



EDINBURGH (United Kingdom)

Edinburgh is a unique city and the capital of Scotland. Its proximity to Europe and its worldwide transportation links makes Edinburgh a hub for tourism, talent and trade.

Edinburgh is at the heart of an economically strong and diverse City Region with has a population of approximately 1.2 million. Immediately surrounding the city are the local authority areas of the Lothians (Mid, East and West). Further afield and into the wider Edinburgh City Region are the local authority areas of Scottish Borders (south), Fife, (north) and Forth Valley (Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire).

The city itself lies on the coast by the Firth of Forth. Its grandiose mix of architecture, modern amenities, medieval alleyways and blend of culture makes the city one of the world's most liveable. Residents and visitors throng the streets and relax amongst the city's cosmopolitan bars, nightclubs, cafes, shops and stunning scenery.

Edinburgh is a city of great contrasts. Its traditional but lively urban centre (the Royal Mile) runs parallel to the modern and vibrant core of the city – Princes Street. The city is punctuated by rocky crags, volcanic plugs and open expanses of greenery. Just outside the city are stunning beaches, lively towns and rolling hills to enjoy. It's proximity to the coast results in a temperate climate. Be prepared for all four seasons in a day.

Edinburgh developed as Scotland's legal and political centre and gained the status of 'royal burgh' from Robert the Bruce. It is home to the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish legal courts and numerous international consulates.

Today Edinburgh is a world influencer in business arts, science, financial services and enjoys a strong tradition of culture. Home to leading global organizations such as RBS and HBoS, it is also, of course, a world leading festival city. Year round festivals bring a unique energy to the capital as the entire city is brought alive with street theatre, international artists, live music and inspiring exhibitions.

ACTIVITIES BETWEEN FLORENCE AND EDINBURGH

University of Edinburgh Renaissance Singers

Florence Concert April 2012

The University of Edinburgh Renaissance Singers performed in Florence as part of their Italian Tour. The concert was held at the Badia Fiesolana European Institute (part of an Old Monastery) on 11 April and was supported by CEC and Comune di Firenze.

University of Edinburgh School of Arts, Culture and the Environment Project with Florence May 2011

The University of Edinburgh School of Arts, Culture and the Environment took an architectural exhibition "Florence: Curating the City" to the SESV Gallery in Florence in 2011. The work, curated by the Master of Architecture Programme at the University uses various representational media including drawings, paintings, texts, physical models, films, 2D and 3D digital printing. It was shown for the first time in the 2010 Edinburgh International Art Festival.

Pilton Elderly Project

In October 2006 the art group of the Pilton Elderly Project visited Florence and met with local members of the University of the Third Age who gave them a guided tour of the City including a visit to the Uffizi Art Gallery.

St Augustine's High School

The regular school exchange between the *Istituto Pascoli school* in Florence and St Augustine's High School, in conjunction with Firrhill High School, continues to develop. The exchange takes place twice a year. The Italian pupils visit Edinburgh in June and the Scottish pupils visit Florence in the October break. The focus of the programme is on cultural, educational and social activities.

40th Anniversary Programme

2004 marked the 40th anniversary of the Council's twinning link with Florence. The twinning link was signed in 1964 and was the third international link made by the city of Edinburgh. Many children from Florence were sent to Edinburgh for refuge following the great flood in Florence in 1964.

To celebrate the anniversary a programme of events and activities was developed with each city. The programmes included art exhibitions, a cultural seminar, a showcase of arts, crafts and produce as well as exchanges of people and best practice on education, sport and economic development.

The programme begun in late May with a free exhibition at the City Art Centre focusing on the *Gardens of Tuscany*. From 16 July to 31 October, the Royal Museum in Chambers Street displayed *Treasures from Tuscany: the Etruscan Legacy* – an important exhibition featuring almost 500 objects from Etruscan life between 900BC and 90BC. An exciting programme of events accompanied the exhibition, including study courses, jewellery and crafts workshops, music, opera and theatre. The National Gallery of Scotland exhibited *Tuscan Drawings* from its collection, concentrating on 16th and 17th century works, including a magnificent altarpiece by Botticelli from 20 September to 14 November. To complement this exhibition, the Director General of the NGS, Sir Timothy Clifford, gave a lecture on 28 September on the subject of Tuscan Art between 1300 and 1750. *Florence Week* at the Assembly Rooms was held from 27 September to 1 October. It was a free showcase for artisans and producers of Florence to demonstrate their work with traditional materials to produce arts and crafts, including jewellery, and to introduce the wines and foods of their region. A wide range of goods was available for sale. During *Florence Week*, the Chambers of Commerce of Edinburgh and Florence formally signed their own agreement of co-operation.

The programmes also converged with one of the year's highlights, the *Edinburgh Twin Cities Football Tournament*.

The future stars from FC Bayern Munich, FC Fiorentina, FC Dynamo Kiev, a team from Bo Ai, Xi'an and Edinburgh's Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian competed in this youth tournament. The final was held at Meadowbank Stadium on Saturday 24 July and was free of charge: a great opportunity to check out the footballers of the future.

The programmes were developed in cooperation with organisations across the city including the Scottish Executive, the German and Italian Consuls General, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, the National Museums of Scotland and the National Gallery. The Council's twinning link with Florence complement the Scottish Executive's Agreements of Co-operation with the Tuscan Regional Government.

Business Links Evening

In cooperation with the Lothian and Edinburgh Export Club, an evening meeting was held in November 2001 to introduce the benefits of Scottish-Italian business links to members of the Export Forum and to provide an overview of the country and its exporting potential.

Visiting Delegation from Florence

This cross-sectoral visit was organised by the local equivalent of the CBI and involved around 25 people, including 6 journalists from national Italian newspapers. The aim of the visit was to introduce a range of sectoral interests in Florence to exchange good practice with Edinburgh and three other EU cities.

Visit by the Mayor of Florence

The Mayor of Florence visited Edinburgh in August 2000 to participate in the opening weekend of the International Festival.

Florence Marathon

The City of Florence invited two athletes from each of their twin cities to participate in the Florence Marathon at the end of November 1998. Two Edinburgh athletes were selected through the Department of Recreation and the Scottish Athletics Federation. Their visit was hosted by the City of Florence.

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra Tour of Italy

Edinburgh International Youth Orchestra undertook a tour of Florence in July 1999. The young Edinburgh musicians performed at the opening of the high-profile Florence Festival. This visit was the culmination of several years' work and collaboration with the Music Academy in Florence.

Queen Margaret College

The Department of Business and Consumer Studies of Queen Margaret College undertook a study tour for students of Tourism and Retailing to Florence in January 1999 to develop links with a partner institution.

Dance Base

Dance Base participated in the Romaeuropa Dance Platform in Florence in June 1997. Following on from the event the possibility of an exchange for contemporary dancers is being explored.

Useful links:

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk>

http://www.edinburgh-inspiringcapital.com/introduction_to_edinburgh.aspx

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