



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Scotland (United Kingdom) - Edinburgh

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** London (UK) / Edinburgh (Scotland)
- ✓ **Language:** English / Gaelic
- ✓ **Population:** ± 496,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 264
- ✓ **Currency:** Pound sterling (£)
- ✓ **Country code:** +44 (131)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some purposes, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 999
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

6000BC: Stone Age hunters. 4500BC: Stone Age farmers. 400BC: Celts introduce iron. 80AD: Romans → Hadrians's Wall (122) & Antonine Wall (143). The Picts. 563: St. Columba, monastery at Iona. Scotti from Northern Ireland arrive, kingdom Dalriada (575 independence). 795: Beginning of Viking raids. 840: MacAlpin, Kenneth I King of Scots. Malcolm II unites Lothian & Strathclyde with Scotland. 1071-'91: Defeated by English Rufus. William The Lion: Import & export. 1266: Norway sells western isles to Scotland. Edward I grants throne to Balliol: rebels against Edward, massacre, William Wallace wins armed struggle against English → 1305: executed. 1320: Declaration of Arbroath: Scots determination to fight for freedom. '28: Treaty of Northampton: Recognizes independence. Warfare over borders continues. '49: Black Death kills 1/3 of population. 1587: Mary Queen of Scots beheaded by Queen Elizabeth I of England. 1642-46: Civil War, '48-49 and '49-51 two more. '89: Willem of Orange takes throne. '92: Massacre of Glencoe. '95: Bank of Scotland. 1707: Act of Union. '60: Adam Smith. 1780s: Beginning Industrial Revolution. '32: Cholera outbreaks. 1931 onward: Depression. '41: Germans bomb Glasgow. '80-'82: Recession. '80s: Growth electronics industry. 2014: Scots vote against independence. '15: Scottish National Party 50%.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 47m. Climate: Marine West Coast climate (Cfb).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Culture:** Old Town, St. Giles Cathedral, St. Mary's Cathedral, Greyfriars Kirkyard (graveyard), Castle Rock, National Library, Parliament building, University.
- ☺ **Nature:** Arthur's Seat, Royal Botanic Garden, Calton Hill, The Meadows, [Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Hill Local Nature Reserve](#).
- ☺ **Museums:** [National Museum](#), [National Portrait Gallery](#), [Museum of Childhood](#), Museum of Edinburgh, [National Gallery of Modern Art](#), [Royal Scottish Academy](#)

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Events:** [Royal Military Tattoo](#), [Fringe Festival](#), [Edinburgh International Festival](#).
- 👉 **Museums & sights:** [Edinburgh Castle](#), [Camera Obscura](#), [Palace of Holyroodhouse](#), [Surgeons' Hall Museum](#), [Royal Yacht Britannia](#), [Gin Distillery](#), [Scotch Whisky Experience](#), [Jupiter Art Land](#).

☺ There's an endless supply of 'free' (tip-based) walking tours. Most take off from The Royal Mile.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Lidl, Aldi, Tesco, Sainbury's.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Stockbridge Market, [Edinburgh's Farmers' Market](#) (Castle Terrace), [Leith Market](#), Fountainbridge Market.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Deep-fried Mars bars (*for real*), Haggis (sheep's heart, liver & lungs), Shortbread (cookies), Porridge, Fish & Chips, Smoked Salmon, Scones, Neeps & Tatties (turnips & potatoes), Bangers & Mash (sausage with mashed potatoes), Black Pudding (blood-based), Leek & Tattie Soup, Scotch Pie (meat pie), Tablet (fudge), Scotch Egg... & Scotch Whiskey.
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe and also in Scotland. However, the UK is expensive and so is vegan food. Every bigger supermarket has an endless supply of vegan products and there are many vegan/vegetarian restaurants. Check them here: [Happy Cow – Edinburgh](#).

Mama Said

- ☠ Europe in general, and also Edinburgh is very safe... but use your common sense like everywhere. Don't walk anywhere alone after sunset, don't take your most important valuables along and always follow your instinct.
- ☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Edinburgh Zoo where animals are held in captivity.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable.
- ☠ International banks not always accept Scottish pounds for exchange, so always require British notes shortly before leaving the country.
- ☠ If you're really on a budget, and have no money to spend... maybe the UK is not the place for you, as together with Scandinavia it's more expensive than the rest of Europe.

Next?

- ➔ In Scotland: Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Glencoe.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Ireland, England.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are very expensive in Scotland. Camping is a good option in the Highlands (mind the rain though), but in the cities it's rather difficult. Find hostels [here](#).
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

- ⊛ Royal Military Tattoo: Aug.
- ⊛ Edinburgh Festival: Aug.
- ⊛ Fringe Festival: Aug.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Nightlife areas: The whole historical center has many bars and pubs. Many can be found on the Haymarket.
- ◆ Theatres: [Edinburgh Playhouse](#), King's Theatre, [Festival Theatre](#), [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), [Traverse](#), [Royal Lyceum Theatre](#).

Free-Riding?

- Within the centre of Edinburgh basically everything is at walking distance.
- There are people biking in Edinburgh, but the cobblestone streets in the historic centre might make it rather difficult.
- There's an extensive train and bus network in Scotland. Trains are more than double the price, leave from the Waverley station and are run by [Scotrail](#). The bus terminal in Edinburgh is located at EH1 3DQ. There are many budget lines like [Megabus](#). Prices for train and buses are cheaper when booked far in advance.
- Airport: Edinburgh Airport (EDI).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe, although not very common... but possible. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) to get a cheap(er) ride.

The Earth Becomes My Throne