

Five things you need to know today

Santa is on his way

While Santa has moved this year, the Edinburgh's Christmas markets will be in their usual place in East Princes Street Gardens and at the West End of George Street, featuring a number of local and continental food, drink, art, craft, and gift traders. **LocalMotive's** Christmas Market will also return to Castle Street from 25 November to 22 December. With plenty of old familiars returning for another year of festivity, Edinburgh's Christmas is proud to also welcome a cohort of brand-new vendors to the Christmas Markets.

Deck your halls with Christmas decorations from Glasgow locals **Hairy Fairy Gifts**, give your tree the wow-factor with embroidered hangings from **Christmas Wow**, grab some colourful ornaments from returning favourites **The Christmas Nutcracker Shop**, or make lasting festive memories with an interactive **Snow Globe** photo.

For an artisanal and handmade year-round gift, be sure to visit returning gems include **Isle of Skye Leather**, **World of Baubles**, and **The Edinburgh Natural Skincare Company** as well as newcomers to the markets, **Westmount Art**, **Solid Cologne UK** and **Paraffle**, offering 100% handmade art and crafts, sustainable solid perfumes, and embroidery kits and gifts respectively.

For moments when the weather outside is frightful, there are a host of stalls to keep you toasty and warm with handmade wool jumpers, scarves, shawls and gloves from **LOUD elephant**, tweed and woollens from local suppliers **Macraes of Edinburgh**, or something fun for the wee ones from **Joe**

Cool's incredible collection of colourful socks and gifts, amongst others.

For the foodie in your life, there are plenty of stalls offering take-home food and drink, ingredients and gifts. Pick up something for the gin-lover in your life from Scotland's smallest craft distillery **Great Glen Distillery**; boast the best cheese board of the season with the help of **Cherry Tree Preserves**; or grab those essential Christmas day treats from **The Fudge Company**.

The gourmet experience isn't reserved for the home; the Edinburgh's Christmas markets host a wide variety of delicious local and continental street food and drink to enjoy during your visit. Fresh off the back of opening their first London restaurant, Scottish favourites **Ting Thai** will bring their award-winning Pad Thai to East Princes Street Gardens; Edinburgh Street Food resident **The Peruvian** will be serving up traditional South American dishes; along with **Pies from the Jarvis Pickle Kitchen**. There's no shortage of sweet options from Spanish **Churros** to **Crepes and Waffles**, or warm up with something mulled from the bar or a luxury hot chocolate from **Hector and Harriet**.

Family-run **Soctopus**, locals **Brownhill Whisky**, **Native Handicraft** and many more make George Street a must-see stop on your Edinburgh's Christmas trip; while **LocalMotive** takes over Castle Street Christmas Market from 25 November, with 22 stalls selling quality made **local, fair trade and ethical gifts**; arts and crafts, food and drinks.

Edinburgh's Christmas celebrations will run for seven weeks, Friday 17 November 2023 – Saturday 6 January 2024. The city centre will become a circle of Christmas cheer with four locations to explore – the East Princes Street Gardens Christmas Market which opens early evening on Friday 17 November, the Festive Family Funfair in West Princes Street Gardens, Santa's Workshop and Social Bite Festival of Kindness

at St Andrew Square, and the Ice Rink on George Street West which all open from Saturday 18 November, and then LocalMotive's Castle Street Christmas Market which will open from Saturday 25 November.



Santa is in town – Santa Claus will tell Santa Stories in St Andrew Square this year but was stocking up on gifts from local traders first. PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter

Edinburgh Napier Knights – Gameday

Edinburgh Napier Knights American Football team play on 5 November at Sighthill Park beginning at 10.00am.

This will be the opening fixture of the season played against the Stirling Clansmen.

New players are still welcome and no experience is necessary as training is given as well as full kit.

[More information here.](#)

Massaoke Greatest Hits Live

Have the best fun singing your heart out to the biggest hits from past decades at Summerhall, safe in the knowledge that nobody else will hear you.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/massaoke-greatest-hits-live-edinburgh-tickets-715911379207?aff=ehometext&keep_tld=1

Give Blood

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service report that blood stocks are currently low.

If you can then you are invited to attend and donate a pint of blood, particularly if you are an O-, O+ or A+ donor.

[More information here.](#)



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