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with IBG

The Athens of the North

A free self-guided walk in Edinburgh's New Town



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Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. The digital and print maps used for Walk the World are licensed to RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey.



The
Heritage
Alliance



The Athens of the North

Discover how international ideas built Edinburgh's New Town

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Edinburgh's New Town is one of 20 in different parts of the UK. Each walk explores how the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries. Along the routes you will discover evidence of how many countries have shaped our towns and cities.

By the seventeenth century Edinburgh's thinkers and inventors led the world – but their home town was too small and had twice been destroyed by fire. Equally inspired by modern ideas and ancient empires, Edinburgh's great minds built a new town from scratch.

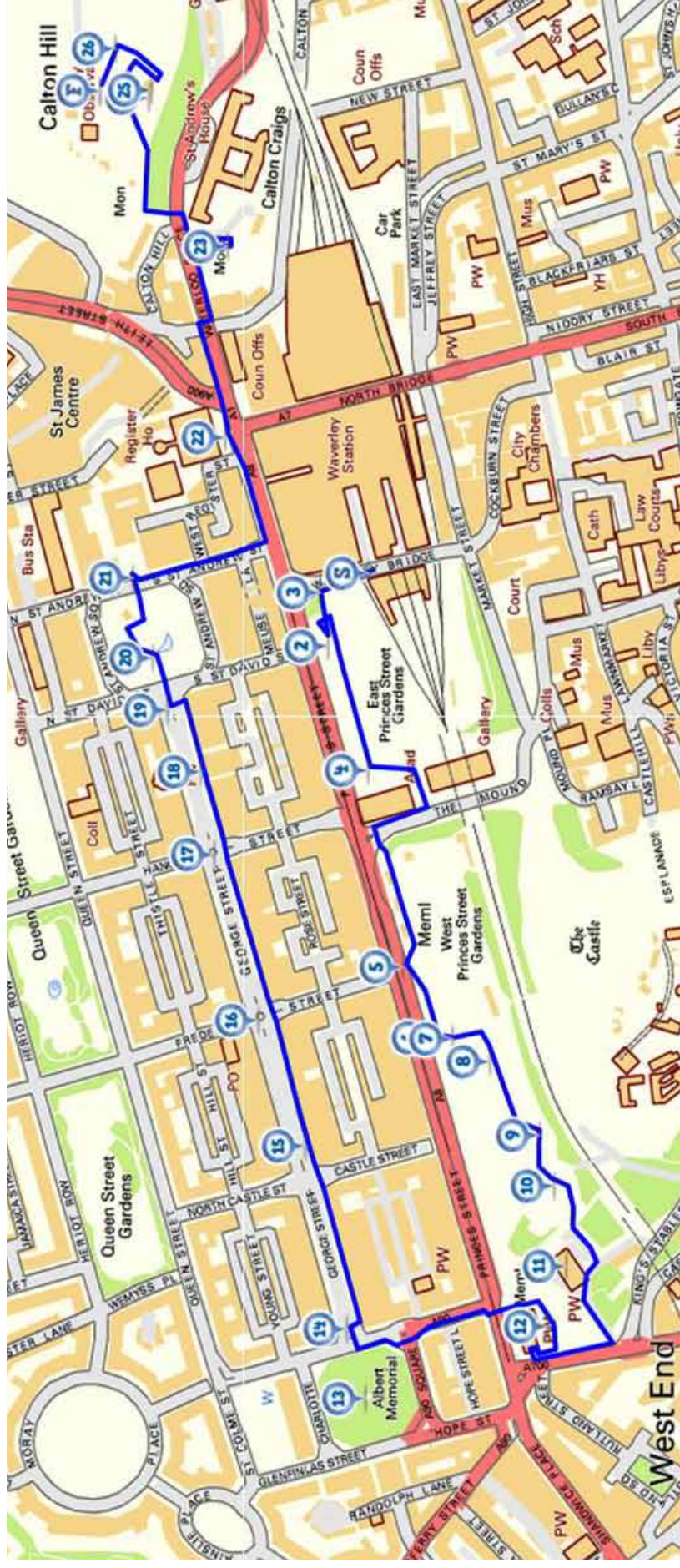
Edinburgh's New Town was a global landmark in urban design and became an international canvas to show off the Scottish Enlightenment.

This walk allows you to explore the streets and buildings that put Edinburgh on the world map and to discover some of the people whose ideas and ambitions created the 'Athens of the North'.



