

Edinburgh Tourist Information

Edinburgh is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and while you are staying at Bonaly you really should try and see a bit of the town. There are lots of interesting places for your Scouts to go and things to look at. The good news is that some of the best of them are free. Have a look at our booklet **Edinburgh for Free**. We cannot list all the attractions of Edinburgh but here is some information to help you.

You will find more information about specific streets or areas such as **Tourist Information – The Royal Mile** below.

Edinburgh Tourist and Information Centre,

3 Princes Street Edinburgh EH2.

The centre is located above the Princes Mall at the east end of Princes Street. Until September 1999 the Princes Mall was known as The Waverley Shopping Centre.

Tour Buses

There are a number of tour buses that follow a circular route around the city. The two main carriers are: The Edinburgh Classic Tour and Guide Friday Ltd

The Edinburgh Classic Tour,

Lothian Region Transport, 27 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2DL.

Phone 0131 554 4494

Operate from 27 March until 30 October in white, open top, double decker buses. The circular route takes about 1 hour to cover but you can get on and off the bus as many times as you like on the day you buy your ticket. Their present charges are: adult £6.50, senior citizens and students £5.50, children £2.50. Buses are available for hire to private groups. You may join the tour at many places on the route. The offer tours in English, German, French, Dutch, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. You can use your Edinburgh Classic Tour ticket for a free return trip on bus X50 to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Guide Friday Ltd,

Waverley Station, Edinburgh. Phone 0131 556 2244

Operate from 20 March until 26 September in green and cream, open top, double decker buses. The circular route takes about 1 hour to cover but you can get on and off the bus as many times as you like on the day you buy your ticket. Their present charges are: adult £8.00, senior citizens and students £6.50, children £2.50, family ticket – 2 adults and up to 4 children £18.50, under fives go free. They also claim generous group discounts. You may join the tour at many places on the route.

Tours - Walking - Mainly Local History

Now let's be honest, not many of your Scouts will want to go on a walking tour of Edinburgh. If any of the leaders manage to get an evening off a tour with a knowledgeable guide and a pleasant supper in one of the many bistros might be a very pleasant way to pass some time. You get to see the parts of Edinburgh you would otherwise miss.

Mercat Walking Tours,

47 Willowbrae Avenue, Edinburgh. Phone 0131 661 4541

Includes Mary Kings Close see **Tourist Information -Royal Mile** for information about Mary Kings Close. £5.00 School, student and foreign language parties welcome.

Robins Ghost & History Tours,

66 Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. Phone 0131 661 0125

As the title would suggest Robins tours all into two different categories. Day tours of the historic Old Town and at night the darker side of the cities history. They do tours in German, French and Italian.

The Macallan Edinburgh Literary Pub Tour

Ultimate literary pub tour following the footsteps of Scotland's literary heroes. Starts at the Beehive in the Grassmarket and lasts for about two hours.

Adults £6.00 - buy your ticket at the Tourist Information Centre or 0131 226 6665 for booking of parties of over 10 people.

The Original Literary Pub Tour,

5 Kirk Street, Edinburgh. Phone 0131 554 0777

The Witchery, Murder & Mystery Tour,

352 Castlehill, Edinburgh. Phone 0131 225 6745

Other Tourist Attractions - That don't fit into the other sections

The Edinburgh International Festival

<http://www.eif.scot.net/>

The Festival Fringe

<http://www.edfringe.com/index.html>

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A 'tattoo' is a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands, fear not, it is not as dull as it sounds. A blend of music, ceremony, entertainment, and theatre set against the amazing backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. The show ends with the lone piper playing his haunting lament high on the ramparts above the arena. The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is a spectacular display popular with audiences from all over the world. It is so popular that you should not expect to arrive in Edinburgh and go out and buy your tickets. If you intend to go, buy your tickets well in advance!

Wrap up well if you are going, don't be fooled into thinking that as it is a warm, pleasant summer evening that you will be warm enough with a sweater. Take a blanket too if you have one. You have been warned!

www.edintattoo.co.uk

All major credit card are accepted. You can book from the website.

