

EVENTS IN EDINBURGH

January

Burns Night

Celebrate the work of Scotland's great poet, Robert Burns on 25 January at venues around the city.

April

Edinburgh Science Festival

Lectures, exhibitions and hands-on activities for all ages. At the Assembly Rooms, Botanic Gardens, Royal Museum and other venues across the city. www.sciencefestival.co.uk

Easter Parade

Featuring over 4,000 performers from around the world. City centre.

May

Scotland's International Children's Festival

Britain's biggest performing arts festival for children and young people.

International Festival of the Sea

Events and displays of all things nautical in Leith. www.festivalofthesea.co.uk

June

The Edinburgh Marathon

Holyrood Park.

July/August

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

At concert halls, pubs, streets and parks around the city.

August

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Military spectacle on the Castle Esplanade.

Edinburgh International Festival Fringe

Venues all over the city. Fringe Sunday, on The Meadows, attracts nearly 200,000 people. www.edfringe.com

Edinburgh International Festival

Music, theatre, dance and visual arts for every taste. www.eif.co.uk

International Film Festival

Featuring the best in cinema from established and new directors.

Book Festival

With readings from well-known authors, lectures and book-themed events.

December

Edinburgh's Capital Christmas

Featuring festive events, traditional markets and the fun of Edinburgh's Winter Wonderland.

December/January

Hogmanay

One of the world's best New Year celebrations with carnivals, processions, music and fireworks.

Details of these and other Edinburgh events can be found on www.eventful-edinburgh.com

Below: Fireworks light up the night sky above the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh lives up to its reputation as the Festival City with a programme of exciting events throughout the year.

Bottom: The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, performed against the magnificent backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, is perhaps the city's most spectacular event and attracts visitors from all over the world.



