

Famous Cities - Edinburgh



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Intermediate and above Weekly Warmer

Time: Around 10 minutes

This warmer is an enjoyable way for students to find out about the city of Edinburgh and the Fringe Festival held every August.

Level: Intermediate and above

Language Aims: To read a text looking for specific information and fill the gaps in an imaginary travel itinerary. To look at different words related to travel and entertainment.

Preparation: Make copies so that each student will have a copy.

- Procedure:**
1. Ask students to brainstorm what they know of Edinburgh (*where is it?, what language is spoken?, what can you do there?, why is it famous?*) and the Fringe Festival (*what is it?, why would you want to go and see it?*)
 2. Tell students they are planning a weekend in Edinburgh for the Fringe Festival. Ask them to scan the article and fill in the gaps in the itinerary. They can then compare answers in notes.
 3. Ask students to make any changes to the itinerary that they want to. Are there other activities recommended that they would prefer? You could ask them also to do a quick online search to check out current acts at the Fringe and then add these to their itinerary.

Text To Be Copied And Given To Students:

Use the article about Edinburgh to fill in the gaps in your travel itinerary for this weekend:

Friday

6 pm: Check into hotel. Remember to pick up my Fringe program! Book shows at Fringe _____.

8 pm: Have dinner at _____ pub.

10 pm: Bed.

Saturday

10 am: Breakfast.

11.30 am: Walk to _____ Castle.

1 pm: Listen for _____. Have lunch at The Witchery. Remember to book!

4 pm: Do _____ walking tour.

6 pm: Have traditional _____ at the Doric Bar and Restaurant.

8 pm: Check out different shows at Pleasance Courtyard at _____ Pleasance street.

11pm: Bed.

Sunday

10 am: Breakfast.

11 am: Shopping in _____, Nicholson Street and George Street.

2. 30 pm: Lunch.

3.30 pm: See _____ on Royal Mile.

6 pm: Dinner at Cafe Royal. Remember to look out for _____!



Travel Postcard: 48 hours at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

EDINBURGH (Reuters Life!) - August is the month to criss-cross Scotland's capital on foot to see the best of the wacky, weird and chaotic Edinburgh Festival Fringe, so bring a good pair of walking shoes.

The world's biggest open access arts festival offers more than 30,000 performances at more than 200 venues around the city and that's in addition to the international book, art and jazz festivals as well as the military tattoo, which are all part of the cultural cornucopia that is Edinburgh in August.

Reuters correspondents with local knowledge provide some helpful hints for enjoying 48 hours of crowds, comedy, theater, dance and art on the hilly, cobblestoned streets.

Friday

6 p.m. Book into your hotel and then hit the streets, probably after arriving at Edinburgh Waverley train station, which lies at the center of the city under the brooding shadow of Edinburgh Castle. Top tip: You can order a Fringe program before you go, online at www.edfringe.com.

Wander over to the Royal Mile and fight your way through the hordes of tourists and buskers to the Fringe box office so you can book a few shows to see.

8 p.m. Head for some food and drink. Try the Royal McGregor pub at the heart of the Royal Mile and a few doors down from the Fringe box office (www.royalmcgregor.co.uk).

The pub is run by the McGregor family and boasts of its links to the MacGregor clan. Have a pint of local ale to slake your thirst and order from the traditional and modern food menu.

10 p.m. Head to bed because Saturday will be a long slog running from show to show and seeing the sights,

Or if you're feeling like making it more of a night out head off the Royal Mile. One Edinburgh treat is The Royal Oak pub at 1 Infirmity Street (www.royal-oak-folk.com), a focal point for traditional folk musicians.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. You could hit a show straight away alongside breakfast at the B'est Restaurant on Drummond Street...

11:30 a.m. Go see the buskers along the Royal Mile and walk straight along the road to Edinburgh Castle.

Small troupes promoting themselves will lie on the pedestrian zed Mile begging for you to come to their shows, people in pajamas, funny hats, colored hair, dressed as poppies or in giant lizard suits may roar for your attention and there is an army of young women all toting placards, handing out flyers and even Chinese fortune cookies. Drink it in.

When you get to the castle (www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk), you'll discover it's perched on an extinct volcano and is classed as a World Heritage Site. A fortress of some kind has stood here since 600 A.D.

1 p.m. If you hear a booming noise then that's the one o'clock gun fired from the castle almost every day since 1861.

