



Calton Hill

Look out for...

- The famous photographers' house
- Classical Monuments to celebrated Scots
- A telescope and cross-trees

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“Of all places for a view, this Calton Hill is perhaps the best” Robert Louis Stevenson, 1889

Calton Hill is an extinct volcano, which rises to the east of Edinburgh's New Town. It has long been valued as a place of recreation, and a distinctive part of the city's skyline.

It was in 1724 that the town council bought Calton Hill, making it one of the first public parks in the country. The famous philosopher David Hume lobbied the council to build a walk 'for the health and amusement of the inhabitants', and you can still stroll along 'Hume Walk' to this day.

With panoramic views of Edinburgh, and across the Firth of Forth, Calton Hill is famed for its stunning out-look. Today the hill is also protected for its wildlife, as Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The collection of classical styled buildings and monuments on Calton Hill, led to the famous nickname for the city, 'Athens of the North'.

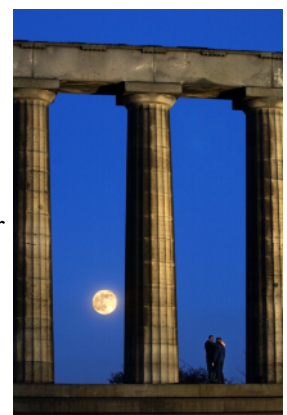


The National Monument

The National Monument was modelled on the Parthenon in Athens, and was intended as a grand church to commemorate Scots who died in the Napoleonic Wars.

It was designed by the architect C.R.Cockrell with William Playfair as his assistant. Work began in 1826, with 12 horses and 70 men needed to haul each of the massive stone columns up the hill.

Only the twelve columns were completed, leading some to describe the project as 'Edinburgh's disgrace'.



A View to Inspire

For Robert Louis Stevenson Calton Hill was the place in Edinburgh for a view of the city.

In his book Picturesque Notes he describes the scene, “Return thither on some clear, dark, moonless night, with a ring of frost in the air, and only a star or two set sparsedly in the vault of heaven; and you will find a sight as stimulating as the hoariest summit of the Alps. The solitude seems perfect; the patient astronomer, flat on his back under the Observatory dome and spying heaven's secrets, is your

only neighbour; and yet from all round you there come up the dull hum of the city”

The author Alexander Smith thought that the best views were to be had at



night from the Burns Monument, next to the hill on Regent Road.

“A city rises up before you painted by fire on night. High in air a bridge of lights leap the chasm...That ridged and chimneyed bulk of blackness, with splendour bursting out of every pore, is the wonderful Old Town, where Scottish history mainly transacted itself; while, opposite the modern Princes Street is blazing throughout its length.”

The Athens of the North

Calton Hill is home to several eye-catching examples of architecture which gave Edinburgh's its nickname, the 'Athens of the North'.

In 1825 Thomas Hamilton designed the Royal High School, with an impressive central Doric temple. Then in 1832 William Playfair designed a circular Greek styled monument to Dugald

Stewart, who was Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University.

However not everyone was impressed.

Charles Dickens described Calton Hill as “littered over with waste

fancies — a rubbish heap of imaginative architecture—a hill to be looked from with an elevation of the spirit but to be looked at with an elevation of the nose.”

“a hill to be looked from with an elevation of the spirit but to be looked at with an elevation off the nose.”

The People of Calton Hill

The steep road that leads from Leith Street to Waterloo Place is also known as Calton Hill.

Houses were first built here in the 1760's, and for many years the street was the main access to the hill.

No.14 Calton Hill was the home of

Mrs Agnes Maclehorse, better known as 'Clarinda' and mistress to Robert Burns. She moved in in 1800, following an unsuccessful attempt at reconciliation with her husband.



Perhaps the best known residence on Calton Hill is Rock House, which was home to the photography pioneers Robert Adamson and David Octavius Hill.

The City Observatory

There are actually two observatories on Calton Hill. The earliest is known as Observatory House, and dates from 1776. It is an early example of gothic-revival architecture, and one of few surviving buildings by James Craig, planner of the New Town.

The Edinburgh Astronomical Institute started building the New Observatory in 1818. It was designed by the great Edinburgh architect, William Playfair, to a Greek cross plan with four classical porticoes.

The last addition was the City Dome, in 1895. William McEwan, the brew-

ing, presented a fine six inch telescope for the opening of the City Observatory.

Old Observatory House became the home of the assistant observer, with the official residence of the astronomer royal nearby at No.15 Royal Terrace.

At one time though there was also a third observatory. In 1827 Maria

Theresa Short built a wooden observatory next to the National Monument. It had a telescope and a camera obscura, and although very popular it was criticised as being 'un-scientific'.

Eventually she was evicted, the observatory demolished, and Maria took her camera obscura to Castlehill, where you can still see it today.



The Burns Monument

The idea to build a monument to Robert Burns was first proposed by Mr. John Forbes Mitchell in Bombay in 1812

However the idea was not taken up at home until 1819, when a meeting at the Free Mason's Tavern in London, admirers of the poet formed a committee.



Thomas Hamilton was appointed as architect as he had already designed a monument to Burn's in Alloway and the nearby Royal High School. Hamilton designed a circular Greek temple built of Ravelston sandstone, but did not charge for the work.

