Edinburgh Royal Mile - in one day

Make your way to Edinburgh Castle to start the route.

You can get quite close to the castle for free but if you want to go inside you need a minimum of two hours (and could spend all day!). The castle opens at 0930 and the 1 o'clock gun fires every day at 1300.

From the castle simply head in a straight line down the hill. The top half is full of people and places – the bottom half is less full of both and ends at Holyrood Palace.

Along the way you will pass

- Scotch Whisky Experience
- Camera Obscura
- Riddles Court*
- Writer's Museum
- St. Giles' Cathedral
- Mary King's Close
- Mercat Cross
- City Chambers
- Old Fishmarket Close*
- Museum of Childhood
- Scottish Storytelling Centre
- Museum of Edinburgh
- Canongate Kirk
- Scottish Parliament
- Holyrood Palace

In the top half you will find Deacon Brodies Tavern (named after a city councillor who was also a burglar!) and in the lower half Clarinda's Tearoom, amongst many other places for food and drink.

Some of these require a payment, others are free to enter (and might offer paid elements) and some are free.

^{*}Lots more of these free to enter lanes, courts and closes along the way

For a full day we would recommend

- 1 head to Edinburgh Castle for as close to opening as you can (2-3 hours)
- 2 drop in on a couple of side closes as you head down from the castle
- 3 visit St. Giles' Cathedral (still free)
- 4 visit Mary King's Close pre-booking is normally required about three hours after your castle entry (1 hour)
- 5 head on down the Royal Mile, finding somewhere for lunch or a snack or a drink along the way
- 6 visit Holyrood Palace (1-2 hours)

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 Castle - entry and guided tour



Mary King's Close - entry and guided tour



Holyrood Palace - entry

