## **Edinburgh & the Lothians 4 Day Itinerary**



## 01

## Palace of Holyroodhouse

At the Palace of Holyroodhouse, visitors will learn the stories of its close associations with some of Scotland's most wellknown historic figures. See Mary, Queen of Scots' chambers where she lived between 1561-1567 in a world of intrigue, tragedy and murder, and explore The Great Gallery where Bonnie Prince Charlie held court during his stay in 1745. Today, the Palace is used by Her Majesty The Queen when carrying out official engagements in Scotland.

Canongate Edinburgh, EH8 8DX

www.rct.uk Link to trade website



Distance between the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Mercat Tours is 0.9 mile/1.4 km



### **Mercat Tours**

Providing award-winning storytelling since 1985, Mercat tours will captivate your guests with passion, humour and flair promising a unique and lasting memory. The extensive scheduled tour programme has daily departures and includes exclusive access to the Blair Street Underground Vaults in Edinburgh. Beneath the hustle and bustle of Edinburgh's Old Town, join your expert storyteller to explore a world which has remained unchanged since the 18th Century, when it became home to the city's most destitute inhabitants.

Mercat House 28 Blair Street Edinburgh, EH1 1QR

www.mercattours.com Link to trade website



Distance between Mercat Tours and Edinburgh Castle is 0.9 mile/1.5 km

### **Edinburgh Castle**

One of the oldest fortified places in Europe. With a long rich history as a royal residence, military garrison, prison and fortress, it is alive with many exciting tales. When you climb Castle Hill, you will walk in the footsteps of soldiers, kings and queens - and even the odd pirate or two. Though parts of it remain in military use, the castle is now a world-famous visitor attraction. It is also an iconic part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

Castlehill Edinburgh, EH1 2NG

www.edinburghcastle.scot Link to trade website



Distance between Edinburgh Castle and Scotch Whisky Experience is 161 ft/49 m



### **Scotch Whisky Experience**

Enjoy a tutored whisky tasting, as you explore the glass vault of the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky, one of the seven wonders of the Scotch whisky world. Located next to Edinburgh Castle on the famous Royal Mile, this is one of the UK's top five-star visitor attractions, with an award-winning restaurant. Whether your clients are a whisky novice or enthusiast, tours and whisky tastings are always interactive, educational and fun! Selected tours are available in 20 languages (including BSL & ASL).

354 Castlehill The Royal Mile Edinburgh, EH1 2NE

www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk Link to trade website



Distance between Scotch Whisky Experience and the National Museum of Scotland is 0.4 mile/600m

The details provided above are subject to change from time to time. We suggest contacting establishments directly for up to date information.



people





All groups all sizes









Accessible

access



Open all year

Green Tourism Business cheme

Free Independent travellers

Languages spoken

Seasonal Opening (as noted) Winter by appointment

## **Edinburgh & the Lothians 4 Day Itinerary**



## 02

## National Museum of Scotland

Trace the fascinating story of Scotland through dedicated Scotland galleries capturing the nation's history. Explore a world of treasured collections and life-changing innovations, or just stop by for tea: you can do it all under our spectacular roof just minutes from Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The five-star National Museum of Scotland is the most visited attraction outside London. It has welcomed more than five million visitors since the completion of a £50 million transformation in 2011. Free general admission, as well as special exhibitions.

Chambers Street Edinburgh, EH1 1JF

www.nms.ac.uk

Link to trade website



Distance between the National Museum of Scotland and The Real Mary Kings Close is 0.6 mile/1 km



## The Real Mary Kings Close

Imagine a warren of streets frozen in time, where centuries of stories are just waiting to be told. At The Real Mary King's Close visitors will uncover the stories of streets and houses hidden beneath Edinburgh's most famous thoroughfare - the iconic Royal Mile. Discover authentic truths about Edinburgh's dark past and find out what it was really like for the people who lived and worked on the Close from poets to plaque doctors, vividly brought back to life by costumed characters.

2 Warriston's Close High Street Edinburgh, EH1 1PG www.realmarykingsclose.com



Distance between The Real Mary Kings Close and the Georgian House is 1.1 miles/1.7 km

## **The Georgian House**

A visit to the Georgian House will transport your clients back in time to hear stories of what life was like in Edinburgh's elegant New Town. Admire stunning collections of period furniture, paintings, porcelain, silver and glass, and gain a fascinating insight into both the upstairs and downstairs elements of 18th-century Edinburgh society. A real statement of luxury in an era of enlightenment, it was designed by acclaimed architect Robert Adam.

