

Only in Edinburgh: All reviews

Ken Lussey (www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk):

A resounding success as a guidebook because it takes the reader far beyond the visitor attractions that appear in just about every guide to the city. The result is a book that will be of lasting value to visitors as well as to residents who already think they know their city well. The quality of the production is outstanding. From the moment you peel back the shrink-wrap plastic you realise that this is a book produced by someone who wants to give his readers the most pleasurable experience possible.

Timeless Travels magazine:

This is a most delightful guide to Edinburgh, and is also a great read... Full of unusual and quirky places to discover, its longer-than-usual guidebook entries give a great sense of the city and its history... Whether you want to follow in the footsteps of J K Rowling, discover secret gardens, uncover unusual places to eat or an Art Deco petrol station, the 103 mini essays give the reader the feeling of discovering the real Edinburgh and not just the well-known tourist spots... A must read for anyone visiting Edinburgh.

A reader:

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed "Only in Edinburgh". It really was an invaluable resource as I explored the Royal Mile. I look very much forward to using it again on my next trip there. Because, of course, there needs to be a next trip!

Coburn Association:

There are many guides to Edinburgh for tourists but some, like this one, offer a different perspective. This is a good guide for locals, too. The split personality of the city is revealed as you are taken off the beaten track and under the city's skin to secret gardens, haunted theatres, mysterious monuments, hidden underworlds and industrial relics. There are 103 illustrated entries each with helpful bus numbers. Maps inside the covers help locate the venues across the city from Leith to Gilmerton, Corstorphine to Portobello.

Stuart Forster (www.go-eat-do):

Informative and pleasantly quirky... ideal for whipping out while waiting for a bus or train, or supping a pint of heavy at one of the city's many pubs.

Mike Gerrard, travel writer (www.beyond-london-travel.com):

The author of "Only in Edinburgh" looks for not only the hidden corners but also places you may already know about but which are unique to Edinburgh, and then finds interesting ways of looking at them. His curiosity is what makes these books so good. His interests range from Inspector Rebus to deep-fried haggis to gin to Harry Potter. Nicely laid-out and copiously illustrated with colour photos, this is an attractive and fascinating book.

Discover the Scottish Borders (www.thetwopees.co.uk):

If you only buy one book for your visit to Edinburgh, this should be the one.

Steve Pfarrer/Daily Hampshire Gazette (www.gazettenet.com):

Smith's book comes with hundreds of photos by the author, as well as a wealth of historical detail about Edinburgh.

www.libraryjournal.com:

Smith's focus is on Edinburgh sites as well as destinations new and old. He features cathedrals and train stations, burial grounds and secret gardens, libraries and museums, tunnels and bridge vaults, sculptures and monuments, as well as golf and football, and science and poetry. This book is best to consult while exploring Edinburgh streets and surrounding areas thanks to the handy folding maps.

Rich Kaszeta (www.offbeateats.org):

A particularly useful and detailed guide...replete with all sorts of little details that are easy to miss.

Simon Laffoley (www.amazon.co.uk):

Yet another winner in this enthralling series of urban guide books. You get the sense of an author whose primary concern is to enthrall and capture his readership with the passion he himself has for his work. His clever use of intriguing chapter titles captures your interest straight away and from there you flick through to the relevant page of detailed information – but on the way you find yourself ensnared by another little-known attraction and before you know it you have ended up with a full day's exploring!

Kirstin Henton:

Big thanks to Duncan JD Smith for sharing his in-depth and clearly well-researched guide to Edinburgh. In a city that I call home, he highlighted secret gardens, lesser known spots, and great places to enjoy the outdoors. He covers everything from architecture and social history to museums, galleries, and distilleries. I would certainly recommend this guide to anyone visiting Edinburgh who is keen to see a slice of local life as well as the city's main attractions.

Terry Marsh (Travel writer & Michelin Green Guide author):

Once more the Urban Explorer, Duncan JD Smith, sets off in search of the unusual, the unexpected, and the downright bizarre... This is very much a lateral thinking approach to travel guides, something the Maltese psychologist, Edward de Bono, would be proud of.

I've always maintained that a travel writer's responsibility is not only to provide a guiding hand, but also to educate and illuminate, and that can be accomplished only by diligent and penetrating research and in that regard, "Only in Edinburgh" is a masterclass. Who, for example, would go in search of an Art Deco petrol station, or plague pits, or a Scottish acropolis?

It's easy to fall into the trap of commonplace guides, which merely detail the star attractions, and overlook the detail. In this remarkable offering, one of a growing series, the author takes the opposite view. And it matters not whether you are visiting for a day or a week or more; with more than 100 entries, there is more than enough to steer you well away from the straight and narrow and into a world of intrigue and fascination.

James Dickinson (Sociology Professor, Rider University, New Jersey, USA):

A masterpiece of a city guide wrapped up in gem-like essays.

Ian Schofield (a reader):

I really like “Only in Edinburgh” - it gives a lot of rare insights into the big landmarks of Edinburgh as well as some of the lesser known nooks and crannies.

Rosalyn Ellis (www.maproom.net):

This guide is organised with thematic spreads delving into the more unexpected and unusual aspects of Scotland’s capital. So that, rather than a dry description of St Mary’s Metropolitan Cathedral, we leap into the story of Leith-born sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi, whose giant foot sculpture is installed in the cathedral forecourt. We trace J.K. Rowling’s coffee hangouts and speculate on the manifestation of the real George Heriot’s Castle, Lauriston, Raeburn and Greyfriars as the houses of Ravenclaw, Slytherin, Gryffindor and Hufflepuff in the *Harry Potter* novels. Fans of Ian Rankin’s *Inspector Rebus* are pointed to resources such as an app, tour guides and the Royal Oak pub at 1 Infirmary Street. A section titled *A Poem in Glass and Stone* turns out to be a 1999 structure housing the Scottish Poetry Library, with its wealth of works in Scottish Gaelic, Lowland Scots and English. There are over 100 such gems uncovered, each one elegantly penned by Smith, with accompanying high-quality colour photography and plotted with a numbered flag on our map base.

www.europeupclose.com:

“Only in Edinburgh” offers information such as where to find obscure, historical remnants and more contemporary historical sights, such as the cafes and tea shops where JK Rowling wrote the *Harry Potter* series (her favorite was The Elephant House at 21 George IV Bridge). The author, Duncan JD Smith, also reveals such nuggets as the story of Edinburgh’s Jewish community and where to find the Jewish cemetery.