



Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

A wealth of nations

A free self-guided walk along Edinburgh's Royal Mile



www.walktheworld.org.uk

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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



A wealth of nations

Discover how Edinburgh's Royal Mile leads around the world

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk along Edinburgh's Royal Mile 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 Olympic and Paralympic countries that have shaped our towns and cities.

Edinburgh is made up of two distinct areas – the Old Town and the New Town. The Old Town with its winding streets and hidden alleys (known as closes or wynds) dates back to the Middle Ages. It centres on the Castle and the Royal Mile.



One of the world's most famous streets
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

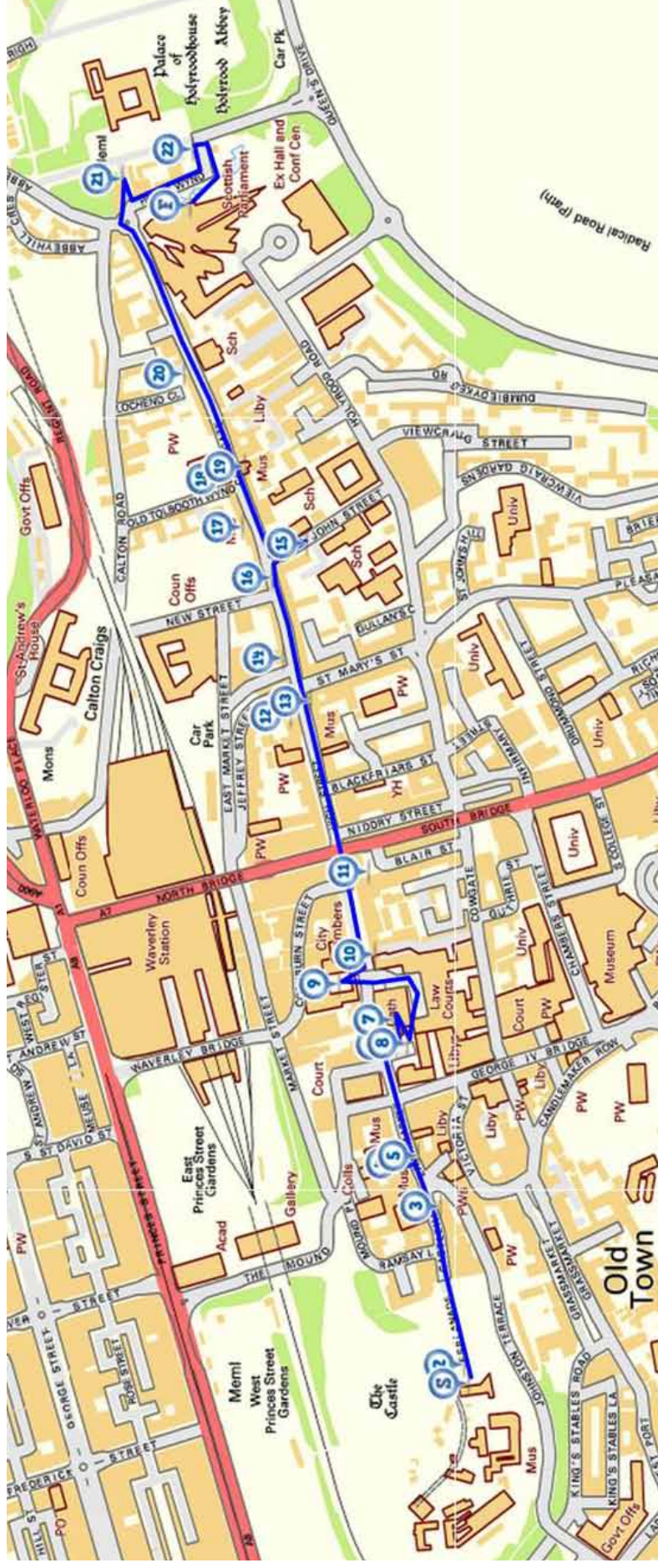


Piper in the Royal Mile
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Lined with cobbles and layered with history, the Royal Mile is one of the most famous streets in the world. Visitors come from worldwide to explore its charming alleys and vibrant shops. Starting at historic Edinburgh Castle and ending at the new Scottish Parliament Building, this walk takes you on a fascinating journey along this famous stretch of Scotland's capital.

