



EDINBURGH

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland and the administrative center of the region of Lothian. Situated on the south shore of the Firth of Forth, an inlet in the North Sea created by the last Ice Age, it is an elegant city in a magnificent setting, surrounded by woods, hills and lochs (lakes). Edinburgh has a population of approximately 500,000, and was built on the site of extinct volcanoes. A glacier carved the area into two deep valleys, leaving the volcanic rock on which Edinburgh Castle stands today.

Many famous people have lived in Edinburgh. It was here, in the 16th century that Mary Queen of Scots spent most of her troubled reign. John Knox, the great religious reformer, also lived and worked here. In the late 18th century the City was called “the Athen’s of the North” because of it’s literary and academic life. It soon became the cultural center of Scotland and writers such as Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson all lived and worked here.

Today Edinburgh is a professional and industrial city with printing, publishing houses, banking and insurance offices, distilling and brewing industries. For 1,000 years Edinburgh has been Scotland’s metropolis and the City’s rich historic past, attractive buildings and the natural beauty of it’s lovely parks and gardens make it a popular tourist destination. The Edinburgh Festival, which takes place during the month of August, is the climax of the tourist season and is thought by many to be one of the world’s greatest art festivals. Inaugurated in 1947, it covers music, drama, exhibitions and dance, bringing a cosmopolitan bustle to the City.