Originally the Burns Monument contained a white marble statue of the poet, which is now in the National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street. It was moved because of fears the soot from the gasworks below was affecting the marble.

The Nelson Monument

Shaped like a telescope, the Nelson Monument is another memorial of the Napoleonic Wars.

It was designed by the architect Robert Burn and built between 1807 and 1815. It is over 30 metres high, and was originally in-



tended to house a small number of disabled seamen.

From 1852 a 'Time Ball' atop the monument acted as a signal to seamen in Leith by which to set their timepieces. Later a span of

wire to the castle sent electrical signals to synchronise it with the firing of the famous 'One o'clock Gun' each day (except Sunday) at exactly 1 pm.

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The Old and the New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site

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Edinburgh is built on a volcanic landscape of hills and valleys formed some 340 million years ago.

Architecture

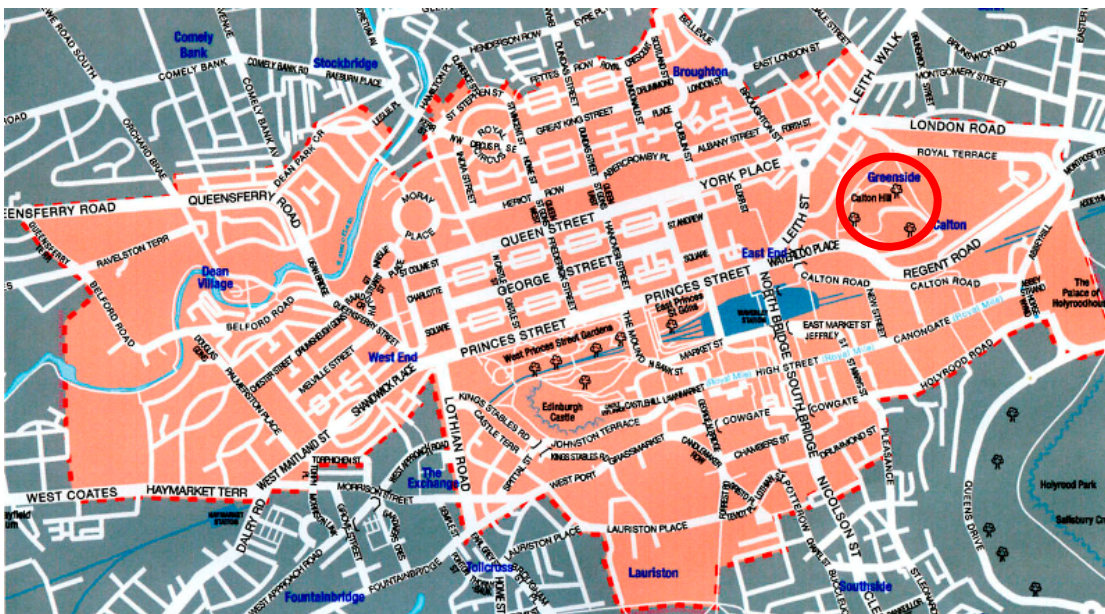
The unique character of the city comes from the contrast between the Old and New Town, with each area containing many significant historic buildings.

History

Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland for over 500 years, and became particularly renowned for its writers, artists, philosophers and scientists.



How to find it





Parliament Square

Look out for...

- The Heart of Midlothian
- The magnificent hammer beam ceiling in Parliament Hall
- A cobbled cab rank for lawyers of a previous age

Inside:

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“The busiest and most populous nook of the ancient capital” Daniel Wilson, 1848

In the 1700's Parliament Square was the hub of the Old Town. There were book sellers, watchmakers and goldsmiths shops, merchants meeting to do business at the Mercat Cross, and lawyers heading for the courts.

Parliament Square was first formed in 1632, with the building of Parliament House on the site of the old graveyard of St Giles Kirk. The building was not only to accommodate the parliament but also the Court of Session, the supreme civil court in Scotland.

Some of the tallest tenements in the city were built on the south side of the square, because of the steep fall of the ground down to the Cowgate. However most of them were destroyed in two great fires that swept through the square, in 1700 and again in 1824.

Much of what you see in the square today was created in the early 1800's, with a new classical facade for Parliament House designed by Robert Reid.

Although the churchyard was officially closed in 1566, an exception was made for John Knox. Local tradition says that his grave is still marked by a yellow square, next to the statue of Charles II.



The Charles II statue

The statue of Charles II depicts the 'merry monarch' in Roman costume and mounted on a horse.

It is one of the earliest lead statues in Britain, dating from around 1685, the year of the king's death, and was erected by the town council.

It is now thought likely that the famous Dutch sculptor Grinling Gibbons was responsible for the statue.



The Tolbooth

In the cobbles to the west of the High Kirk can be seen brass plates marking the site of the old Tolbooth, immortalised by Sir Walter Scott in *The Heart of Midlothian*.

Used variously as a meeting place for the Town Council, a tax office, law court and prison, it was finally torn down in 1817.

Sir Walter Scott was given permission to remove the door, which can still be seen at his old house in the Borders, Abbotsford.

In the People's Story Museum in the

Canongate, you can also see some of the leg irons and a key to one of the cell doors.

