

A Sense of Place

Dean Village (1535–) and the Water of Leith

Calton Hill and its monuments

George Meikle Kemp: Scott Monument

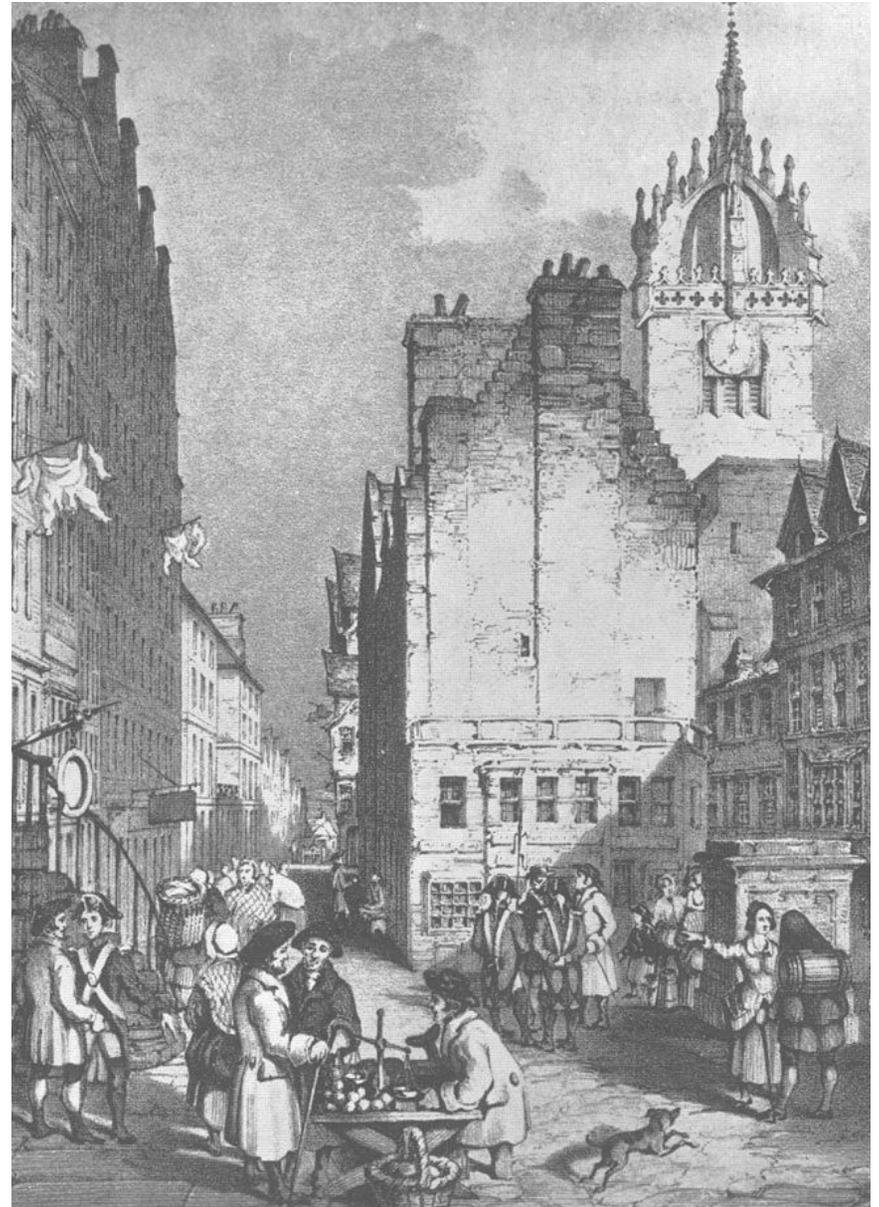
♪ **Burns**: "A man's a man for a' that" (Midge Ure, Scottish Parliament)

F. Scotland in Sound and Story

A selection of videos that celebrate Edinburgh in music and history, plus an account of the many annual Festivals that have made it a must-visit center of the international arts scene.

