

Beat: Travel

2015 Edinburgh Hogmanay Torchlight Procession

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USPA NEWS - 2015 Edinburgh Hogmanay Torchlight Procession.

The opening event of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2015 is the spectacular Torchlight Procession. A total sellout each year, last year's event welcomed over 35,000 people to this world-renowned family event.

Thousands of torch carriers illuminated Edinburgh in a procession that passed through the city centre, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display on Calton Hill, led by Shetland's Up Helly Aa Vikings and the massed pipes and drums. The three day Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival, produced on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, kicks off with the hugely popular Torchlight Procession. The 35,000 something participants and 8,000 torchbearers in the procession wind their way through the city centre from George IV Bridge to the finale at Calton Hill passing through Waterloo Place where they have additional entertainment. This year access to Calton Hill was exclusively available for torchbearers and their accompanying friends and family.

Did you know?

The roots of Hogmanay perhaps reach back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Norse, as well as incorporating customs from the Gaelic celebration of Samhain. The Vikings celebrated Yule, which later contributed to the Twelve Days of Christmas, or the "Daft Days" as they were sometimes called in Scotland. Christmas was not celebrated as a festival and Hogmanay was the more traditional celebration in Scotland.

All money raised by the sale of torches from all those taking part in the procession will go to charity.

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