7 Charlotte Square Edinburgh, EH2 4DR

www.nts.org.uk Link to trade website



Distance between the Georgian House and Johnnie Walker Princes Street is 1.4 miles/2.3 km

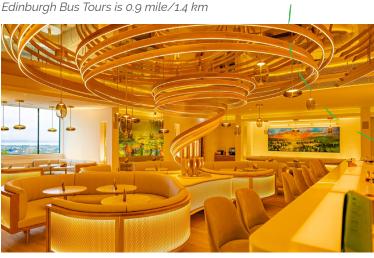
## Johnnie Walker Princes Street

Opened in September 2021 in the heart of Edinburgh, Johnnie Walker Princes Street is an experience like no other, bringing to life the story of the brand and its makers, creating a unique welcome for people from around the world. Visitors can enjoy an immersive journey through the 200-year old history behind the world's best-selling Scotch whisky, as well as offering world-class food and drink, is hosted across eight floors of the transformed landmark building on one of the Scottish capital's most famous streets.

145 Princes Street Edinburgh, EH2 4BL

www.johnniewalker.com





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people



up to 2. people



All groups all sizes





Green Tourism Business



cheme



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access

Distance between Johnnie Walker Princes Street and

# YEAR OF STORIES

## 03

## Edinburgh Bus Tours

With Edinburgh Bus Tours, your clients can relax and enjoy stunning views from an open-top double decker bus as they listen to fascinating stories of the city of Edinburgh and the surrounding area. Hop-on/hop-off tour options include Edinburgh's UNESCO Old and New Town areas, and a 3 Bridges Bus and Boat Tour (a guided tour to Queensferry and a cruise of the Firth of Forth to view the famous Forth Bridges) is also available. Tours and tickets can be tailored to suit any length of visit.

Waverley Bridge Edinburgh, EH1 1BQ

## www.edinburghtour.com

Link to trade website



Distance between Edinburgh Bus Tours and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is 1.7 miles/2.8 km

## Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is one of the world's leading Botanic Gardens. Visitors can discover the story of the garden's history dating back nearly 350 years to when it was founded in 1670 as a physic garden growing medicinal plants. Learn about its plantings and its prominence as a research centre since the 19th century and explore 70 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens. The John Hope Gateway visitor centre houses the Botanics Shop and the Gateway Café.

20A Inverleith Row Edinburgh, EH3 5LR

## www.rbge.org.uk

Link to trade website



Distance between the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Royal Yacht Britannia is 2.4 miles/3.9 km



## The Royal Yacht Britannia

Voted the UK's no.1 Attraction (TripAdvisor 2014), The Royal Yacht Britannia was home to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years. Hear the story of the family's times aboard this Glasgow-built vessel with a fascinating audio tour of five decks in 27 languages. The tour is also available by British Sign Language tablet and English Braille script. Enjoy stunning waterfront views in the Royal Deck Tea Room and visit our fabulous gift shop. Private early morning and evening tours also available.



Leith Edinburgh, EH6 6JJ

www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk Link to trade website



Distance between the Royal Yacht Britannia and Forth Boat Tours is 9.6 miles/15.5 km

## Forth Boat Tours

The daily programme of tours offered by Forth Boat Tours include magnificent views and stories of the new Queensferry Crossing, the Forth Road Bridge and the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Forth Railway Bridge. In addition, your clients can take in the beautiful panoramas of the Edinburgh skyline, the Kingdom of Fife and the historic island of Inchcolm with its medieval Abbey, where it is possible to disembark and explore. Keep a look out for wildlife including puffins, porpoises and seals

Shore Road Port Edgar Marina South Queensferry Edinburgh, FK2 7AU

www.forthtours.com Link to trade website



Distance between Forth Boat Tours and Hopetoun House is 4 miles/6.4 km

The details provided above are subject to change from time to time. We suggest contacting establishments directly for up to date information.