On the way you will discover international tales of kidnap and murder, dramatic love stories and the deeds of kings, knights and spies. As you follow the street's links to countries far and wide, you will also follow Edinburgh's development from an ancient castle town built on a volcano to a modern city built on international trade.

Route map



Stopping points

- 5.** Outside Edinburgh Castle
- 2.** Edinburgh Castle
- 3.** The Hub
- 4.** James Court
- 5.** Ridell's Court and Close
- 6.** Outside St Giles Cathedral
- 7.** Inside St Giles Cathedral
- 8.** Parliament Square

- 9.** Alexander Taming Bucephalus sculpture, City Chambers
- 10.** Old Fishmarket Close
- 11.** Hunter Square
- 12.** John Knox House
- 13.** Cashmere shop, 28 High Street
- 14.** Mid Common Close
- 15.** Chancery of the Priory of Scotland

- 16.** Cross of St John
- 17.** Sugarhouse Close
- 18.** Canongate Tollbooth
- 19.** Huntly House (Museum of Edinburgh)
- 20.** Panmure Close
- 21.** Palace of Holyroodhouse
- 22.** Palace of Holyroodhouse gates
- F.** Scottish Parliament Building

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	Outside Edinburgh Castle, EH1 2NG
Finish point	Scottish Parliament Building, EH99 1SP
Directions from railway station to the start	<p><i>From Edinburgh Waverley</i> - Exit onto Waverley Bridge and cross over the road. Turn left and with Princes Street Gardens on your right continue up to a roundabout. Turn right into Market Street. At the end bear right at the crossroads and go up Mound Place and into Ramsay Lane. There are no steps but it is steep - so take your time. At the top of Ramsey Lane turn right. The entrance to the castle is ahead.</p>
Onward journey	To return to Edinburgh city centre and Waverley station at the end of the walk use Directions 23 (on page xx).
Distance	1 ½ miles

Level	Gentle - a short city centre walk with no steps or climbs
Conditions	The walk is on a mixture of pavements and cobbles paths so wear suitable footwear. Make sure to take care when crossing busy roads.
Suitable for	<p>Families - take care of young children, especially at busy times of year (see Other Info below)</p> <p>Wheelchairs / pushchairs - an entirely step-free route though the streets are cobbled in parts</p> <p>Dogs - must be kept on a lead</p>
Refreshments	Plenty of cafés and shops along the route
Facilities	Free public toilets are available in Hunter Square (Stop 11) and at the end of the walk at the Palace of Holyroodhouse
Other info	<p>The route can be very busy at weekends and holidays - especially during the Edinburgh Festival (August) and at Hogmanay (New Year).</p> <p>Edinburgh Castle is open daily from 9.30am to 5pm / 6pm (Winter / Summer hours). Entry by ticket only, booking advisable at busy periods. Tel: 0131 225 9846</p> <p>The Palace of Holyroodhouse is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm / 5pm (Winter / Summer hours) except during royal events. Check before visiting. Free entry to the café and shop, ticketed entry to the Palace. Tel: 0131 556 5100</p>
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 Royal Mile walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Edinburgh **Outside Edinburgh Castle**

Directions 1 - To start the walk make your way to the large open area outside Edinburgh Castle. Begin when you have a good view of the Castle entrance and listen to Track 2.

2. A volcanic fortress **Edinburgh Castle**

Directions 2 - From the Castle walk down Castle Hill to the junction with Johnston Terrace. On the right is a former church with a spire which is now called The Hub. Stop outside of it and listen to Track 3.

3. An international hub **The Hub**

Directions 3 - From here, the walk goes the whole way down the Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Sometimes there is only a short distance between stopping points and you will have to look carefully for signs. One of the first alleyways on the left hand side of the Mile is James Court. Go down the alleyway into James Court and stop inside the courtyard to listen to Track 4.

4. Enlightening times **James Court**

Directions 4 - Go back onto the Royal Mile. Cross over to the other side and look for Riddell's Court. Stop inside the courtyard to listen to Track 5.

5. Royalty, rioting and regeneration

Riddell's Court and Riddell's Close

Directions 5 - Go back out of Riddell's Close and turn right down the Royal Mile staying on the right hand side. Stop outside St Giles Cathedral and listen to Track 6.

6. To the hermitage

St Giles Cathedral

Directions 6 - Go inside the Cathedral to listen to Track 7.

