

Itineraries

In a lunchtime... book yourself in for an exquisite lunch on top of the museum of Scotland at The Tower – a restaurant that offers stunning views of the Castle from its roof terrace – and then you are perfectly placed for a quick look round the museum, or a quick snoop round the shops in the streets outside. AA Gill of The Sunday Times called this ‘the hottest table in Edinburgh’.

In an afternoon... just outside the city is Edinburgh’s waterfront at Leith. An afternoon here could include a little shopping around the smaller boutique-style shops – or even a trip round the larger mall – Ocean Terminal. There are a number of restaurants and bars in this area. Visitors shouldn’t miss the chance to visit the Royal Yacht Britannia. Regular buses run from the town centre to Leith.

For a day... get familiar with the city by hopping on the city bus tour. After getting your bearings, head for Edinburgh Castle to experience the capital’s most iconic building and soak up the history and grandeur of its walls. Time for a cup of tea in the Redcoat Cafe before heading out down the Royal Mile and turn left toward Princes Street and then further north into the northern part of the city and the Georgian New Town.

Alternatively, from the Castle down Castlehill, Lawnmarket and The Royal Mile, there are plenty of sights in close proximity. Edinburgh’s Festival centre on the right, The Hub, Gladstone’s Land; The Camera Obscura; The Writers’ Museum; John Knox House; The People’s Museum – all the way down to the Palace at Holyroodhouse – there are plenty of attractions to while away the afternoon, and many more you’ll need to come back for too. If you are feeling energetic, you could head into Holyrood Park and try climbing up to Arthur’s Seat for fantastic views over the city. The famous Scottish Parliament Building – Holyrood – is also at this end of The Royal Mile.