Enlightenment over Calton Hill
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Route map



Stopping points

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Waverley Bridge | 10. The Ross Fountain | 19. James Clerk Maxwell statue |
| 2. The Scott Monument | 11. St Cuthbert's Church | 20. Melville Monument |
| 3. David Livingstone statue | 12. St John's Church | 21. Dundas House |
| 4. The Mound | 13. Charlotte Square | 22. Duke of Wellington statue |
| 5. Royal Scots Greys memorial | 14. George Street | 23. Old Calton Cemetery |
| 6. First World War memorial | 15. The Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street | 24. Portuguese cannon, Calton Hill |
| 7. Falklands memorial | 16. William Pitt statue | 25. The Nelson Monument, Calton Hill |
| 8. Norwegian Brigade memorial | 17. King George IV statue | 26. Calton Hill monuments |
| 9. Robert Louis Stevenson memorial | 18. The Dome, 14 George Street | F. View from Calton Hill |

Practical information

Location	Edinburgh, Scotland
Getting there	<p>Train - The nearest station to the walk route is Edinburgh Waverley in the city centre. Regular services run from London Kings Cross, York, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Durham, Berwick, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.</p> <p>Bus - There are many local and long-distance services to the city centre. The bus station is just off Elder Street, near St Andrew Square.</p> <p>Car - Edinburgh is easily accessible from the north and south. The M8 links to Glasgow, the M74 and A1 to northern England.</p>
Start point	Waverley Bridge, EH1 1BB
Finish point	Calton Hill, EH7 5AA
Onward journey	To return to Edinburgh city centre and Waverley station use Directions 27 (on page 13).
Distance	2 ½ miles
Level	Gentle - a short city centre walk with a steep slope at the end of the route
Conditions	The walk is on a mixture of pavements and paths. Make sure to take care when crossing busy roads. The slopes at Calton Hill can be steep so wear suitable footwear.

Suitable for

Families - take care of young children by busy roads in the city centre and the slopes of Calton Hill

Dogs - must be kept on a lead

Refreshments

Plenty of cafés and shops along the route, including at the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy.

Facilities

Free public toilets are available in Princes Street Gardens, and inside the galleries at The Mound.

Other info

The route can be very busy at weekends and holidays - especially during the Edinburgh Festival (August) and at Hogmanay (New Year).

Princes Street Gardens and the Mound may be closed for special events

The National Gallery of Scotland is open 10am to 5pm (7pm on Thursdays). Free entry.

The Royal Scottish Academy is open 10am to Mondays to Saturdays, from midday to 5pm Sundays. Free entry.

The Scott Monument is open all year round (9am to 7pm Summer and 10am to 4pm Winter). Admission £4.

Find out more about Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson at **The Writer's Museum** at Ladystairs House on the Royal Mile.

**Tourist
Information**

Edinburgh Information Centre, 3 Princes Street EH2 2QP. It is next to Stop 3 of the walk or Tel: 0131 473 3868

Directions

These directions are for use with the Edinburgh New Town walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Edinburgh

Waverley Bridge

Directions 1 - From Waverley Bridge (beside Edinburgh Waverley station) head towards Princes Street. With the park on your left, continue up to the very large dark monument with a marble statue at the bottom. Stop beside it and listen to Track 2.

2. Great Scott

The Scott Monument, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 2 - Retrace your steps towards the bridge. After a short distance stop by the statue of David Livingstone just to one side of the Scott Monument. Listen to Track 3.

3. Dr Livingstone, I presume?

David Livingstone statue, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 3 - Follow the paved footpath into Princes Street Gardens, with Princes Street on your right. Pass behind the Scott Monument and at the end of this first section of the gardens you reach the twin buildings of the National Gallery of Scotland and the Scottish Royal Academy. Stop in the square by these buildings and listen to Track 4.

4. The Athens of the North

The National Gallery of Scotland and The Scottish Royal Academy, The Mound

Directions 4 - When you are ready cross over The Mound and enter the western section of Princes Street Gardens. Follow the upper path. Go up the ramp on the right to the statue of a soldier on horseback. Stop beside it to listen to Track 5.

5. Second to none

Royal Scots Greys memorial, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 5 - Go down the ramp back to the main path and continue a little further along the gardens until you reach a sculpture of a soldier. Stop here and listen to Track 6.

6. A call and a creed

First World War memorial, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 6 - On the opposite side of the path from the Scottish American memorial is a small fenced garden. Go onto the grass and round to the other side of this garden. Stop by a small stone in the ground and listen to Track 7.

7. A space to reflect

Falklands memorial, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 7 - From the Falklands memorial stone take the path down the slope towards the open air theatre. Turn right along the footpath along the bottom of the gardens. Stop by the large stone a short way along on the left. Listen to Track 8.

8. North Sea neighbours

Norwegian Brigade memorial, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 8 - A few metres away from the Norway memorial is a path of paving stones through the grass. Follow these to a headstone among a group of silver birch trees. Stop here and listen to Track 9.

9. A man of letters

Robert Louis Stevenson memorial, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 9 - Walk across the grass a short way to the large fountain and listen to Track 10.

10. Indecent and disgusting

The Ross Fountain, Princes Street Gardens

Directions 10 - Continue to the far end of the Gardens where you will see the wall of St Cuthbert's Church. Enter the church grounds. The church is open to visitors from 10am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday. Go inside if it is open or stop by the front porch. Listen to Track 11.

11. Marble, glass and bronze

St Cuthbert's Church, off Lothian Road

Directions 11 - When you have finished exploring the church follow the path through the grounds and up the steps on to Lothian Road. Turn right and walk a short way to St John's Church. The church is open daily for visitors. Go inside for the first part of Track 12.

12. War and peace

St John's Church, Lothian Road

Directions 12a - When you have finished looking inside the church, leave by the main door. Turn left and left again and go into the church grounds. Listen to the rest of Track 12.

