PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

3 Days in Edinburgh for £71.50 Per Person

Our real local 3-day itinerary: castle, Royal Mile, Arthur's Seat, museum, university, Britannia, Portobello and Princes Street for £71.50 per person in confirmed costs.

3 days	£71.50 pp	Local itinerary	3 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	Cost per person
Day 1 bus day ticket	£6
Edinburgh Castle entry	£16
Day 2 bus day ticket	£6
National Museum of Scotland	£0
University of Edinburgh tour	£0
Ocean Terminal	£0
Royal Yacht Britannia entry	£30
Day 3 bus day ticket	£6
Coffee and cake — £15 for two	£7.50
Confirmed total	£71.50

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Tram	Edinburgh Trams	Edinburgh Airport	Princes Street	About £7.90 airport single	Central stop for Princes Street and the Old Town approach.
Bus	Lothian 26	Princes Street / city-centre corridor	Portobello Town Hall or Portobello High Street	About £2.20 single	Walk down to Portobello Beach.
Tram	Edinburgh Trams	Princes Street	Ocean Terminal	About £2.20-£2.50 city single	For the Royal Yacht Britannia and Ocean Terminal.
Bus	Lothian 35	Old Town / city-centre corridor	Holyrood	About £2.20 single	For the Palace, Parliament and Arthur’s Seat approach.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

We live in Edinburgh, so this is not a hotel-inclusive city-break budget. It is the three-day sightseeing plan we would use for the city, based on places we have actually visited and the prices we paid: Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, Arthur's Seat, Holyrood Palace exterior, Calton Hill, the National Museum of Scotland, a University of Edinburgh tour, Ocean Terminal, the Royal Yacht Britannia, Portobello Beach and Princes Street.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

Download the 3-day public-transit itinerary

Keep the route, daily timings, transport notes and a current sample budget together in this three-page A4 PDF.

Our confirmed 3-day Edinburgh budget

Day 1 — Edinburgh Castle, Royal Mile, Arthur's Seat, Holyrood and Calton Hill

This is the big classic Edinburgh day. We combined one paid attraction with several of the city's best free walks and viewpoints.

We went inside the castle and paid £16 per person at the time. This was the main paid attraction of Day 1.

From the castle, the Royal Mile gives you a natural route through the Old Town. Walking this section cost us nothing.

We climbed all the way to the top. The walk itself was free and gives the day a completely different feel after the historic centre.

We saw the palace from outside and did not pay for entry.

We finished with another free Edinburgh viewpoint rather than adding another paid attraction.

Day 1 transport: we used a £6 per person bus day ticket, which was valid until midnight when we used it.

Confirmed Day 1 total: £22 per person before any food or other personal spending.

Day 2 — National Museum, University of Edinburgh, Ocean Terminal and Royal Yacht Britannia

Day 2 mixes free indoor attractions and university sightseeing with a paid visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Our visit was free, making it one of the easiest ways to add a substantial indoor stop without increasing the day's budget.

We did a free University of Edinburgh tour, so our confirmed cost for this stop was £0.

We continued to Ocean Terminal before visiting Britannia. Visiting the shopping centre itself did not add an admission cost.

We went inside and paid £30 per person at the time. This was the biggest single expense of the three days.

Day 2 transport: another £6 per person bus day ticket.

Confirmed Day 2 total: £36 per person.

Day 3 — Portobello Beach and Princes Street

We kept the final day simple: seaside time at Portobello followed by central Edinburgh around Princes Street.

The beach itself was free, so the main cost was getting around the city.

We spent time around Princes Street without adding a paid attraction.

We spent £15 for two people, which works out to £7.50 each.

Day 3 transport: £6 per person for the bus day ticket.

Confirmed Day 3 total: £13.50 per person.

Where should tourists stay in Edinburgh?

Because we live in Edinburgh, our own accommodation cost for this itinerary was £0. If you are travelling to Edinburgh as a tourist, accommodation is an additional cost and can change the total significantly.

We suggest checking Expedia for Edinburgh hotels, apartments and other stays because it gives you a broad range of options at different prices. Compare the final price, location and cancellation terms before booking rather than looking only at the headline nightly rate.

Budget idea: do not restrict your search to the Old Town. A stay slightly farther from the centre can sometimes be better value if it has good bus connections.

Edinburgh and Scotland without a car

Compare when walking independently makes sense and when a guided day trip can simplify a difficult route.

Compare Edinburgh experiences

Check current attraction tickets and activities that fit around this three-day itinerary.

Compare Edinburgh tickets with Tiqets

Check current admission options, inclusions and cancellation terms before adding a paid attraction to your budget.

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.