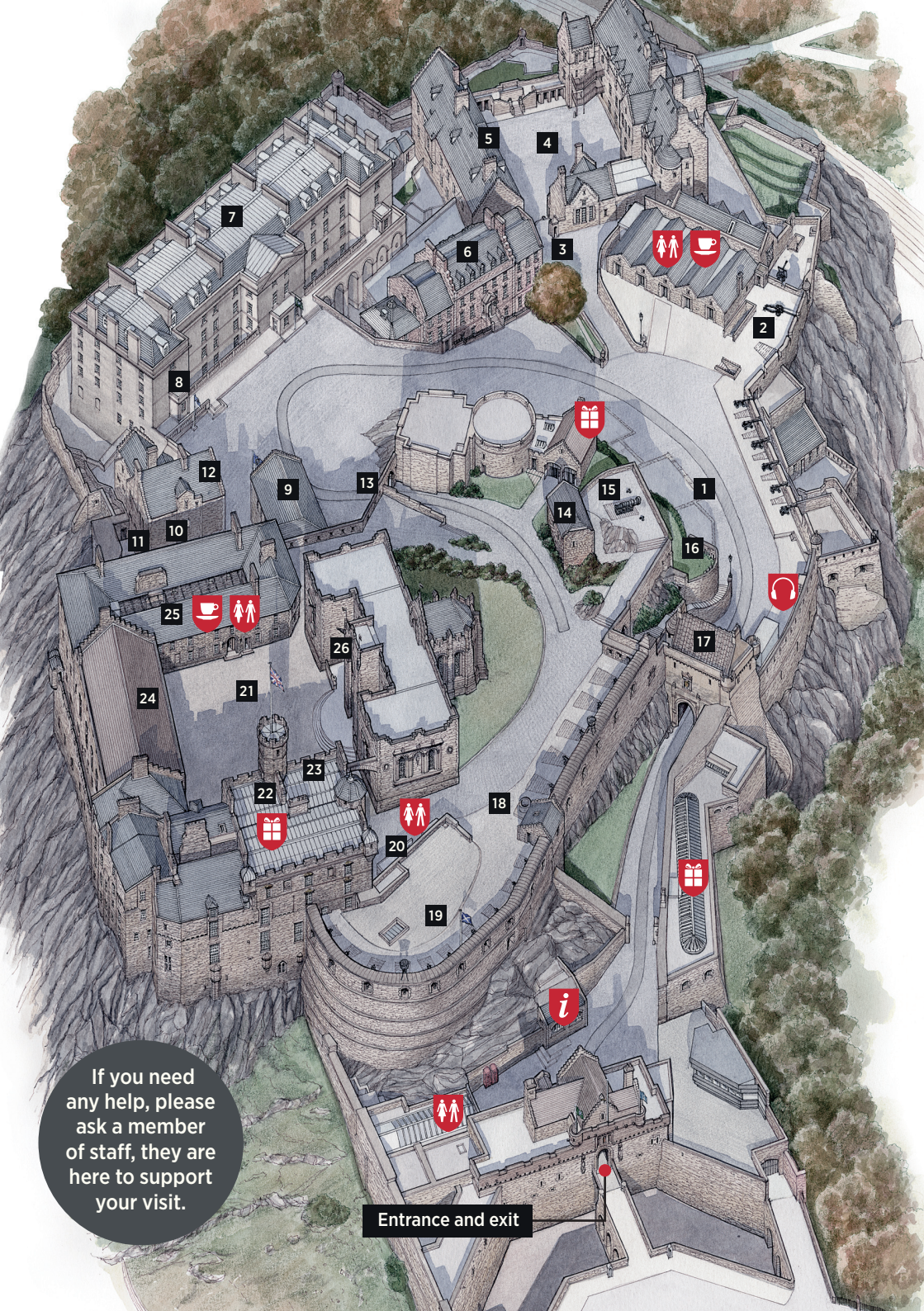




# EDINBURGH CASTLE

## SENSORY GUIDE





If you need any help, please ask a member of staff, they are here to support your visit.

