



# Visiting Edinburgh in August or *Not!*

An Edinburgh Planning PDF

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# *Outlandish Scotland Journey*

## Visiting Edinburgh in August—or *Not*; August Festivals & the Royal Tattoo

Edinburgh is considered the world's leading festival city. It hosts major festivals almost every month of the year. If you elect *not* to visit in August, check the websites below to learn if there's an Edinburgh festival or special event being held while you'll be there.

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/>

<https://www.edinburghguide.com/events/edinburghsfestivals>

Edinburgh is particularly jam-packed full of festivals during the entire month of August. If you are thinking of visiting Edinburgh in August, please consider the following facts:

- Everything related to Edinburgh is more expensive during the month of August, especially lodgings.
- Edinburgh's most popular lodgings—of *all* kinds—often are fully booked 6 months to a year in advance of an August stay.
- August festival tickets (especially the Royal Tattoo) may sell out months in advance.
- Edinburgh tours during the month of August may be fully booked months in advance.
- The city is far more congested during the month of August.

More people are driving in the area, public transportation can be quite crowded, tourist venues may be extremely crowded, and good luck enjoying the most popular restaurants without a reservation booked months ahead of time.

**That said, if you *can* book an Edinburgh August holiday well in advance, GO FOR IT!**

Every aspect of the city is more vibrant in August, and attending the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is an experience you'll never, *ever* forget.

Below are brief descriptions of (and links to) Edinburgh's August Festivals, followed by information about the Royal Tattoo.

### **Edinburgh Art Festival**

26 July to 26 August 2018

<https://edinburghartfestival.com/>

"The UK's largest annual celebration of visual art, attracting over 250,000 visitors each year, Edinburgh Art Festival brings together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces, alongside new public art commissions by established and emerging artists and an innovative programme of special events.

"The vast majority of the festival is free to attend, and includes exhibitions, performances, screenings, artist talks and guided tours."

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/festivals/edinburgh-art-festival>

### **Edinburgh Foodies Festival**

August 3, 4, and 5, 2018

<http://foodiesfestival.com/edinburgh-food-festival/>

“Foodies Festival, the UK’s biggest food festival, returns to Edinburgh Inverleith Park over the weekend of 3rd, 4th & 5th August with a mouth-watering summer festival and the launch of a brand new Musicians Against Homelessness music stage and extended opening times.”

### **Edinburgh International Festival**

3 August 2018 to 27 August 2018

<https://www.eif.co.uk/>

“Every August, the Edinburgh International Festival transforms one of the world’s most beautiful cities, presenting three exhilarating weeks of the finest creators and performers from the worlds of the arts.

“Edinburgh’s six major theatres and concert halls, a few smaller venues and often some unconventional ones too, come alive with the best music, theatre, opera and dance from around the globe.

“The Festival presents events which cannot easily be achieved by any other UK arts organization through innovative programming and a commitment to new work.”

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/festivals/edinburgh-international-festival>

### **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**

3 August 2018 to 27 August 2018

<https://www.edfringe.com/>

“The world’s largest arts festival transforms Scotland’s capital every August, as thousands of performers take to hundreds of stages all over the city to present shows of all kinds and for every taste.

“The work on show ranges from huge names in the world of entertainment to unknown artists looking to build their careers. ...

“Audiences can enjoy theatre, comedy, dance, circus, cabaret, children’s shows, physical theatre, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.”

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/festivals/edinburgh-festival-fringe>

### **Edinburgh International Book Festival**

11 August 2018 to 27 August 2018

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/>

“The Edinburgh International Book Festival programme offers over 800 events featuring the greatest writers and thinkers in the world. From rising stars of fiction to Nobel Prize-winners, it’s a place where audiences and authors gather to share ideas, have thought-provoking discussions, be entertained, informed, enthralled and challenged.

“There is also a highly regarded programme of events for children and young adults featuring the finest writers and illustrators for young people.

“From author events and interactive workshops to lively debates and book signings, the Book Festival gives you the chance to meet your favourite authors, hear about their latest work, and get stuck into some gripping conversations.

“The Book Festival is located in the heart of Edinburgh’s historic New Town. Each year, Charlotte Square Gardens and the west end of George Street are transformed into a magical tented village.

“Entry to the Book Festival village is free so pop in and relax for a moment or two.”

