Edinburgh Walking Tour

Edinburgh’s winding, ancient alleyways (or wynds) are a big part of the city’s appeal. This walk leads you up steep steps and along cobbled streets awash with history and atmosphere. And into a pub, too.

**Start** Castle Esplanade
**Distance** 1 mile
**Duration** Two hours

1. **At Castle Esplanade** head to the 17th-century Cannonball House to spot the iron ball lodged in the wall between the two largest windows facing the castle.

2. **On a west-facing wall of this low building**, spot the Witches Well fountain, commemorating the 4000 people (mostly women), executed on suspicion of sorcery.

3. **Ramsay Garden** is one of Edinburgh’s most desirable addresses – where late 19th-century apartments were built around the octagonal Ramsay Lodge.

4. **At New College** visit a courtyard containing a statue of John Knox, a firebrand preacher who led the Protestant Reformation in Scotland.

5. **Next it’s up stairs into Milne’s Court**, then the Lawnmarket, then Fisher’s Close onto delightful **Victoria Terrace**, strung above shop-lined Victoria St’s cobbles.

6. **Stairs at the foot of Upper Bow** lead down to the Grassmarket and the Cavaliers Monument, where more than 100 17th-century Covenanters were martyred.

7. **Tailors Hall** (1621) was formerly the meeting place of the Company of Tailzeours (Tailors’ Guild).

8. **Anchor Close** was once the site of a tavern that hosted the Crochallan Fencibles, an 18th-century drinking club. It’s best-known member? The poet Robert Burns.

9. **Finish at Cockburn St** – one of the city’s coolest shopping streets, it’s lined with record shops and clothing boutiques.

**Take a Break** Stop by Maxie’s Bistro ([0131-226 7770; www.maxiesbistro.com; 5b Johnston Tce; ☑noon-11pm; mains £11-25]), acosy eatery with a terrace overlooking Victoria St.