Head to any sandwich shop nearby for lunch, or make your way down the Mound past the National Gallery and the Royal Scottish Academy, over Princes Street to the parallel Rose Street, which is filled with pubs, restaurants and bars.

Alternatively, book a posh lunch at The Witchery (www.thewitchery.com) located in an historic 16th-century building by the gates of Edinburgh Castle. The oak-paneled walls are hung with tapestries, mirrors and carvings. But make sure you've made a reservation...

4 p.m. Take in another show, cruise the Royal Mile and

watch the buskers or take a spooky walking tour with Auld Reekie tours (www.auldreekietours.com), who advertise on the Royal Mile or the nearby Mary King's Close (www.realmarykingsclose.com).

Both take visitors on tours of the forgotten bits of the city that lie beneath the Edinburgh of today. See the old haunts of body snatchers, criminals and witches.

6 p.m. You're tired and hungry, so you'd best head for food and drink before a busy evening of shows and fun.

It's time for traditional Scottish food: Haggis neeps and tatties or Sheep's offal boiled in a sheep's stomach and served with mashed parsnips, potatoes and covered with a whisky jus.

There are a number of places that serve traditional Scottish food and one close by the festival at 15/16 Market Street is the Doric Bar and Restaurant (www.the-doric.com), which bills itself as Edinburgh's oldest gastro pub.

The Doric was built in the 17th century and serves locally sourced homemade food in its ground floor bar and traditional fare like haggis in the wooden-floored restaurant upstairs with an extensive wine and whiskey list.

8 p.m. Head out to some shows you've booked or chase the nightlife in Edinburgh. With more than 2,000 theater, comedy, dance, art or other shows you're spoiled for choice.

Or you can soak up the festival atmosphere down at the Pleasance Courtyard at 60 Pleasance street, where six bars, three cafes and 16 venues play host to festival-goers, actors, comedians and locals out for the night. The venues are packed with evening shows and there is a box office on site.

11 p.m. Go home, hit one of the many night shows...or lose yourself in the Pleasance Courtyard atmosphere before walking the streets of Edinburgh on a pub crawl from the Pleasance to your hotel.

Sunday

10 a.m. Grab the newspapers over breakfast and coffee at your hotel or a nearby restaurant before setting off on another rollicking day at the Fringe.

11 a.m. Take a stroll around Edinburgh's Princes Street, Nicholson Street and George Street to take in the shops because you just need to have those knick knacks for those back home. Edinburgh is filled with shops selling kilts, tartan scarves, rugs, hats, clan badges and joke Scottish memorabilia...

2:30 p.m. Get lunch at B'est restaurant for some good old fashioned British hospitality brought to you by "Faulty Towers," a comedy based on the John Cleese TV classic "Fawlty Towers." Basil, Sybil and the bumbling Manuel serve up a lunch time classic. Three-course meal included. There is a dinner show too.

3:30 p.m. Get in one last show or have a last wander along the Royal Mile to see the buskers, who change spots every day...

6 p.m. It's time to start winding down, so find a good place to settle in and recount your trip to Edinburgh in a comfortable spot with whiskey and a spot for dinner afterwards.

The 180-year-old Cafe Royal on West Register Street, just off Princes Street in the center of Edinburgh, has a bar and a restaurant. Take a seat at one of the booths surrounding the carved wooden bar and order some of its famous oysters, local beer and of course a whiskey or two.

The Edinburgh institution is surrounded by original stained-glass windows, Victorian plasterwork, irreplaceable Doultou ceramic murals and is said to be haunted.



Text 3 - Answers

Friday

6 pm: Check into hotel. Remember to pick up my Fringe program! Book shows at Fringe box office.

8 pm: Have dinner at Royal McGregor pub.

10 pm: Bed.

Saturday

10 am: Breakfast.

11.30 am: Walk to Edinburgh Castle.

1 pm: Listen for gun. Have lunch at The Witchery.

Remember to book!

4 pm: Do spooky walking tour.

6 pm: Have traditional Scottish dinner at the Doric Bar and Restaurant.

8 pm: Check out different shows at Pleasance Courtyard at 60 Pleasance street.

11pm: Bed.

Sunday

10 am: Breakfast.

11 am: Shopping in Princes Street, Nicholson Street and George Street.

2. 30 pm: Lunch.

3.30 pm: See buskers on Royal Mile.

6 pm: Dinner at Cafe Royal. Remember to look out for ghosts!