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/festivals/edinburgh-international-book-festival>



### The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

3 August 2018 to 25 August 2018

<https://www.edintattoo.co.uk/>

“A tattoo is a military performance of music or display of armed forces in general. The term comes from the early 17th century Dutch phrase *doe den tap toe* (‘turn off the tap’), a signal sounded by drummers or trumpeters to instruct innkeepers near military garrisons to stop serving beer and for soldiers to return to their barracks, and is unrelated to the Tahitian origins of an ink [body] tattoo.

“The tattoo was originally a form of military music, but the practice has evolved into more elaborate shows involving theatrics, [dance] and musical performances.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_tattoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_tattoo)

“The [Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo] is an iconic Edinburgh institution, and a sellout year after year after year. Music, dance and precision display with the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, cultural troupes, singers and the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.”

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/festivals/royal-edinburgh-military-tattoo>

During the month of August, Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo performances are held Mondays through Fridays at 9pm, with two performances on Saturday night—at 7:30pm and 10:30pm. Each performance lasts approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is no performance on Sundays.

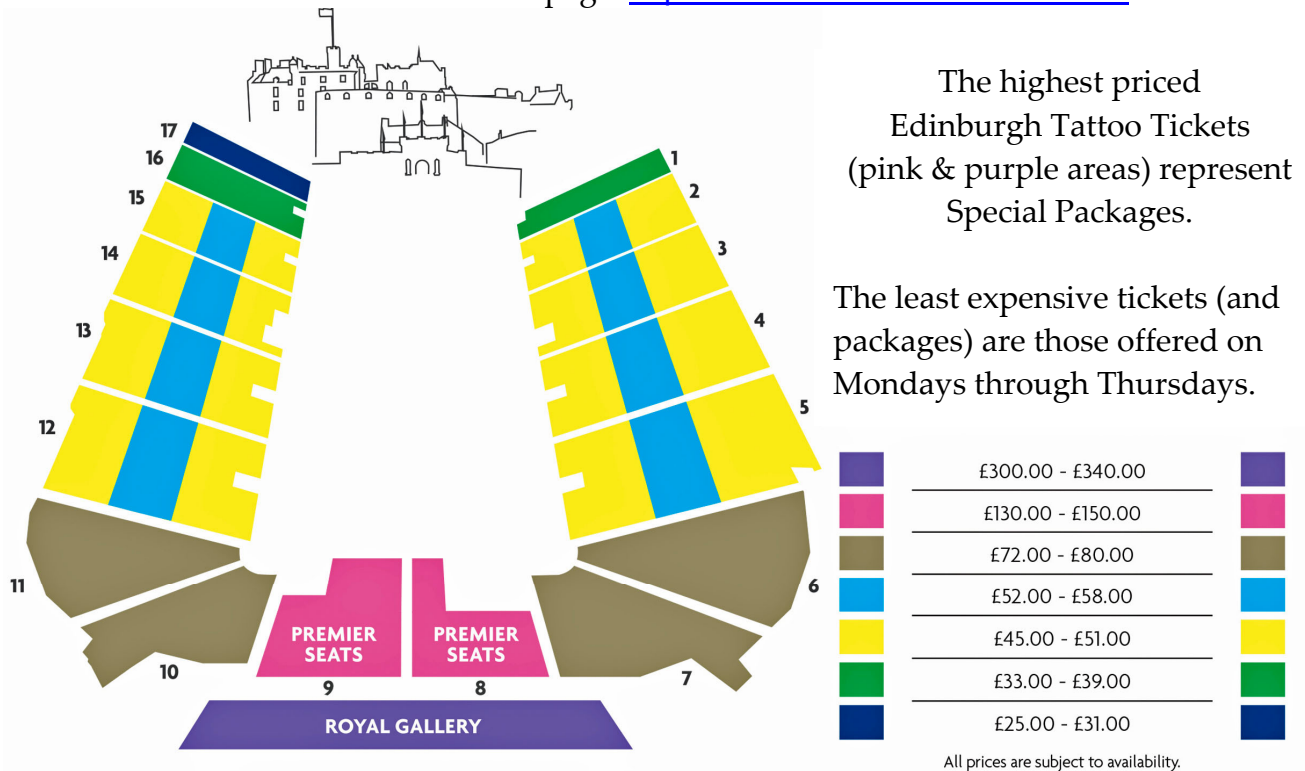
“Subject to the appropriate weather conditions, all performances will conclude with a Fireworks Display. Performances on Saturday at 10:30pm will conclude with an extended fireworks display.”