The Tolbooth, as both prison and tax office, was despised by the citizens of

Edinburgh, who used to spit on the door as they passed by.

A heart shape in the stones where the door once stood still draws a good deal of saliva from locals seeking good luck.



THE TOLBOOTH. 44/101. (Engraving by A. Ramsay.)

The Great Fire of 1824

The fire began on the night of 15 November 1824, when a pot of heated linseed oil in the workshop of engraver James Kirkwood burst into flames. The fire raged for three days, razing an entire swathe of the Old Town.

From Old Assembly Close, the fire worked its way up the south side of

the High Street towards Parliament Square and St Giles.

It was on the night of the 16th November that an eleven storey tenement in Parliament Square caught fire, and because of its

height fire engines could not get close enough. The spectacle, reported *The Scotsman*, "was awfully sublime".

"...I can conceive no sight more grand or terrible than to see these lofty buildings on fire..."

Sir Walter Scott

Afterwards a private of the Midlothian Yeomanry donated a £1 note to the restoration fund, which he said had blown towards him during the fire.

John Kay

John Kay came to Edinburgh in 1777 and set up a barber shop, but he soon became more famous for his caricatures of Edinburgh people.

In 1785 he set up as an artist in small print shop on the



south side of Parliament Square.

Kay drew the rich and famous, but also ordinary people. He did portraits of the notorious Deacon Brodie and the

economist Adam Smith.

Not everyone appreciated his work. On at least one occasion he was 'cudgelled', and 1792 he had to defend himself in a legal action.

The Goldsmiths

The precincts of St Giles kirk, became increasingly secularized after the reformation.

In the 17th century small trading booths crowded round the church. Out of respect to the sanctity of the place, however, it was decreed that trade in this area should be restricted to bookbinders, watchmakers, jewelers and in particular goldsmiths.

These goldsmiths were considered to be a better class of tradesman and were often to be seen in public with their trademark scarlet cloak, cocked hat and cane, clearly citizens of sub-

stance.

Yet despite their increasing wealth and social status they continued to work in person on the commissions that came into their workshops. Until the closing years of the 1700's most goldsmiths would take an active hand in the manual practice of their craft.

A popular tradition was the ordering of silver spoons engraved with the couple's initials to mark a betrothal.

Young grooms-to-be would meet goldsmiths in a nearby tavern or coffee house to conclude their business and swap news.



Indian Peter — vintner from the other world

'Indian Peter' was born in Aberdeen in 1730, and as boy was kidnapped, taken to America and sold to work on the plantations.

After many adventures, including being captured by Cherokee Indians, he finally arrived back in Scotland in 1758.

He finally settled in Edinburgh and opened first a coffee house and later a

tavern in Parliament Square. The sign over the door read, 'Peter Williamson, Vintner from the other world', along with a wooden figure of him dressed as a Delaware Indian.

His tavern also became known as the place where Edin-

burgh magistrates would take their 'deid chak', the dinner eaten before they attended a public hanging.

*"This vacance is a heavy doom
On Indian Peter's coffee-room,
For a' his china pigs are toom"*

He died in 1799 and was buried in an unmarked grave in Old Calton cemetery.

Parliament Hall

Today you can still visit Parliament Hall and see part of the original building.

The 123 feet long hall is decorated with a beautiful hammer beam roof and a series of Raeburn portraits.



A striking feature is the Great Window which celebrates the founding of the Court of Session in 1532. It contains 8,000

pieces of painted and stained glass covering 390 square feet.

Underneath is the Laigh Hall, which was used a storage room by the town council. Here they kept fire fighting equipment, a gibbet and ladder, and Edinburgh's own guillotine known as 'the

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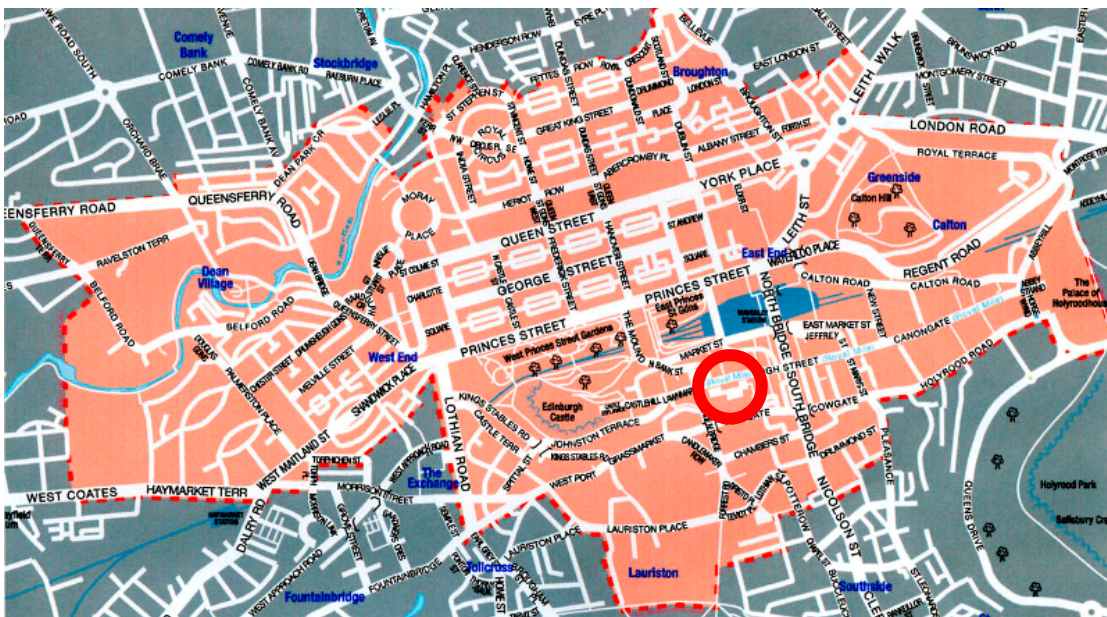
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History

