



# Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN LEADS YOU ON A FASCINATING WALKING TOUR OF SCOTLAND'S HISTORICAL CAPITAL

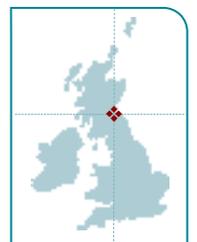
**S**COTLAND'S capital, Edinburgh, has to be one of Britain's most beautiful and interesting cities. The shopping opportunities around Princes Street and George Street are almost unparalleled, while for those with a more artistic or historical bent

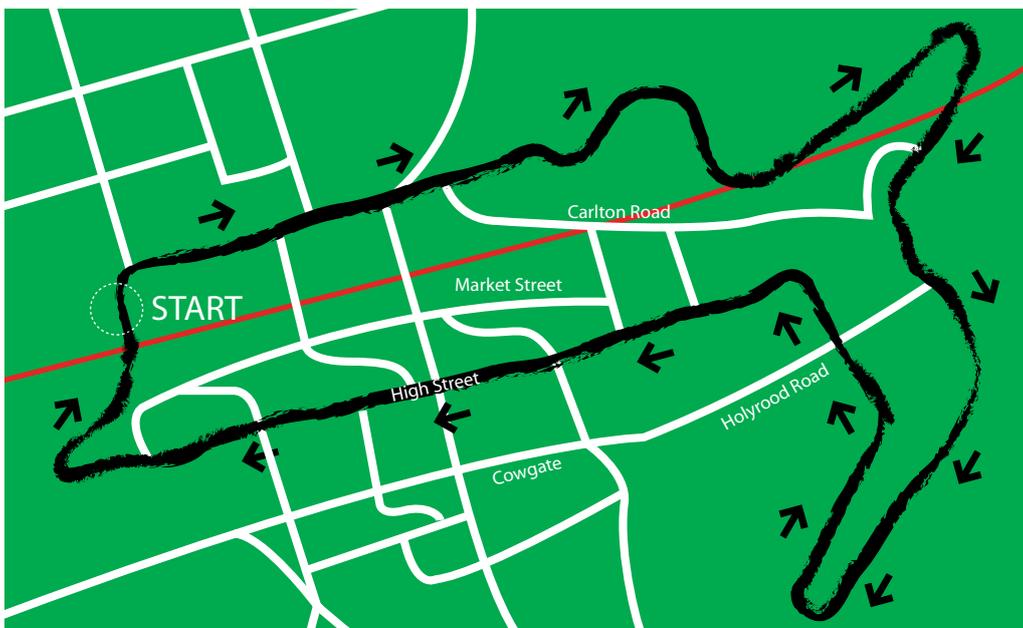
there are museums, exhibitions and galleries galore.

Our walk takes you up and around some of the most famous streets and attractions Edinburgh has to offer. As if that's not enough, the stroll up towards Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park offers amazing

views of the city and its surrounds.

To get to the start of our route, take the number 42 bus from the Club site, which is just 4½ miles from the centre of Edinburgh, to The Mound, where the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland are situated.





## DIRECTIONS

**1** Get off the number 42 bus at The Mound and turn immediately left, passing between the RSA (Royal Scottish Academy) and the National Gallery of Scotland. Turn left around the side of the RSA and then immediately right, walking along the gardens beside Princes Street.

**2** At the end of the gardens, cross the road and continue down Princes Street, with Waverley Station on your right. Continue ahead, crossing a road beside North Bridge (don't cross the bridge), as Princes Street becomes Waterloo Place.

**3** Where Waterloo Place changes to Regent Road, turn left to cross the road and go up some steps. Then turn almost immediately right up some more steps. Continue to the left of the National Monument (which resembles the Parthenon) and on the left you'll see views

over the Firth of Forth. Keep the National Monument and the Tower on your right and follow the tarmac road gently downhill as it curves around towards Arthur's Seat (situated on the hill in the distance).

**4** At the bottom of the hill, you come to a mini roundabout – turn left to rejoin Regent Road. At Regent Terrace, cross the road by the monument and continue down the hill. Just past the bowling green, turn right at the traffic lights down Abbeymount. After the railway bridge, cross the road at the pelican crossing and continue to the right of the Palace of Holyroodhouse's ornamental gates.

**5** Continue past Holyroodhouse and the new Scottish Parliament building, and go through the car park by the roundabout and up some steps ahead of you. Then turn right for the long climb up Salisbury Crags. Keep the cliffs to your left and continue along the path until you

get to another path where you turn right to return to a wide expanse of grass at the bottom of the cliffs.

**6** When you come to a roundabout, turn left to go through Holyrood Gate. Shortly you'll come to some pedestrian lights – turn to the right and then almost immediately left to pass behind the Scottish Parliament building. At the end of Reid's Close, turn left into the Royal Mile. Continue until you come to a large expanse of tarmac in front of the castle – turn immediately right here and go down some steps which start at a gate between some railings. As the path goes downhill, take the hairpin turning to the right and continue down.

**7** At the bottom of the hill, continue straight ahead rather than going to the very bottom of the path and you'll emerge on to The Mound, opposite the National Gallery, where you started the walk.

## INFORMATION | ATTRACTIONS

- **National Gallery of Scotland**, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL. Tel 0131 624 6200 or see [nationalgalleries.org](http://nationalgalleries.org). Open: all year. Cost: free. Disabled access: full access to all galleries. One of three galleries in Edinburgh, with each one being home to a different part of the national collection of fine art. Special exhibitions are also held throughout the year
- **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, Canongate, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH8 8DX. Tel 0131 556 5100 or see [royalcollection.org.uk](http://royalcollection.org.uk). Open: all year with a few exceptions (see website). Cost: adults, £13; over 60s, £11.50; under 17s, £7.50; families, £33.50. Disabled access: good, except for the rooms associated with Mary Queen of Scots. This, the official residence in Scotland for the Queen, was once home of Mary, Queen of Scots. Today, visitors can see the Royal Apartments and a number of changing exhibitions. From April there's a new display focusing on the Order of the Thistle
- **Edinburgh Castle**, Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NG. Tel 0131 225 9846 or see [edinburghcastle.gov.uk](http://edinburghcastle.gov.uk). Open: all year. Cost: adults, £11; children, £5.50; concessions, £9. Disabled access: some areas are unsuitable for wheelchairs. This, the most famous of all the Scottish castles, has had a dramatic history. Rooms that can be visited include the 12th-century St Margaret's Chapel and the Great Hall. It's also home to the Scottish National War Museum. Tours are available via stewards or an audio guide for a small extra charge



## INFORMATION | GENERAL

**NEAREST CLUB SITE:** Edinburgh, 35-37 Marine Drive, Edinburgh EH4 5EN. Tel 0131 312 6874. Open all year  
**DISTANCE:** 5.3 miles/8.5km  
**TERRAIN:** Mostly town pavements  
**NUMBER OF STILES:** 0  
**ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:** A tourist map (available from the TIC in Princes Street as well as other local shops)  
**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Easy to moderate  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Numerous bars, cafés and restaurants  
**TOILETS:** Many around the route

## INFORMATION | TOURISM

Edinburgh and Scotland Information Centre, 3 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2QP. See [visitscotland.co.uk](http://visitscotland.co.uk)