

Edinburgh's awards and city ranking

Edinburgh has won a plethora of UK Best City Awards in the last decade, including the Guardian/Observer Readers Favourite UK City award for a staggering nine years in a row - 2000-2009; Telegraph Readers Best UK City 2005; and, Conde Nast Traveller Awards Best UK City 2004, 2002 and 2001.

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital city and home of the Scottish Parliament. It is the UK's second, and Europe's sixth, largest financial sector and also the most prosperous UK city after London. Edinburgh is a well educated city with 34% of the workforce holding a degree level or professional qualification, making it one of the most qualified cities in the country. Edinburgh is **the Festival City** and home to the world's largest Summer and Winter Festivals, envied the world over. Edinburgh is the world's first UNESCO City of Literature and Edinburgh has been a Fairtrade City since 2004.



Edinburgh has also been voted European City of the Year at the 2006 Urbanism Awards. The internationally respected Academy of Urbanism decided that the culture, beauty, facilities and general quality of life in Edinburgh was second to none. Edinburgh was praised by the judges for being an "attractive, safe and enticing place for people to play, visit and enjoy".

4,000 adults in the UK were quizzed about their perceptions of 50 global cities. When asked 'which city have you heard a lot of positive things about?' Edinburgh came in 6th place behind New York, Paris, Barcelona, Sydney and Rome - and 14 places above London. Edinburgh was also ranked 12th as a must see destination, 13th for exciting and vibrant culture and 19th for quality of life.
YouGov Survey, 2005

Edinburgh was the world's first city to receive an MTV Special Award for hosting the hugely successful European Music Awards in 2004.

Edinburgh is 'top European small city of the future' for Inward Investment (FDI magazine 2008).

An "energy index" commissioned by DKNY Energy ranked Edinburgh as the most vibrant city in Scotland in a poll of "buzzing" British cities. Indeed the city was ranked second only to Cambridge in the UK, and well above Glasgow and London.
The Shaw Report, 2003

Edinburgh has the strongest city image compared to other UK cities, and is the UK's strongest city economy outside London.
HPI Research for Visit Scotland, June 2006

Quality of life

The quality of life in Edinburgh is better than any other city in UK. Edinburgh was also ranked as the greenest city in the report by real estate adviser Cushman & Wakefield in their third annual survey of companies

UK Cities Monitor 2008

The City of Edinburgh Council's 'City Vision' states that by 2015 Edinburgh will sustain the highest quality of life of any UK city, competing with the best in the world.

92% of Edinburgh residents are satisfied with the city as a place to live, the highest level recorded for any city in the UK. People are also happy living in their local neighbourhoods with 86% of residents rating their local area with a high level of satisfaction.

MORI Survey Results - Autumn 2008

Edinburgh is the UK's place to visit for the perfect night out, according to an Amstel/Virgin Radio poll – thanks to the rich diversity and vibrancy of its venues.

Amstel / Virgin Radio Poll, 2006

The Harvey Nichols store in Edinburgh was named as Scottish Retailer of the Year at The 2008 Scottish Retail Excellence Awards.

The capital has more leisure facilities and services per head of population than any other regional city in Scotland, England or Wales.

Statistics compiled by TouchLocal.com, 2006

The Cowgate Nursery, designed by acclaimed architect Alan Murray in 2002, has been recognised as the best nursery in Scotland. **Nursery World 2008**

Edinburgh has been named as the UK's best city to dine in, outside of London, according to a survey by Rémy Martin in association with Harden's. Edinburgh is rated the top city thanks to 56% of the Edinburgh restaurants that feature in the Harden's UK Restaurant Guide 2007 receiving a star rating.

Rémy Martin, 2006

The City of Edinburgh Council received a '**Green Apple Award 2008 for the Built Environment**' in recognition of efforts to preserve and enhance our architectural heritage and built environment.

Edinburgh's promotion of sustainable development has led it to be declared one of just 20 'Global Sustainability Centres (2020)' by the Ethisphere Institute, an international organisation dedicated to the promotion of ethics in business and governance.

Population

Population projections show that the number of Lothian residents is expected to rise steadily by around 48,000 by 2015 at the same time as the national population experiences a small but steady decline. This increase is expected to occur mainly through (65%) in-migration. In Edinburgh over 90% of population growth is expected to be as a result of in-migration.

Scottish Executive publication: West Edinburgh planning framework: background papers, modified 2006

Edinburgh's attractiveness as a place to live is reflected in the fact that 51% of Edinburgh residents were born outside the city, with incoming migrants being one of the factors driving our success.

MORI Survey Results - Autumn 2005

Transportation

In Edinburgh, commuter travel times are considerably shorter than in those in most other European cities. One in five people (20% of residents) walk to work.

Census, 2001

Edinburgh's bus network is one of the best in the UK. The locally owned bus company, Lothian Buses, has won several awards including Best Bus Operator of the Year at the National Transport Awards in July 2008 and all journeys on it are a flat fare of £1.20, one of the best value fares in the country.

A recent survey by Cycling Scotland ranked Edinburgh 2nd in Scotland (after Fife) in terms of the quality of provision for cyclists.

Cycling Scotland

There are 90kms of off road cycle lanes and 70km of on road cycle lanes all over Edinburgh. Disused railway tracks and other routes offer a safer alternative to roads.

Construction work on Edinburgh's new tram scheme began in 2007. This fast and modern system will be up and running in 2011 and will connect the major growth areas of the city such as the Waterfront, West Edinburgh and the city centre.

Edinburgh Airport is becoming an increasingly popular transport hub. New routes to New York, Atlanta and a range of European destinations are proving successful. Passenger throughput is set to grow from 8 million in 2004 to 21-23 million passengers by 2030.

Edinburgh motorists spend the least stationary time when driving of motorists surveyed in 6 UK cities.
Citroen Study 2006

Other facts

The Edinburgh City Region regards the provision of affordable housing as a priority objective and the respective local authorities all have affordable housing policies in place. In Edinburgh this has secured up to 5000 affordable units through planning consents.

Edinburgh is particularly unusual amongst British cities in that much of today's architecture dates from before the 20th century. Edinburgh is therefore one of the most aesthetically, and historically most 'complete', of the UK's major cities; a fact recognised in 1995 when the city's Old and New Towns were inscribed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.