

EDINBURGH
CASTLE



Edinburgh Castle visual story

Use this guide to help you plan your visit to Edinburgh Castle.

The castle is one of the most ancient fortresses in Europe. From its beginnings as an Iron Age hill fort, it has become a mighty citadel.



Castle Staff

Wear either a black fleece or a red waterproof jacket and they might wear a face mask.

They will also wear a name badge.

The castle staff might also be wearing blue vests printed with an image of a knight. The vests read 'Be Kind, be patient, be safe, and leave space for others.'



The castle esplanade is a wide, open space leading up the castle.

There will be barriers across it, and a member of staff will welcome you to the castle.



Before you enter the castle, you will need to queue to have your ticket scanned.

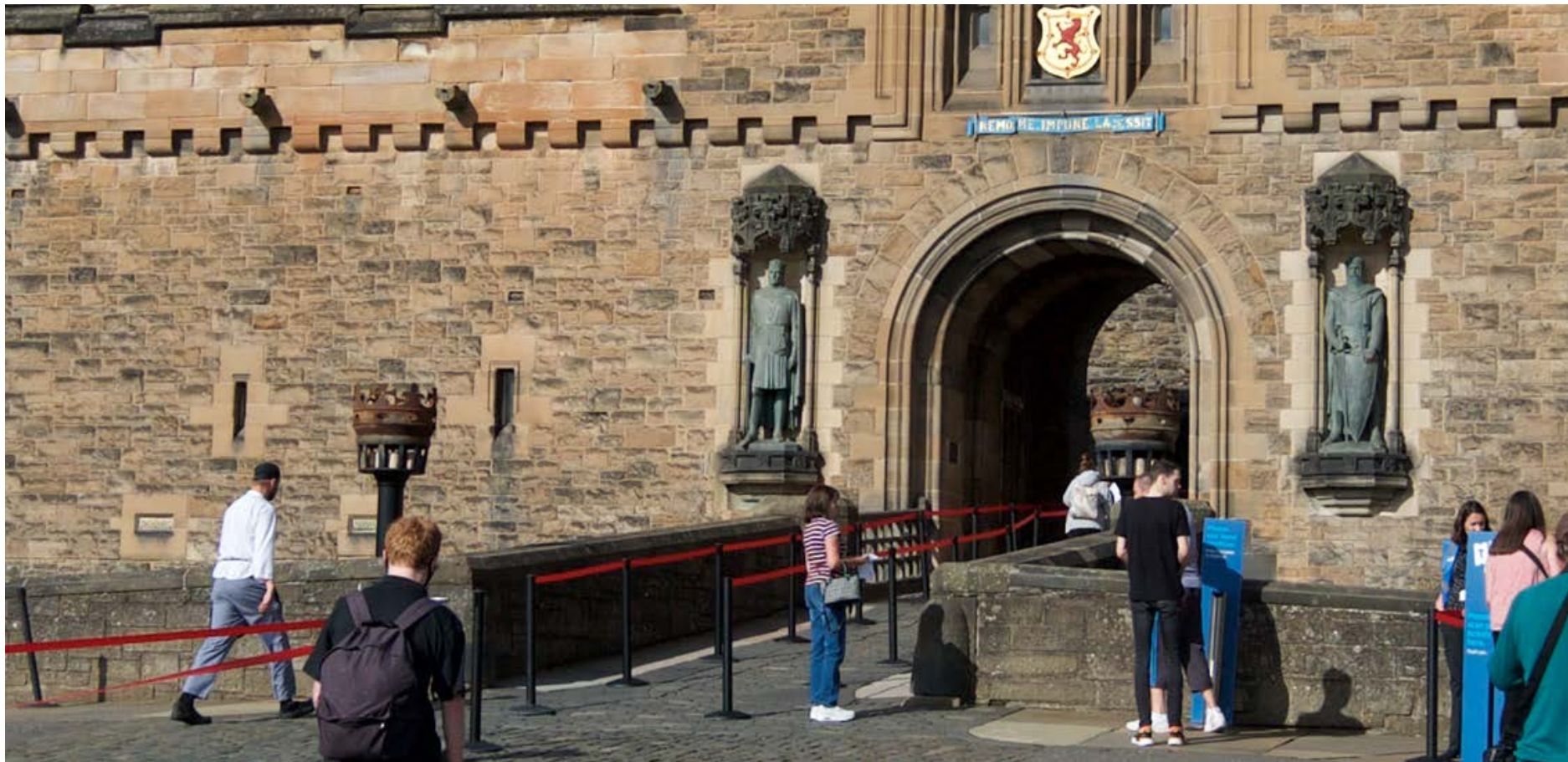


A member of staff will scan your ticket with a hand-held laser scanner.



To get into the castle you will cross the drawbridge.

This gatehouse was built in the 1880s. The statues of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce were added in 1929. The moat never had water in it - it was always dry and stony.



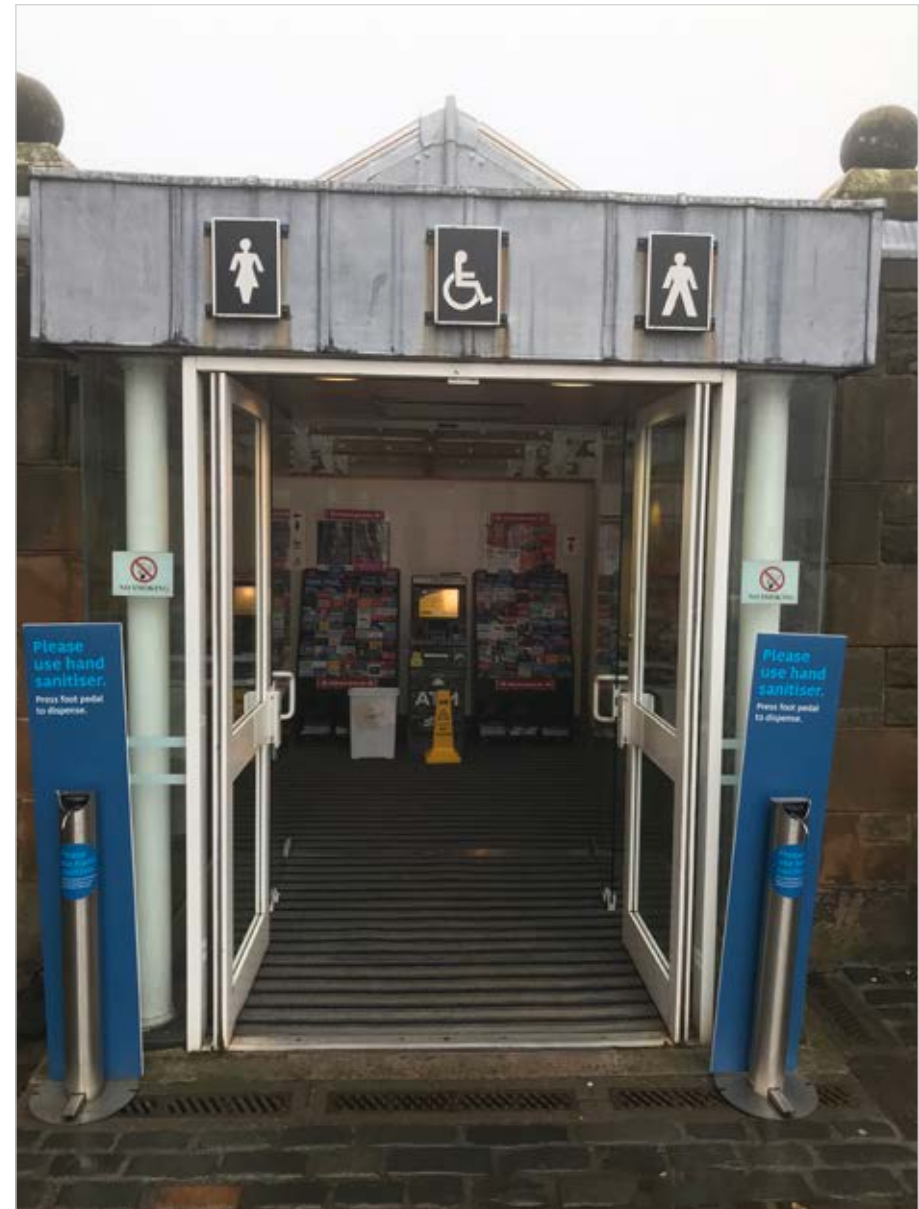
The drawbridge will have barriers down the middle to separate people going in from people coming out.