Entrance and exit

7

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Gift icon

i

Person with cane icon

Person with stroller icon

Person with cane icon

Coffee cup icon

Gift icon

Coffee cup icon

Person with cane icon

Person with cane icon





Gift icon

Person with cane icon

Gift icon

# EDINBURGH CASTLE SENSORY MAP

This guide tells you about some of the sights, sounds, smells and the environment you might experience when visiting Edinburgh Castle.

	Natural light		Strong smells		Quiet
	Bright light		Crowded		Loud
	Low light		Music		Closed to the public

-  Toilets
-  Castle Shop    
-  Visitor Information
-  Café/Restaurant    
-  Audio Guide Collection Point
- 1** Argyle Battery 
- 2** One o’Clock Gun    
- 3** Masons’ Yard 
- 4** Hospital Square 
- 5** National War Museum   
- 6** Governor’s House 
- 7** New Barracks 
- 8** Regimental Museum of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards   
- 9** Museum of the Royal Scots and the Royal Regiment of Scotland   
- 10** Prisons of War   
- 11** Dury’s Battery 
- 12** Military Prison  
- 13** Foog’s Gate, leading to the Upper Ward 
- 14** St Margaret’s Chapel   
- 15** Mons Meg 
- 16** Dog Cemetery 
- 17** Argyle Tower   
- 18** Fore Well 
- 19** Half-Moon Battery 
- 20** David’s Tower 
- 21** Crown Square 
- 22** Royal Palace     
- 23** The Honours of Scotland (The Scottish Crown Jewels)   
- 24** Great Hall  
- 25** Queen Anne Building   
- 26** Scottish National War Memorial   



There are lots of **outside areas** at Edinburgh Castle to explore, including **The Argyle Battery** and **Crown Square**. The castle can get busy so you might prefer to visit during quieter times, usually weekdays or after 2pm.

## Sounds

- ◆ People talking, shouting and laughing. You might also hear their footsteps on the cobbles.
- ◆ The wind blowing – the castle is up a hill so it can be very windy.
- ◆ Cars and sirens from the surrounding streets.

## Sights

- ◆ Depending on the weather these areas can be bright and sunny or grey and cold.
- ◆ Rocks and cliffs as the castle is built on an extinct volcano.
- ◆ Cannons and flags.
- ◆ Amazing views from the castle walls.

## Environment

- ◆ Uneven ground under your feet.
- ◆ The wind blowing.

## Smell

- ◆ In some outdoor areas you may smell food smells from the café.





10



**The Prisons of War** are two levels of large stone vaults.

### Sounds

- ◆ Recordings of people talking – sometimes in different languages and the voices may sound angry.

2



**The One o'clock Gun** is fired every day (except Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday) at exactly 13:00 hours. Lots of people like to watch so it can get crowded around this time.

### Sounds

- ◆ A loud bang when the gun is fired. You can watch this video to hear what it is like:

<https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/see-and-do/highlights/one-oclock-gun>

**Firing this gun is completely safe.**

### Smell

- ◆ You may smell gunpowder if you're there when the gun goes off – depending on the wind direction.

### Sights

- ◆ Very low light levels and lanterns with flickering lights.
- ◆ An enclosed space with thick stone walls and a stone floor.
- ◆ Hammocks hanging from wooden frames and wooden beds. Please help us keep these safe by not touching them.
- ◆ Fake food.
- ◆ A projection on a wall shows silhouette shadow people moving.

### Environment

- ◆ Cold and damp.
- ◆ Uneven ground under your feet.
- ◆ The way out is a passageway with a low stone ceiling.
- ◆ The route includes steps.

### Help

- ◆ A member of staff is at the entrance to help. You can skip the narrower section and go straight to the wider area with the hammocks.



**The Military Prison** Built in 1842 for offending soldiers from the garrison. There are small spaces, but they are not usually busy.