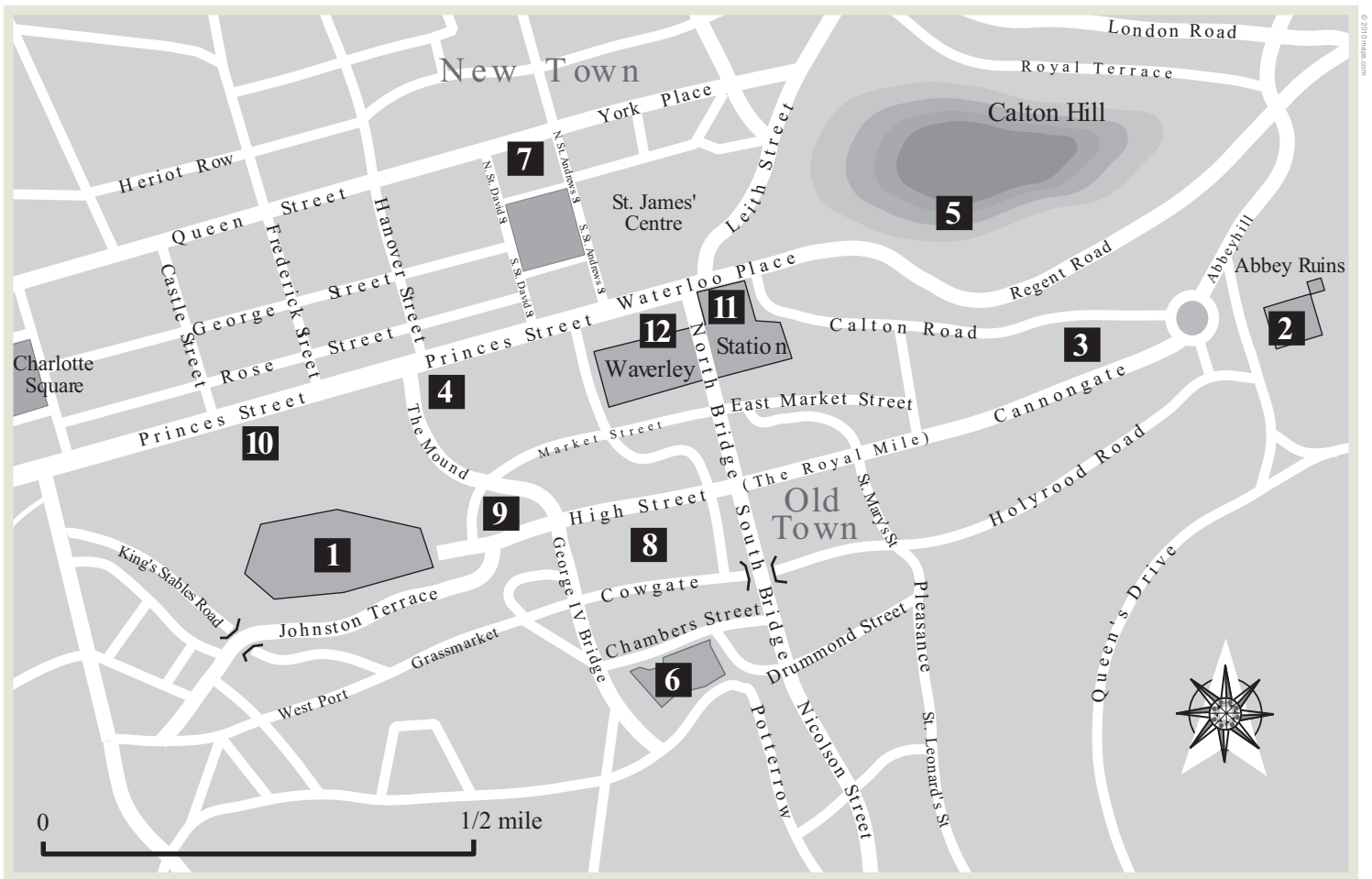


HISTORY

Much of the early history of the City is not known, however a settlement was found in the area, and it is believed to be one of the first places inhabited in Scotland. The ancient Britons called the area ‘Dun Edin’ which means the ‘Dun’, or ‘fort on the slope’. Early Roman legions avoided the fortified rock and later the Angles invaded the area, calling it Edwinesburg in honor of one of their Northumbrian Kings. St. Ninian is believed to have preached Christianity here in the 5th century, and St. Columba in the 6th century. The first Christian church was founded in the 7th century and in that same period, the fortress on the slope was rebuilt.

In 1329 Edinburgh received it’s Royal Charter, growing in importance. By 1500, merchants and craft guilds flourished and the first printing press in Scotland was established. In 1513 King James IV of Scotland attacked England and the Scots suffered a severe military disaster at Flodden. In 1561 Catholic Mary Queen of Scots came from France to claim the throne of Scotland, and became the last monarch to reign solely over Scotland. Religious strife dominated the period with struggles between the Catholic and Presbyterian faiths. Mary Queen of Scots’ son, James VI, became James I of England and Scotland, moving to London in 1603.

In 1688 Presbyterianism became the state religion of Scotland, and in 1707 the United Kingdom came into being with the Act of Union, which joins Scotland to England. During the 18th century the new town was built and Edinburgh expanded, with gracious streets, crescents and beautiful buildings. It became a center for the arts and Edinburgh’s golden age began as poets, authors, philosophers and politicians gathered here. The Industrial Revolution in the 19th century added to the City’s growth and prosperity. In 1847 Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was born in Edinburgh and later attended university here. In 1970 natural gas and oil reserves were found in Scottish waters, and a new era of wealth began, reflected in the vibrant life-styles to be found in the City today.



EDINBURGH PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Edinburgh Castle dominates the City, on a site that has been fortified since the 5th century, with three of its sides virtually unassailable. St. Margaret's Chapel is the oldest building in the Castle, dating from 1110. The regalia of Scottish Monarchs, the crown, scepter and sword, are on display in the Crown Room. The Castle also contains the Scottish United Services Museum displaying a collection of Highland weaponry. The 'One O'clock Gun' has been fired from the Castle, every weekday since 1851 as a signal to ships. There are outstanding views to be seen from the Castle's battlements. Royal Mile stretches from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood House and follows an incline created during the last Ice Age, that becomes the solid, black volcanic crag on which the Castle stands.

2 Holyrood House at the end of Royal Mile, is Scotland's premier Royal Palace and the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II when visiting Scotland. The Palace has a long and interesting history, having been burned several times, with only the great tower surviving. It was rebuilt in 1650 by Oliver Cromwell, only to be rebuilt yet again 10 years later by Charles II, in the style of Louis XIV, as it remains today.