2000 Prices £8.50 - £24.50
Dates 4th – 26th August 2000
Mon – Fri 9.00pm
Sat 7.30pm & 10.30pm
Sun No performance

The Tattoo Office, 32 Market Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1QB.
Telephone: 0131-225 1188
Fax: 0131-225 8627

Britannia

1953-1997 For over forty years The Royal Yacht Britannia served the Royal Family, travelling over one million miles to become the most famous ship in the world. Travelling to every corner of the globe, in a career spanning 968 Royal and Official visits, she played a leading role in some of the defining moments of recent history. To Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family, Britannia proved to be the perfect Royal residence for glittering state visits, official receptions, royal honeymoons and relaxing family holidays. So as you can imagine this unique vessel has a fascinating story to tell and now that she has made Edinburgh's historic port of Leith her final home you can discover her story for yourself. You will receive an audio tour handset as you start the tour.

Britannia is open all year. Admission times are normally 10.30am to 4.30pm with extended hours in summer and some restrictions in winter. No dogs except guide dogs. Free car and coach parking, café, shop and disabled access. Pre-book to avoid queues by telephone 0131 555 5566 or in person at the Edinburgh Tattoo Office, 33-34 Market Street, Edinburgh. Just behind Waverley Railway Station. For group bookings of 15 or more telephone 0131 555 8800

Deep-Sea World

Like Disney World, Deep-Sea World is too good for children. The fish and sharks swim in a three-sided tank that is above and on both sides of you. Effectively you are in a tunnel standing on a moving walkway watching the fish. You can go around as many times as you like. A very busy place during the school holidays. Deep-Sea World is easily accessible from Bonaly as it is just over the Forth Road Bridge in Fife. If romance is in the air, you can arrange to get married in the tank with the sharks swimming past. The good news for the guests is that they can listen to the ceremony on radio links from the divers masks and don't have to get in the tank too.

Café and gift shop. Hands on tank for children.

Opening hours
July & August 10.00am – 6.30pm
September & October 10.00am – 6.00pm

November – March 11.00am - 5.00pm
April – June 10.00am – 6.00pm
Sat, Sun, Public and School Holidays 10.00am – 6.00pm
Closed 25th December
Telephone 01383 411880
Fax 01383 410514
Deepsea@sol.co.uk
www.deepseaworld.com

Dynamic Earth

Opened in July 1999. “ A journey that’s been 4500 million years in the making”. An exhibition about the planet earth and its physical history. A unique location for this centre as it sits in the shadow of Edinburgh’s own extinct volcano.

Recommended by everyone who visits it.

Holyrood Road
Telephone 0131 550 7800
Fax 0131 550 7801
email enquiries@dynamicearth.co.uk
web site www.dynamicearth.co.uk

The Forth Bridge

<http://www.webviews.co.uk/edinburgh/rail.php3>

There are two bridges link the north and south banks of the River Forth. The Forth Bridge is the one that carries the railway and is often regarded as the eight wonder of the world. It was opened in 1890 having being designed by Benjamin Baker. The contractor who carried out the work was William Arrol. His name lives on as a brand of beer. The bridge is held together by 4,000 tons of steel, nearly 7 million rivets and 21,000 tons of cement. In the summer the bridge is nearly one metre longer that it is on a winters day.

Tradition was that the first time you crossed the bridge in a train you threw a coin out the carriage window for luck, much to the delight of the rail workers. With modern air-conditioned carriages this tradition had now ended.

In recent times a controversy has come to the public notice about the maintenance of the Bridge. Painting used to be done continuously but with the advent of the privatisation of British Rail, the new owners are cutting back on maintain costs. Local newspapers have given reports of rusty plates and of metal sheets falling into the gardens of houses below the bridge.

The Forth Road Bridge

Was opened by the Queen in September 1964 and is constructed with high tensile steel with the two main towers standing 484 feet high. The first proposal to build a road bridge was in 1923, the plans were shelved in 1931. They were revived in 1934 but with the outbreak of World War Two in 1940 they were once again put aside. In 1957 work started again to build the bridge that we see today.

At the moment there are no cam views of the Road Bridge.

Tourist Information – The Royal Mile

"the largest, longest and finest street for Buildings and Number of Inhabitants, not only in Britain, but in the World" . . . (Daniel Defoe, 1723)

The Royal Mile is the name given to four streets, Castlehill, Lawnmarket, High Street, and Canongate. Together they run from The Castle to The Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The information about attractions is listed as you will come across them as you walk from The Castle to The Palace.