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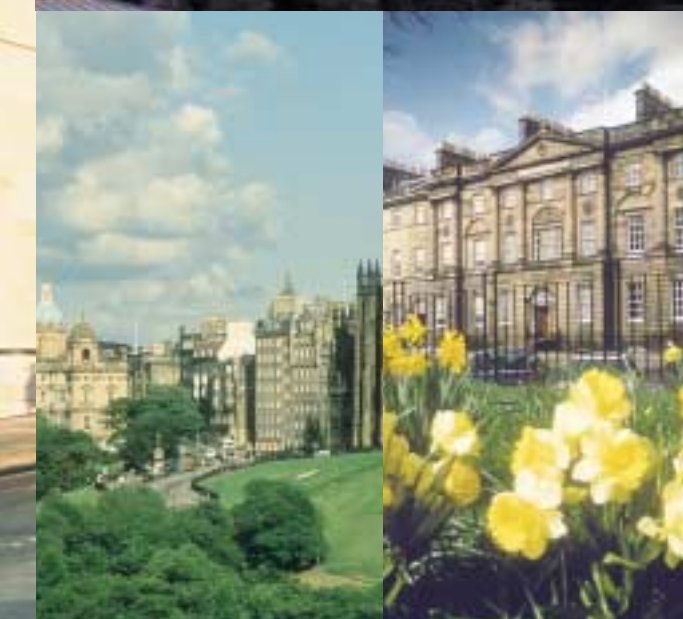
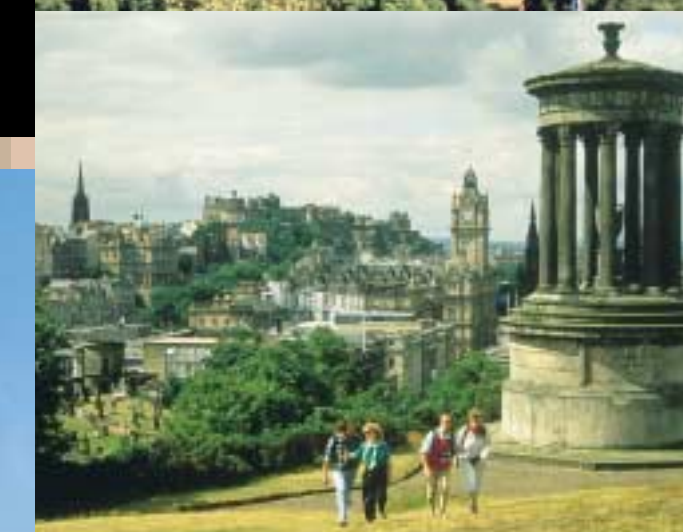
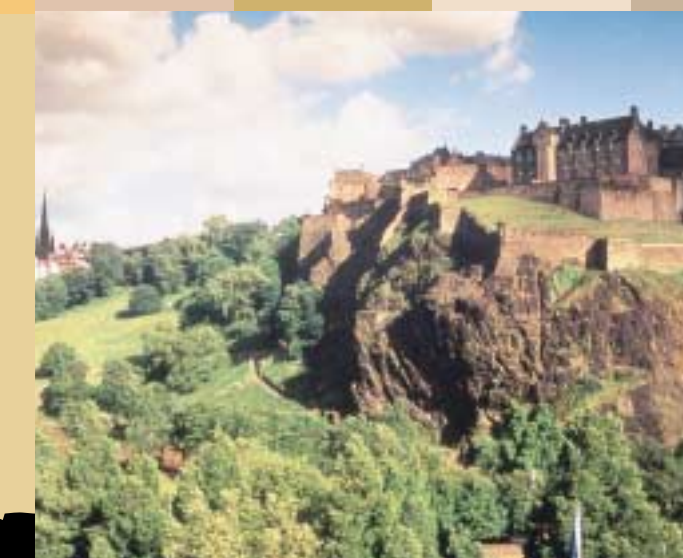
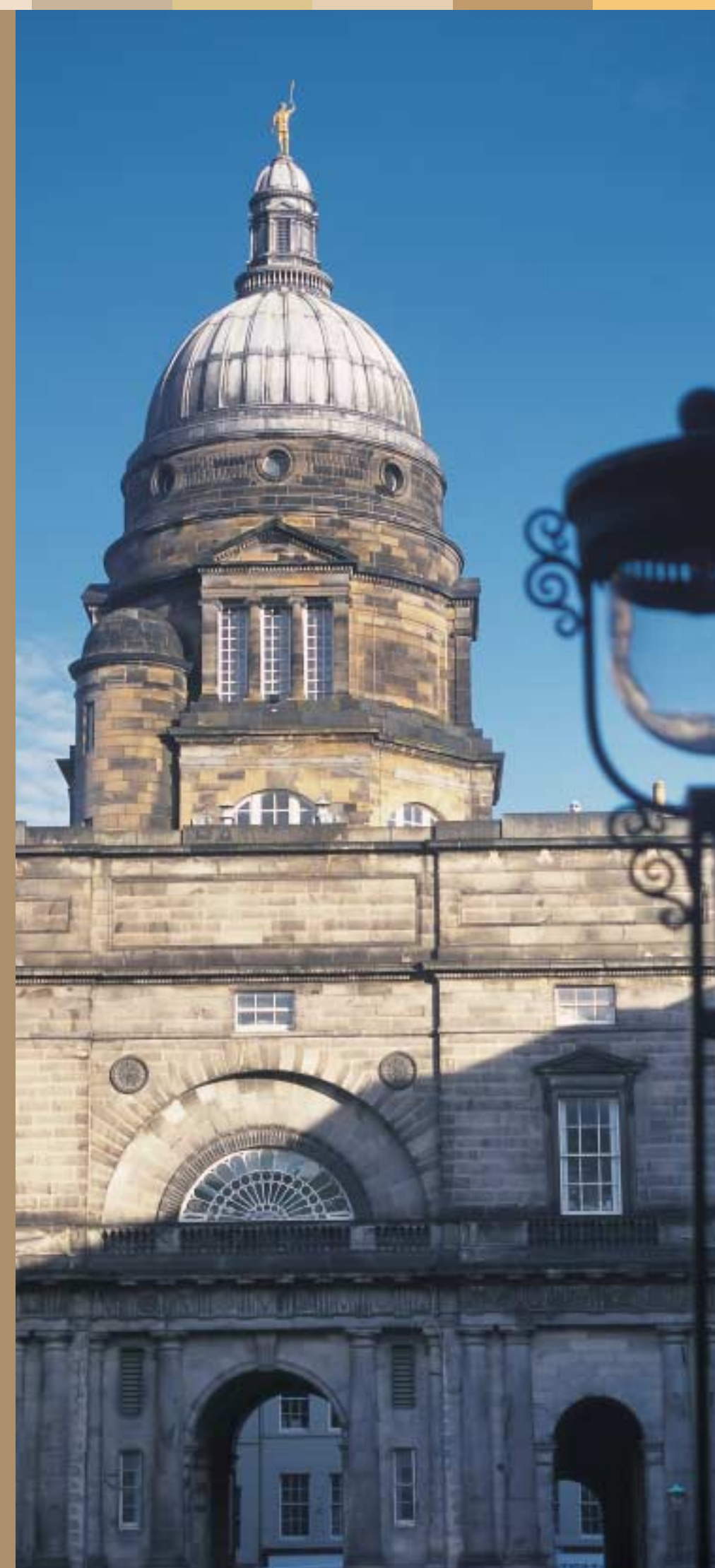
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Front cover: The National Museum of Scotland
(© National Museums of Scotland).