### Sights

- ◆ The interior is painted white – there is lots of natural light but the corridor can be quite dark.

### Environment

- ◆ Small spaces, which might feel cramped. The prison doors can be locked from the outside. If you want to, you can just look into the spaces from the doorways.



### St Margaret's Chapel

The oldest building in Edinburgh, built around 1130 by David I to remember his mother, Queen Margaret. It is a small space but is usually calm.

### Sounds

- ◆ Choral music playing.

### Sights

- ◆ Low light levels.
- ◆ Colourful stained-glass windows with pictures.
- ◆ A stone archway with an altar through it (this is behind a rope, so we do not go too close).

### Environment

- ◆ Small, sometimes crowded.

### Smell

- ◆ Flowers in the chapel.





17



**Argyle Tower – Fight for the Castle** A very sensory exhibition, telling the story of the castle during the Wars of Independence.

### Sounds

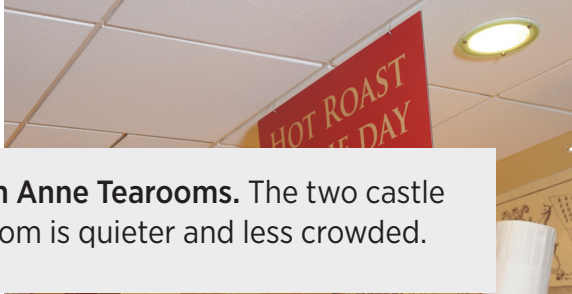
- ◆ Loud noises including battle sounds (shouting and swords clashing).

### Sights

- ◆ A replica trebuchet.
- ◆ Light projections and animations on the walls.
- ◆ Generally dark – some changes in light levels and colours.



© Rob McDougall



**The Red Coat Café and Queen Anne Tearooms.** The two castle cafés. The Queen Anne Tea room is quieter and less crowded.

### Sounds

- ◆ People talking, eating and drinking.
- ◆ The sound of the coffee machine.
- ◆ Dishes clattering in the kitchen.

### Sights

- ◆ These are bright areas.
- ◆ People eating and drinking.

### Smell

- ◆ Food smells.



**Portcullis Shop, The Crown Gift Shop and Whisky and Finest Food Shop**

### Sounds

- ◆ People talking.
- ◆ Music playing (sometimes bagpipe music).

### Sights

- ◆ Bright lights.
- ◆ Lots of things to buy!