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How to find it





The Grassmarket

Look out for...

- Part of the old city walls
- Inscriptions on the Bow Well
- The Covenanters' Monument

Inside:

- The end of Captain Porteous 2
- Bowfoot Hotel 2
- The Flodden Wall 2
- The Martyrs 3
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“Celebrated as a place of bustle and life” Thomas Mudie, 1848

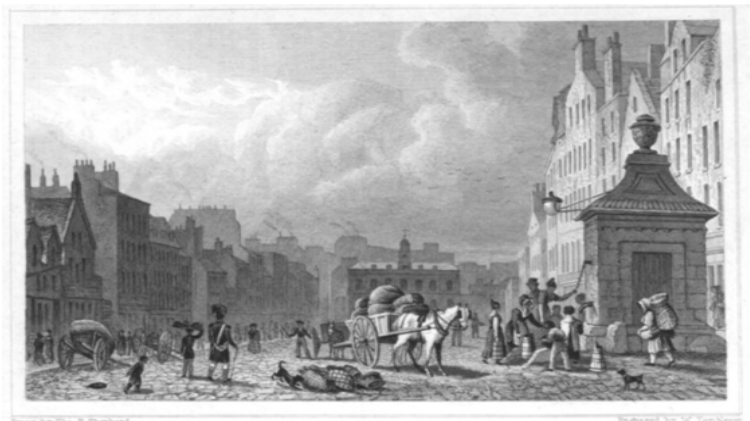
The Grassmarket's origins lie with it being in a valley, which meant it was easier for livestock and carts to access rather than having to negotiate the steep slope up to the Old Town.

The area was probably used as a market from the 1300's cattle fairs, various stables and yards also built for the cattle to be fattened and butchered before taken to the meat market.

This ended around 1670 when the market became used more as a transit point where traders would bring in their goods before unloading carts and carrying them up the West Bow into the city by barrow or porter.

Most of the buildings you can see today date from the 1800's, following a period of improvement in the Old Town. However, stone from older buildings was often reused.

For example look at No. 74—82, which was built in the 1930's but incorporates an earlier door frame dated 1634.



THE GRASS MARKET, LOOKING WEST, EDINBURGH.

The Bow Well

In 1674 the city's got its first piped water supply, with wells designed by the King's Master Mason Robert Mylne.

The system worked with gravity, and water flowed through wooden pipes from a cistern higher up near the High Street.

Examples of the pipes can still be seen today in the Museum of Edinburgh.



The end of Captain Porteous

The Grassmarket was the scene of one of Edinburgh's most notorious riots, in September 1736.

Earlier that year two popular smugglers, Wilson and Robertson, were sentenced to death. As Wilson was cut down from the gallows, the crowd began to throw stones and the city guard opened fire killing 16 people, including a small boy watching the scene from a tenement window.

John Porteous, the captain of the guard, was put on trial and found guilty of murder, but with friends at court in London a reprieve seemed likely. The

Edinburgh mob were incensed by what they took to be interference in their legal process, and they stormed the Tolbooth prison. The mob found the poor captain hiding up a chimney, and he was dragged to the Grassmarket where he was hung from a dyers pole.



The following day Porteous was cut down and buried in Greyfriars kirk-yard. News of the riot caused alarm in London, and a reward of £200 was offered for information. Although a city carpenter called James Maxwell was suspected as the ringleader, no one came forward.

The Porteous Riots form the background to one of Sir Walter Scott's most famous novels, 'The Heart of Midlothian'.

Today in the Museum of Edinburgh you can see the drum used to summon the mob to the Tolbooth.

Bowfoot Hotel

On the south side of the Grassmarket is a building known as the Bowfoot Hotel, which provided a place of refuge for homeless people from the 1880's.

This building was originally designed as housing and shops, but was soon altered by architects MacGibbon & Ross in 1875 to become the Castle

Trades Hostel. By the late 1970's it was rundown and a regeneration pro-



ject was carried out in 1980. Following this second period of change the building became known as Bowfoot House.

The building has now is now affordable housing owned by Hillcrest Housing Association.

The Flodden Wall

At the west end of the Grassmarket, by the side of The Lot, you can still see the remains of part of the Flodden Wall.

The Flodden Wall was an extension of the city wall, built hurriedly after the disastrous Battle of Flodden (1513)

where King James IV and much of the Scottish nobility were killed.



In fear of reprisal from the English the existing King's Wall was extended with further defences to the south. In fact the wall failed to provide adequate protection and succeeded only in limiting the city's development to the south until the 17th century.

