

**YOUNG PERSONS GUIDE TO  
DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL IN**

**EDINBURGH**  
ABERDEEN  
GLASGOW  
INVERNES  
PITLOCHRY  
STIRLING

# INTRODUCTION

Edinburgh, Scotland's famous capital, has everything you want in a city. Historic streets, a castle, extinct volcanoes AND a seaside. You've seen all of this on the postcards. But, did you know that the iconic skyline, the striking contrast between the Old and New Towns, is actually protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site? Edinburgh Doors Open Days gives you the opportunity to peek behind the scenes in many of these buildings - to learn about their (often, very long) history, as well as what they're used for today. Whether you're interested in architecture, community stories or are just plain nosy, there's something for you.

Check out the main programme, available on The Cockburn Association website, for full listings, transport tips and detailed accessibility information.

# DAY ITINERARY

Start your Saturday morning in the University of Edinburgh's central campus, taking a look at both the original buildings and recent additions in a new light - including the Main Library, Appleton Tower and the grand Old College. Take a trip to the rarely open Anatomical Museum and then, if you still have an appetite, it's time for lunch. Try Ting Thai Caravan or, for tasty soup, Union of Genius. If you're interested in art head to Talbot Rice Gallery, Dovecot Studios and Stills after lunch. Alternatively cross George IV Bridge into the heart of the Old Town - highlights include Riddles Court, New College, Supreme Courts and the National Library of Scotland.

Take a slower pace on Sunday, exploring the New Town. You can start to the east of Princes Street at the Scottish Free French House, then walk back, swinging past Calton Hill (pop up for great views if you have time). Walk along George Street, stopping in at Assembly Rooms and Northern Lighthouse Board, before ending up at The Georgian House. Finish your afternoon in Stockbridge, visiting the weekly food market for a snack and browsing the shops around St Stephen Street. Follow the river to Dean Gardens and St Bernard's Well, and along to the picturesque Dean Village.

# THEME PICKS

Yes, Edinburgh is home to a lot of wonderful medieval and neoclassical buildings - but are you looking for something a bit less conventional? We've selected our top picks beyond the city centre, all a bus or bike ride away.

For addresses, opening times, accessibility information, and architect details for listings in this programme, please see the main programme, or visit [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk).

## 1. Castle Mills - Edinburgh Printmakers, 1 Dundee St

It was nearly demolished but, thanks to community action, the former North British Rubber Company HQ is now a creative hub for Fountainbridge. Visit the postindustrial building for a guided tour, or pop into the Open Studios.

## 2. Barnton Quarry Restoration Project 35 Clermiston Road North

North-West of Edinburgh city centre lies Barnton Quarry, former RAF operations centre and Cold War bunker. This is a unique opportunity to explore the Ops Well and find out more about this volunteer-led restoration in-progress.

## 3. The Ramp House, 9E Bellfield Lane

This urban, open-plan family home is based around an unfolding 28m long ramp, designed by ChambersMcmillan Architects to accommodate the needs of their own family. The Ramp House is a compelling example of wheelchair accessibility foregrounded in architecture.

## 4. Royal Observatory Edinburgh, Blackford Hill

Head up Blackford Hill to the Observatory (and for some excellent views over the city). You'll have the chance to visit the Victorian telescope dome, meet astronomers, handle actual meteorites and spy on Arthur's Seat.

## 5. Fountainbridge Library, 137 Dundee St

Described as 'an icon of Scottish architecture', this 1940 library designed by John A. W. Grant is an excellent example of Scottish modernism. Take a tour of the building's equally interesting interior and exterior, and find out more about library life during the blackout.

## 6. Seafield Treatment Centre, 20 Marine Esplanade

For something a little less Instagram friendly, take a trip to the coast and Scotland's largest wastewater treatment works. Join a tour (booking essential) to learn more about Edinburgh's sewage throughout history, and how it's becoming green energy today.

## 7. Drumsheugh Bath Club, 5 Belford Rd

This Victorian venue, established in 1882, is Edinburgh's oldest private swimming club. The building was designed by Sir John James Burnett in the Neo-Moorish style - the arches enclosing the pool wouldn't look out of place in a Wes Anderson film.

## 8. Grove Community Garden, Drysdale Rd

Grove Community Garden describes itself as 'by the community, for the community'. Across their temporary urban sites you can learn to grow your own vegetables, fruit and herbs - communally and on a small scale.

# DON'T MISS – TOURS

## Weeds Galore!

**Saturday 28th, 4.30pm**

Join medical herbalist Julia Cook and gain a new perspective on common weeds. You'll learn about urban foraging, as well as the medical and nutritious qualities of some of the plants you walk past every day. Meet at the Cockburn Association, just off the Royal Mile.

## Unlocking the Union Canal Walking Tour

**Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th, 10.30am & 2.00pm**

Come along for a two-hour guided walk along Edinburgh's Union Canal. You'll get an insight into the role these waterways played in Scotland's industrial history, and how they affected the communities who lived and worked on them.

## Edinburgh's Global Connections On Foot

**Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th, 10.30am & 2.30pm**

Edinburgh is an international city, and its architecture undoubtedly reflects this. Look out for hidden connections, influences and inspiration from locations across the globe on this 90 minute guided tour.

# YOUNG ADVISORY PANEL

In 2018, Doors Open Days assembled the Young Advisory Panel, through funding from the Year of Young People National Lottery Fund - we're Jordan, Laura, Magda, Sophie, Rachel & Rory. This year we've been tasked with creating, writing and designing guides, both in print and in video, to Stirling, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Pitlochry & Inverness - giving local insight and a fresh perspective on what each location has to offer.

The Edinburgh YAP guide was created by Laura, who is 25. Laura likes art, train journeys, and potato scones.

**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS 2019**

**30  
YEARS**



SUPPORTING  
year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018



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