Back cover: Old College, a well-known symbol of the University of Edinburgh, was designed by Robert Adam in 1789 and completed by William Playfair in 1834.
(© University of Edinburgh).

Pictures courtesy of Edinburgh & Lothians Tourist Board by Harvey Wood, Douglas Corrance and Marius Alexander.



Edinburgh Castle is one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions. It dominates the city from high up on the volcanic Castle Rock which rises 133 metres above the sea.

One of the most stunning views of Edinburgh and the waters of the Firth of Forth can be enjoyed from Calton Hill. The Stewart Monument (left) is dedicated to the 18th century philosopher, Dugald Stewart and is a reproduction of the Lysicrates monument in Athens.

Edinburgh Castle was the city's first recorded building in the 11th century. The buildings forming today's castle are far newer, dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Edinburgh's Old Town is packed with medieval buildings. It was overcrowding here in the 'high-rise' tenement buildings that led to the building of the New Town to the north.

The Georgian New Town, with its many elegant buildings, contains some of the UK's finest squares and streets. Its layout, based on a grid, was the idea of the architect, James Craig who won a competition to plan the first New Town in 1763.

EDINBURGH, CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND is renowned for its stunning architecture and lively festivals. Here the past blends seamlessly with the present to create one of Europe's most appealing cities.

Edinburgh is situated in the heart of the Lothians on the southern shore of the Firth of Forth, where the River Forth flows into the North Sea. The city extends over seven hills, the best known and most dramatic being Castle Hill, Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat. With a population of over 460,000, Edinburgh is a relatively small city and this is where its beauty lies. Local residents, office workers and tourists alike mingle in the city's compact centre filling Edinburgh with life by day and night.

Edinburgh has been Scotland's capital for over 500 years. Legend says that the Picts, an ancient North British tribe, built a fortress on the volcanic castle rock in the 5th century. They called it 'Din Eidyn' in Gaelic. Other sources believe that the city is named after Edwin, King of Northumbria, who conquered the Lothians in 638 AD. Little is recorded about Edinburgh until the reign of Malcolm III (1058-1093), who built a fortress on the site of the present castle. His wife, Margaret, later to become St Margaret, built a chapel within the walls. This chapel is the oldest building in Edinburgh today. Edinburgh then grew into an important trading centre and was granted a Royal Charter by Robert the Bruce in 1329.

EDINBURGH IS TWO CITIES IN ONE — the Old Town dominated by the imposing castle on its towering volcanic rock, and the Georgian (1714-1830) New Town below, with its grand squares and wide avenues. Both have been designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

The medieval buildings and narrow alleyways of the Old Town reflect a city steeped in history. Edinburgh Castle, the nation's most famous landmark, houses the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Destiny, Scotland's coronation throne which was held by the English for 700 years and only returned in 1997.



The view down the Royal Mile, the backbone of the Old Town. The distinctive crown-shaped steeple of St Giles Cathedral can be seen on the right.



