

FREE MUSEUMS IN THE HEART OF EDINBURGH'S HISTORIC OLD TOWN

MUSEUMS OF THE ROYAL MILE

The Writers' Museum • Museum of Childhood
The People's Story • The Museum of Edinburgh



THE WRITERS' MUSEUM AND MAKARS' COURT

Lady Stair's Close, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2PA 0131 529 4901

Opening hours

Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm
Sundays during August only
12 noon-5pm Admission Free
Access by stairs only



The Writers' Museum, in the 17th century Lady Stair's House, is dedicated to the lives and work of Scotland's great literary figures, particularly Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

The rich collection of manuscripts, first editions and portraits is complemented by a series of personal exhibits that includes Burns' writing desk and the Ballantyne Press on which Scott's Waverley novels were originally published

The adjacent Makars' (Scots for poet) Court with its inscribed flagstones celebrates Scottish writers from the 14th century John Barbour to the present day.



MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

42 High Street, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1TG 0131 529 4142

The first museum in the world to specialise in the history of childhood, the Museum is a favourite with adults and children alike. It is a treasure house crammed full of objects telling of childhood past and present. Featuring toys and games of all kinds from all over the world, it is a great place to discover how children have been brought up and educated in days gone by. The Museum also hosts a regular programme of events and temporary exhibitions.

Opening hours

Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 12-5pm Admission Free
Partly accessible by wheelchair



THE PEOPLE'S STORY

Canongate Tolbooth, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH8 8BN 0131 529 4057

Opening hours

Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm
(Sundays during August only
12 noon–5pm)

Admission Free

Wheelchair accessible.

Induction loop. Facilities
available for visually impaired.
Nappy changing facilities.

Housed in the Cannongate Tolbooth, a former tax collecting house, court and prison, The People's Story is a museum dedicated to the history of the people of Edinburgh. Oral history, reminiscence and written sources tell the story of their lives, work and leisure from the late 18th century to the present day.

The museum is filled with the sights, sounds and smells of the past. Feel the despair of the dungeon or the convivial atmosphere of the 'pub' and hear the declarations of the town crier or the demands of the political and social reformers.



THE MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH

Huntly House, 142 Canongate, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH8 8DD 0131 529 4143

Set in a series of interconnected 16th and 17th century buildings, the Museum is packed with artefacts illustrating the development of the city, from the earliest settlement to the present day.

Highlights of the collection include the *National Covenant*, the great petition for religious freedom signed by Scotland's Presbyterians in 1638, and the collar and feeding bowl of *Greyfriars Bobby*, the little Skye terrier whose dogged devotion to his dead master touched the hearts of mid 19th century Edinburgh. The museum also houses a spectacular collection of Edinburgh glass, Edinburgh silver and Scottish pottery.

Opening hours

Monday–Saturday 10am– 5pm
(Sundays during August only
12 noon–5pm)

Admission Free

Access by stairs only.
Guide dogs welcome.



BRASS RUBBING CENTRE

Chalmers Close (opposite Museum of Childhood), Edinburgh EH1 1SS 0131 556 4364

Opening Hours

April to September:
Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm
(Sundays August only
12-5pm). Closed October to
March, but open to groups.
Call 0131 556 4364 to arrange.
Admission Free.

Cost to make a rubbing varies
by size. Last rubbing to begin
by 4pm.

Take home your own a piece of medieval history
from your visit to The Brass Rubbing Centre. Making
a brass rubbing is easy and fun for all the family.
There's a great range of monumental facsimile
brasses from which to choose including medieval
knights, Scottish Pictish symbols and Celtic designs.

No experience is required and helpful staff are always
on hand. Down Chalmers Close opposite The Museum
of Childhood, The Brass Rubbing Centre occupies
Trinity Apse, the sole surviving fragment of the 15th
century Trinity College Church.



MUSEUMS BY THE FORTH

LAURISTON CASTLE AND GROUNDS

2a Cramond Road South, Davidson's
Mains, Edinburgh EH4 5GD 0131 336 2060

A time capsule, transporting visitors to
the elegant days at the dawn of the 20th
century, Lauriston Castle's Edwardian
interior provides an ideal backdrop to a
rich collection of furniture and applied
art. Set in 30 acres of tranquil parkland
and formal gardens with spectacular
views overlooking the Firth of Forth.
Free admission to Castle grounds.
Admission to Castle by guided tour only.



Summer (April-October), Saturday
to Thursday (closed Friday)
Tours start 11.00am, 12 noon,
2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm
Winter (November-March),
Saturday and Sundays only
Tours start 12 noon, 2.00pm and 3.00pm
Admission: Adults £5 / Concession £3
Families £12.50.

QUEENSFERRY MUSEUM

53 High Street, South Queensferry
EH30 9HP 0131 331 5545

Situated in the historic former Royal
Burgh of Queensferry, the museum
commands magnificent views of the
great bridges spanning the Forth. It
traces the history of the people of
Queensferry and Dalmeny, the historic
ferry passage to Fife, the construction of
the rail and road bridges, and spotlights
the wildlife of the Forth estuary.



Monday, Thursday, Friday
and Saturday 10am-1pm
and 2.15pm-5pm
Sundays 12 noon-5pm
Closed Tuesday and Wednesdays
Admission Free



THE SCOTT MONUMENT

See Edinburgh in 287 Steps

Built to commemorate Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's greatest novelists, the monument has 287 steps to the top. The climb through the internal stairways is in four stages, with viewing galleries on each level providing unrivalled panoramic views of Edinburgh's historic Old and New Towns.

Opening Hours

Summer (from April 1st): Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm

Sunday 10am-6pm

Winter (from October 1st) Monday-Saturday 9am-3pm

Admission £3.00



NELSON MONUMENT

Perched high on Calton Hill stands the monument to Admiral Lord Nelson's victory and death at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The panorama from the top of the monument includes breathtaking views of Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, Arthur's Seat and the distant Forth rail and road bridges.

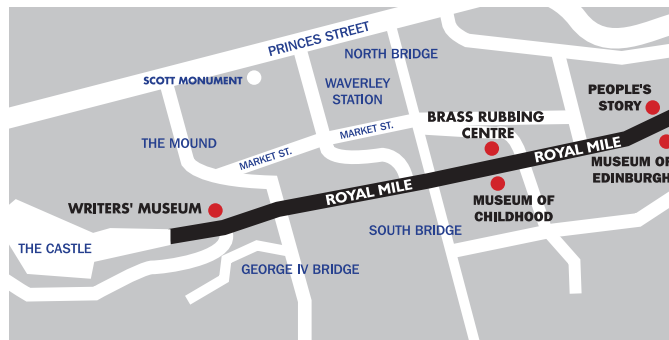
Summer (from April 1st)

Monday 1pm-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm

Winter (from October 1st)

Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm

Admission £3.00



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