Edinburgh Castle

Over looks the whole city of Edinburgh on its volcanic rock and is visited by over 1 million people a year. Only the Tower of London has more visitors. If you can't spare the time to visit the Castle you should at least view the city from the Castle Esplanade. To the north, between the Castle and the Firth of Forth, there is a spectacular view of Edinburgh's new town. To the east, below the Castle ramparts the visitor lies the Old Town.

The oldest building in all Edinburgh is to be found within the Castle precincts. It is St. Margaret's Chapel, a tiny Norman building that has been standing there intact for more than 900 years. Edinburgh Castle is the home of the Scottish Crown Jewels. A free CD based audio tour with over four hours of information about The Castle is available in six languages. Café and gift shop. One O'Clock gun not fired on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday. See below for more information about the One O'clock gun.

The Castle Esplanade is the venue of the world-famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the annual occasion on which, over a period of three weeks in August, the Army presents a lively programme of music, marching and historical re-enactments under floodlights before large and appreciative audiences.

Admission Charges until 31 December 1999

Adult £6.50

Child under 16 £2.00

Reduced £5.00

Open all year seven days a week.

April to September 9.30am – 6.00pm

October to March 9.30am – 5.00pm

Last ticket sold 45 minutes before closing

Closed 25th & 26th December

Please phone to check 1st January opening.

Telephone 0131 225 9846

Historic Scotland website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

One O'clock Gun

A military gun is fired, at 1.00pm from The Castle Gun Battery each day except Sunday. The One O'clock Gun has been a traditional time signal to the city since 1861. It's easy to tell the tourists from the locals. Tourists jump in surprise at the loud noise, locals just check their watches. Although The Gun can be clearly heard over a large part of the city centre another time signalling device is available to shipping moored on the River Forth. At the eastern end of Princes Street is Calton Hill and on top of the hill is the Nelson Monument. It's a tower structure in the shape of a telescope, with a wooden pole on top. At noon GMT a large metal ball is dropped simultaneously from the top of the pole. This means that in summer the ball drops at the same time as the One O'clock Gun, in winter it is an hour earlier. In clear weather, Calton Hill can easily be seen from the River Forth giving shipping an accurate time signal by which to set their time pieces.

The Camera Obscura

The Camera Obscura is in Outlook Tower just below the Castle. A Camera Obscura is a darkened chamber or small building in which images of outside objects are projected onto a flat surface by a convex lens in an aperture.

Established in 1850's, the optics were replaced in 1947. Tickets are sold for a specific time shown on a sign when you buy the ticket. The Camera Obscura is located about six flights up in the tower. There is no lift so there is no real disabled access. There are exhibitions of Camera Obscuras, pinhole photography, and art on the floors you pass on your way up. At the top is an observation deck with telescopes overlooking Princes Street. You get about a 15 minute demonstration of the Camera Obscura, if you have never seen one of these devices it is well worth a visit. In this high tech world of international email, fax and telephone calls all over the plant, this low tech piece of equipment never fails to impress.

Open April-Oct,
Mon-Fri 9.30-6.00,
Sat and Sun 10.00-6.00,
Nov-March,10.00-5.00)

Goose Pie House

Home of the 18th century poet, Alan Ramsey, father of the portrait painter Allan Ramsay. A statue of Allan Ramsay stands just above the Floral Clock in West Princes Street Gardens. Ramsay was a Jacobite and when Prince Charles Edward Stuart captured Edinburgh in 1745 he retired to the countryside allowing the Jacobite army to shoot at the Castle from his house.

Cannonball House

Originally built by Edinburgh furrier Alexander Mure in 1630 as his house. If you can look carefully you can see two rusted cannonballs embedded in the wall. The romantic theory is that they were fired from the Castle in 1745 when it was under siege. It is much more likely that they were installed by German engineer Peter Bursche in 1681.

He was paid to lay water pipes from an area called Comiston into the city. These cannonballs are at the same height above sea level as the spring from where the water was fed. The building that today houses the Tartan Weaving Mill and Exhibition was built to house the lead lined storage tanks.

Tartan Weaving Mill and Exhibition

Find out all you need to know about tartan and its history. Shows the process from sheering the sheep to the making of a kilt. Good café, but not a lot to interest many Scouts.