The Martyrs

The Grassmarket first gained a grisly reputation as a place for public hangings in the 1600's.

This was the time of the Covenanters, a religious group dedicated to protect their faith from interference from the monarchy. During what became known as 'the killing time', over a hundred were executed in the Grassmarket.

The Duke of Rothes was quoted as saying to one particularly difficult prisoner, "...then e'en let him glorify God in the Grassmarket..."

Tradition says that at least one hanging was unsuccessful.

In 1724 a women called Maggie Dickson was sentenced to hang for concealing the death of her baby. However as she was being carted away she recovered, and has been remembered ever since 'Half-Hangit Maggie Dickson'. A pub is still named after her in the Grassmarket today.

The last person to hanged in the Grassmarket was James Andrews on 4 February 1784. After that date, executions took place at the Tolbooth in the High Street.



A place of dubious reputation...

In *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* the Grassmarket is the setting of Sandy's "first experience of a foreign country, which intimates itself by its new smells and shapes and its new poor", and where "some boys shouted after [the] violet-clad company, with words that the girls had not heard before, but rightly understood to be obscene".

At the end of *Kidnapped*, Robert Louis Stevenson describes the scene, "It was coming near noon when I passed in by the West Kirk and the Grassmarket...The huge height of the buildings, running up to ten and fifteen storeys...the wares of the

"The huge height of the buildings, running up to ten and fifteen storeys, , the wares of the merchants in their windows, the hubbub and endless stir"

merchants in their windows, the hubbub and endless stir, the foul smells and the fine clothes, and a hundred other particulars too small to mention, struck me into a kind of stupor of surprise...'

A place of entertainment...

The Grassmarket has always been a place of entertainment.

It was here in the 1700's that the first cockfights were arranged in Edinburgh. In 1733 it was also the location for a spectacular feat. A traveling Italian trapeze artist and his son slid down a

rope fixed from the castle to a building in the market some 200 feet below.

Pubs have always been associated with the Grassmarket, and the White Hart is one of the oldest. As well as a place to drink, they were taverns providing accommodation for the drovers

bringing their cattle to market.



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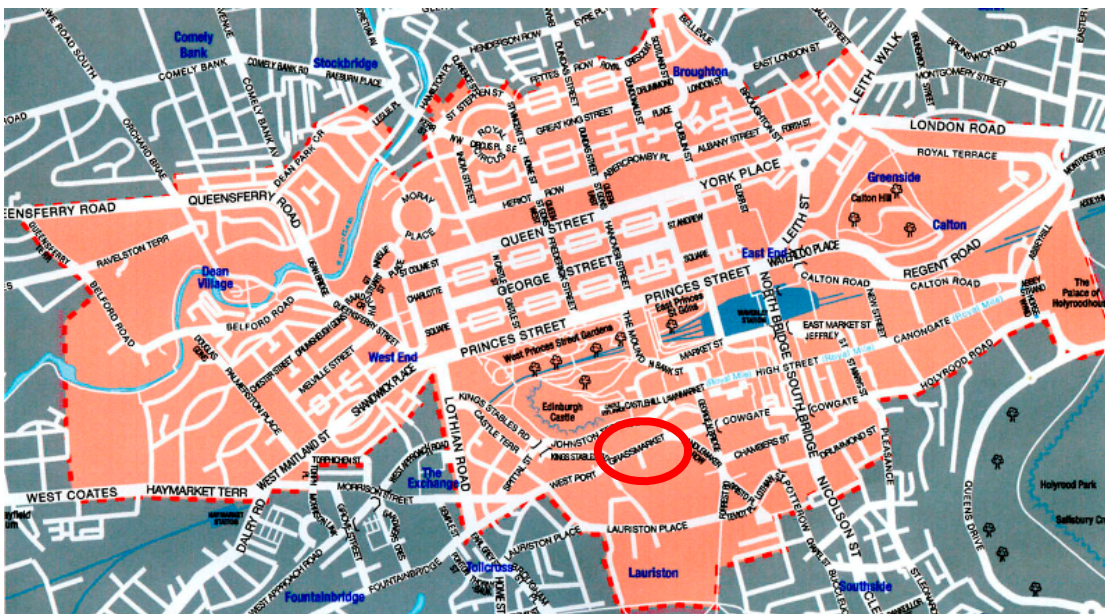
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How to find it



Read more... for more about the attractions and events in the Grassmarket visit www.grassmarket.net



St Andrew Square

Look out for...

- A plaque in Dundas House marking the 'starting point' of the New Town
- No.35 St Andrew Square designed by the famous architect Robert Adam

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“All built in the modern style...free from the inconveniencies of the old city” Thomas Pennant, 1769

St Andrew Square was one of the first parts of the New Town to be completed, and in the 1780's it was one of the most fashionable addresses in the city. In James Craig's plan of 1768 it was designed to mirror what became Charlotte Square

Residents included the famous philosopher David Hume who lived at No. 8, and entertained Benjamin Franklin as one of his first guests.

St Andrew Square gardens were created in 1770, and until now they were for the exclusive use of the surrounding businesses and residents. However during the First World War, the garden was used to house American soldiers on leave and also contained air-raid shelters during the Second World War.