It is important to note that, since its inception in 1950 (68 years ago), no Edinburgh Tattoo performance has *ever* been cancelled due to weather. If you are fortunate enough to attend, be sure to dress for every manner of weather!

Visit the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo Venue page to learn more about what is and is not allowed within the stadium/arena. For instance, Umbrellas are NOT allowed!

<https://www.edintattoo.co.uk/the-venue>

Below is an example of the seating and ticket options for attending the Edinburgh Tattoo—from 2018. Current ticket information is found on this page: <https://www.edintattoo.co.uk/tickets>



Below are only three examples of the several Edinburgh Tattoo Special Packages offered in 2018. This *abbreviated* collection of information was obtained from the Royal Tattoo website’s “Buy Tickets” pages. You’ll learn more about the various package options (and each package’s caveats) when purchasing your ticket.

### The Bruce Package in 2018

Monday through Thursday: £240

Friday Night: £260

Saturday 7:30pm: £270

Saturday 10:30pm: £290

Join a table in the Castlehill Suite within The Scotch Whisky Experience, just moments away from the Tattoo arena, and enjoy a sumptuous ‘Taste of Scotland’ menu with wine and three specially selected Scotch Whiskies.

Your package will include:

- Three course Taste of Scotland menu followed by coffee or tea and Scottish fudge—the perfect opportunity to sample the finest Scottish produce
- Sampling of three specially selected Scotch Whiskies, chosen to complement your meal and introduced to you by a member of the Senior Tasting Team
- Half a bottle of wine with your meal
- A brief recital by members of the Tattoo cast
- A private viewing of the World’s Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky
- A host to escort you from The Scotch Whisky Experience to the Castle Esplanade
- A prime location Premier seat, with padded seat/backrest and armrest, in Section 8 of the outdoor arena with exceptional views of the performance
- An official Tattoo Show Programme (£8 when purchased online, £10 when purchased onsite)

### **The Jacobite in Edinburgh Castle Package in 2018**

Monday through Thursday: £215

Friday Night: £225

Saturday 7:30pm: £230

Saturday 10:30pm: not available

Join a table in Edinburgh Castle’s contemporary Jacobite Room, which boasts fantastic views over the city skyline, and enjoy a delicious three course Scottish dining experience. Following dinner, Tattoo cast members will give a brief recital, after which you will be escorted, via the backstage area through the throng of performers waiting to go on stage, to your seating section.

Your package will include:

- The services of a Tattoo representative who will welcome you on the Castle Esplanade and escort you to the Jacobite Room in Edinburgh Castle. Please note on Saturdays this package will take place in the Queen Anne Room.
- A welcome drink on arrival
- Three course Scottish dining experience followed by coffee or tea and Scottish tablet
- The services of a Tattoo piper who will invite guests to join him in the traditional “Toast to the haggis”
- Half a bottle of wine to accompany your meal and a dram of whisky served with first course
- A brief recital by members of the Tattoo cast
- A host to escort you from The Jacobite Room to the Castle Esplanade
- A seat in Section 13 of the outdoor arena
- An official Tattoo Show Programme (£8 when purchased online, £10 when purchased onsite)

### **The Wallace Package in 2018**

Monday through Thursday: £120

Friday Night: £130

Saturday 7:30pm: not available

Saturday 10:30pm: £150

Enjoy a pre-performance guided tour of The Scotch Whisky Experience, including a viewing of the World's Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky, followed by a Whisky Cocktail and canapés reception with members of the Tattoo cast before being escorted to the Castle Esplanade.

Your package will include:

- Pre-performance guided tour of The Scotch Whisky Experience.
- Private viewing of the World's Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky
- Whisky Cocktail or soft drink with canapés in the McIntyre Gallery
- The opportunity to mingle with members of the Tattoo cast
- A host to escort you from The Scotch Whisky Experience to the Castle Esplanade
- A centrally located seat in Section 4 of the outdoor arena
- An official Tattoo Show Programme (£8 when purchased online, £10 when purchased onsite)

As previously stated, attending the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is an experience you will never, *ever* forget. If you'll be visiting Edinburgh in August, consider adjusting your holiday budget so that you can purchase the best Tattoo ticket you can possibly afford.