Open 7 days a week all year
9.30am to 5.30pm

Edinburgh Old Town Weaving Company
555 Castlehill, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH1 2ND
Telephone 0131 226 1555
Fax 0131 225 2846
Email weavingco@scotweb.co.uk
Web site www.scotweb.co.uk/edinburgh/weaving

The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre

A centre dedicated to the art of Scotch whisky making and much more interesting than it sounds. The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre is close to the Castle at the top of the Royal Mile. Open 7 days, except Christmas Day, 10.00 to 17.30 and longer in summer. Tours are available in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese or Spanish.

A film giving an entertaining insight into the distillation process.

You can listen to a talk about the Scotch Whisky regions and get the chance to nose a variety of whiskies. The resident ghost, former master blender, talks about his life in the whisky trade.

Travel through time in a barrel seeing, hearing and smelling 300 years of Scotch Whisky history.

There is a dram for all adults at the end of the trip and a helium balloon and soft drinks for children!

Entrance Charges	1998/1999
Adults 18+	£4.95 per person
Senior Citizen / Disabled	£3.50 per person
Students 18+	£3.50 per person
Children 5-17	£2.50 per person
Family Ticket	£12.00 per family (2 adults & maximum 4 children)

Season Opening	Last Tour	Closing
Winter: Oct -May	0930 1630	1730
*Summer: June-Sept	0900 1730	1830

The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre

354 Castlehill
The Royal Mile
Edinburgh EH1 2NE
Tel: 0131-220 0441
Fax: 0131-220 6288
enquiry@whisky-heritage.co.uk
<http://www.whisky-heritage.co.uk>

Tollbooth Kirk - St Johns

Built by James Gillespie Graham and assisted by A W N Pugin who later designed the Houses of Parliament in London. The building has been unused for several years and in 1999 it reopens as The Hub, a centre for the Edinburgh Festival. It will serve as an information centre with café and bar facilities.

In front of it used to be the Weigh House or Butter Tron, where butter and cheese were weighed and sold. It was on the spot where the modern traffic island is now. The English destroyed the first Weigh House in 1384. In 1614 the Town Council rebuilt it but this building was destroyed by the troops of Oliver Cromwell in 1650. In 1660 a third building was erected and it was removed to widen the road for the visit of King George IV in 1822

Milne's Court

Built in 1690 by Robert Mylne. Refurbished in 1966-70 by Edinburgh University as Halls of Residence. A pretty good place to live if you are a student in Edinburgh.

James Court

From about 1725. James Boswell (writer) and David Hume (philosopher) lived here. There is a statue of David Hume outside the High Court building a little further down the hill.

Gladstone's Land

477B Lawnmarket

(Open April-Oct Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00, Sun 2.00-5.00)

Gladstone's Land was the home of a prosperous Edinburgh merchant, Thomas Gledstones, in the 17th century. It is decorated and furnished with great authenticity to give visitors an impression of life in Edinburgh's Old Town some 300 years ago.

Features of the building are the remarkable painted ceilings and the reconstructed shop booth complete with replicas of 17th-century goods. There is also a good collection of 17th-century Dutch paintings.

Open: 1 Apr (or Good Friday if earlier) to 31 Oct,
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5 (last admission 4.30).
Phone 0131 226 5856

Lady Stair's House

(Open June-Sept, Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00, Oct-May Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00. Open on Sundays during the Festival, 2.00-5.00)

Built in 1662 and now the home of the Writers' Museum, with interesting relics and manuscripts relating to Scotland's greatest literary figures - Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson

Brodie's Close

Named after the father of William Brodie. By day William Brodie was a respectable member of 18th century society, but a burglar by night. William Brodie was the inspiration for a book by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. See the file **Interesting Tales for Tourists** for more information

The High Kirk of St Giles – See Edinburgh for Free

Open Mon-Sat 9.00-5.00

Founded in the 1100's the spire of St Giles dominates the city skyline. The church was named after St. Giles, a saint popular throughout France, in support of the Auld (Old) Alliance of Scotland and France against England; their common and much hated enemy. After the Reformation, John Knox became St. Giles' first minister. John Knox preached and directed the Scottish reformation in the early 1500's

Parliament Square

Law Courts

Built by Robert Reid (1776-1856) after designs by Robert Adam (1728-1792), architects who both embody the Age of Reason

Parliament House

1632-1640. Built for the Scottish Parliament and used until the Act of Union in 1707. The building today houses the High Court, Court of Session and the wonderful Signet Library.

