



What's new: Restaurants, Hotels, Venues and Future Visions

Edinburgh is a truly dynamic city, with new buildings and new facilities opening all the time. Here's a selection of some of the key developments currently underway and upcoming:

Hotels and Venues – now open

Edinburgh continues to be a hot spot for developments and expansions with prestigious franchises such as Virgin and Hilton. With an anticipated 2,000 additional rooms in the city by 2020, below is a list of some of the recently opened hotels and venues.

[The Edinburgh Grand](#)

Chris Stewart Group opened the Edinburgh Grand in June this year. The 50 modern luxury apartments enriched in illustrious heritage, courtesy of a famous banking landmark, look out on to St Andrew Square. The Edinburgh Grand also includes a restaurant, sleek new bar, coffee house and upscale hangout to meet and eat. Apartments come in a range of sizes, hosting from one to six guests, from uniquely configured Grand Studios, to the three-bedroom, rooftop Penthouse with its staggering 360° panoramic view.

[Ten Hill Place Hotel](#)

Ten Hill Place, the hotel that forms part of the Royal College of Surgeons, has undergone an £8.5m expansion that will increase rooms from 77 to 129. Taking over the neighbouring Hill Place buildings, the hotel is owned by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd). Commercial Enterprises, which started out as three people and is now some 140 strong, has also rebranded to “Surgeons Quarter” to mark the expansion of the organisation. The expansion has also seen the on-site restaurant and bar increase in capacity to 150 covers.

[Mode Aparthotel](#)

Nestled in the very heart of the city's New Town, Mode Edinburgh combines an urban chic living space in an historic setting. It opened in July 2018 with 82 apartments offering the convenience of an in-room kitchen with hotel services such as 24 hour reception-desk, gym and stylish public lobby area.

[Royal College of Physicians](#)

The Royal College of Physicians completed a £3.5m redevelopment in January 2019 and relaunched as the Physicians International Conference Centre. It positions itself as a new world-class education hub to stimulate shared learning and training by creating a dynamic and interactive space in its Georgian buildings in Edinburgh's New Town.

[MV Fingal](#)

Scotland's first 'boatique' hotel and a former lighthouse boat, the 239-foot-long MV Fingal underwent a £3.5m conversion into a luxury 23-bedroom hotel and is moored near the Royal Yacht Britannia in Leith. Opened in January 2019, the hotel has a ball room for 60pax which is ideal for gala dinners, receptions, meetings and product launches.



[Marriott Moxy Hotel](#)

Moxy, Marriott International's budget-lifestyle brand, opened a new budget hotel at Edinburgh Airport in January 2019 that is built over five floors with 230 bedrooms. Key features of the hotel include a vibrant lobby with bar, 24/7 self-service grab-and-go food service and an extensive number of power points for personal devices.

Soon to complete / under construction venues and hotels

[Barnbougle Castle](#)

Barnbougle is a 13th century Castle located 7 miles from Edinburgh which never been accessible to the public. It sits majestically within 2000 acres of private parkland on the Roseberry Estate with dramatic views of the Firth of Forth shoreline. It completes a multi-million restoration programme in Spring 2019 when it will open as an exclusive venue for corporate events for 120pax.

[Market Street Hotel – May 2019](#)

A £20m 4-star boutique hotel development on a gap site in Edinburgh's historic Old Town is nearing completion. The project, which the Edinburgh-based architects have designed for the EDI Group, will create a hotel for the Carlton Hotel Collection overlooking the gorge running through the city. The seven floor, 98-bedroom hotel, will include a residents' lounge and executive area for guests on the top floor with panoramic views of the city. The new hotel will be situated in a prime location within Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Site facing north towards the city's New Town across the Waverley Valley and is due to open May 2019.

[Malmaison - 2019](#)

Malmaison Hotel Group is set to open a second Edinburgh location at St Andrew Square to offer 72 luxury bedrooms and suites to suit modern travelers with a cocktail bar and restaurant. Planning permission was granted in November 2017 and renovation work on the St Andrew Square venue began in May, ahead of an opening in 2019.

[Yotel – July 2019](#)

Yotel will open a 280 cabin (bed) hotel in the New Town early 2019 following a £185M refurbishment of a building on Queen Street. The brand is known for its contemporary and playful design together with technology driven experiences.

[The Impact Centre – 2021](#)

Plans have been approved for a £4.5m development to become a music venue named the IMPACT Centre. It will contain a 1,000-seat auditorium, along with a 200-seat rehearsal space, cafe, bar and dedicated educational spaces. As well as being the home for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the centre will be used for music performances, talks, conferences and as a venue for the Edinburgh Festival during August. The hall will sit behind Dundas House, 36 St Andrew Square, the 1774 home of Sir Lawrence Dundas, which became part of The Royal Bank of Scotland estate in 1825. The banking hall will also be linked to the complex.

[Virgin Hotel - 2020](#)

Sir Richard Branson has announced that the UK's first Virgin Hotel will be opening in Edinburgh's Old Town, on Victoria Street, taking over the 19th century India buildings. The 225-room hotel, set to open in 2020, will be home to multiple bars and restaurants, including one of the brand's flagship



Commons Clubs. The Virgin development is expected to provide a £5m boost to the local economy.

