

# HOW TO DO THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

First things first – you need to understand there is no such thing as the *Edinburgh Festival* – rather Edinburgh in August is the stage for no less than six festivals all running at the same time: the main Edinburgh International Festival, plus the Book, Film and Art Festival and also the Fringe and the Tattoo.

Such a wide-ranging choice of performances means it is very easy to immerse yourself in culture – and partying! – virtually around the clock. At this time of year in particular the city never sleeps. Edinburgh becomes a happening place where there's an inescapable, overwhelming, non-stop celebration of the arts: film, theatre, street performances, books, children's events, talks, exhibitions, music, drama, dance, comedy, military bands and lots more. And you'll find eager theatre company performers in costume patrolling on every street, desperate to hand out leaflets and make sure you see their show! Yes, you'll certainly notice the atmosphere.

With so much to take in you'll appreciate there's a knack to tackling and making the most of your festival experience. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to make the most of the Festival.

1. First, book your accommodation. Yes – even before you've booked any festival tickets – after all, the streets are thronged in August and all these people are staying somewhere! Book online at [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).
2. Check out each festival's programme as soon as it goes live online and subscribe to online newsletters. Don't book up all your time in advance though – leave some space for the last minute hot-tips.

The Edinburgh International Festival programme launches on 28 March 2007, with booking online, by telephone, post, fax and in person at The Hub (see below) from 14 April 2007.

The full Fringe programme publishes on 7 June 2007, with tickets on sale from 11 June 2007.

The Film Festival programme launch is 11 July 2007, with the box office opening 13 July 2007.

The Book Festival has a programme launch date of 14 June 2007.

For full information visit the official city festival site [www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk](http://www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk).

[www.edinburgh.org](http://www.edinburgh.org) is also a useful source of festival information.

3. On arrival, make sure you find out what's hot on the festival scene. Newspapers such as *The Scotsman*, the *Evening News*, the *Guardian* and *The Times* all carry reviews. Check out publications like *The List* magazine, on sale widely around the city in bookshops, news stands etc and other local media. Listen to Radio Forth and Radio Scotland for up to the minute comment. Download podcasts such as those available through the Book Festival's own website. Unsurprisingly, for all the festivals, the hottest shows sell out fast – but there are performances where you can get tickets on the day, even at the last minute, and at reasonable prices. The Fringe, for example, discounts tickets for certain shows at its 'e-ticket tent' beside the tourist information centre above the Princes Mall by Princes Street.
4. Head to the High Street and also The Mound near the National Gallery of Scotland – these are the places to see street theatre and other Fringe acts in preview, as well as all kinds of buskers and entertainers. (Some acts will call for donations after their performances are over!)

Try something new – some shows are free or discounted during the first week. In fact, there were 177 listed free shows in last year's Fringe. Look out for free spectacle at the huge Fringe Sunday event, usually on The Meadows on the second Sunday of the Fringe, as well as the Fringe Cavalcade through the streets of Edinburgh which traditionally opens the festivities.

5. Be sure to sample the particular hospitality of Edinburgh's restaurants, cafés and bars at Festival time. Many make their contribution to the special atmosphere by extending hours or just by making it easy for you to pause, plan, refresh and relax. Pick out your favourite, make it your local and share stories of your choice shows with other festival fans.

So you'll find convenient theatre menus and late suppers and all kinds of places ready to serve you whatever the hour. For instance, The Hub at the top of the city's Royal Mile, is not only the official headquarters and box office for the International Festival, it's also got a great café where you can recharge and plan your next show.

6. Finally, book ahead for the following year – why not even before you leave – because you'll definitely want to come back again!

## **THE SUMMER FESTIVAL PROGRAMME**

### **3-25 August 2007**

#### **Edinburgh Military Tattoo**

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is an extravaganza with breathtaking displays of massed pipes and drums, military bands and dancers from around the world. Evening events. Packages including accommodation and tickets are available to book at [www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/tattoo](http://www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/tattoo) or search online for tour operators offering deals.

**Due to the unprecedented demand for tickets the 2007 Tattoo is now SOLD OUT. Resale tickets may become available from time to time and you should contact the Box Office on a regular basis to check availability (Tel: +44 (0)8707 555118 Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 4.30pm GMT).**

**Check the website from early November 2007 for further information on 2008 ticket availability, likely to be from early December 2007.**

[www.edintattoo.co.uk](http://www.edintattoo.co.uk)

### **5-27 August 2007**

#### **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the world's largest arts festival and features the best in comedy, theatre, dance, children's shows and music. 2006 saw 28,000 performances in 261 venues throughout Edinburgh. Day and evening events.

Programmes available online: 7 June 2007

Booking: Box office opens 11 June 2007

[www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

### **10 August-2 September 2007**

#### **Edinburgh International Festival**

The Edinburgh International Festival showcases over 3 weeks of the best opera, theatre, dance and classical music from throughout the world. Day and evening events.

Programmes are available online: 28 March 2007

Booking: Box office opens 14 April 2007

[www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

**11-27 August 2007****Edinburgh International Book Festival**

The world's largest literary festival features a varied programme of discussions, readings, lectures, debates, workshops and many opportunities to meet internationally renowned authors. Day and evening events.

Programme available online from: June

Booking: June

[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

**15-26 August 2007****Edinburgh International Film Festival**

The Edinburgh International Film Festival features the best in international and British film making. A diverse programme includes everything from red carpet premiers to small low budget short films. Day and evening events.

Programme available online from: 11 July 2007

Booking online from: 13 July 2007

[www.edfilmfest.org.uk](http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk)

**EDINBURGH – A YEAR ROUND FESTIVAL CITY**

Edinburgh is famous for many other festivals taking place throughout the year.

24 March-15 April 2007

**Ceilidh Culture Festival**

[www.ceilidhculture.co.uk](http://www.ceilidhculture.co.uk)

30 March-4 April 2007

**The Edinburgh International Harp Festival**

[www.harpfestival.co.uk](http://www.harpfestival.co.uk)

2-15 April 2007

**Edinburgh International Science Festival**

[www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk)

19-28 May 2007

**Bank of Scotland's Children's International Theatre Festival**

[www.imaginate.org.uk](http://www.imaginate.org.uk)

26 July-2 September 2007  
**Edinburgh Art Festival**  
[www.edinburghartfestival.org](http://www.edinburghartfestival.org)

27 July-5 August 2007  
**Starbucks Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival**  
[www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk](http://www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk)

September 2007  
**Edinburgh Mela**  
[www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk](http://www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk)

29 November-24 December 2007  
**Edinburgh's Christmas**  
[www.edinburghschristmas.com](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com)

29 December 2007-1 January 2008  
**Edinburgh's Hogmanay**  
[www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com)

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Email: [info@visitscotland.com](mailto:info@visitscotland.com)

**[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)**

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