Heart of Midlothian

A heart shape set into the street cobblestones and marking the site of an ancient tollbooth, which was the city prison. It was built in 1466 and demolished in 1817. The door of the prison was removed and used in the house of Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford. The prison was a hated place, and tradition has it that you should spit on the spot as a mark of your displeasure. To this day the tradition is carried out by many Edinburgh people. Take care where you step.

Mercat Cross

On the other side of St Giles is the Mercat Cross. It is from here that declarations were traditionally made to the citizens of the City. When parliament is dissolved in London an announcement is still made at the Mercat Cross four days later, the time taken by a horseman to ride to Edinburgh from London. It will be interesting to see what happens with the new Scottish Parliament taking place just a short distance away.

Parliament House

Set behind St Giles is Parliament House, now the legal head of Edinburgh The home of Scotland's supreme courts, civil and criminal and the Advocates Library. The Scottish Parliament met here from 1639 until it abolished itself in 1707. Previously it had met in the Great Hall of the Castle. The new Scottish Parliament will meet in the Assembly Halls of the Church of Scotland on the Mound. The Assembly Halls have been

borrowed for two years until the permanent site is finished near the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

City Chambers

Designed originally as the Royal Exchange in 1753, to be a business centre for the city merchants. It was never much used as an Exchange, the merchants preferring to do their business in the street and taverns. From its base in Cockburn Street, to the top of its frontage in the High Street it twelve stories high. It was taken over as the City Chambers in 1811.

Mary Kings Close

In the summer of 1645 the plague was spreading rapidly through Edinburgh. The disease was killing all ages and social classes. At that time Mary Kings Close was a deprived area infested with rats and fleas. In a bid to stop the disease, the city council ordered that Mary Kings Close be blocked off. Stores of food were placed in the close and the inhabitants were left to face their doom. Only when all trace of the plague had vanished were the pitiful survivors allowed to emerge.

Imagine the horror that the people of Mary Kings Close endured. Much of the area was burned down in 1750 and incorporated into the new buildings that are now the City Chambers. Part of the street remains today and regular tours are available.

Normal, rational people claim to have seen the spirit of a young girl, crying in a corner of one of the rooms. Visitors have left chocolates and dolls in a desperate bid to stop her crying. Other sightings include the disembodied head of a man deeply ravaged by plague floating in mid-air. A phantom hand holding a candle has also been reported. More cynical people say that it is marsh gas still escaping from damp ground below the building. I'll let you make up your own mind.

See Mercat Tours for booking information.

Tron Kirk

The Tron Kirk, originally known as Christ's Church at the Tron, stands at the junction of North Bridge and The Royal Mile. Only about half the original design by John Mylne remains as some of it was demolished to make way for the new South Bridge road in 1785. With the decline of Old Town population the church closed in 1952 and lay empty and neglected for many years. It was the traditional place for people to gather at Hogmany, the Scottish celebration of New Year. Large crowds would gather watching the clock on the tower to bring in the New Year. In recent years a large commercial operation centres on Princes Street.

Over the last few years considerable work has been undertaken on the interior, excavating the cellar and discovering the ruins of ancient Edinburgh. The road surface and drains of Marlines Wynd that can be seen today are over 500 years old. It is now open as a visitors centre where you can view the work to date, explained with pictures of before and after the work started.

Open April-May, Thurs-Sun 10.00-5.00,
June-Sept, daily, 10.00-7.00.

Tel: 0131-20-1637)

Museum of Childhood – See our file Edinburgh for Free

(Open June-Sept, Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00, Oct-May Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00,

Open on Sundays only during the Festival, 2.00-5.00)

Historical toys, books, dolls, and much frequented by children

Moubray House

Daniel Defoe's office, and thought to be the oldest surviving dwelling in the town, but unfortunately not open to the public.

