

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital and its second-largest city. It has been the capital of Scotland since 1437 and is the seat of the country's government. Edinburgh is well-known for its festivals which take place throughout the year. After London, Edinburgh is the second most visited tourist destination in the United Kingdom.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving in Edinburgh is not advisable instead walk, cycle or use public transport. Within the city the public transport system is essentially the bus service, which flows fairly problem-free. There are a number of passes offering reduced fares such as a Day Saver Ticket allowing unlimited one-day travel on the city's buses.

BANKS AND CURRENCY

The currency of Scotland is the GBP Pound (£). One pound is comprised of 100 pence and coins can be obtained in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2 denominations. Bank notes are available in £5, £10, £20 and £50 amounts. Banks are usually open from 9:30am to 4:30pm from Monday to Friday. Some banks are also open on Saturdays.

SHOPPING

Edinburgh is now a shopper's paradise, and the range of goods offered is as diverse as the city itself. Go shopping in Edinburgh on the Royal Mile, where you will find all kinds of gifts and souvenirs. Shops are generally open from 10am-6pm Monday-Saturday and from noon to 6pm on Sundays. Some are open till 8pm on Thursday.

CLIMATE

Edinburgh enjoys a moderate year-round climate, with none of the violent extremes of weather. Annual rainfall is the same as Frankfurt, New York and Rome. The highs during the year range from 64F-42F and the lows from 52F-34F.

EATING

Scotland is rife with culinary tradition. Although it is a capital city, and full of ethnically diverse dining options, Edinburgh is proud of its roots. Some of the local ingredients are excellent; including Atlantic salmon, oatmeal, and venison. The country has also become known as the "Land O'

Cakes," and is famous for serving delicious savory and sweet biscuits, cookies, scones, griddle cakes, and the popular shortbread. But perhaps the two most famous Scottish culinary contributions are haggis and malt whiskey

MUSEUMS

The museums, galleries and monuments which comprise the City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries range from in size from small shops to spacious grounds. The permanent collections conserved and interpreted by the City of Edinburgh Museums & Galleries bear eloquent witness to Edinburgh's and Scotland's stirring past. You will be fascinated by their story.

GENERAL INFO

Ambulance, Fire, Police dial 999
US Embassy [44] (0)131 556 8315
Edinburgh Tourist Information 0845 22 55 121