The Palace of Holyroodhouse has had several famous occupants. It was here that the tragic Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-87) spent six years of her reign and Prince Charles Edward Stuart (1720-88), better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, held court.



Prince's Street marks the southern edge of the New Town. Tourists and locals alike come here to shop and enjoy the many restaurants and bars.



The Café Royal is a popular bar and restaurant. Its late-Victorian interior with ceramic tiling and stained-glass windows evokes an atmosphere of times gone by.

The Royal Mile, the city's oldest street, starts at the castle and runs down the hill to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Museums, galleries, cafés and shops line this cobbled thoroughfare and the nearby 'closes' (backyards) and 'wynds' (alleys). Perhaps the greatest of Edinburgh's many churches can be found along the Royal Mile. St Giles Cathedral, parts of which date back to the 12th century, is the focal point of the established Church of Scotland and is easily recognised by its crown-shaped steeple.

At the foot of the Royal Mile is the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence in Scotland of Queen Elizabeth II. According to legend, Holyroodhouse was founded as an Augustinian monastery in 1128 by King David I. He is said to have seen a vision of a cross or 'rood', belonging to his mother St Margaret, appearing between the antlers of a stag.

Princes Street, Edinburgh's best-known shopping street, enjoys magnificent views of the castle and the distinctive city skyline. Here you will find stylish shops, cosmopolitan bars and restaurants, and Jenners, the oldest independent department store in the world. Princes Street is bordered by Prince's Street Gardens. This oasis of green runs along the valley of the old Nor'Loch, which once formed part of the castle's defences before it was drained in the 17th century.

EDINBURGH IS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST CITIES in Europe. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 10.5 per cent above the UK average. A growing, highly educated workforce, combined with increased productivity, will lead to a 36 per cent increase in economic output over the next 10 years and the creation of 30,000 new jobs. Around 290,000 people are currently employed in the city, mainly in healthcare, financial and professional services, education, government and tourism.



Dundas House, today the principal office of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, was built by Sir Lawrence Dundas of Kerse in 1772. It was described then by the Edinburgh chronicler, Arnott, as "incomparably the handsomest house we ever saw."



Edinburgh is easy to reach thanks to its excellent transport links. Waverley Station in the heart of the city is one of the UK's largest railway stations and links Edinburgh to London in under four hours and to York, Newcastle, Inverness and Aberdeen within two hours.



The Scottish Parliament in session. It will soon move to a state-of-the-art new building at the end of the Royal Mile.



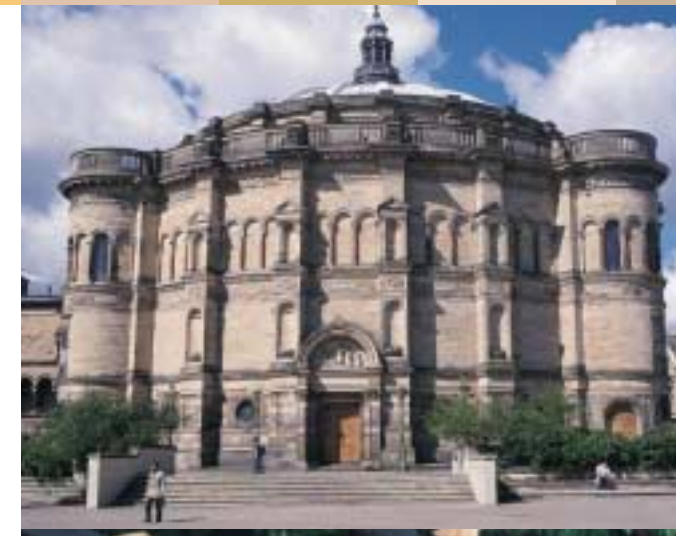
Visitors from all over the world can expect a warm welcome in this vibrant, bustling city.

As Europe's sixth biggest fund management centre, Edinburgh's links with the financial sector are as longstanding as the city itself. The Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS (Halifax/Bank of Scotland), the country's leading clearing banks, manage a turnover of £6.3 billion from the city. Many businesses choose to locate their Scottish, UK and European headquarters in Scotland's capital.

