

Edinburgh – Beyond the Centre

It's very easy to spend a day or two in Edinburgh and not leave the centre – whether that's the Old Town of Grassmarket, the Royal Mile and the numerous sights to be found there, or the New Town of Princes Street, the Gardens and other attractions in that area.

All of the following can be easily reached from the centre of Edinburgh – some are walkable but most would require a bus, tram or taxi.

Dean Village

The nearest part of this extended area is a short walk from the western end of Princes Street. It is an elongated former village that runs along the banks of the Water of Leith and was once a thriving mill town, with no less than eleven grain mills at its peak. It existed for about 800 years as a working village but today is a pleasant residential area with various interesting structures along the route including the four-arched Dean Bridge, St. Bernard's Well and Well Court.

Royal Yacht Britannia

The former yacht of the Royal Family, Britannia is now docked at Leith, having operated around the world from 1954 to 1997 when the cost of the latest refit was deemed too expensive. On board you can see the Queen's bedroom amongst other things and there are some other boats of interest berthed nearby.

From Waverley station you could take bus routes 10, 16 and 35, or a tram from St. Andrew Square. It is also visited by some hop on bus routes.

Arthur's Seat

Any visitor to Edinburgh will note the hills and sometimes steep streets, with the city among a range of volcanic hills. One of these is Arthur's Seat, about a mile to the east of the castle and standing at 250 metres. It is fairly easy to climb from any direction and is in the large Holyrood Park. It offers great views of the city and beyond.

Various bus routes can get you near to the park from various directions and the park is easily accessed on foot from near to Holyrood Palace. It is also visited by some hop on bus routes.

Royal Botanic Gardens

The gardens were founded in 1670 on another site, eventually relocating to Inverleith in the 1820s. There are a range of gardens, and some glasshouses, across 70 acres, with a range of walking routes available.

From Waverley station you could walk to meet the number 8 bus on Leith Street or else head along Princes Street to Hanover Street to meet one of three routes, the number 9, 23 or 27. It is also visited by some hop on bus routes.

Forth Bridge

This iconic bridge was opened in 1890 for trains crossing from Edinburgh to Fife and beyond. Alongside it are the Forth Road Bridge (1964) and Queensferry Crossing (2017). The rail bridge is recognised across the world and is considered a symbol of Scotland.

From Waverley station you can head along Princes Street to find various buses that head out to the bridge and the X61 is one route that gets quite close. Alternatively you could take a train to Dalmeny (south side) or North Queensferry (north side), although both would involve a walk to get to the actual bridge. Using North Queensferry station means you travel across the bridge.

We have often included the above locations in customised (and very detailed) itineraries, so do ask if you need more on that.

Here are some great links – any of these that are entry only should be exactly the same price as booking direct but have the real advantage of being cancellable until just before the visit (normally 24 hours but do check the listing.) We earn a small affiliate fee if you book via one of our links, helping us create more of our montages – click a picture or scan the QR code.

Edinburgh Hop On bus



Edinburgh Hop On bus with Royal Yacht Britannia



Edinburgh Hop On bus with three Royal attractions



Dean Village and Circle Lane walking tour

