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 …

The Hilton Edinburgh Carlton – July 2016
Purchased by Amaris Hospitality in November 2015, a £18 million transformation of the 4 star Carlton on Edinburgh’s North Bridge was completed last summer. As part of the refurbishment, the number of bedrooms increased to 211, complete with an executive lounge. All meetings and events space has been revamped and a new restaurant and bar concept with Macro Pierre White has been introduced.

Adagio Aparthotel – December 2016
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 £150 million four-storey aparthotel reflects its setting, sensitively designed to integrate with the style of the area. Built behind an existing façade on 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”.

Courtyard by Marriot – December 2016
Located next to the Edinburgh Playhouse and close to the new St James development, the £20 million project has seen a luxury refurbishment and extension of the Category A Georgian townhouses into a 240 room four star hotel.

Soon to complete/under construction…

Hampton by Hilton - early 2017
Thanks to record-breaking passenger numbers, plans for a new Edinburgh Airport hotel have been brought forward to 2017, with the hotel due to open early this year. The £15 million Hampton by Hilton development will comprise of 6.500sq ft., providing a minimum of 175 bedrooms of 3 star quality or above on Almond Avenue, close to the airport terminal.

Hampton By Hilton Fountainbridge – Summer 2017
A 4 star hotel is coming to Fountainbridge this summer. Hampton By Hilton will sit on the corner of Melvin Walk and will extend across five-stories, providing 228 rooms. The development forms a key part in the ongoing revamp of Fountainbridge and will be positioned alongside an office, retail complex and homes.

West End Church – Spring 2017
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 £3.7M extension and refurbishment. Dating back to 1818, the Church has remained largely unchanged. A new glass and stone extension to the original hall will create a 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.
Edinburgh Grand, St Andrew Square – Summer 2017
The former Royal Bank of Scotland building on St Andrew Square is to be transformed into 50 serviced apartments, with space for bars, restaurants and shops. The property which holds a grade A listing was built over six years between 1936 and 1942 with the original architects basing its style on American bank buildings from the 1930s. The hotel is part of the wider regeneration of St Andrew Square and the plans are said to bring a new lease of life to the historic building.

McEwan Hall – Summer 2017
The University's iconic McEwan Hall has undergone a multi-million pound redevelopment, making it a perfect location for a wide range of conferences and other events. In addition to its historic main auditorium, with a capacity for up to 1,000 delegates, a modern and impressive pavilion entrance in Bristo Square leads to a new and flexible range of event and meeting spaces with a typical use capacity of 400-500.

KM Central – Summer 2017
One of its four year-round hotels, KM Central, formerly known as Kenneth Mackenzie, is currently undergoing a large-scale renovation and will deliver 45 brand new double en-suite bedrooms reflecting a sophisticated and modern design, together with an upgrade of the breakfast room; and all perfect for business and leisure travellers wanting to be close to the city centre and its world-leading attractions.

Eden Locke – July 2017
Locke Aparthotel Group will be opening another hotel in Edinburgh after opening its first on Leman Street in London. The design-led aparthotels encourage communal living in an otherwise traditional hotel.

Marriott Courtyard – September 2017
Marriott Courtyard hotel at Heriot-Watt University will see 160 rooms opening this September. The state-of-the-art hotel will see great breakfasts being served up in The Bistro with relaxed working spaces with free Wi-Fi and a well-equipped fitness centre, indoor pool and whirlpool.

Apple Apartments – Autumn 2017
A 21-bedroom aparthotel is to open in a former school building near Edinburgh’s Royal Mile. The space will be converted into double-height serviced apartments offering separate living and sleeping areas. There will also be a 24-hour butler service, a customer lounge and an in-house restaurant.

The Registers, St Andrew Square - 2018
Chris Stewart Group acquired the former Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh’s iconic and prestigious St Andrew Square in Summer 2014. The buildings consist of 42 St Andrew Square, 28-52 West Register Street and 15-17 South St Andrew Street. Combining more than 15,000 sq ft of stylish ground floor restaurant and bar space together with 61,000 sq ft of grade A office accommodation and more than 50 beautifully-appointed serviced residential apartments, The Registers will offer a new city centre destination for locals, visitors, tourists and office-occupiers alike.

Edinburgh St James
A huge £850 million development in Edinburgh’s city centre started in 2016, completion due in 2020. Along with 850,000 square feet of shopping space over three sweeping crescent-shaped
levels, the development will also include a swathe of premium office space, an aparthotel, a multi-screen cinema and 138 flats with spectacular views.

A central pillar of the masterplan is a 210 room, luxury 5 star W Hotel by Starwood Hotels & Resorts. 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.

**South St Andrew Square**
Following the opening of Ibis Styles Hotel in 2015, work continues apace at South St Andrew Square with the £100 million development quickly taking shape, due to be complete by Summer 2017. Designed to transform the space, a flagship TK Maxx, Bombay-style café Dishoom and cocktail bar The Refinery are already open. Steak house, *STK Rebel* and the big easy barbeque restaurant, *Lobster Shack* will be coming soon.

**MV Fingal – 2017**
Scotland's first ‘boatique’ hotel and a former lighthouse boat, the 239 foot long MV Fingal is undergoing a £3.5M conversion into a luxury 23-bedroom hotel that will be moored up alongside the UK’s top visitor attraction, the Royal Yacht Britannia in Leith.

**Royal College of Physicians – 2018**
The Royal College of Physicians is undertaking a refurbishment in 2017, due to complete the following year. Its vision is for a new world-class education hub to stimulate shared learning and training by creating a dynamic and interactive space in its Georgian buildings.

**And future visions...**

**The Queen’s Hall – 2017**
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 – late 2018/19**
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 high street giant 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.

**The Royal High School**
Plans have been put in place to transform the former Royal High School into a luxury hotel with 160 rooms. Backers are preparing to invest nearly £70 million into the hotel.

**Point A Hotel**
The family-owned commercial property firm Queensway Group, which owns the Point A brand, has announced plans to open a new hotel in Edinburgh following the recent opening of a Point A Hotel in Glasgow. Queensway Group signalled plans to open the hotel in the Scottish capital, having
secured a £6.7M finance package from Allied Irish Bank, alongside partnerships with the Welcome Trust and Fifty Seven 7. The hotel offers style, comfort and luxury at affordable prices.

**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 £20m 4 star boutique hotel development on a gap site in Edinburgh’s historic Old Town is under construction. The project, which the Edinburgh-based jmarchitects has 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 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 and is due to open in Spring 2018.

**The Haymarket**
A £200 million development with a mix of hotel, high-quality offices and retail space is to be built in Edinburgh's Haymarket area. A joint project between construction company Interserve and the landowners Tiger Developments. Interserve will initially invest £10.5 million in the project while the construction contract is for £150 million. 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.

**Ocean Point**
Proposed plans have been approved for a new striking angular glass development in Leith, which has drawn comparisons with the iconic Flatiron Building on Fifth Avenue, New York. Situated beside the Scottish Government’s Victoria Quay headquarters in Edinburgh’s old maritime heart, the proposed 250 room hotel is expected to attract an internationally recognised hotel firm.

**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, £30 million 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 £4.2 million. 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.

**Ross Pavilion & Gardens Project – December 2019**
£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.

[www.conventionedinburgh.com](http://www.conventionedinburgh.com)
www.edinburgh.org

For further media enquiries, please contact Ali Liddy, Wire Media, M: 07342 882 380/T: 0141 648 9610 ali@wiremedia.co.uk