

Walking from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to Edinburgh Castle

# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

EDINBURGH'S ROYAL MILE IN THE 1560s



8



Now carefully cross over to the right-hand side of the road for No. 9.

## 8 – RIDDLE'S COURT

Riddle's Court was built in the 1590s by a wealthy merchant. Go inside. **Why do you think it was built off the main street?**

Aristocratic people would rent rooms here when they visited Edinburgh. It was also used as a meeting place and Mary's son, James VI, even attended a lavish banquet here.



7



Find the plaque at parking spot 23.

**What does it say?** This car park was once the cathedral's graveyard. The plaque marks John Knox's grave.

Walk around the right-hand side of the Cathedral, into the car park. Watch out for cars!

## 7 – ST. GILES CATHEDRAL

Can you find a heart shape in the cobbles outside the Cathedral?

This area used to be a tolbooth (a court and prison) – the heart marks the location of the cell where prisoners would await execution.



6

## 6 – SITE OF THE LUCKENBOOTHs

In Mary's time, wooden shops known as luckenbooths stood here.

**Imagine what sights, sounds and smells you would experience during Mary's time.**

This would have been a very noisy and bustling place.



5



## 5 – THE MERCAT CROSS

The Mercat Cross showed that Edinburgh had the right to hold a regular market. It was also the site of public executions and formal proclamations (like the announcement of a new king).

In Mary's time, the Cross stood a little further down the street.

**Can you find the cobbles marking the original site a few metres downhill?**

Use the traffic lights by The World's End to carefully cross to the right-hand side of the road.



3



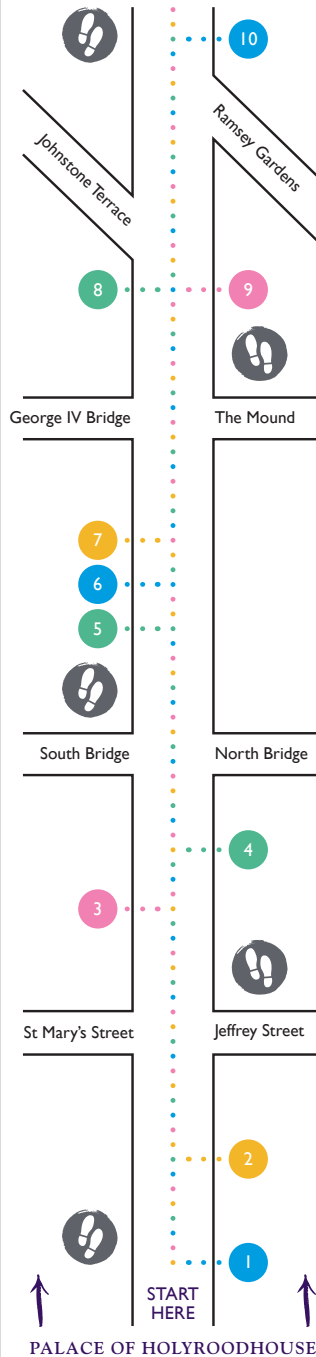
## 3 – THE WORLD'S END

Find a pub called The World's End. **Why do you think it's called that?**

This area became known as World's End because it separated the Canongate (the lower Royal Mile) from the city of Edinburgh. In Mary's time there was a gatehouse here and heads of executed prisoners were sometimes displayed on its gate.



## EDINBURGH CASTLE



## PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

## 10 – EDINBURGH CASTLE ESPLANADE, WITCHES' WELL

Find the witches' well (on your right just as you enter the esplanade with the Castle in front of you)

During the 1500s, more witch burnings took place here than anywhere else in the country.



10



## 9 – GLADSTONE'S LAND

This building belonged to a prosperous merchant. **What do you think the different floors were used for?**

The bottom was a shop and also home to some smellier residents: pigs! The first floor was a very grand apartment – only wealthy people like duchesses, priests and merchants lived here.