John Knox's House

Devoted to the life and career of the Scottish religious reformer, this picturesque house has inscribed on the outside: "LYFE GOD ABUFE AL AND YI NYCHTBOUR AS YI SELF"

The most picturesque house in the High Street section of the Royal Mile is John Knox's House. Built towards the end of the fifteenth century, the famous Protestant reformer was the minister of St Giles', and delivered many a thundering sermon there in the presence of, and much to the discomfiture of, the Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots. John Knox's House was saved from the demolition men many years ago by the Protestant Society, has hand-painted ceilings. It is entered by forestairs, a once common architectural feature in the Royal Mile, but of which there are now few surviving examples. Near the door is one of the street wells which at one time were the only source of water in the neighbourhood.

Open Mon-Sat 10.00-4.30

Admission Costs

Adults £1.95

Senior Citizens & Concessions £1.50

Children under 15 - £0.75p

Under 7s – free

0131 556 9579

Chessel's Court

Built in 1745 as mansion apartments

Morocco Land

Restored early 18th Century tenement which takes its name from a half length figure of a Moor on the front

Canongate Tollbooth

(Open June-Sept, Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00, Oct-May 10.00-5.00, and also, during the festival: Sun 2.00-5.00)

The tower was built in 1591. The building now houses a museum: "The Peoples' Story", everyday life of the inhabitants of Edinburgh down the centuries.

Canongate Kirk

Built in 1688 after James VII had given orders for the Nave at Holyrood Abbey to be converted from the parish church to the chapel for the Order of the Thistle.

Huntly House - See our Edinburgh for Free file

Restored 16th Century building, now contains a museum of local history, and relics relating to Field Marshal Earl Haig.

White Horse Close

Named after Mary Queen of Scots large palfrey horse. Originally the site of stables, mews and an inn, it was from here that horse drawn coaches left for London. In 1754 the journey took eight days and passengers were only allowed 14lbs (6.35 Kg). The London terminus was at a Place called Scotland Yard. On the site today is the headquarters of London police. In 1793 William Dick was born in the close. He later founded the Royal School of Veterinary Studies, the school known to Edinburgh people as the " Dick Vet ". A hostelry known as the White Horse Inn was in the building that stands at the rear of the long courtyard. You might have heard of White Horse whisky, it was named after this close.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse

The Queens Official residence in Scotland at the very foot of the Royal Mile is situated in the shadow of the extinct volcano of Arthur's Seat. Holyrood means "Holy Cross" The Palace of Holyrood House Legend has it that King David I, son of Malcolm Canmore and St Margaret, was hunting one Sunday in 1128. His horse was startled by a stag that appeared from nowhere, and King David found himself hurled to the ground and in mortal danger of being gored by the stags antlers. In desperation he grasped hold of them whereupon they miraculously changed into a Crucifix. This story has echoes in the similar story of St Hubert in France. That night King David pledged to build an Abbey for Canons devoted to the Cross.

Open every day except:

2nd April,

4th May to 16th May

26th June to 11th July

25th & 26th December

For details of group rates telephone 0131 556 7371

24 hour information line 0131 556 1096

email information@royalcollection.org.uk

Information about the Monarchy and their Royal Palaces is available at

<http://www.royal.gov.uk>

A small text file like this can never give a full summary of the Royal Mile but it might give you enough information to start you off on your journey of exploration.

Tourist Information – New Town

Princes Street and Princes Street Gardens

One thing that is immediately obvious about Princes Street is the number of wooden benches that line the southern side of the street. They are paid for by public donation. Most are dedicated to the memory of a family member or friend. The seat donated by the Scout Association is at the western end of the street, between South Charlotte Street and Castle Street.

Princes Street is flanked by two large hotels. The Balmoral, previously called the North British at the east and the Caledonian at the west end.

Starting from the east end of Princes Street.

The Edinburgh Tourist Information Centre is directly above Waverley Railway Station.

Scott Monument

A little further to the east soars the famous Scott Monument, a 200 ft high Gothic tribute to the author, at the junction of Waverley Bridge and Princes Street is the Waverley Market shopping centre; at and native son, Sir Walter Scott. There is a narrow stairway inside (a total of 287 steps in several stages), and the monument affords spectacular views of the city.

The stonework of the monument has recently been repaired and a debate raged in the local press about the merits of cleaning the stone to give a uniform appearance. You will see that the repairs and replaced stone are immediately obvious as it has been decided not to clean the rest of the monument. This because stone cleaning on other Edinburgh buildings over the last three decades has not been totally successful. A number of different techniques have been used such as high-pressure water washing, grit blasting and acid etching. In some cases damage has been caused to the surface of the stone leaving it open to the attack of the elements.