[W Hotel \(St James Quarter\) – 2020/2021](#)

A huge £850m development in Edinburgh's city centre started in 2016, with completion due in 2020. Along with 850,000 square foot of shopping space over three sweeping crescent-shaped levels, the development will also include premium office space, an aparthotel, a multi-screen cinema and 150 flats with spectacular views. A central pillar of the masterplan is a 214 room, luxury 5-star W Hotel by Starwood Hotels & Resorts. The hotel is due for completion one year after the retail section, in 2021. The 12-story building will offer panoramic views of the city from its roof top terrace and restaurant. Edinburgh St James will be one of the UK's largest and most significant regeneration projects.

Restaurants – now open

In recent years, we have seen a huge revamp of Edinburgh's New Town and George Street, with the opening of large-scale restaurants bringing this area of the city to life (Fazenda, Gaucho, The Ivy, Dishoom, Vapiano to name but a few). These investments are in advance of the completion of the St James Quarter development which will transform the area.

[Brasserie at the Balmoral Hotel](#)

Celebrity chefs, Alain and Michel Roux, have head up a £3m new brasserie restaurant and bar in The Balmoral Hotel which opened in June. The new space caters for 210 covers, offering a fine-dining experience with classic French dishes inspired by the finest Scottish ingredients.

[Hawksmoor](#)

Opened in summer 2018, Hawksmoor is located in the Edinburgh Grand which was formerly the National Bank of Scotland Banking Hall, just off St Andrews Square. The 185-cover restaurant has been sensitively refurbished to celebrate the building's original features. The menu draws on local Scottish produce and features seafood from the coast and grass-fed native breed cattle from the Borders.

[The Lookout](#)

The team behind Gardener's Cottage recently opened their third restaurant, The Lookout. Located on top of Calton Hill, the building features floor to ceiling glass windows to make the most of the panoramic views across Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth. The Lookout is part of the [Collective](#) centre for contemporary art, and has access to spectacular and historic spaces within the City Observatory to host everything from drinks receptions and bespoke tastings, to intimate dinners and meetings

[Vittoria Group – Bertie's](#)

Located on Victoria Street in Edinburgh's Old Town, the Vittoria Group has opened a £3m dining experience named Bertie's specializing in Fish and Chips. It opened late 2018 with a seating capacity of 300.



Future visions

The Queen's Hall

As part of VisitScotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, the Scottish Government has granted The Queen's Hall funding to refurbish the building ahead of its 200th anniversary in 2023. £650,000 of funding was granted to help refurbish the outside of the building before undertaking fundraising to re-vamp the inside of the hall.

Former British Home Stores – Princes Street

Plans to turn the former flagship BHS in Edinburgh into a hotel with 'skybar' restaurant have been approved. The proposals were submitted after the collapse of the business last year, which led to the Princes Street site being sold. The development will see a 133-bed hotel with a retail space and restaurant on the top floor overlooking the city.

Former Frasers Store – West End Princes Street

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-47068963>

The global drinks company Diageo is in planning with the City of Edinburgh Council for a large whisky tourism experience at this prime location on Princes Street. It is tipped to be a Johnnie Walker Experience.

Fountainbridge

Union Hanover has received planning permission for a £35m waterside Urban Villa hotel in central Edinburgh. The 180-unit project on Freer Street at Fountainbridge, by the Union Canal Basin, consists of 179 executive villas, 11 master villas, and four rooftop penthouse suites, designed by New York-based architect Grzywinski + Pons in association with Edinburgh-based Michael Laird Architects.

The Haymarket

A £200m development with a mix of hotel, high-quality offices and retail space is to be built in Edinburgh's Haymarket area. It is a joint project between construction company Interserve and the landowners Tiger Developments. Interserve will initially invest £10.5m in the project while the construction contract is for £150m. Serviced apartments provider StayCity has already signed up to create a 168-bedroom StayCity Aparthotel, and there will be a 190 room Premier Inn, while food chains Prezzo and Pret A Manger have committed for the second phase of the development.

Royal Highland Centre

One of the largest venues of its kind in the UK, The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society is currently in the midst of a 20-year, £30m redevelopment of the site. The masterplan includes a new 290 metre boulevard entrance, hotel, agri-business hub, and conference and leisure facilities. The Royal Highland Centre hosts 200 events a year and has started a fresh series of improvements as part of a three-year investment programme worth £4.2m. Infrastructure including drainage, roads and parking are all being upgraded. The latest improvements come after the venue spent more than £1m on its 4,200 square metre Lowland Hall and made advancements to its Wi-Fi systems.

Ross Pavilion & Gardens Project



£25m is being invested to revamp the 1935 bandstand in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens. The 3,000-seat concert and event venue space will see improvements to the gardens, a new pavilion, a visitor centre and café within the plans.

Edinburgh Waverly Mall

Waverly Mall is set to be revamped with plans to create a new roof terrace with shops and restaurants. Dates for the revamp, which also include steps from Princes Street leading to a European style piazza area, are still to be revealed.

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