

Edinburgh's awards and city ranking

Edinburgh has won more than 10 UK Best City Awards in the last six years, including: Guardian/Observer Readers Favourite UK City 2000-2005; Telegraph Readers Best UK City 2005; and, Conde Nast Traveller Awards Best UK City 2004, 2002 and 2001.



Edinburgh has also been voted European City of the Year at the 2006 Urbanism Awards. The internationally respected Academy of Urbanism decided that the culture, beauty, facilities and general quality of life in Edinburgh was second to none. Edinburgh was specifically praised by the judges for being an "attractive, safe and enticing place for people to play, visit and enjoy".

Edinburgh is one of the most attractive cities in the world, a fact recognized by UNESCO when conferring World Heritage Site status on the city's Old and New Towns.

The Lonely Planet listed Edinburgh 21st amongst the world's 200 most interesting, attractive and liveable cities.

The Lonely Planet

Edinburgh was the world's first city to receive an MTV Special Award for hosting the hugely successful European Music Awards in 2004.

4,000 adults in the UK were quizzed about their perceptions of 50 global cities. When asked 'which city have you heard a lot of positive things about?' Edinburgh came in 6th place behind New York, Paris, Barcelona, Sydney and Rome - and 14 places above London. Edinburgh was also ranked 12th as a must see destination, 13th for exciting and vibrant culture and 19th for quality of life.

YouGov Survey, 2005

Edinburgh is the UK's place to visit for the perfect night out, according to an Amstel/Virgin Radio poll – thanks to the rich diversity and vibrancy of its venues.

Amstel / Virgin radio Poll, 2006

Festivals

The Edinburgh International Festival is one of the world's greatest arts festivals and attracts two million visitors a year. Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations are recognised as the best in the world.

The first Edinburgh Military Tattoo took place in 1950 with only eight items in the programme. To the present day, more than 11 million people have attended the Military Tattoo. The annual audience is around 217,000 and around 100 million people view it each year on international television.

As Edinburgh entered its diamond (60th) anniversary as a festival city, Edinburgh's eleven Festivals, which contribute over £184 million to the Scottish economy, are confirmed as having all the right characteristics to continue leading the world.

Thundering Hooves - Maintaining The Global Competitive Edge of Edinburgh's Festivals, 2006

Tourism

Edinburgh is the UK's favourite domestic holiday alternative to London, with its popularity deriving from "an ideal mix of shopping, entertainment and historical interest."

www.hotel.co.uk Survey

Edinburgh is the most popular UK destination for short breaks. Edinburgh was also voted BMI Best European Weekend Break in 2003.

Wotif.com, 2006

The city has over three million UK visitors each year and over one million overseas visitors.

International Passenger Survey, Office for National Statistics

£170 million per year is generated by business tourism in the city.

Capital Review, Autumn 2005

Approximately 40 million day visitors come to the city per annum.

The City of Edinburgh City EARNS (Retail needs study) 2005

Tourism now employs 32,000 people in Edinburgh (10% of the city's workforce).

Inspiring Tourism, The City of Edinburgh Council, 2006.

Tourism expenditure in the city is now over £2 billion per year.

Inspiring Tourism, The City of Edinburgh Council, 2006

Inspiring Attractions

Edinburgh Castle is the top visitor attraction in Scotland with over 1 million visits a year.

Tourism in Scotland, 2005.

The Scott Monument, designed by self-taught architect George Meikle Kemp, was built between 1840 and 1846 in Princes Street Gardens.

The capital has more leisure facilities and services per head of population than any other regional city in Scotland, England or Wales.

Statistics compiled by TouchLocal.com, 2006

Edinburgh has been named as the UK's best city to dine in, outside of London, according to a survey by Rémy Martin in association with Harden's. Edinburgh is rated the top city thanks to 56% of the Edinburgh restaurants that feature in the Harden's UK Restaurant Guide 2007 receiving a star rating.

Rémy Martin, 2006

Tiger Lilly won the best new design award at the UK Bar awards, dubbed the 'Oscars' of the industry

UK Bar Awards, 2006

The Scottish Parliament was designed by Enric Miralles and RMJM Scotland. Located beside Holyrood Palace, the Queen's official residence in Scotland. It opened in October 2004.

Seven of Scotland's top-ten visitor attractions are in Edinburgh.

Tourism in Scotland 2005

Harvey Nichols opened in 2004 and has boosted Edinburgh's retail sector.

The City of Edinburgh Council - Britain's Best City – Highlights from our Successful City, 2006

Other facts

The earliest recorded rules of golf were drawn up and played at Leith Links, Edinburgh, in 1744.

Average occupancy in Edinburgh's principal hotels was 78% in 2005 – the highest for nine years. This has been achieved despite a 25% increase in hotel beds across the city.

Edinburgh Principal Hoteliers Association

Edinburgh's National Gallery of Scotland owns the world's most valuable sculpture. The Three Graces by Antonio Canova was jointly purchased with the Victoria & Albert Museum, for £7.5 million in 1994.