

A City Built on Baskets

A walking tour of central Edinburgh

By Freya Purcell, funded by Women Make Cities

A walk exploring Edinburgh through the lens of the hawkers, fishwives and travelling vendors that made up the city in the 19th century.

How to follow along

There are two ways to follow along the first is via the [video](#), this can be accessed from anywhere, whether at home or out on the tour itself following the locations listed below and on the map.

The second way is to follow along on via the [izi.travel website](#) or app. This allows you to follow with the audio and let you focus on walking. However some of the images available on the video are not present in this format.

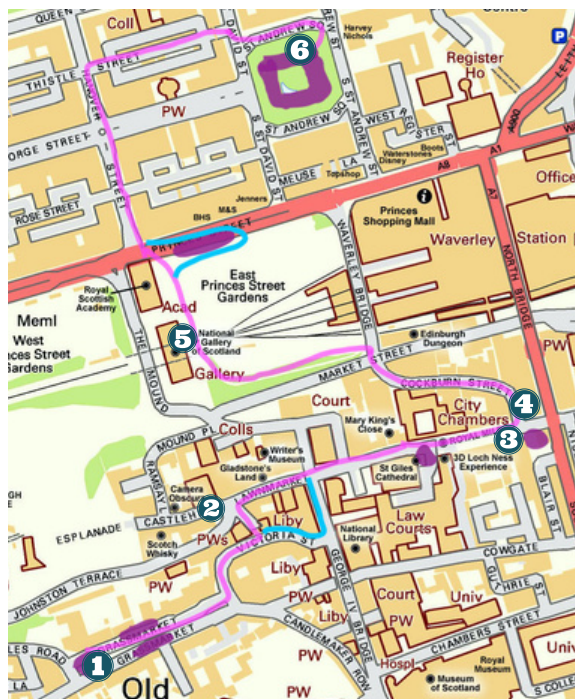
Accessibility information

Here is some information about the route

- Much of this walk is over paved ground. Some of this, like parts of Thistle Street, is cobbled and can be uneven.
- The majority of this tour is going downhill and in some areas it can be quite steep, such as on Cockburn Street. There is also a slight uphill section up West Bow/ Victoria Street at the start of the walk.
- Throughout the walk there are areas to stop and sit should you need it, these are highlighted on the map in purple and are listed on the third page.
- While most of the tour is step free there are two areas that are not. Alternative routes have been highlighted on the map in blue and are listed on the third page.
- This route goes through some of the busiest parts of Edinburgh and at different parts of the year, particularly summer, these can get incredibly busy, especially in the afternoon.



The route



Stop 1 Start at the far east

of the Grassmarket and walk towards the West Bow.

- Turn left onto West Bow
- Continue to Victoria Street and take the stairs on your left to the Upper Bow. If you require a step free route see the third page or follow the blue line.
- At the roundabout walk up and turn left until you are standing with the Tolbooth Kirk on your left and are looking down the Lawnmarket.

Stop 2 Continue straight down the Lawnmarket and down the High street

- Turn right into Hunter Square.

Stop 3 At Hunter Square pause for the third stop.

Stop 4 Turn out from Hunter Square back on to the High Street and cross over onto Cockburn street.

- Follow Cockburn Street down until you reach Market Street.
- At the roundabout crossover and enter the park, East Street Princes Garden.
- In the park walk forward keeping the railway tracks on your right.
- Follow the path right and cross over the tracks on the bridge.

Stop 5 Stop at the bridge and pause looking over the tracks.

- Keep walking towards Princes Street. Here you can cut across the grassy footpath to exit the park and head to the crossing by the Royal Academy of Scotland. If you need to follow the tarmac path, see the instructions on the third page or follow the blue line.
- At the crossing, cross over onto Hannover Street. Continue down Hannover Street crossing over the junction until you reach Thistle Street.
- Turn right down Thistle Street.
- When you reach the end of Thistle Street cross over North St. David Street, so you are standing with St Andrew's Square by your right hand side.
- Walk along till you can enter the square

Stop 6 Enter St. Andrew's Square and pause for the final stop.

Walking tour length 1.3 Miles and 30 to 50 minutes

Places to rest

- At the start of the journey there are benches in the Grassmarket.
- In the middle of the journey there are benches by St Giles Cathedral and Hunter Square.
- There are benches on the west side of Princes Garden.
- At the end there is seating in St Andrew's Square.

Alternate stepfree routes

While most of the tour is step free there are two areas that are not. Alternative routes have been highlighted on the map in blue and are listed here:

1. At the West Bow and Victoria Street do not turn left up the flight of stair at Upper Bow instead continue along Victoria Street and turn left at George IV Bridge. When you reach the Lawnmarket turn left again and rejoin the tour at Tolbooth Kirk
2. When exiting Princes Gardens there is a short walk over an off ground segment, however if this is not possible you can follow the paved route around before turning left again to rejoin the tour at the crossing by the Royal Academy of Scotland.

Safety

Whenever undertaking a walking tour it is important to be aware of your surroundings when walking. If you do decide to look at the video in public please make sure you are safe and pay attention to the space around you. Do not put yourself, others or your belongs at risk

When crossing at a junction wait for the lights and check both ways before crossing.



Thank You for joining us

Thank you also to Edinburgh Central Libraries, National Galleries of Scotland, Scottish Fisheries Museum, National Records of Scotland, National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Rural Life, the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish Studies Archive and Women Make Cities



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