Jenners

The worlds oldest department store. In 1837 two young Edinburgh assistants, Charles Jenner and Charles Kennington sloped of work and headed to Musselburgh races for the day. After they were promptly sacked from the city's leading drapers W & R Spence they decided to set up their own business. In 1838 Kennington and Jenner opened at 47 Princes Street. The annual rent was £150, such a large sum that Charles Jenner was forced to sleep under the counter as he couldn't afford to pay for accommodation too. By 1874 the firm was renamed Charles Jenner and Company and is still on the same site. When the store was razed by fire in 1892 the store was rebuilt external decorations including the caryatides - female figures carved into columns - Intended to show symbolically that women were the main stay of the business.

The Art Galleries see our file **Edinburgh For Free**

At the foot of the Mound stand two important art galleries - the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland. The Royal Scottish Academy is the building nearest Princes Street with the National Gallery of Scotland directly behind it.

Floral Clock

If you enter West Princes Street Gardens from the Mound as you go down the steps you will find the Floral Clock. A mechanical cuckoo chimes the quarter hours. A different floral theme is displayed each year and is a testament to the skill of the council gardeners.

Charlotte Square

No. 7 Charlotte Square - The Georgian House

The 'Georgian House' at No 7 on the north side of Charlotte Square is part of the elegant yet simple facade created by the architect Robert Adam at the suggestion, in 1790, of the Lord Provost. Charlotte Square was the final section of the First New Town. No. 7 was built in 1796 and sold to John Lamont. In 1975 it was opened to the public as a restored National Trust property. In the audio-visual room, video programmes describe the history of the New Town and A Day in the Life of The Georgian House.

Open: 1 Apr (or Good Friday if earlier) to 31 Oct,
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5 (last admission 4.30).
Phone 0131 225 2160.

West Register House sits in the centre of the west side of the Square is, designed as a church by Robert Reid, dating from 1814, its dome being modelled on that of St Paul's Cathedral. Today it houses maps, plans, most modern Government records, railway records, those of the nationalised industries, legal records post 1800 and the private archives of industry and commerce. It also contains the Scottish Record Office Museum. Among the documents on display to the public are:

- The Treaty of Edinburgh of 1328 negotiated by Robert 1 and Edward III of England.
- An inventory of the embroideries of Mary Queen of Scots.
- Charges of witchcraft against Janet Boyman of the Cowgate who was convicted and burnt in 1572.

The New Town was the home and birthplace to many famous people, here are just a few of them.

Starting with Charlotte Square

At No 9, **Lord Joseph Lister** lived, a pioneer in the use of antiseptics.

At No 14, **Henry, Lord Cockburn** (1779 - 1854) lived from 1812 to 1830. He was one of the key figures in the cultural history of Edinburgh. He was Solicitor-General in 1830 and seven years later a lord of Justiciary. As one of the leaders of the Scottish Whigs he helped to draft the First Reform Bill for Scotland. The Cockburn Association is named in his honour. Interestingly Lord Cockburn also owned Bonaly Towers,

today Bonlay Campsite sits on what was once part of his estate. It was Lord Cockburn who built the Roman Bath. If you are brave enough can still swim in today.

At No 16, South Charlotte Street **Alexander Graham Bell** (1847 - 1922) was born.

At No 24, **Field Marshal Lord Haig** was born.

No 44 used to be Scottish Scout Headquarters before their move to Fordell Firs.

Some others

Sir Walter Scott left his parents' house in George Square to lodge for a short time here at No 108 George Street while waiting for his new house at No 39 North Castle Street to be readied.

Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932), the author of *The Wind in the Willows*, was born at No 32 Castle Street, the son of an advocate.

At No 10 Castle Street, **Shelley** lived with his wife.

J. M. Barrie the author of *Peter Pan* lived at No 3 Great King Street.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born at 11 Picardy Place, now demolished. There is now a pub named in his honour and a statue of his most famous character.

William Chambers, publisher of the famous dictionary lived at No 25 Chester Street.

Robert Louis Stevenson was born at No 8 Howard Place.

The list goes on and on.