Directions 12b - You may like to stop at the café at St John's. When you are ready cross over Princes Street/Shandwick Place and go up South Charlotte Street. When you reach Charlotte Square stop by the railings and look at the figure on horseback in the middle. Listen to Track 13.

13. A king, a queen and a prince

Charlotte Square

Directions 13 - Half way down the east side of Charlotte Square is the start of George Street. Cross carefully over into George Street, stop at a safe place and look down the street. Listen to Track 14.

14. A street fit for a king

George Street

Directions 14 - Continue along the right hand side of George Street. Take time to look at the buildings around you. Cross straight over the junction with South Castle Street and the statue of Scottish mathematician, political economist and theologian, Thomas Chalmers. After the junction stop outside the second building on the right and listen to Track 15.

15. Scotland's symbol

The Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street

Directions 15 - Continue along the right hand side of George Street. Stop at the junction of Frederick Street and look at the statue in the middle of the road. Listen to Track 16.

16. A young Prime Minister

William Pitt statue, George Street

Directions 16 - Continue along George Street. Keep looking out for interesting buildings including the Northern Lighthouse Board office. Carry on to the next main junction, with Hanover Street. Stop and look at the statue here and listen to Track 17.

17. Wearing a kilt with pink tights

King George IV statue, George Street

Directions 17 - Cross Hanover Street and continue along the right hand side of George Street. Stop at the large building called The Dome and listen to Track 18.

18. Not less than gorgeous

The Dome, 14 George Street

Directions 18 - After you have looked around the inside of The Dome, head to the end of George Street. Just before the end carefully cross over to the statue in the centre of the road. It is of a man in a chair. Listen beside it to Track 19.

19. The man who changed the world forever

James Clerk Maxwell statue, George Street

Directions 19 - from the statue carefully cross the road ahead and continue into St Andrew Square. Stop in front of the large column in the middle and listen to Track 20.

20. The most powerful man in Scotland

Melville Monument, St Andrew Square

Directions 20 - Cross St Andrew Square and with the column behind you cross the road ahead. Continue to a building slightly set back from the road and with a statue of a man and horse outside. Stop by the iron railings by the pavement and listen to Track 21.

21. The art of war

Dundas House, St Andrew Square

Directions 21 - Leave St Andrew Square by South St Andrew Street. As you pass take time to look at the bank building next to Dundas House which is another spectacular piece of neo-classical architecture. When you reach the junction with Princes Street turn left. Continue on the left hand side a short way until you are outside the National Archives of Scotland. Stop at the statue of a man on a rearing horse and listen to Track 22.

22. The Iron Duke in bronze

Duke of Wellington statue, Princes Street

Directions 22 - Continue straight on where Princes Street becomes Waterloo Place and cross to the other side at one of the pedestrian crossings. Before the road bends to the right turn right into Old Calton cemetery. There are a set of steps to climb, though you can see the major monuments from the street entrance. Listen to Track 23.

23. Graves and slaves

Old Calton Cemetery

Directions 23 - If you went into the cemetery leave by the way you came in. From the gates turn right and continue uphill. Cross back over the road at the traffic island and go up the steps to Calton Hill. Take another set of steps on the right and continue following the path to the top of the hill. The path is quite steep so take your time. Stop first at a cannon in front of a column shaped building. Listen to track 24.

To avoid the steps - you can use a longer but step-free path by continuing onto Regent Road. Where the road forks keep to the left and follow the road uphill. When the road turns sharply left take the first path lined by trees on both sides. This will eventually lead to the top of the steps.

24. Fired across the globe

Portuguese cannon, Calton Hill

Directions 24 - From the cannon make your way to the Nelson Monument beside it up to the right. Listen at the bottom to Track 25.

25. A sailing saga

The Nelson Monument, Calton Hill

Directions 25 - Inside the monument is a small museum about Nelson and the Napoleonic Wars. For a small fee you can also climb up to the top of the monument for spectacular views over Edinburgh and the Forth. It's well worth it! When you are ready, make your way down from the Nelson Monument to the area in front of the National Monument and listen to Track 26.

26. Momentous monuments

Calton Hill

Directions 26 - Take your time exploring Calton Hill. At each monument are information boards with more details about their history. When you are ready make your way to the Dugald Stewart Monument towards the front of the hill. From the monument is a good view across the city, including most of the walk route.

27. High ambition

Calton Hill

Directions 27 - To return to Edinburgh city centre, go back down Calton Hill using the paths onto Waterloo Place. Princes Street is to the right of the hill. For Waverley railway station turn left at Waverley Bridge and then take the first left down the short walkway into the station.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Alasdair McLeod** for researching the walk and providing the commentary
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The
Heritage
Alliance





The UK is an island nation but we are by no means isolated -
we are a hub of worldwide connections.

Walk the World is an exciting series of free geographically-themed
walks that aim to show how the UK is linked with the 206 countries
due to compete at London 2012.

Each walk explores how the Olympic and Paralympic Nations
and their people have shaped our surroundings -
often in surprising ways.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring.
Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and
to find the unexpected.

Visit www.walktheworld.org.uk

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