3 People's Story is a museum dedicated to the history of the people of Edinburgh since the late 18th century and

occupies the Canongate Tollbooth, close to Holyrood House.

4 National Gallery of Scotland is located just east of the 'Mound', off Princes Street. Exhibits include a wide range of paintings by artists such as; Rembrandt, Turner, Degas, Monet and Van Gogh, as well as a fine collection of Scottish art.

5 Edinburgh Experience features a portrayal of the history of Edinburgh, shown in 3D.

6 Royal Museum of Scotland, located on Chambers Street, contains exhibits relating to natural history, archaeology, scientific and industrial history, and the evolution of man. Of particular interest are a display of Celtic harps and chessmen carved from walrus ivory, dating from the Middle Ages.

7 Scottish National Portrait Gallery is located on Queen Street. The Gallery contains a splendid Gainsborough and portraits by the Scottish artists, Ramsey and Raeburn.

8 St. Giles' Cathedral on the Royal Mile, was once the City's parish church. It became a Cathedral in 1633, although most of the present building dates from 1829. The Spire was built in 1495, the Choir in the 15th century, and four of the interior columns date from as early as the 12th century. There has been a church on this site since 854.

9 Camera Obscura, also on Royal Mile, occupies a building dating from the 17th century, having undergone considerable alterations in the mid 19th century to install various

optical instruments. On a clear day a moving image of the City is projected on to a white, concave table similar to a hologram.

10 Scottish-American War Memorial, created in 1927 by Robert Tait Mackenzie.

Beyond Edinburgh

Stirling Castle is situated approximately 45 miles from Edinburgh in the beautiful town of Stirling, the ancient capital of Scotland. Is a magnificent fortress, positioned to guard the route between the Highlands and Lowlands. The Castle, considered the grandest in Scotland, was the Royal residence of the Stuart Kings during the 15th and 16th centuries. The Castle was the scene of many battles, particularly during the Wars of Independence, and as many as 7 battle sites can be seen from the battlements. The beautiful Queen Anne Gardens adjoin the Castle, also the home of the Regimental Museum of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



Trossachs are a unique and beautiful area of glens, mountains and lochs, some 60 miles from Edinburgh. The scenery is dramatic, wild and rugged, often shrouded in 'Scotch Mist'. They are steeped in legend and history and were a subject of inspiration to such famous authors as; Sir Walter Scott, William Wordsworth and Samuel Coleridge.

Hopetoun House is located over-looking the Firth of Forth, approximately 15 miles from Edinburgh. It is regarded as Scotland's greatest Adam Mansion with fine furnishings, paintings and tapestries on display. The surrounding parkland is home to a large herd of deer.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Edinburgh and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult azamarclubcruises.com or contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Shop prices in the United Kingdom are fixed.

Tipping: Where a service charge is not included in a restaurant bill, 10 – 15% is a good guideline.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Scottish fare features plenty of local game and roasted meats. Haggis is perhaps one of the best known Scottish dishes. Fresh seafood is popular, not to mention Scottish Salmon. Shortbread and Oatcakes are among the traditional Scottish recipes and well worth a try.

Scotland is well-known for its high quality malt whiskeys. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING

The main shopping areas include Princes Street, George Street and the Royal Mile. General opening hours are from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Monday thru Saturday, with items of interest focusing on; woolens, tartans and tweeds and, of course, scotch malt whiskey.

U.S. Dollars are not generally accepted although major credit cards are.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Britain is the Pound Sterling. There are 100 pennies (pence) to the Pound. Notes are available in the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

The main Post Office is located at Waterloo Place on Princes Street (#11).

There is a telephone facility in the main Post Office and a number of public phone booths through-out the City for which local coins are required or phone cards available from post offices and Tobacconists. Local coins or phone cards are required at public telephones to dial these access numbers:

AT&T: 0.800.89.0011

MCI: 0.800.279.5088

TRANSPORTATION

There are a limited number of taxis available on the pier.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Tourist Information Office is located on Princes Street (#12), close to the train station.

