

Enjoy the historical attractions of Edinburgh during a short break

A perfect mix of captivating historical attractions and great modern shopping opportunities, Edinburgh has always been considered the jewel in Scotland's crown and it's not hard to see why when you visit the city.

First time visitors enjoying a short break to Edinburgh should certainly make the Castle and Royal Mile their first port of call. Edinburgh Castle has played a pivotal role in Scottish history, both as a military stronghold and also a royal residence. Castle Rock rises majestically above the western end of Princes Street and the Castle car park offers excellent views over the southern side of the city towards the Pentland Hills. After you visit to the Castle, take a stroll down the Royal Mile and soak in the atmosphere, particularly if you plan your short break during the annual festival, when the Royal Mile comes alive with street performances. A huge selection of shops selling traditional Scottish items such as whiskey, fudge and kilts, as well as many crafts and souvenirs, can be found along the length of the Mile as well.

Princes Street is also well worth investigating during a short break in Edinburgh. This street is Edinburgh's foremost shopping street and was built as part of the New Town in the late 18th century. Much of the street has been redeveloped over the years but the New Town behind it still retains most of the original Georgian architecture which is certainly worth a look. Besides the vast array of shopping opportunities on Princes Street itself, a visit to the area also gives visitors the chance to enjoy Princes Street Gardens, which nestles under Edinburgh Castle and provides a relaxing and peaceful spot in the city centre with fantastic foreground views of the Castle.

One of the more recent additions to Edinburgh's already impressive selection of attractions is the Dynamic Earth exhibition, just ten minutes walk from Waverley train station. This new and exciting museum takes visitors on an adventure and aims to tell the story of Earth's past, present and future using innovative and interactive displays. Featuring 12 galleries, including the Future Dome, Earthscape Scotland and Polar Dome, this is an educational and fun filled attraction, perfect for a visit during your short break in the Scottish capital.

Another new addition to Edinburgh is the Scottish Houses of Parliament. Located amongst the historic buildings of Holyrood, the Parliament buildings are a perfect illustration of thought provoking, modern architecture and of history unfolding around us. Some parliamentary sessions and committees are open for public viewing but when parliament is not in session the public are welcome to explore this remarkable building.

With the stunning architecture and natural beauty that exists throughout the city, it's possible to enjoy [short breaks in Edinburgh](#) by simply wandering around and soaking it all in. However, should you wish to enjoy a spot of shopping or explore some historical attractions, there's a wealth to choose from, helping make Edinburgh an ideal choice for a short break.

About the Author

Andrew Regan is an online, freelance author from Scotland. He is a keen rugby player and enjoys travelling.

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