Impressive transport links make Edinburgh easily accessible by air, road, rail and sea. Edinburgh International Airport, 12 kms from the city centre, handles over 50 flights a day from London and regular services from other UK, European and North American airports. The Great North Eastern Railway, the fastest intercity rail service in the UK, links Edinburgh to London in just over four hours, while Glasgow is only 50 minutes away. Scotland's first direct ferry service to Europe sails from Rosyth, just 25 minutes from the city centre, to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

EDINBURGH IS HOME TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT. When it was opened by the Queen in July, 1999, it was the first Parliament to sit in Scotland for nearly 300 years. The Parliament has 129 members, elected by the Scottish people. It can legislate on such matters as health, education, justice, agriculture, local government, housing and the environment, and has limited tax-raising powers. The Scottish Parliament will soon move to a new purpose-built complex near Holyroodhouse in the heart of the city. The devolved government in Scotland is the Scottish Executive, led by a First Minister who is nominated by the Parliament. Scotland remains part of the UK and still elects 72 members to the UK Parliament at Westminster in London.

The City of Edinburgh Council is one of 32 local government authorities in Scotland, responsible for delivering services to the local community and the many millions of visitors who come to Edinburgh each year. With 20,000 employees, it is the city's second largest employer.



The ornate exterior of McEwan Hall at the University of Edinburgh. The hall was built for graduation ceremonies, concerts and other public occasions with funds from Sir William McEwan, founder of a well-known Edinburgh brewing company.



Edinburgh has a longstanding reputation for encouraging academic excellence. A greater percentage of its population hold higher qualifications than any other city in the UK. These students have just graduated from the University of Edinburgh.



Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's most celebrated poets and novelists. An impressive monument to his life and work now stands in Princes Street Gardens.

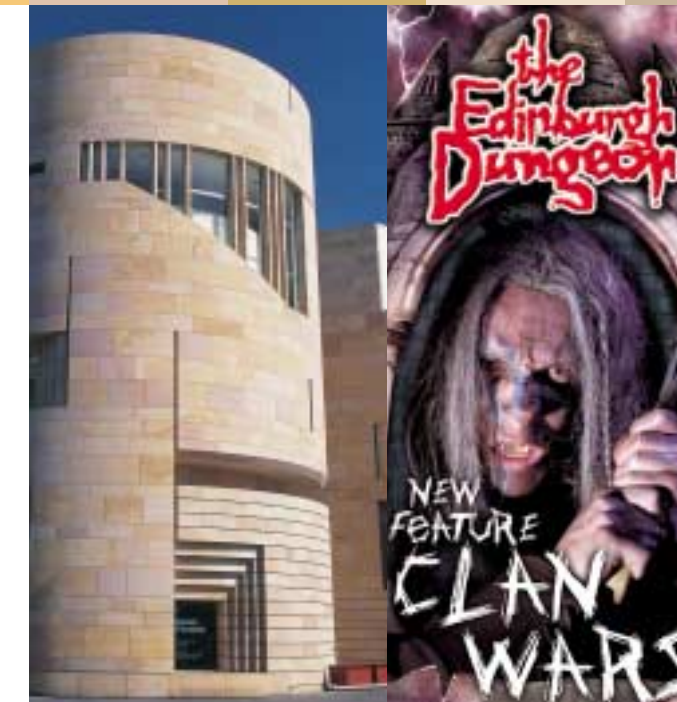


The National Gallery of Scotland houses works by the French Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, including paintings by Monet and Cézanne, along with an excellent collection of works by Scottish artists.