Independent

travellers











Languages Seasonal Opening spoken (as noted) Winter by appointment

Open all year Accessible access Green Tourism Business scheme Coach parking available

## The Forth Valley, the Trossachs and Loch Lomond 4 Day Itinerary



## 04

#### **Hopetoun House**

Hopetoun, Scotland's finest stately home is a place of natural beauty. Visitors will hear how it has been home to the Hope family since 1699. The magnificent interiors have remained virtually unchanged for three centuries and reflect the elegance of the Georgian era. Explore the ancestral home, the 150 acres of gardens surrounding the house, and enjoy refreshments in the Stables Kitchen, a restoration of the 18th Century Adam Stables transformed into a cosy eatery.

South Queensferry Edinburgh, EH30 9SL

www.hopetoun.co.uk



Distance between Hopetoun House and Rosslyn Chapel is 22.2 miles/35.7 km



## **Rosslyn Chapel**

Founded in 1446 as the Collegiate Church of St Matthew, Rosslyn Chapel attracts visitors from around the world. The beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its ornate stonework have inspired, attracted and intrigued artists, writers and visitors ever since. Practically every surface of this unique building is carved in an outstanding display of craftsmanship. The Visitor Centre tells the Chapel's story – from its 15th century origins to The Da Vinci Code.

Chapel Loan Roslin Midlothian, EH25 9PU

www.rosslynchapel.com Link to trade website



Distance between Rosslyn Chapel and the National Mining Museum is 6.5 miles/10.4 km

## **National Mining Museum**

Delve into the history of Scotland's mining industry at Lady Victoria Colliery, the finest surviving Victorian colliery in Europe. The National Mining Museum tells the story of coal for Scotland through exhibitions, interactives and four tour options. Marvel at the engineering brilliance of the machinery and see hear and feel what life was like for the miners and their families with real insights and stories from ex-miner tour guides.

Lady Victoria Colliery Newtongrange, EH22 4QN

www.nationalminingmuseum.com



Distance between the National Mining Museum and the National Museum of Flight is 21.3 miles/34.3 km

## National Museum of Flight

At the National Museum of Flight, you will discover a worldclass collection of aircraft and hear the fascinating stories of the people who built and flew them. Learn about the history of aviation from the First World War to the present day and immerse yourself in interactive galleries, supersonic experiences and our historic hangars and airfield. After-hours visit to Concorde is available, exploring what supersonic transatlantic flight was like for its passengers and crew.

East Fortune Airfield East Fortune, EH39 5LF

www.nms.ac.uk Link to trade website



Distance between the National Museum of Flight and the Scottish Seabird Centre is 6.7 miles/10.8km

## **Scottish Seabird Centre**

This award-winning attraction lets visitors see seabird and marine life as never before. The Centre's Discovery Experience allow visitor to view live footage from nearby wildlife areas, zooming in on wildlife such as gannets on the iconic Bass Rock, and puffins on the Isle of May National Nature Reserve in their natural habitat. There is also a variety of seasonal boat trips from which marine life such as seals, dolphins and whales are regularly spotted.

The Harbour North Berwick, EH39 4SS

<u>www.seabird.org</u> Link to trade website



The details provided above are subject to change from time to time. We suggest contacting establishments directly for up to date information.



people



Groups

up to'2 people



All groups all sizes









access





#### Free Independent travellers

Languages Seasonal Opening spoken (as noted) Winter by appointment

Open all year le Green Tourism Business scheme

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## Food and Drink suggestions

## The Scottish Café and Restaurant

Located in the Scottish National Gallery with iconic views into Princes Street Gardens, this is an award winning sustainable Scottish restaurant run by Contini. They serve locally sourced food showcasing the best artisan produce from Scotland.

## Amber Restaurant

Located within The Scotch Whisky Experience on The Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Amber is a traditional Scottish restaurant that offers unique and exciting dishes to delight the palate.

## The Skerries Restaurant at the Dunstane Houses

The Skerries brings a flavour from its original home in Orkney to the city of Edinburgh, as well as the freshest seafood and fish, finest Scottish meats and seasonal game.

## ScotBeer Tours

ScotBeer Tours offer unique beer experiences telling the story of Scotland through beer from the 12th century through today's craft beer renaissance. They deliver walking tours, tasting masterclasses, brewery tours and multi stop bus itineraries in Edinburgh.

## The Orangery at Dalhousie Castle Hotel

Located in Bonnyrigg, this is a delightful 'Conservatory Style' restaurant, open all day, with views over Anna Park and the castle grounds. They serve primarily Scottish cuisine with continental influences.

