What’s new: venues and hotels
Edinburgh is a truly dynamic city, with new buildings and new facilities coming on stream all the time. Here’s a selection of some of the key developments currently underway:

Recently opened...

**Motel One Edinburgh-Princes – April 2014**
Known for affordable design, the Munich-based hotel operator, opened its first Edinburgh hotel at the end of 2012 in the Old Town. Situated above the Edinburgh Apple store and overlooking Edinburgh’s iconic skyline, the 140-bedroom Motel One Edinburgh-Princes provides stylish bedrooms, all fitted out with high-quality materials and design classics alongside contemporary elements such as leather chairs and natural stone walls - all at a budget room rate. The public area features "One Lounge" serving as a lobby, breakfast lounge and bar, free Wi-Fi and open to guests 24/7.

**Ibis Styles, St Andrew Square – October 2014**
Known for its distinctive perky personality, Ibis Styles aims to take guests on a journey through the wilds of the Scottish wilderness, complete with origami stags, tartan trimmed showers, bank notes and thistles to create the perfect wee getaway. This characterful 103 bedroom hotel maintains modern functionality with cheeky winks at tradition. The hotel is ideal for families with large rooms designed to cater for two adults and two children. Parents can sit back and relax while children entertain themselves with the choice of a Kids’ Corner, kids’ TV channel, games and other surprises.

**Ibis Budget Edinburgh Park Hotel, South Gyle – October 2014**
Ibis budget, the simple, casual brand from the ibis family offers guests essential comfort at a budget price. This new hotel offers 161 triple, double or twin cocoon-like rooms, all displaying the very comfortable Sweet Bed™ by ibis budget. Designed with comfort features such as cosy duvets, touch sensitive lights and spacious shower facilities as well as practical elements including living space, luggage storage and a 26 inch flat screen TV, the rooms deliver the flexibility, freedom of movement and well-being that are central to the brand’s thinking.

**DeVere Urban Village Resort – opening 19th January 2015**
Located in the heart of the capital city, this new £20million development features a 120-room luxury hotel, a health and leisure complex (including a 20m swimming pool, a ‘gastro-pub’ bar restaurant and a Starbucks cafe) and a conference centre facility for up to 200 delegates.

Coming soon...

**Mercure Hotel, Gardner’s Crescent – May 2015**
Ideally located to take advantage of its proximity to the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Haymarket Station and Princes Street –the newly built four-star hotel with offer 120 modern and stylish bedrooms with Apple TV’s and complimentary high speed internet access. Along with a bar and restaurant, Privilege Rooms will offer the guest the additional luxury of Nespresso coffee machines, robe and slippers.
**Old Town Chambers – expansion May 2015**

Operated by Lateral City, Old Town Chambers, which opened in summer 2013, is to add another 14 serviced apartments to its offering, making it the biggest collection of five-star serviced apartments in Edinburgh. Comprising a mix of studios and one bedrooms, the luxury apartments will contain double smoked French oak wooden flooring and Italian tiling, alongside the latest home entertainment system and a 24 hour concierge service, making it one of the most exclusive places to stay in Scotland.

**HUB by Premiere Inn, Rose Street – autumn 2015**

‘hub by Premier Inn’ is a new generation of compact, city centre hotels where style and comfort are twinned with innovative digital connectivity. Modern, contemporary rooms are meticulously designed to utilise every space, whilst creating a calm haven at the heart of the bustling city, the new 157 bedroom hotel.

**And future visions...**

**New Waverley - early 2016**

Construction of the much-anticipated New Waverley development, at the heart of Edinburgh’s historic Old Town, has begun. Artisan Real Estate Investors, the developer behind the £150 million development, has confirmed that work on two Whitbread Premier Inn hotels, with a combined total of 257 rooms, is now underway with a completion date set for early 2016. Centred on a new £6.5 million civic square, New Waverley covers an area between Waverley railway station and the Royal Mile and is expected to include new hotels, shops, homes and an office complex.

**aparthotel – early 2017**

Global operator, Aparthotel Adagio has announced plans for a new 146-apartment property. With frontages onto both the Royal Mile and the Canongate, the design of the £150million four-storey aparthotel will reflect its setting, sensitively designed to integrate with the style of the area. Built behind an existing façade facing onto the Royal Mile, the aparthotel links to the Canongate and a new public square using a newly created pedestrian walkway inspired by the Old Town’s historic “Wynds”.

**Fountainbridge**

Union Hanover has submitted plans for a £35 million waterside Urban Villa hotel in central Edinburgh. The 180-unit project on Freer Street at Fountainbridge, by the Union Canal Basin, consists of studios, one bedroom and rooftop penthouse suites, designed by New York-based architect Grzywinski + Pons in association with Edinburgh-based Michael Laird Architects.