Keep to the right hand side of the barriers.



When you have crossed the drawbridge you will see the **toilets** on your left.

The entrance looks like this:



At the **ticket office** you can buy a ticket if you have not bought one in advance.

You can pay by cash or card.

You can also choose to buy a guidebook or pay to rent an audio guide.

You might have to wait in a queue.

Tickets cost:

Ticket Type	Online Price	Ticket Office Price
Adult	£19.50	£22.00
Concession (65+)	£15.50	£17.60
Child (7-15)	£11.40	£13.20
Child 6 and under	FREE	FREE



**A cobbled path leads up the hill into the castle.
On the right is the castle shop.**



This is the castle shop.



At the **audio booth** you can choose to borrow an audio guide, which gives a detailed history of the castle.



You can either take a handset to use, or you can access the guide on your phone by scanning a QR code.

You might have to wait in a queue.

It costs:

Ticket type	Audio guide price
Adult	£3.50
Concession	£2.50
Child	£1.50



The open area in front of you is known as **Mills Mount**. You will see a large open area, where people can wait to see the **One o’Clock Gun** go off.

To wait to see the One o’Clock Gun being fired, come to this area from about 12:45pm.

The gun is safe but loud. You might hear it wherever you are in the castle, and you might smell the smoke from it.

It is fired at 1pm every day except Sundays.



On the right past the six cannons is the **café**.
It can be loud and busy.

It sells hot and cold food and a range of drinks.



The café looks like this.



The castle is made up of many different buildings and exhibitions. The places you could visit include...

The National War Museum.
It is free to visit.



The **Prisons of War**. They are dark and the spaces can feel cramped.



You will hear audio recordings of people's voices and other sounds.



To the top of the castle through an arch called Foog's Gate.



St Margaret's Chapel is a small space with low-level lighting. There is choral music playing.

Please do not cross the blue rope in front of the altar table.



The **National War Memorial**, where people who died in the First and Second World Wars are remembered.

It is very quiet, and can feel tense and emotional. No photography is allowed inside.



The **Great Hall**. Its walls are painted red.
There are suits of armour and weapons here.

Please do not cross the red ropes, which protect
the displays.



The Royal Palace. It has intricately painted walls and big fireplaces.



To see the **Honours of Scotland** you must queue outside in Crown Square.

The queue can take a long time and there is no shelter so it may be cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

Access to the Honours is by a tight spiral staircase.



The Honours of Scotland are in a dark room which is often very crowded.

It is usually quieter in the afternoons.



In the Argyle Tower is the **Fight for the Castle** exhibition.

This is an interactive exhibition about Edinburgh Castle during the Wars of Independence.

It is generally dark with light displays and loud noises.



The **Lang Stairs**. They have 70 steps.
This is one of the routes out of the castle.



As you explore the castle, you may see...



Cannons



Stone lions



Carved unicorns



Armour



Paintings



Stained glass

For further information:

Please contact the castle on +44 (0)131 225 9846.

The lines are open 9.30am - 6pm GMT (Apr - Sept)

9.30am - 5pm GMT (Oct - Mar).

Or email us at ecadmissions@hes.scot

Many thanks to Lynsey Anderson and Colouring Outside the Lines,
who helped us develop this resource.

If there's anything we should change in it, let us know at
interpretation@hes.scot

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(t = top; b = bottom; c = centre; l = left; r = right)