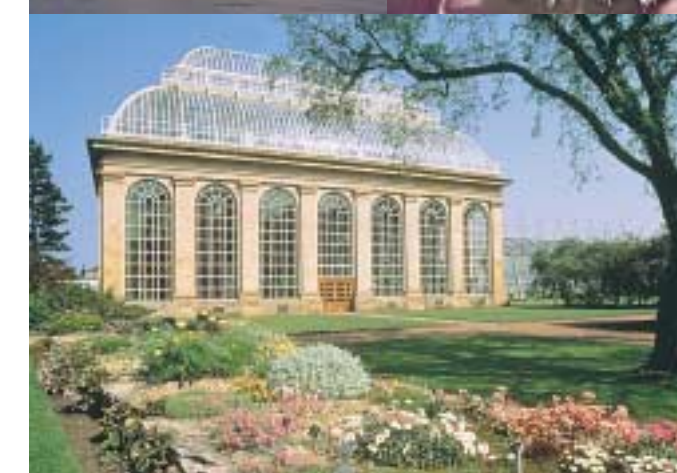
EDINBURGH IS RENOWNED for encouraging academic excellence. Students from over 120 countries are welcomed to the city every year, contributing greatly to the international nature of the academic community. Edinburgh has over 51,000 students at its three universities — the University of Edinburgh, Napier University and Heriot Watt University. Over 40 per cent of the undergraduates at these universities study science, engineering or health. The University of Edinburgh, which was established in 1583, is regarded as one of the UK's top five universities and leads the way in information technology.

ONE OF THE GREAT CULTURAL CAPITALS OF EUROPE. Edinburgh has bred many great writers. Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) who wrote *Rob Roy* and *Ivanhoe*, Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94), author of *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island*, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), creator of the great fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes, were all born and educated in the city. More recently, the novelists Dame Muriel Spark (1918-) and Irvine Welsh (1957-), author of *Trainspotting*, were born here, and it was in an Edinburgh café that J. K. Rowling created the schoolboy wizard, Harry Potter. No wonder then, that Edinburgh has the highest number of bookshops per person than any city in Britain!

Art-lovers delight in both national art collections and Edinburgh's many smaller galleries. The magnificent National Gallery of Scotland, housed in a fine classical building, contains Scotland's biggest collection of European paintings and sculptures from the Renaissance to Post-Impressionism. The Scottish Gallery of Modern Art is strong on Scottish works, particularly those by the Scottish Colourists, while many famous faces can be spotted in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.



The Museum of Scotland was designed by Benson + Forsyth. The stunning galleries take visitors on a journey through Scotland's history, from its geological beginnings to the 20th century.



The Tropical Palm House at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden was the largest structure of its kind in Britain when it opened in 1834.



Holyrood Park brings the countryside into the heart of the city. Energetic walkers are rewarded with magnificent views from the summit of Arthur's Seat (250m) for spectacular views over the city and the Firth of Forth to the mountains of the Trossachs.



Art, music, theatre, dance — there is something for everyone at the renowned Edinburgh International Festival. Pictured here is a performance by Catherine Winfield and Damian Smith of the San Francisco Ballet.

The story of Scotland and its people from the earliest times to the present day is superbly told at the Museum of Scotland. Over 10,000 artefacts have been brought together in this new museum. State-of-the-art technology is used to great effect at Our Dynamic Earth to explore the evolution of the planet. For the more macabre, the Edinburgh Dungeon offers an insight into the city's grisly history, including the story of Burke and Hare, the notorious murderers who sold their victims for surgical training.

EXOTIC EDINBURGH comes to life at the Royal Botanic Garden, the second oldest botanical garden in the UK. Originally founded as a physic garden in 1670, it moved to its present site at Inverleith in the early 1820s. The Victorian (1837-1901) palm houses, temperate and tropical glasshouses with orchids, cacti and giant waterlilies, rare trees and heath and rock gardens make this a haven of peace and quiet.

The royal estate of Holyrood Park was also a hunting reserve. It contains two small 'lochs' or lakes, and is often used as a huge open-air theatre. Energetic visitors and locals climb to the summit of Arthur's Seat (250m) for spectacular views over the city and the Firth of Forth to the mountains of the Trossachs.

EDINBURGH LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION as The Festival City with a year-round programme of festivals, galas and other events. The Edinburgh International Festival, the world's foremost arts festival brings thousands of visitors to the city every August to enjoy music, opera, drama and art exhibitions. For the unusual and the avant-garde try the 'Fringe'. This was originally the informal part of the official festival and is now the largest arts festival on the planet, featuring 16,000 performers in 1,350 shows. The Hub, Edinburgh's Festival Centre, provides a focus all year round for the city's festivals. It is housed in a splendid Victorian building, once known as the Highland Tolbooth, which has been given a new lease of life by architect, Ben Tindall.