dinner at **Bread Street Kitchen**
Dress Code: Smart Casual
(Address: 4 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh)
- 21:20 Return to the hotel
Overnight: Radisson Blu, Edinburgh

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

- 08:00 - 09:00 Check-in and registration at the Radisson Blu hotel, Edinburgh
- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel (overnight guests)
- 09:00 IPG Conference begins
- 12:30 Lunch at the hotel
- 14:00 Afternoon session begins
- 17:00 Conference ends
- 17:15 - 18:00 Collect kilts and confirm sizing
- 19:00 Meet in the hotel foyer
- 19:15 Depart for Gala dinner at **The Voodoo Rooms**
Dress Code: Business Suit & Cocktail Dress
(Address: 19a W Register St, Edinburgh)
- 23:30 Return to the hotel
Overnight: Radisson Blu, Edinburgh

DAY 3 – SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:00 IPG AGM begins
- 12:30 Lunch at the hotel
- 14:00 Meet in the hotel foyer
- 14:15 Depart on a Walking tour of Edinburgh
- 19:15 Meet in the hotel foyer dressed in your Scottish kilts
- 19:30 Depart for Farewell Dinner at **The Caves**
Dress Code: Scottish kilts
(Address: 8-10 Niddry Street South, Edinburgh)
- 22:30 Return to the hotel
Overnight: Radisson Blu, Edinburgh

DAY 4 – SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

- 08:30 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:20 - 11:00 Return of kilts
- 12:00 Check-out and depart

SPOUSE PROGRAMME

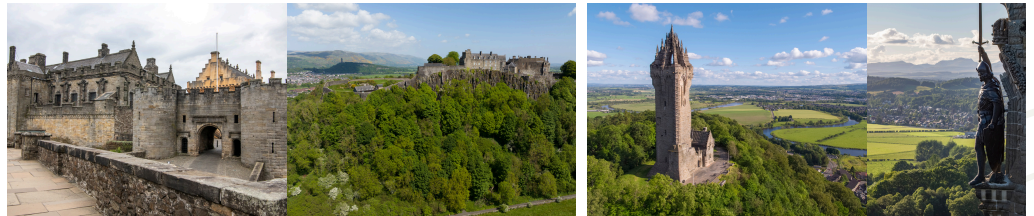
FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

08:45 Meet in the hotel foyer

09:00 Depart on a full day tour to **Stirling Castle** and the **Wallace Monument** with lunch at **River House**

***Stirling Castle** is a must-see landmark that immerses visitors in the heritage and grandeur of medieval Scotland and offers a captivating journey through Scotland's rich history. Perched high on a volcanic outcrop, the castle provides breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Inside, explore grand halls, the meticulously restored **Royal Palace**, and the **Chapel Royal** and hear revealing tales of royalty, battles, and intrigue.*

*Next, climb the **Wallace Monument**, marvelling at the history and panoramic vistas from the top.*



© Historic Environment Scotland

The National Wallace Monument, Stirling

*Enjoy an expertly crafted lunch at **River House**, whilst taking in the natural countryside around the loch and enjoying the view of Stirling Castle.*

16:30 Return to the hotel

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

09:15 Meet in the hotel foyer

09:30 Depart on a morning visit to the **Royal Yacht Britannia** with lunch at the Granary.

*A morning tour of the **Royal Yacht Britannia** offers a glimpse into the royal maritime life, exploring the Queen's former floating palace. Wander through the elegant State Apartments, the sun lounge, and the crew's quarters, while the guide shares fascinating stories. Afterwards, enjoy a delightful lunch in the vibrant harbour of Leith, savouring delicious dishes in a cosy, rustic setting.*



Credit: Hello Scotland

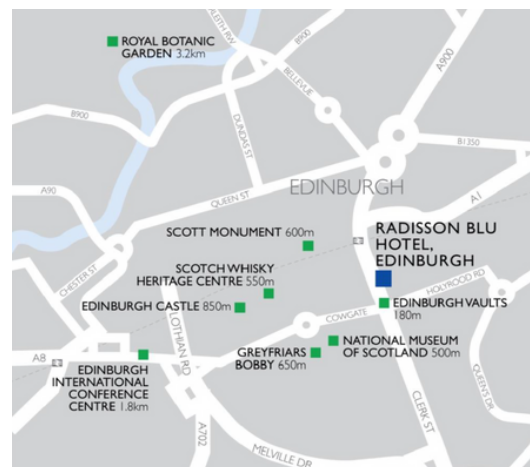
The Royal Yacht Britannia - Image Credit: Marc Miller

13:30 Return to the hotel

HOTEL INFORMATION

Radisson Blu Hotel

How to get there



The Radisson Blu Hotel is located in Edinburgh's old town in the heart of the Royal Mile.

All rooms are modern and include free Wi-Fi, flat screen TV, bathroom amenities as well as a pillow menu.

On-site facilities include 24 hour room service, an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and gym equipment. Access to the Health Club is included during your stay.

Address

80 High Street, Royal Mile

Edinburgh, EH1 1TH

United Kingdom

TEL: +44 131 557 9797

Website: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-edinburgh>

Breakfast Times

Weekdays: 06:00 – 10:00

Weekend: 07:00 – 11:00

Check-in and Check-out times

Check in: from 14:00

Check-out: by 12:00

From Edinburgh Airport

By bus:

The Airlink bus leaves from the airport regularly, and it's about a 30-minute ride to the Waverly Bridge stop just 400 metres from the hotel.

By tram:

Take a convenient tram ride to the Princes Street stop, which leaves you a quick 800-metre walk to the hotel.

From Edinburgh Waverly Station

On foot:

The hotel is a quick 250-metre walk from Edinburgh Waverly, the city's central railway hub.

From Edinburgh Bus Station

On foot:

Located by St Andrews Square, Edinburgh Bus Station is the main bus route into the city and is only a 1km walk from the hotel.



RESTAURANTS

GORDON RAMSAY BREAD STREET KITCHEN & BAR

Located on St Andrew Square, Bread Street Kitchen - Edinburgh is a modern all-day restaurant between Princes Street and Queen Street. It is the perfect place for a get-together with friends, family, or colleagues. Experience the amazing dishes specially created by Gordon Ramsay.

[Location](#)



Image Credit: Gordon Ramsay Bread Street Kitchen & Bar

THE VOODOO ROOMS

Situated in Edinburgh city centre, the Voodoo Rooms which was formerly The Cafe Royal Bistro Bar, with its lush history, numerous spaces, and glaring potential. The dilapidated building underwent a huge restoration process to the original features, woodwork, and plasterwork with the added touch of black and gold. It is now a Cocktail Bar, Restaurant, Live Music, and Events Venue that has been providing great times since 2007!

[Location](#)



Image Credit: Voodoo Rooms

THE CAVES

The Caves makes up the sub-structure of the 18th Century South Bridge that at one point in time stored so much Whisky, it was known as "Whisky Row". Visitors can view the vaults that were once stables for the French Cavalry serving as bodyguards to the Royal Family as well as remains of houses that pre-date the Bridge. After having been lost for over 100 years, the hidden Edinburgh vaults were rediscovered and the original stone vaults of the Old Town Edinburgh have been magnificently restored. Great regard has been given to preserving both the authenticity and history of the venue which is now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

[Location](#)



Credit: Unusual Venues: The Caves

WITH THANKS TO

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 Unusual Venues: The Caves
 Voodoo Rooms

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Internet sources

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