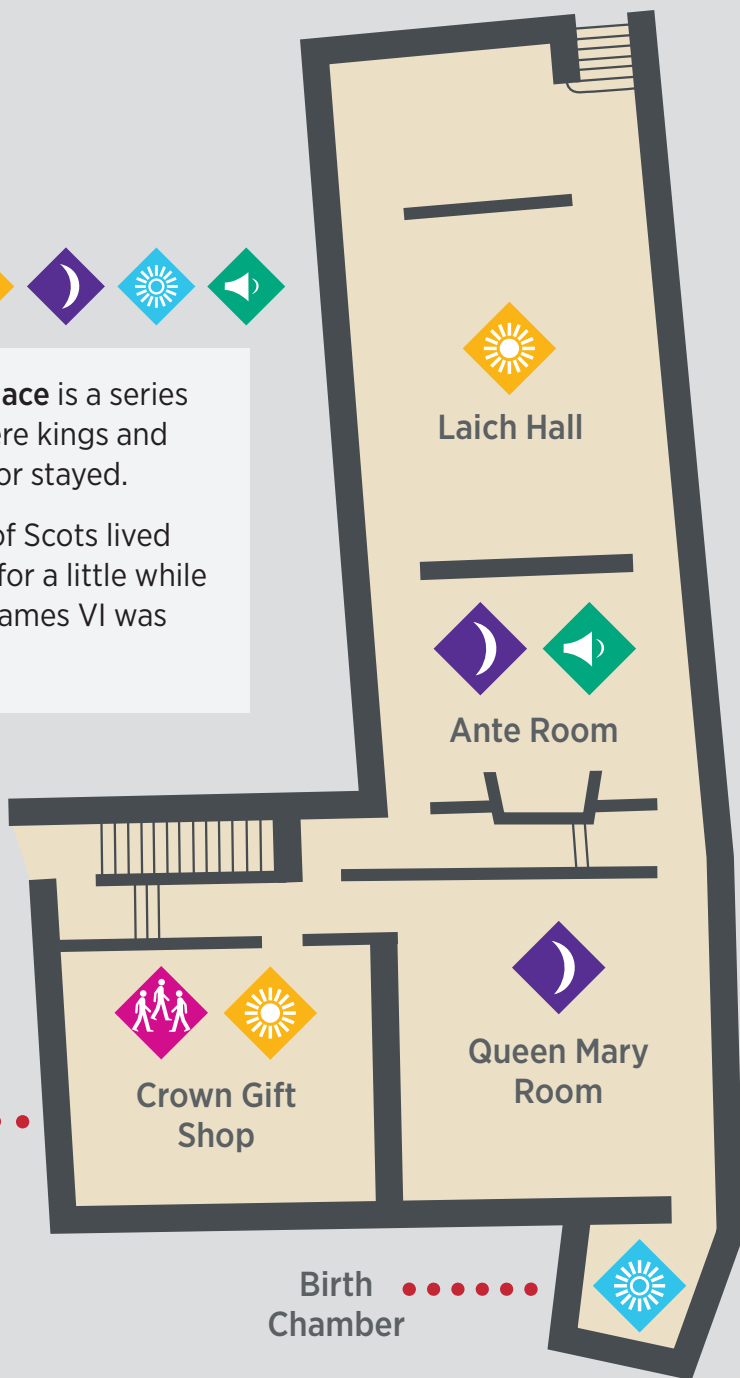


22



**The Royal Palace** is a series of rooms where kings and queens lived or stayed.

Mary Queen of Scots lived in the palace for a little while and her son James VI was born here.



23



**The Honours of Scotland** (crown, sceptre and sword) are on display here. These were used in the coronations (crowning) of kings and queens in the past.



### Sounds

- ◆ This is a quiet space.

### Sights

- ◆ Low light levels.
- ◆ A glass case with the crown jewels.
- ◆ A dark, wooden ceiling and wooden walls.
- ◆ Coats of arms on the walls.

### Environment

- ◆ This space is not very big and is often busy and crowded. It is less busy in the afternoons.



**The Great Hall** where kings and queens would hold feasts and celebrations.

### Sounds

- ◆ People talking.
- ◆ Footsteps on the stone floor.

### Sights

- ◆ The entrance is dark with a red velvet curtain to one side and dark, wooden walls on the other.

- ◆ A large room with red walls, wooden panelling and a dark, wooden beam ceiling.
- ◆ Suits of armour and weapons.
- ◆ A paved, stone floor with squares and lines.
- ◆ Ropes around the room – so we do not go and touch the objects.
- ◆ Fake candlelight.

### Environment

- ◆ This can be quite a cold space.





26



**The Scottish National War Memorial** was built to honour the dead of the First World War. It has since been used to commemorate those who died in later conflicts. It is a calm space, used for remembering and reflecting.

### Sounds

- ◆ Usually a quiet, calm space.
- ◆ You may hear people talking – and sounds echoing.

### Sights

- ◆ A big space with a high, curved ceiling.
- ◆ Flags.
- ◆ Stained glass windows.
- ◆ Writing carved on the walls.
- ◆ Big old books. These are fragile. To keep them safe, please don't touch them.
- ◆ Memorials to soldiers on the walls – people may have put wreaths here.



### Smell

- ◆ Flowers and leaves from the wreaths.

### Please note

- ◆ This is a very special place so taking photos and use of mobile phones is not allowed.