9



Now carefully cross over to the left-hand side of the road at Tron Kirk and keep walking up to find No. 5.

## 4 – JOHN KNOX HOUSE

Look for four wooden panels on the side of the house. **Can you find images of Mary and John Knox?**

This is one of the oldest houses in Edinburgh and some say John Knox once lived here. It was also home to James Mossman, Mary's goldsmith and keeper of the royal mint (where coins were made).



4

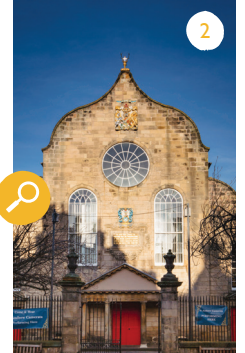


Now carefully cross over to the left-hand side of the road for No. 3.

## 2 – CANONGATE KIRK AND DAVID RIZZIO'S GRAVE

Find the plaque said to mark David Rizzio's grave on the outside of the right wall of the church. **Why do you think the gravestone is so plain?**

David's original grave was under the doorway at Holyrood Abbey – meaning it was often stood on. Mary was furious about this and ordered his body to be moved.



2



## 1 – WHITEHORSE CLOSE

Mary kept something very precious here, **what do you think it was?** Hint: the clue is in the name!

This was the site of the Royal Mews (stables) in Mary's time. It was named in honour of Mary's white horse who lived here.



1



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Edinburgh Castle  
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7



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Cross to the right-hand side of the Royal Mile and stop opposite Gladstone's Land for No. 3.



2



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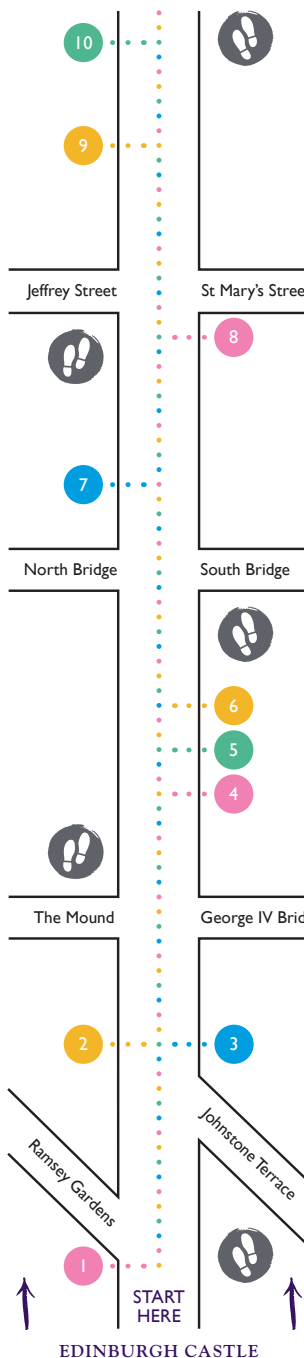


### 1 – EDINBURGH CASTLE ESPLANADE, WITCHES' WELL

Find the witches' well at the Royal Mile end of the Esplanade (on your left with the Castle behind you) During the 1500s, more witch burnings took place here than anywhere else in the country.



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE



EDINBURGH CASTLE

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When you reach the crossroads by the Tron Kirk, cross carefully over to the right-hand side of the road for No. 7.

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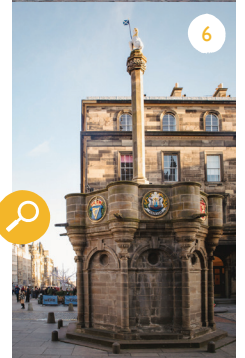
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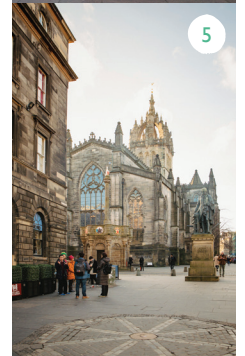
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