



*The Real Mary King's Close*  
*Bringing Edinburgh's Hidden History to Life*

**Scotland's Heritage Aisle Stand C5**

**The Real Mary King's Close** is delighted to be exhibiting at this year's **VisitScotland Expo**, which is taking place on the **26th and 27th of April** at the **SECC, Glasgow**. Limited appointments to meet the team are available, or you can find The Real Mary King's Close at stand C5, as part of the Scotland's Heritage Aisle.

The Real Mary King's Close is a time capsule of streets beneath Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Guided by a character tour guide who depicts a former resident of the Close, groups learn the real stories from Edinburgh's incredible past between the 16th and 19th centuries. Get under the skin of the plague, learn why it was wise to avoid the streets at 7am and 10pm, hear the stories of the people who lived, worked and died on these streets and discover how all social classes lived together stacked on top of each other in tenements that are said to have been the world's first skyscrapers.

VisitScotland Expo will also see the launch of new events packages from The Real Mary King's Close by VisitScotland Chairman Lord Thurso. Looking for something extra special? Be it a staff excursion, a corporate event, an educational visit, or even a hen do with canapes and Prosecco on the Close, speak to the team about how they can create a unique, hassle free event for your group. From exclusive private tours to tailor made experiences, The Real Mary King's Close has a wealth of offerings available.

**Craig Miller, General Manager of The Real Mary King's Close comments:**

*"We're looking forward to exhibiting at the VisitScotland Expo again this year, and we're honoured that Chairman Lord Thurso will be launching our new events packages. The Real Mary King's Close already offers a unique environment for guests, and our team are experts at putting together exclusive visits for groups. We're really excited to be introducing even more bespoke experiences to the Close."*

The Real Mary King's Close offers various benefits for groups of 15 or more people, advance booking is required. For further information, contact Marta Coco [mcoco@realmarykingsclose.com](mailto:mcoco@realmarykingsclose.com) or call 0131 225 0675.\*

*\*Group discounts are restricted on Fridays and Saturdays; during UK and Scottish school holidays; July and August; and on our special themed tours over Halloween and Christmas. Full price admission charges will apply during these times and no discounts will be given. Please call for further information and clarification on when discounts are available.*

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Lisa Fox Bennett – PR Executive

Tel: 0131 225 0673 or email [lbennett@realmarykingsclose.com](mailto:lbennett@realmarykingsclose.com)

Please contact us for high res images. Further details: [www.realmarykingsclose.com](http://www.realmarykingsclose.com)

## **The Real Mary King's Close**

Hidden beneath the Royal Mile, lies one of Edinburgh's deepest secrets – The Real Mary King's Close. This warren of hidden 'closes' or narrow streets where real people lived, worked and died, lay forgotten and covered by the City Chambers on the Royal Mile for centuries, until in 2003 it opened as a fascinating new visitor attraction for Edinburgh.

Operated by Continuum Attractions, this VisitScotland five-star attraction allows visitors to step back in time and be guided through these famous underground closes to witness some of the most dramatic episodes from Edinburgh's incredible past.

Continuum Attractions is the leading operator of cultural heritage experiences in the UK. Continuum currently manages an award winning portfolio of visitor attractions including Oxford Castle Unlocked and York's Chocolate Story.

For more information on Continuum Attractions, please visit [www.continuumattractions.com](http://www.continuumattractions.com)

Continuum Attractions owns, operates and manages cultural attractions across the UK:

- Continuum Heritage Attractions
  - The Real Mary King's Close, Edinburgh
  - The Canterbury Tales, Canterbury
  - Oxford Castle Unlocked, Oxford
  - York's Chocolate Story, York
  
- Continuum Icon Attractions
  - Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth
  - The Royal Mint Experience, Cardiff
  - Emmerdale Studio Experience, Leeds
  - Emmerdale Village Tour, Leeds



## **The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology**

The 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, running from 1 January to 31 December, is a celebration of Scotland's people, our traditions, our distinct culture, our landscapes, attractions and icons, as well as our hidden gems.

More information: <https://www.visitscotland.com/about/themed-years/history-heritage-archaeology/>

