



# 14 MUST-DO EXPERIENCES Edinburgh

A guide by Argyle Backpackers





# Essentials

## 1. Edinburgh Castle

Picture this: towering above the city skyline, Edinburgh Castle is like a time machine to Scotland's past. Inside, you'll find treasures fit for a king (literally!), from ancient crowns to the legendary Stone of Destiny. Oh, and don't miss the One O'Clock Gun – it's not a real castle without a little cannon action!

## 2. Royal Mile (Old Town)

This famous street stretches from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace and is lined with shops, restaurants, and historical sites. Take your time strolling along and soaking up the atmosphere, it's like stepping back in time with every cobblestone you tread. From cozy pubs to quirky shops, there's something for everyone here.

## 3. Arthur's Seat

Edinburgh's own ancient volcano! So why is Arthur's Seat essential? Because it's more than just a mountain – it's a symbol of Edinburgh's rugged beauty and adventurous spirit. It's a chance to connect with nature, to challenge yourself, and to experience the city from a whole new perspective.



## 4. Princes Street (New Town)

You should include Princess Street in your itinerary for its vibrant atmosphere, iconic views of Edinburgh Castle (Princess Street Garden), diverse shopping options, and because it's also located to cultural landmarks and green spaces. Whether it's exploring trendy boutiques, enjoying street performances, or soaking in the beauty of Princes Street Gardens,





# Heritage Highlights

## Pro Tip

Start your visit early in the morning to beat the crowds and have more time to explore each exhibit in detail. Don't miss the rooftop terrace for stunning views of Edinburgh's skyline!

### 5. National Museum of Scotland

Dive into Scotland's rich history and culture at the National Museum of Scotland. From ancient artifacts to modern marvels, this museum offers a fascinating journey through the ages. Explore interactive exhibits, marvel at breathtaking displays, and uncover the stories that shaped Scotland's past and present.

### 6. Scotch Whisky Experience

Raise a glass to Scotland's national drink at the Scotch Whisky Experience. Dive into the world of whisky with immersive tours, interactive exhibits, and, of course, tastings! Learn about the art of whisky-making, discover the nuances of different blends, and toast to the spirit of Scotland.

### 7. Palace of Holyroodhouse

Step into the regal world of Scottish royalty at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Explore the majestic rooms, stroll through the beautiful gardens, and immerse yourself in centuries of history. From Mary, Queen of Scots, to Her Majesty The Queen, this palace has hosted some of Scotland's most iconic figures.

### 8. Royal Yacht Britannia

Step aboard Her Majesty's floating palace at the Royal Yacht Britannia. Explore the elegant decks, discover the luxurious cabins, and learn about the yacht's fascinating history. From royal receptions to diplomatic missions, this iconic vessel has sailed through it all.



# Nature Escapes

## 9. Dean Village

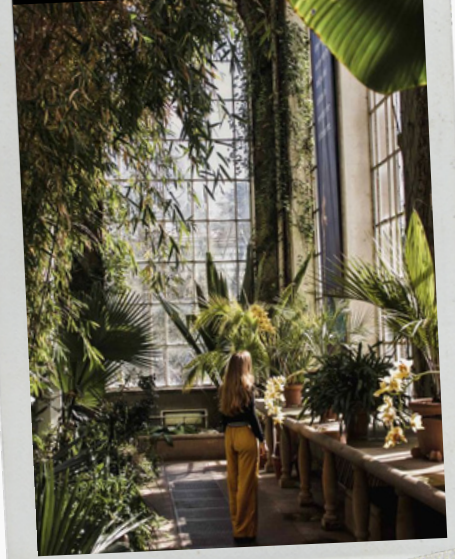
Discover the picturesque charm of Dean Village, nestled along the banks of the Water of Leith. With its quaint cottages, peaceful riverside walks, and historic architecture, Dean Village feels like a hidden gem in the heart of the city. Lose yourself in its tranquil beauty and experience Edinburgh's natural allure.

## 10. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Immerse yourself in the lush landscapes of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Spanning 70 acres, this world-renowned garden is home to a diverse collection of plants from around the globe. Wander through themed gardens, explore glasshouses filled with exotic flora, and revel in the beauty of nature in the heart of the city.

## 11. Water of Leith Walkway

Embark on a scenic stroll along the Water of Leith Walkway, tracing the path of Edinburgh's charming river. Meander through leafy woodlands, pass by tranquil waterfalls, and spot wildlife along the way. With its serene atmosphere and natural beauty, the Water of Leith Walkway is a hidden oasis in the heart of the city.



## 12. Calton Hill

Ascend Calton Hill for panoramic vistas of Edinburgh's skyline and beyond. This iconic hilltop boasts historic monuments, lush greenery, and unparalleled views of the city. Take a leisurely stroll along its pathways, explore its eclectic architecture, and marvel at the beauty of Edinburgh from above.

### Pro Tip

**If you are really feeling up for an adventure The Seven Hills of Edinburgh offer a fantastic way to explore the city and take in its stunning views. Each hill provides a unique perspective of Edinburgh's historic landscape and architectural beauty.**

- Arthurs Seat
- Castle Rock
- Calton Hill
- Costorphine Hill
- Braid Hills
- Blackford Hill
- Craiglockhart Hill



# Insider Tips & Recommendations

## 13. Local Markets

Dive into Edinburgh's vibrant culture by exploring its local markets and uncovering hidden gems. From the eclectic stalls of the Grassmarket to the artisanal delights of Stockbridge Market, these bustling hubs offer a taste of the city's unique character.

## 14. Ceilidh Dancing

Ceilidh dancing, a traditional Scottish social gathering with lively folk music and energetic dancing, is a must-try experience in Edinburgh. Here are some venues, Ghillie Dhu, The Edinburgh Ceilidh Club and Stramash.



## BONUS

## 15. The Royal Dick

Once a veterinary school, this unique bar and creative space within Summerhall (near The Meadows) is known only to some locals. It houses a bar, café, and even a microbrewery. Summerhall itself is a cultural hub for arts and events, making The Royal Dick a perfect spot to relax after exploring exhibitions or attending performances.

