



My visit to Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle
Visual story for children

I am going to visit Edinburgh Castle.

The castle is hundreds of years old.



Castle staff

People who work at the castle wear either a black fleece or a red waterproof jacket to keep warm. They might also wear a black face mask.

They will also wear a badge with their name on it.

They sometimes wear blue vests that have a picture of a knight with a spear and shield on it, and some words.

I can talk to them if I need help or if I have a question about the castle.



This is the **castle esplanade**. It is a wide, open space leading up the castle.

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



Before I enter the castle, I will need to queue to have my ticket scanned.

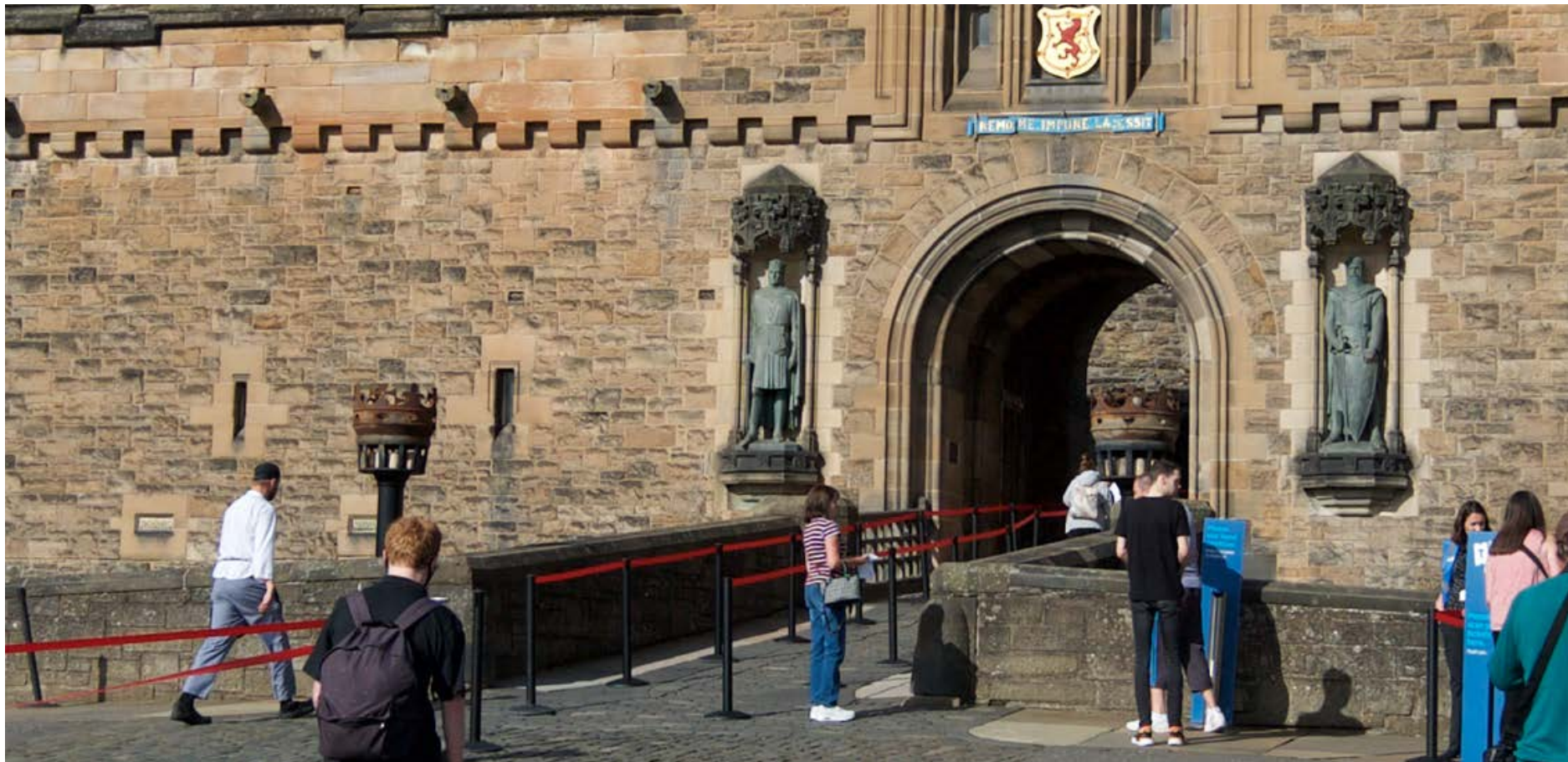


A member of staff will scan my ticket with a laser scanner.



To get into the castle I will walk across the drawbridge.

There was never water in the moat below the bridge – it was always dry and stony. I will see two statues of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.



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

I will walk down the right hand side of the barriers.



When I have crossed the drawbridge
I will pass some **toilets**.

The entrance looks like this:



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

I might have to wait in a queue.

I can also choose to buy a guidebook or pay to borrow an audio guide.



I will then go up a cobble path.
On the right is the castle shop.

I can go in if I want to.



This is the castle shop.



There will also be a building with big glass windows. If I want to, I can borrow an audio guide from here which will tell me lots of things about the castle.

I can either take a handset to use, or I can access the guide on my phone by scanning a QR code.

I might have to wait in a queue.

It costs:

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



I will go through an arch into an area with circles drawn on the ground. People wait here to see the **One o’Clock Gun** go off.

The gun is safe but loud. I might hear it wherever I am in the castle, and I might smell the smoke from it.

If I want to see the One o’Clock Gun fired I should come to this area from about 12:45pm.

It is fired at 1pm every day except Sunday’s.



On the right past the six cannons is the **café**.

It can get loud with lots of people talking.
I can buy something to eat if I am hungry.



The café looks like this.



**There is lots to see and explore
at the castle. Some of the places I
could go are...**

The National War Museum.
It is free to visit.



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



I 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. This is a small room where I will hear music playing.

I should not cross the blue rope.



The **National War Memorial**, where people who died in wars are remembered.

It is very quiet, and people might be sad. I can't take photographs inside.



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

I must not go past the red ropes, which are there
to protect the displays.



The royal palace. It has painted walls and big fireplaces.

Kings and Queens used to live in the palace and King James VI was born here.



To see the **Honours of Scotland** I have to wait in a queue in **Crown Square**.

The queue can be long. It is outside so I might feel hot in summer and cold in winter.

When I get inside I will climb up a tight spiral staircase.



The Honours of Scotland are in a dark room, usually with a lot of people in it.

It is normally quieter in the afternoons.



The **Fight for the Castle** exhibition is in the **Argyle Tower**. It is dark with light shows and animations on the walls.

I will also hear loud noises in this room.



The **Lang Stairs**. They have 70 steps.
I can come down these stairs on my way out of
the castle.



I might also 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)