

INSPIRATIONAL EDINBURGH

Quotations



"I've seen the castle, I've eaten in fantastic restaurants, and the people here are brilliant."
Christina Aguilera

"The most beautiful of all the capitals of Europe."
Sir John Betjeman, First and Last Loves, 1952

"Probably the most beautiful city we have ever seen."
The Black Eyed Peas

"Edinburgh is an experience
A city of enormous gifts
Whose streets sing of history
Whose cobbles tell tales."
Alan Bold

"Edinburgh lays itself open like a secret solved;
there's no leaving Edinburgh,
No shifting it around:
it stays with you, always."
Alan Bold

"Who indeed that has once seen Edinburgh, but must see it again in dreams waking or sleeping?"
Charlotte Bronte, letter 20 July 1850

"My dear Sir, do not think that I blaspheme when I tell you that your great London, as compared to Dun-Edin, 'mine own romantic town', is as prose compared to poetry, or as a great rumbling, rambling, heavy Epic compared to a Lyric, brief, bright, clear, and vital as a flash of lightning."
Charlotte Bronte, letter 1850

"In just 50 years Edinburgh had more impact on our ideas than any town of its size since the Athens of Socrates."
James Buchan, Capital of the Mind, 2004

"Edina! Scotia's darling seat!"
Robert Burns, Address to Edinburgh

"There is no habitation of human beings in this world so fine in its way....as this, the capital of Scotland."
Andrew Carnegie

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"Edinburgh (in my estimation the most beautiful city in Britain)."
HRH Prince Charles, A Vision of Britain, 1989

"It seems like a city built on precipices, a perilous city. Great roads rush down hill like rivers in spate. Great buildings rush up like rockets."
GK Chesterton, 1905

"What a wonderful City Edinburgh is! What alternation of height and depth."
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"As long as sixteen or seventeen years ago, the first great public recognition and encouragement I ever received was bestowed on me in this generous and magnificent city-in this city so distinguished in literature and the arts.....coming back to Edinburgh is to me like coming home."
Charles Dickens, 1858

"I've never been to Edinburgh before – I didn't realise it was so beautiful. I love that whole mountain in the middle of the city thing."
Dido

"The most beautiful town in the world."
Benjamin Disraeli

"When I looked out in the morning it is as if I had waked in Utopia."
George Elliot

"I love Scotland, you guys really know how to throw a great party."
Missy Elliot

"Edinburgh is a majestic city, visually stunning, culturally diverse – and we are very, very proud to be here."
Brett Hansen, Chairman and Managing Director, MTV Networks Europe

"Edinburgh has been happily compared to a flag - a thing of history, worn and stained with old deeds and great days, and starred with burning names."
Alanson B. Haughton

"With regard to the buildings that have of late risen in this City with such incredible rapidity, we may venture to say, that, in regularity and magnificence, they are scarcely equaled, or at least not excelled, by any in Europe."
Robert Heron, Scotland Delineated, 1790s

"Edinburgh, which considered itself for intellectual reasons the 'Athens of the North' set out after 1810 to continue in a more Athenian mode the extension of her New Town begun in the 1760s. The results rival St Petersburg as well as Copenhagen, Berlin and Munich. Indeed in Edinburgh, what was built between 1760 and 1860 provides still the most extensive example of a Romantic Classical city in the world."

H.R. Hitchcock

"Came to Edinburgh by night astonished at the city next morning, wild dream of a great genius. Finest city in Europe may be, in time, the world."

Benjamin Robert Haydn, 1820

"Here is no street in Europe more spectacular than Princes Street; it is absolutely operatic."

Henry James

"I love the people here, they are so nice and friendly. Edinburgh is a real classy city."

Beyonce Knowles

"An oasis of urbanity, culture and good humour in our crazy world."

Mark Leonard, 2005

"Such was my first view of Edinburgh. I descended again into her streets in a sort of stupor of admiration."

JG Lockhart, from Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk, 1819

"Edinburgh is a mad god's dream."

Hugh MacDiarmid, The Complete Poems, 1978

"I love the cobblestones. I just think it's a really beautiful city to walk around in and get lost in."

Shirley Manson

"This is a city of shifting light, of changing skies, of sudden vistas. A city so beautiful it breaks the heart again and again."

Alexander McCall Smith, 2006

"The idiosyncratic antiquities and historical treasures of the Old Town complement the orderly refinement of the New. The view from Princes Street is awe-inspiring. Old Edinburgh and The Castle rise up magnificently, looming over the New with magisterial dignity. It has ever been thus. Edinburgh: a city of contrasts."

Ewan McNaught, 2004

"When God Himself takes to panorama painting, it turns out to be strangely beautiful.....I believe I have found the beginning of my Scottish Symphony there today."

Felix Mendelssohn on a visit to Holyrood Palace, 1829

"I felt that I had seen, not one, but two cities a city of the past and of the present set down side by side, as if for the purposes of comparison, with a picturesque valley drawn like a deep score between them, to mark off the line of division."

Hugh Miller on his first view of Edinburgh, 1824

"I was not yet too old to feel as if I were approaching a great magical city."

