

## 36794 Edinburgh Friendship Cities

A list of all international cities with which Edinburgh has a Friendship (not a twinning) agreement or link.

**Friendship link:** Kyoto Prefecture (Japan), 1997

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):**

Shenzhen (China) 2013, extended from 2018. International Friendship signed between Edinburgh and Shenzhen in May 2019.

Taiwan (2022) - To be reported back to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2022 – TBC

Krakow (Poland) since 1995 - Renewed for 5 years in 2019.

An outline of the protocols, or a link to the protocols, which govern Friendship links between and with Edinburgh.

The last twin city link was created in 1991 with the Danish city of Aalborg. Since then, Edinburgh has not entered into any new twinning agreements, preferring to sign partnership agreements instead related to the council business plan priorities. There are no formal protocols and decisions are made for agreeing friendship links at the Full Council meeting or a relevant council committee.

Partnership agreements, valid for 3 or 5 years, commit the signatories to co-operate on specific areas of work such as culture, heritage and architecture, education or economic development. Although they are short-term agreements, they can be re-signed if both cities feel they are benefiting from the co-operation. Edinburgh currently has two active partner cities, Shenzhen in China and Krakow in Poland.

The city's only Friendship Agreement was established in 1994 between Lothian Regional Council and Kyoto Prefecture in Japan and re-signed in 1997 with the City of Edinburgh Council following re-organisation. This arrangement is similar to a partner link but is at the level of a regional authority instead of a city. Our work with Kyoto Prefecture focuses on culture, heritage and economic development.