



The Athens of the North

Discover how international ideas built Edinburgh's New Town

By the seventeenth century Edinburgh's thinkers and inventors led the world – but their 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 map and to discover some of the people whose ideas and ambitions created the 'Athens of the North'.



The National Monument, Calton Hill
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Location	Edinburgh, Scotland	Suitable for	Families – Take care when crossing busy roads in the city centre
Start point	Waverley Bridge		
Postcode	EH1 1BB	Refreshments	No shortage of places to stop for food and drink along the walk route
Finish point	Calton Hill		
Distance	2 miles	Facilities	Free public toilets in Princes Street Gardens and St James
Level	Gentle – Flat city centre walk with a steep climb at the end		

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.