

The Edinburgh Festival

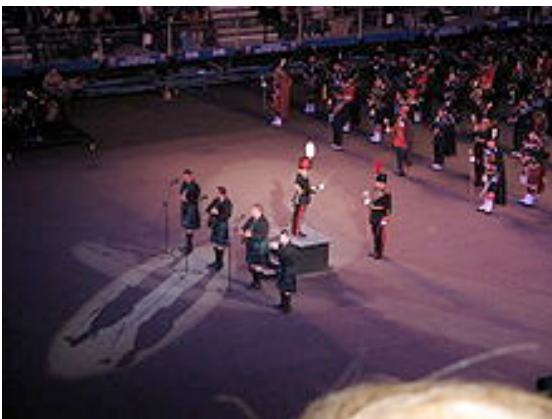
This annual event is the highlight of the year in Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. It consists of several cultural festivals that run in tandem in August every year. These events span from theatrical performances to book readings by famous authors. The Fringe festival was established in 1946 as an alternative to the original Edinburgh International Festival and is now the largest of the festivals. Running during the same period are the Edinburgh Book Festival, the Film festival, the Edinburgh Military tattoo and many others.

The Fringe Festival is predominantly theatre, comedy, music and dance. The shows put on range from Shakespearean plays performed by professional actors to student produced improvisation and mime. The Royal Mile is a focal point for the festival and is packed with street performers ranging from fire blowing and juggling, to small previews of different shows being put on throughout the month.



Every year the numbers attracted by this festival grow and the number of performances put on increase. In 2009, the Fringe sold 1,859,235 tickets for 34,265 performances of 2,098 shows in 265 venues, over 25 days, for an average of over 1,300 performances per day, with performers from 60 countries. The informal structure of this festival means that many shows are shown which perhaps would not be allowed in a more formal cultural festival which encourages the relaxed attitude that takes over Edinburgh during this period.

It showcases internationally acclaimed comedians performing alongside aspiring comedians in small intimate venues and there are shows to suit everyone. There are many performances which are completely free or cost very little and can be seen without bookings, for others, mainly the recognisable names and companies, booking a ticket is essential!



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is a series of military tattoos performed by the British Armed forces and armed forces from all over the Commonwealth. The event happens on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and attracts an increasingly international audience and is broadcasted in 30 countries worldwide!

To conclude, August is a fantastic time to visit Edinburgh and experience the city at its best! With so many different events going on there is something for everyone to see and all in the inspirational setting of the Scottish capital.