7. Memorials and memories

Inside St Giles Cathedral

Directions 7 - When you are ready exit the cathedral and turn left. Continue into a square at the side of the cathedral and stop by a statue of a man on a horse. Listen to Track 8

8. The other world

Parliament Square

Directions 8 - Walk around the back of St Giles Cathedral and straight across into the courtyard of the City Chambers. Just inside the grounds is another statue of a man with a horse. Stop in the grounds and listen to Track 9.

9. All his kingdoms and a horse

City Chambers

Directions 9 - Cross back over to the other side of the Royal Mile and find Old Fishmarket Close. The entrance is decorated with sculpted fish. Stop at the entrance and listen to Track 10.

10. Fishy tales

Old Fishmarket Close

Directions 10 - Continue down the right hand side of the Royal Mile. Stop when you reach Hunter Square outside Tron Kirk. Listen to Track 11.

11. Give it some welly

Hunter Square

Directions 11 - Go back to the Royal Mile and cross over the junction of North Bridge and South Bridge. Continue downwards until you reach John Knox House on the left hand side. Listen to Track 12.

12. Knock Knock

John Knox House

Directions 12 - Cross over the road to the Cashmere shop opposite John Knox House. and listen to Track 13.

13. Copying cashmere

28 High Street

Directions 13 - Continue down the Royal Mile across the junction of Jeffrey Street and St Mary's Street. Look across the road for Mid Common Close and a small sculpture on the wall above the entrance. Listen to Track 14.

14. A romantic adventure

Mid Common Close

Directions 14 - Continue down the right hand side of the Mile. Turn into the archway of St John Street. Stop outside the second building on the right with the iron gates. Listen to Track 15.

15. An ancient order

Chancery of the Priory of Scotland

Directions 15 - Retrace your steps through the arch. Turn left back up the Royal Mile for a few metres and look for a black and white cross in bricks in the road. When you find it, stop on the pavement beside it and listen to Track 16.

16. X marks the spot

St John Cross, 229 Canongate

Directions 16 - Continue down the right hand side of the Royal Mile. Stop when you reach Sugarhouse Close and listen to Track 17.

17. A sweet story

Sugarhouse Close

Directions 17 - Cross directly over the road to the Tollbooth Tavern, the building with the pointed clock tower. There are some benches outside the building next door which you may like to use while listening to Track 18.

18. The old lock up

Canongate Tollbooth

Directions 18 - Cross back over to the other side of the Royal Mile. Stop by the Museum of Edinburgh, a large building with gold writing on the walls. Listen to Track 19.

19. A better life

Huntly House

Directions 19 - Cross back over the road and walk down the left hand side of the Mile. Stop when you reach Panmure Close and listen to Track 20.

20. The wealth of nations

Panmure Close

Directions 20 - Continue down to the end of the Royal Mile. Cross the road at the mini roundabout and in front of you is the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Go down towards the iron gates and stop in the palace grounds. Listen to Track 21.

21. A retreat and an attack

Palace of Holyroodhouse

Directions 21 - Retrace your steps away from the gateway to the roundabout. Turn left and follow the road around the Palace. Stop next to the side gates of the palace on a road called Horse Wynd. Listen to Track 22.

22. A symbol of Scotland

Palace of Holyroodhouse gates

Directions 22 - Cross over the road and make your way to the paved area in front of the Scottish Parliament. There are stone seats if you would like to sit down. Listen to Track 23.

23. From historic castle to modern city

Scottish Parliament Building

Directions 23 - We hope you have enjoyed the walk. To explore the Royal Mile keep the parliament on your left and retrace your steps back uphill. To get to Waverley train station continue up the Royal Mile until you reach Cockburn Street on the right hand side. At the end of Cockburn Street cross over Market Street onto Waverley Bridge. The station is on your right.

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

Canongate Kirk

www.canongatekirk.org.uk

Edinburgh Castle

www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk

Edinburgh Royal Mile

www.edinburgh-royalmile.com

The Hub

www.thehub-edinburgh.com

The Museum of Edinburgh, The People's Story Museum & The Writer's Museum

www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Order of St John Priory of Scotland

www.stjohnscotland.org.uk

The Palace of Holyroodhouse

www.royalcollection.org.uk

St Giles Cathedral

www.stgilescathedral.org.uk

The Scottish Parliament

www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/holyrood/index.htm

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

Submit your own links

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Find out how to create your own walk