The growth of St Andrew Square as a commercial centre for the city saw it "the Golden Square" by the early 1900's.

Today it still features offices of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Halifax Bank of Scotland, IBM and Standard Life.



The Melville Monument

At the centre of the gardens is a monument to the man once described as 'the uncrowned king of Scotland', Henry Dundas 1st Viscount Melville.

The 150ft tall column caused many concerns, and so the lighthouse engineer Robert Stevenson (grandfather of author Robert Louis Stevenson) was consulted about the foundations.



Changing Fortunes of the Square

In the 1780's St Andrew Square was probably the most fashionable address in the New Town.

Inhabitants included the Earl of Northesk, the Countess Dowager of Leven, Sir Adam Ferguson and Sir William Forbes.

Perhaps the most famous resident was the philosopher David Hume who lived at No.8. He once entertained Benjamin Franklin as one of his first guests.

As the New Town expanded further west and north, the wealthy residents

moved away from what was becoming the commercial centre of the city.

By 1833 for example, No.1 was home to Fraser and Anderson clothiers, Mr

Crayer's baby linen warehouse and a hotel. The Royal Bank of Scotland had moved into No.35 and Scottish Widows was established at No.5.



'The Golden Square'

One of the most extravagant buildings in the square is No. 38-39 designed by David Bryce for the British Linen Bank in 1851-52.

The building has a Roman facade and Corinthian columns topped with statues. The statues are the work of artist Handyside Ritchie,



and represent navigation, commerce, manufacture, art, science and agriculture.

Bryce got the commission to design the bank in a slightly devious way. He went behind the back of rival architects Ped-

die & Kinnear, and got the support of the bank's governor the Earl of Dalhousie. Although there is no formal record, it seems that a deal was reached. Bryce designed the bank's head office, while Peddie and Kinnear took charge of the provincial branches

The British Linen Bank became part of Bank of Scotland, which is now based

Count Whisky Barrel

In 1788 one of the social highlights of the square was to visit the celebrated Polish dwarf Joseph Borowlaski, known locally as Count Whisky Barrel.

"Duns Hotel, St Andrew Square. On Saturday next the 1st August 1788, at twelve o'clock, there will be a public

breakfast, for the benefit of Count Borowlaski, in the course of which the count will perform some select pieces on the guitar...The count will positively leave



this place on Friday."

Another favourite in the 1830's was the Douglas Hotel at No.35, used by Sir Walter Scott.

Dundas House

A church had originally been planned for the east side of St. Andrew Square, with a matching building facing it in Charlotte Square.

However, Sir Lawrence Dundas, a wealthy businessman, bought the ground for his own home.

His three-storey mansion was designed by Sir William Chambers, and inspired by Marble Hill house in Twickenham, London.

Soon after it was built Dundas lost the house to General John

Scott in a game of cards, and had to build him a new house in nearby Dublin Street to settle the debt.

When Dundas died in 1781, the mansion was sold to the government and



became the Excise Office for Scotland. Then in 1825 it was bought by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

In 1857 the Edinburgh architects Peddie & Kinnear designed the spectacular domed banking hall you can see today.

A floor plaque inside the bank marks the spot from which James Craig's original New Town plan of 1766 was developed.

A Visit by Dickens

Charles Dickens visited St Andrew Square gardens, when he was working as a journalist for the Morning Chronicle newspaper.

He was sent to Edinburgh to cover the visit Earl Greig's September 1834. A promenade took place in St Andrew Square gardens for a variety of charities.

Dickens felt that while it was "most respectably attended" it was still "a lamentably dull affair." A military band played under a marquee, which was "erected in the centre of a parched bit of ground, without a tree or shrub to inter-

"by far the most splendid for beauty and fashion that ever took place in Edinburgh"

pret the rays of the burning sun."

The Edinburgh Evening Courant was more enthusiastic, and thought it was, "by far the most splendid for beauty and fashion that ever took place in Edinburgh."

Henry Brougham

Henry Brougham was a famous writer, lawyer and politician born at No. 23 St Andrew Square in 1778.

He first made his name writing scientific articles, but went on to be an



influential politician.

Amongst his many campaigns, Brougham was a great supporter of the anti-slavery movement

In his packed career he also:

* He is credited with making

Cannes a popular resort, being one of the first to build a house there in 1835.

* He still holds the House of Commons record for non-stop speaking, at six hours.

*A type of carriage the 'Brougham' is named after him.