### **Dalkeith Park and Restoration Yard**

The Restoration Yard store and restaurant is set in Dalkeith Country Park and accommodates groups of 12-80 people. They serve delicious seasonal menus using Scottish produce. The Store has a food hall selling local Scottish produce.

## The Seabird Café at the Scottish Seabird Centre

An award-winning café in an ideal location with views of the Bass Rock in North Berwick. A range of snacks and meals made with locally sourced produce.

### NB Distillery

NB Distillery, near North Berwick, is East Lothian's first ever gin, vodka and rum distillery. They offer bespoke tours and private dining for small and large groups.

## The Bonnie Badger

The Bonnie Badger, in Gullane, is the award-winning hotel with a pub, restaurant, rooms and garden created by husband and wife team, Tom & Michaela Kitchin. They serve only seasonal and local produce.

### Whitekirk Hill

Located in North Berwick, Whitekirk Hill is a new leisure destination. They serve delicious meals, catering for up to 80, in both The Orangery and their outside space, The Walled Terrace.

## Accommodation suggestions

### Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh - The Caledonian

A 5-star luxury hotel located in a former Victorian rail station on Princes Street. With views of Edinburgh Castle, the hotel is home to the UK's only Guerlain Spa and has 241 rooms.

## Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

A 5-star hostel in Edinburgh. Various room types are available from singles and family rooms to dorms with individual lockers - all are en-suite. The hostel is available for exclusive private hire through RentaHostel.

## Pollock Halls Edinburgh First

Located at the foot of Arthur's Seat and the royal Holyrood Park, the Pollock Halls Campus offers your clients over 2000 rooms during the university's summer vacation. Green Gold Tourism Award.

### Radisson Collection Hotel, Royal Mile Edinburgh

A 5-star luxury boutique hotel in a prime location on the Royal Mile. It has 136 rooms and boasts striking views and is located next door to all main city centre attractions.

## Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel

Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel is a historic luxury boutique hotel with 199 designer rooms, a private garden and a spa, residing in the heart of Edinburgh in the New Town.

### <u>94DR</u>

An exclusive use private hotel offering accommodation for small groups up to 12. This elegant, 5-star Gold Edinburgh Victorian townhouse is arranged over 3 floors offering 6 luxury en-suite bedrooms.

### **Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club**

A 4-star hotel just 20 minutes from Edinburgh offering luxury accommodation with 215 rooms, various dining options, meetings and events spaces, and 2 golf courses.

### **Carberry Tower Mansion House and Estate**

Carberry Tower is a wonderful historic 4-star Mansion House with 30-bedroom set in 35 acres of beautiful grounds in Musselburgh. Offers afternoon teas, caters for corporate events.

### The Old Millhouse

An 18th century listed Scottish country house set on the banks of the River Esk. A 5-star self-catering venue with 5 rooms also nominated for best selfcatering establishment at the Scottish Thistle awards.

#### **Gilmerton House**

Set in 100 acres this 5-star luxury retreat offers a high level of accommodation and service. Situated in North Berwick, East Lothian, the house boasts a choice of 10 luxuriously bedrooms accommodating up to 20 quests.

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### Taste Our Best

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy great quality Scottish food and drink, prepared with care and delivered with passion is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme.



#### Green Tourism Award

Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold































## VISITSCOTLAND'S WEBSITES

Our travel trade website offers the travel industry a one-stop-shop for Scotland information, inspiration and tool kits. The site is designed to assist tour operators and agents to sell destination Scotland more effectively to their clients.

Travel trade website Destination Education Programme VisitScotland consumer site www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent www.visitscotland.com

## Information on travel trade websites:

- Inspirational itineraries
- Downloadable e-brochures and maps
- Link to multimedia library for images and videos
- Online destination education programme
- Opt-in to receive our monthly travel trade e-newsletter A comprehensive directory of Scottish companies who have committed to special rates, discounts and commissions exclusively available for the travel trade

## **GENERAL WEBSITES**

Britrail	www.britrail.com
News & Weather information	www.bbc.co.uk/weather
British Train information	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Scottish Train information   Bus information	www.scotrail.co.uk   www.citylink.co.uk
Historic Environment Scotland	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
National Trust for Scotland	www.nts.org.uk
Scottish Tourist Guides Association	www.stga.co.uk