Hugh Miller, My Schools and Scoolmasters

"It is true that the Scottish capital can vie with Naples as to beauty."

Count von Moltke

"Scotland's Capital is without doubt one of the most beautiful and elegant cities in Europe."

Alan Murray, Footprint Edinburgh Handbook, 2001

"The New Town arose, growing from day to day until Edinburgh became one of the most handsome and picturesque cities in Europe."

James Nasmyth

"Edinburgh's a great place. There's so much magic in the streets."

Dave Navarro, Jane's Addiction.

"A city that possesses a boldness and grandeur of situation beyond any that I have ever seen."

Thomas Pennant, A Tour in Scotland MDCCLXIX, 1769

"Nature took trouble over the site of Edinburgh."

William Power, The Face of Edinburgh, 1939

"Edinburgh isn't so much a city, more a way of life.... I doubt I'll ever tire of exploring Edinburgh, on foot or in print."

Ian Rankin

"The spectacle of the Old Town, seen from the New, is inspiring and splendid, and places Edinburgh, from the artistic point of view, on a level with Constantinople and Stockholm."

John Ruskin

"As far as I am acquainted with modern architecture, I am aware of no streets which, in simplicity and manliness of style, or general breadth and brightness of effect, equal those of the New Town of Edinburgh."

John Ruskin, Letters on Architecture and Painting

"Piled deep and massy, close and high mine own romantic town."

Sir Walter Scott, Marmion

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"After a residence of three months, we are going to leave Edinburgh with feelings of regret and gratitude for the many marks of goodwill and kindness we have received. Taken altogether, I do not know any town where it would be pleasanter to live. It is, in a great degree, the Geneva of Britain."
Louis Simond, 1810

"Living in Edinburgh there abides above all things, a sense of its beauty. Hill, crag, castle, rock, blue stretch of sea, the picturesque ridge of the Old Town, the squares and terraces of the New these things once seen are not to be forgotten."
Alexander Smith, A Summer in Skye

"When I come to Edinburgh I am still amazed at how fantastic it is."
Sharleen Spiteri

"This profusion of eccentricities, this dream in masonry and living rock is not a drop scene in a theatre, but a city in the world of reality."
Robert Louis Stevenson

"And yet the place (Edinburgh) establishes an interest in people's hearts; go where they will, they find no city of the same distinction."
Robert Louis Stevenson

"Spring gallant from the shadows of her smoke, Cragged, spired and turreted, her virgin fort beflagged."
Robert Louis Stevenson, Edinburgh from the South Seas

"You don't get nicer than you people. Tonight was unforgettable. Last night we went to a restaurant and had haggis and black pudding and I loved them both. I always try and sample the culture of all new places I visit and this has certainly been memorable."
Justin Timberlake

"The view of Edinburgh from the road before you enter Leith is quite enchanting: it is, as Albert said, fairy-like."
Queen Victoria

"Edinburgh was wonderful - beautiful city, happy fans...and I even liked the haggis."
Joss Whedon, film director

"It is an odd place, Edinburgh. The Old Town and the New are separated by a broad and deep ravine, planted with trees and shrubbery. A more striking contrast than exists between these two parts of the same city could hardly be imagined. On one side a succession of splendid squares, elegant granite houses, broad and well paved streets, columns, statues and clean sidewalks, thinly promenaded and by the well dressed exclusively,..... and, on the other, an antique wilderness of streets and 'wynds', so narrow and lofty as to shut out much of the light of heaven."

Nathaniel Willis, 1834

"The Old Town, with its irregular houses, stage above stage, seen as we saw it, in the obscurity of a rainy day, hardly resembles the work of men. It is more like a piling up of rocks and I cannot attempt to describe what we saw so imperfectly, but must say that, high as my expectations had been raised, the city of Edinburgh far surpassed all expectations."

Dorothy Wordsworth, 1803, Recollections of a Tour of Scotland

"It is for those who inherit the achievement of Edinburgh's classical age to understand it, to use it, and to enjoy it."

Youngson

"The city is inspiring. It's like a fairytale. You always see something different, like when the fog comes rolling in."

Spanish Student, Edinburgh Brand Research, 2004

"The contrasts that make Edinburgh unique also make it typically Scottish, for, despite its reserved exterior; it is also a city capable of great warmth and, upon occasion, gaiety."

New Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition

"Edinburgh, capital of Scotland since the 15th century, presents the dual face of an old city dominated by a medieval fortress and a new neoclassical city whose development from the 18th century onward exerted a far-reaching influence on European urban planning. The harmonious juxtaposition of these two highly contrasting historic areas, each containing many buildings of great significance, is what gives the city its unique character."

Formal brief description of Edinburgh's UNESCO 1995 approved World Heritage Site

"It is the peculiar boast of Edinburgh, the circumstances on which its marvellous beauty so essentially depends, that its architecture is its landscape; that nature has done everything, has laid every foundation, and disposed of every line of its rocks and its hills, as if she had designed it for the display of architecture."

Edinburgh Review, 1838