**Market Street**

A £15m boutique hotel development on a gap site in Edinburgh’s historic Old Town has been submitted for planning by jmarchitects. The project, which the Edinburgh-based practice has designed for the EDI Group, will create a hotel overlooking the gorge which runs through the city. The seven floor, 98-bedroom hotel, will include a resident’s 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.
The Haymarket
A £200m development with a mix of hotel, high-quality offices and retail space is to be built in Edinburgh's Haymarket in the summer. 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 while food chains Prezzo and Pret A Manger have committed for the second phase of the development.

St James Quarter
A huge £850m development in Edinburgh's city centre will get underway in 2015, completing in 2021. Along with 42,500 square metres of shopping space over three sweeping crescent-shaped levels, the development will also include a swathe of premium office space, an apart-hotel, a theatre and 138 flats with spectacular views. A central pillar of masterplan is a huge upmarket hotel – one of two stellar resorts featured in designs – capped with a glass ceiling that is likely to house a roof-top restaurant with spectacular panoramic vistas. The unparalleled investment will see Edinburgh's flagging sales sector transformed into a formidable retail force which could see the city overtake Glasgow as Scotland’s shopping heartland.

Literary Quarter
Plans have been drawn up for a ‘literary hotel’ behind the 121-year old landmark building of Edinburgh’s historic Central Library - which would also be dramatically modernised and extended. Disused vaults, gap sites and vacant offices would be transformed to provide links between the buildings, creating a complex to rival major libraries in Amsterdam and Seattle. Event spaces, a glass-covered cafe, bars and restaurants are considered to be part of this 'hub. Edinburgh is the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature and was given official status in 2004.

Leith
There are plans at Haddington Place for a £15m six-storey hotel development with 207 bedrooms, as well as ground floor retail units and dining. At Shrub Place, there is proposal for a 121-bedroom apart-hotel, operating under the Staybridge Suites brand.

York Place
Plans are being drawn up by Charlotte Square-based -Consensus Capital Property for the major hotel development of a 130-bed boutique hotel opposite the York Place tram stop/terminus which would replace the former HM Revenue and Customs -building. The existing office block on the site – which is situated immediately next to St Saint Paul’s and St George’s Episcopal Church – would be either converted or demolished. The developers estimate the hotel will take 14 months to build once they get planning permission, meaning a 2015 opening date is likely.
**South Bridge**
A £1.5 million luxury boutique hotel development proposed for Edinburgh's Old Town at South Bridge and could be open by next summer. Developers propose to transform the historic dwelling which is currently office space into a series of opulent suites and a top class restaurant. The ten apartment-style complexes would each boast a stylish lounge, kitchen, and en suite to give guests a “home from home” stay in the city.

**West End Church**
One of the city’s most visible landmarks, The Church of St John the Evangelist, at the corner of Princes Street is set to undergo a £2.5m extension and refurbishment. Dating back to the 1840s, the Church has remained largely unchanged. A new glass and stone extension to the original hall will create flexible hall, performance and exhibition space with seating for up to 100 people. Internal alterations include new office space, meeting rooms and expanded retail and cafe space. [www.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)

**Royal Highland Centre**
One of the largest venues of its kind in the UK, The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society received approval for the first phase of a £30m redevelopment of the site in April 2012. The masterplan includes a new 290m 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 4,200sqm Lowland Hall, and made advancements to its Wi-Fi systems. [www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk](http://www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk)

**Reasons to come to Edinburgh**
- Edinburgh’s World Heritage Site covers over 1.76 square miles and over 75% of all the buildings are listed – the highest concentration of listed buildings anywhere in the UK.
- Edinburgh has more restaurants per head of population than any other UK city and more Michelin star restaurants than any other city outside London.
- Edinburgh ranked as the third small and mid-sized city globally in fDi Magazines GlobalCities of the Future awards 2014/15.
- Named as one of the top ten cities in the world by Wanderlust readers in its 2014 poll.
- The top paid visitor attraction in Scotland is Edinburgh Castle with more than 1.4 million visitors in 2013 and the National Museum of Scotland (with free admission) is the top visitor attraction outside London with 1.76 million visitors in 2013 following an extensive refurbishment.
- A unique cultural phenomenon - each year, Edinburgh’s 12 festivals attract over 4 million people with a staggering 2.6 million tickets sold across all festivals. (tickets sales exceeded only by the Olympics and the World Cup)
- The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world with live theatre and comedy performances. In 2013, 2,871 shows were staged with a total of 45,464 performances across 273 venues and ticket sales reaching nearly 2 million.
- Edinburgh Airport voted ‘Best in Europe: Annual ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards 2013. 40+ Airlines, flying to 130 destinations

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