

Edinburgh Day Trips

Edinburgh has plenty to offer whether it's the very central sights such as the Castle, Mary King's Close and Holyrood Palace, or the out of centre locations such as the Royal Yacht Britannia or Dean Village.

But there are plenty of other places that are within easy reach and a number of these really are worth the trip.

Melrose Abbey

Founded in 1136, the Abbey operated as Scotland's main location for Cistercian monks. Various Kings and nobles were buried at the abbey and Robert the Bruce's heart is also believed to have been interred there. It was badly damaged in 1544 during the "Rough Wooing".

You can buy a tour to include the Abbey (see below) but can make your own way there – from Waverley station take the train to Tweedbank, then a 67 bus to right next to the abbey. Alternatively, it's a 51 bus from South Bridge to Melrose Market Square, close to the abbey. Either route will be about two hours.

Rosslyn Chapel

Founded in 1456, the chapel was abandoned during the Reformation but then rededicated in 1862, after a visit from Queen Victoria. It is filled with interesting carvings and has been linked with the Holy Grail and Knights Templar for over forty years, most famously in The Da Vinci Code.

You can buy a tour to include the chapel (see below) but can make your own way there – from Waverley station head along Princes Street to the 37 bus. It will take about an hour by bus.

Dirleton Castle

Built in the thirteenth century, this castle is near to North Berwick in East Lothian. It has seen its fair share of fighting over the years and ended up badly damaged after Cromwell attacked in 1651.

You can buy a tour to include the castle (see below), that also takes in Tantallon Castle, but can make your own way there – from Waverley station take the train to North Berwick and then a short trip on a number 124 bus, the whole journey about an hour.

Stirling

The nearest city to Edinburgh, Stirling gives access to Stirling Castle, Bannockburn (battle site) and the Wallace Monument, if you don't mind some travelling around when you get there. The castle is an excellent example and has played an important part in Scottish history due to its strategic location. Also nearby are the Kelpies, a huge sculpture of two horse heads. Tours also head there.

You can buy a tour to include the castle (see below) but can make your own way there - from Waverley station take a train to Stirling (fifty minutes). The castle can be reached by a fifteen-minute walk (although a lot of that is uphill) or the P2 bus. Bannockburn needs a 56 bus (twenty minutes). The Wallace Monument needs a 31 bus (thirty minutes).

Highland Cows

Although more normally found many miles from the capital, there are some cows that seem to be proving ever popular at Swanston Farm. There is no guarantee that they will be easily accessible so heading to see them is currently at your own risk!

To head to Swanston there are various bus routes – number 4, 5, 16 or 27 – that all arrive within about fifteen minutes' walk of the site. We aren't

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.

We have also included a link to a tour that heads to Skye and the Highlands, just to give you an example of what else is possible.

Rosslyn Chapel and Melrose Abbey (and Glenkinchie Distillery)



Dirleton Castle and more



Stirling Castle (and Kelpies and Loch Lomond)



Skye and the Highlands

