WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information about the management, conservation and promotion of the World Heritage Site, including the Management Plan and grant information, look at the websites for Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Heritage trails, podcasts, photo galleries, videos, a free iPhone app and resources for teachers are all available on the Edinburgh World Heritage website.

Clockwise from top left
St Bernard's Well © EWH
Princes Street from Calton Hill
Charlotte Square © EWH

FURTHER INFORMATION

EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE
5 Bakehouse Close,
146 Canongate,
Edinburgh EH8 8DD

Tel: +44 (0)131 220 7720
Email: info@ewht.org.uk

www.ewh.org.uk

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
Longmore House,
Salisbury Place,
Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Tel: +44 (0)131 668 8600
Email: worldheritage@hes.scot

www.historicenvironment.scot

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
Waverley Court,
4 East Market Street,
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

Tel: +44 (0)131 529 3510
Email: worldheritage@edinburgh.gov.uk

www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH
146 Canongate
Edinburgh EH8 8DD

Tel: +44 (0)131 529 4143

www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF SCOTLAND
Chambers Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1JF

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Email: info@nms.ac.uk

www.nms.ac.uk

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
Hermiston Quay,
5 Cultins Road,
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Tel: +44 (0)844 493 2100
Email: information@nts.org.uk

www.nts.org.uk

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THE OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH

UNESCO

World Heritage Site

Edinburgh has been the capital of Scotland for over 500 years, and became particularly renowned for its writers, artists, philosophers and scientists. It was home to the economist Adam Smith, the philosopher David Hume, and the authors Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Skyline from Holyrood Park

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THE OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH?

Edinburgh is built on an extraordinary landscape of hills and valleys, formed millions of years ago by volcanoes and ice sheets. Together these factors have created a truly distinctive skyline and stunning views which are recognised around the world.

The unique character of the city comes from the contrast between the Old Town and the New Town, with each area containing many significant historic buildings. Over 75% of all the buildings within the World Heritage Site are listed for their architectural or historical importance.

The medieval Old Town has retained its distinctive pattern of narrow passageways, known as closes and wynds. The New Town was first designed in 1767, and is the largest and best preserved example of Georgian town planning in the UK.
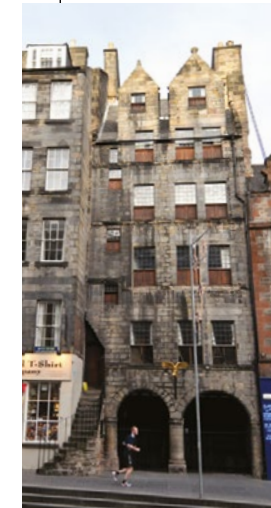
WHAT CAN I SEE AND DO TODAY?

Visit Calton Hill for panoramic views across the city, and stroll through Princes Street Gardens to see the magnificent Castle Rock.

Visit Gladstone's Land in the Old Town to see a merchant's apartment from the 1600s, and contrast with the grandeur of the Georgian House in Charlotte Square.

Visit the Museum of Edinburgh, the Writers' Museum and the National Museum of Scotland to discover more about the city's fascinating past and famous residents.

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. The inscription recognised the striking contrast and quality in architecture between the medieval Old Town and the Georgian New Town.

Today, the World Heritage Site Management Plan provides the framework for the conservation and enhancement of the site. Crucially, it is not just about preservation. It is about facilitating change to ensure that Edinburgh is a thriving, dynamic, economically successful city.

From left to right
The New Town
The Old Town
John Knox House © EWH
View from Calton Hill
© City of Edinburgh Council
Gladstone's Land © EWH
Lady Stair's House © EWH