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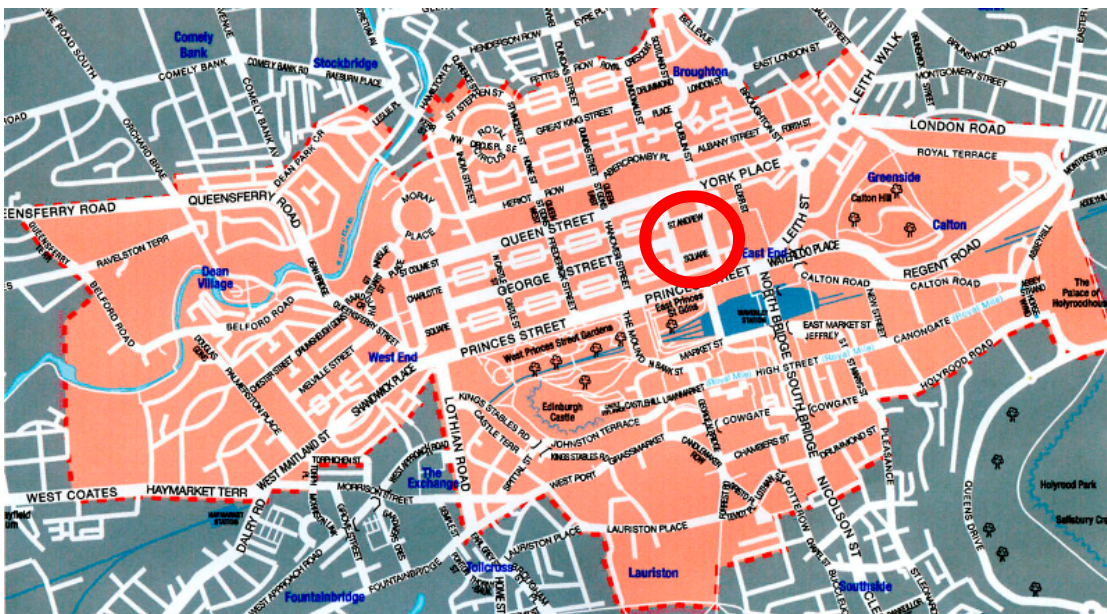
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Read more... the Royal Bank of Scotland have produced a [teachers' pack and activity sheets](#) looking at Dundas House and the development of the Georgian New Town.



St Bernard's Well

Look out for...

- The Baxters' granary
- The goddess Hygieia
- Model housing of the Victorian age

Inside:

Taking the Waters	2
Alexander Nasmyth— architect and painter	2
The Baxters of Edinburgh	2
The Dean Bridge	3
Lord Gardenstone— Edinburgh eccentric	3
Well Court	3

“The chief ornament of this delightful valley” Alexander Campbell, 1801

An old Edinburgh tradition says that the natural spring by the Water of Leith was discovered in 1760, by three boys from George Heriot's school. It was soon a visitor attraction as 'taking the waters' was thought to be very good for the health.

The poet Claudero wrote: 'This water so healthful near Edinburgh doth rise which not only Bath but Moffat outvies. It cleans the intestines and an appetite gives while morbid matters it quite away drives.'

Some claimed that the water could cure everything from a bruised leg to 'total blindness', but others described the taste as having the 'odious twang of hydrogen gas' or even like 'the washings from a foul gun barrel'.

The well was bought by Lord Gardenstone, and in 1789 he commissioned the artist Alexander Nasmyth to design the circular temple building you see today.

The well gets its name from an old legend that St Bernard of Clairvaux once lived in a cave nearby.

The well and grounds were restored in 1888, and left to the City of Edinburgh.



A Temple to Hygieia

The design for St Bernard's Well is inspired by the Temple of Vesta at Tivoli in Italy.

Under the lead dome stands a marble statue of Hygieia, the Greek Goddess of Health.

Her name is the source of the word 'hygiene'.



Taking the Waters

St Bernard's Well soon became a popular resort for those afflicted by the fad for 'taking the waters'.

A notice in the Edinburgh Advertiser of 27 April 1764 announced:

"...there has been such a demand for lodgings this season that there is not so much as one room to be had either at the Water of Leith or its neighbourhood."

A certain Dr Taylor thought that the spring



water was best taken as coffee:

"Such coffee after dinner is an excellent digester. The animal spirits are thereby exhilarated and, from being morose and sulky, we are all at once

metamorphosed into gay and cheerful mood."

Others were not so sure, claiming that the water had the 'odious twang of hydrogen gas' or even like 'the washings from a foul gun barrel'.

In 1885 the well and grounds

were bought by the publishers Thomas Nelson & Sons, and restored.

The pump room underneath was refurbished with stained glass and a white marble pedestal inscribed **BIBENDO VALEBIS** (By Drinking You Will Be Well).

Water from the well was even bottled and sold in chemists for a while.

The well closed in 1940, and despite many requests, Edinburgh's Medical Officer of Health decided against re-opening it.

Alexander Nasmyth — architect and painter

Alexander Nasmyth has been called the 'father of Scottish landscape art'

He was born in September 1758 in the Grassmarket, and was apprenticed to a coach builder painting coats of arms.

He was spotted by the famous Scottish artist Allan Ramsay, who took him on as an assistant in London. In 1778 he returned to Edinburgh, and set up on

his own as a portrait painter. He also worked part time designing scenery for the theatre, and as a landscape designer, Robert's burns and his Portrait of the bard is his best known portrait. His father and

grandfather were involved with the building of some of the earliest houses in the New Town. From 1782-84 Nasmyth visited Italy

He died in Edinburgh in 1840.

"there's but one style an artist should endeavour to attain, and that is the style of nature; the nearer you can get to that the better."

The Baxters of Edinburgh

The Dean Village was always associated with milling, but weaving, tanning and dyeing was also carried out in the area.

A charter dating from the 1100's granted the Dean



mills to Holyrood Abbey. Later the area was particularly important for the Baxters (or bakers) Incorporation, which operated eleven mills here.