- ♪ **Video**: Edinburgh Tattoo, opening
- ♪ **Lavery**: *Edinburgh is a Story*
- ♪ **Video**: Scottish Enlightenment (Melvin Bragg, BBC)
- ♪ **Video**: National Gallery of Scotland (Lachlan Goudie, BBC 2020)
- ♪ **Promo**: Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- ♪ **Capperauld**: *Whisky Mouth*, opening (Scottish Chamber Orchestra)
- ♪ **Promo**: Edinburgh Festivals, 2025
- ♪ **Promo**: Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Shona McCarthy, 2025)
- ♪ **Fascinating Aïda**: *So sorry, Scotland* (Brexit song, 2016)
- ♪ **The Proclaimers**: *The Streets of Edinburgh* (official video, 2018)

Robert **Adam** (1728–92, *Scottish architect*), Robert **Burns** (1759–96, *Scottish poet*), Jay **Capperauld** (1989–, *Scottish composer*), James **Craig** (1739–95, *Scottish architect*), Thomas **Erskine**, Earl of Kellie (1732–81, *Scottish composer*), Hannah **Lavery** (1977–, *Scottish poet*), Alexander **Nasmyth** (1758–1840, *Scottish painter*), Craig and Charlie **Reid** (1962–, *Scottish singers*), Sir Walter **Scott** (1771–1832, *Scottish writer*)



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8. Edinburgh: a Tale of Two Cities

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8. Edinburgh: Tale of Two Cities

EDINBURGH CASTLE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE MOST OFTEN BESIEGED fortress in history. But its position atop a crag with three sheer sides made it virtually impregnable. Its presence spurred the growth of the medieval city on the rocky spine leading up to it, which became Scotland's national capital. Because the population was large and the site confined, the buildings were tall and crammed together, making for conditions that were as unsanitary as they were picturesque. The city was a powder keg.

In 1756, the council approved designs for a New Town, laid out on neoclassical principles on the lower crest across the ravine, and eventually stepping down in elegant terraces toward the Firth of Forth below. Its rational layout became the physical counterpart to the ideas and discoveries of the thinkers, scientists, and artists of the Scottish Enlightenment who lived and met there.

Postwar Edinburgh has dedicated itself to preserving its history of Scottish nationalism and Enlightenment philosophy. But Edinburgh is also a center of creativity in its own right and, though the multiplicity of its annual Festivals, midwife to creative artists from many countries and in many media. *rb.*

A. Arrival

Arriving at Waverley Station, the traveler looks left and south to the Castle towering overhead, and right to Princes Street on the north, and the New Town beyond. Truly a Tale of Two Cities.

- ♪ **Arrival at Waverley** (own video)
- ♪ **Loxton video:** opening (Alice Loxton)

B. Rising from Rock

Before anything else, Edinburgh is its geology. How did the city position itself in such a fantastic volcanic landscape?

- ♪ **Loxton video:** Arthur's Seat

C. One Mile Downhill

Edinburgh Castle was once the residence of the Scottish kings and queens. Then they moved downhill to Holyrood House. The street in between, the *Royal Mile*, became the spine of the Old Town, crowded with multi-story tenements, but also responsible for the social mix that would give rise to Enlightenment humanism in later centuries.

- ♪ **Video:** Pipers of the Black Watch on the Royal Mile
- ♪ **Loxton video:** Old Town

D. From Squalor into Light

In the mid-18th century, Edinburgh addressed the overcrowding problem by building a New Town to the north. But this was more than a change in layout and style; it went along with the developments in rational thought that put Scotland in the forefront of the world.

- ♪ **Loxton video:** New Town
- Adam:** Bute House, Charlotte Square (1793–1805)
- ♪ **Video:** Tour of the New Town (music by Thomas Erskine)
- Nasmyth:** *Edinburgh Castle and Nor Loch* (1824, NGS)
- ♪ **Video:** Princes Street Gardens, time-lapse

E. Postcards

Glimpses of Edinburgh outside the confines of the Old and New Towns.

- Queensferry** bridges (rail 1890, road 1964, motorway 2017)
- Leith**, the Shore, then and now