However by the late 1800's

these trades were dying out and the village was becoming derelict.

The Dean Bridge diverted traffic from the village, and larger flour mills in Leith left the Dean mills economically unviable.

The Dean Bridge

The Dean Bridge was built between 1829—31 and was designed by Thomas Telford.

It is widely regarded as one of his greatest achievements, and when seen from the footpath beneath it is a hugely impressive piece of engineering.

The bridge is 447 feet long and 106 feet high, with four arches each 96 feet in span.

In order to reduce their weight, the tall piers are one of the finest examples of hollow wall construction, which Telford first used at the Pontcysyllte

aqueduct.

The bridge was mostly paid for by the Lord Provost Thomas Learmouth, who wanted to develop land on the northern bank of the Water of Leith.



After a while it was clear that the bridge did have a design flaw, the parapet was too low. So many people were committing suicide from the bridge that it became known as 'the bridge of sighs'.

Eventually the parapet walls were raised by one layer of stone, with four-way decorative spikes on top.

Lord Gardenstone - Edinburgh eccentric

St. Bernard's Well was commissioned by Lord Gardenstone, a philanthropic but eccentric judge.

He started as an advocate in 1744 and was successful despite his appetite 'for the gay enjoyments of convivial intercourse, which was in some respects unfavourable to his progress in juridical erudition'.

In 1762 he acquired an estate in Kincardineshire where he set about improving the living and working conditions of his tenants with model housing, manufacturing and public amenities such as a library and inn, all of which came at con-

siderable personal expense.

His most eccentric trait was his fondness for pigs. One favoured hog followed him everywhere as loyally as a dog and was even allowed to share his bed.

'This judge has a predilection for pigs. One in its juvenile years...followed him everywhere he went, like a dog, reposing in the same bed. When it attained the mature years and size of swinehood, this of course was inconvenient.'

Well Court

Well Court was built in 1883-86 and was originally intended for local workers.

The building was commissioned by Sir John Findlay, who at one time was the proprietor of The Scotsman.



Findlay's house overlooked the village of Dean, and he considered the area to be in dire need of development.

He bought the land and had di-

lapidated tenements cleared away, to allow his new model housing to be built.

Edinburgh World Heritage is currently funding the restoration of the building.

The project includes repairs to the stonework, roof, windows, clock tower and courtyard.

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EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE

Find out more at www.ewht.org.uk

The Old and the New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site

The Old and the New Towns of Edinburgh together comprise one of the most beautiful cityscapes in the world, inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1995.

Landscape

Edinburgh is built on a volcanic landscape of hills and valleys formed some 340 million years ago.

Architecture

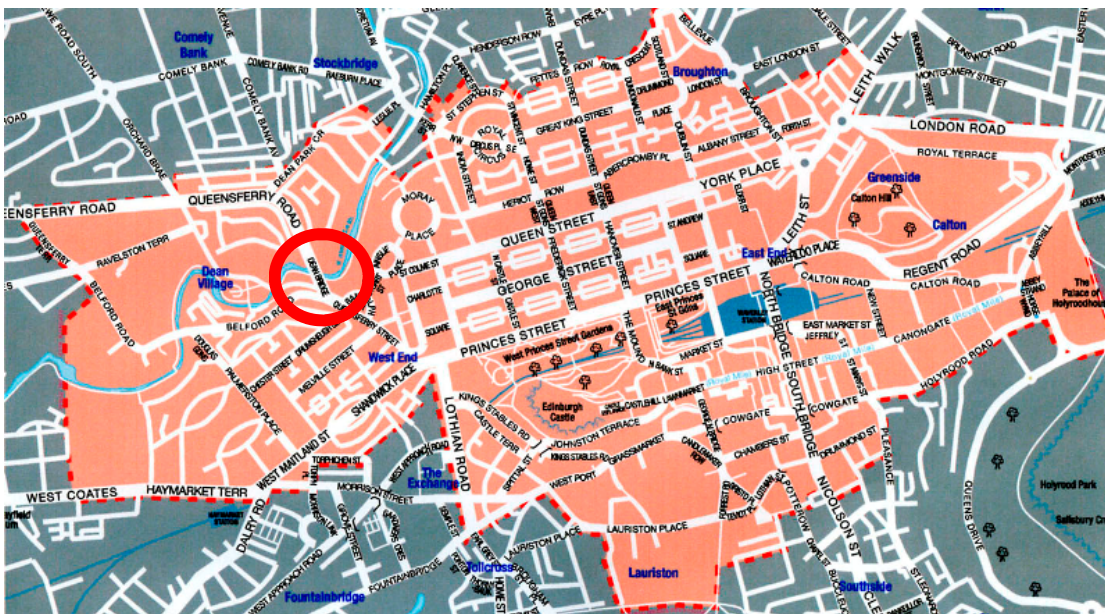
The unique character of the city comes from the contrast between the medieval Old and the Georgian New Town, with each area containing many significant historic buildings.

History

Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland for over 500 years, and became particularly renowned for its writers, artists, philosophers and scientists.



How to find it



Read more... The Dean Village Association — deanvillage.org

Water of Leith Conservation Trust — www.waterofleith.org.uk