

Leith Heritage Trail

1 Royal Yacht Britannia

Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia was launched in 1953 and for 44 years transported the Royal Family around the world. Now docked at Ocean Terminal, the ship has been rated Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction.

3 Leith Theatre

This grand complex includes a library, a town hall and a 1500 capacity theatre. Its construction was part of the city's 1920 amalgamation agreement. Still semi-derelict, it operates as a cultural and community venue.

5 Leith Citadel

Leith Citadel was constructed by Oliver Cromwell during his occupation of Leith in the 1650s. After the Restoration in 1660 the site was gradually demolished. Today, only the entrance archway remains.

7 George IV Landing Site

The plaque shows where George IV landed in Scotland in 1822. His visit was organised by Sir Walter Scott and resulted in the re-legalisation of tartan and the kilt being adopted as our National Dress.

9 Malmaison Hotel

Now a boutique hotel, this building was opened in 1885 as a Sailors home to house up to 9 officers and 56 seamen. In emergencies, it could also look after up to 50 shipwrecked sailors.

11 Harpoon

Although outlawed today, until the 1960s whaling was an important industry in Leith. Ships would sail from here to the Antarctic to catch whales. This type of harpoon canon was used on whaling ships from 1870.

2 Leith History Mural

This mural was created by Tim Chalk and Paul Grime. It depicts different aspects of Leith's history including shipbuilding, the docks and the National Hunger March of 1932.

4 St Ninian's Manse

A chapel to St Ninian was first built here in 1493. The building was substantially altered in the late 1500s and the spire was added in 1675. The orange render is historically accurate and was recreated in the 1990s.

6 Custom House

The Custom House was built in 1812. All the tax on goods passing through Leith's busy docks was paid and processed here until 1980. The building is now managed by the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust.

8 The Signal Tower

This tower was constructed in the 17th century as a windmill. The top was replaced with battlements in 1805 so that flags could be displayed on it. These flags told sailors the depth of the water in the harbour.

10 Merchant Navy Memorial

This memorial, unveiled in 2010, commemorates all merchant seamen who have lost their lives in war or peacetime. The bronze decoration shows historical ships, war, trading routes and everyday merchant tasks.

12 Victoria Bridge

When completed in 1874, this was the longest swing bridge in Britain. It was originally a railway bridge, built to allow rail access to the new Albert Dock. In 2000, it was converted into a pedestrian bridge.

13 Robert Burns Statue

The famous poet Robert Burns lived in Edinburgh from 1786-1788 and worked in Leith as a Customs Clerk. This statue of him was unveiled in 1898 by the Leith Burns Appreciation Society.

15 Leith Town Hall

This building was erected in 1827 as a courthouse, and still has the original cells. It also housed the council chambers while Leith was an independent Burgh from 1833 to 1920. It is now a Police Station.

17 Queen Victoria Statue

This statue was erected in 1907 and marks Queen Victoria's reign and her first visit to Leith in 1842. It is also a memorial to the local Scots Guards who died in the Boer War.

19 Trinity House

The Master Mariners of Leith began in 1380. They provided for widows and orphans of men lost at sea and taught mathematics for navigation. Trinity House was built for them in 1816. It is now a wonderful maritime museum.

21 The Vaults

Built in 1682, but with older cellars, this is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Scotland. It was historically used to store imported wine and today it is home to The Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

23 Lamb's House

Built c.1610 for wealthy merchant Andrew Lamb, this building is a rare survival. Previously owned by the National Trust for Scotland, it has recently been restored by Groves-Raines Architects.

14 Assembly Rooms

Leith Exchange and Assembly Rooms was built in 1810 as a grand socialising space for both day and evening. It replaced the 1783 building, which survives on the north-east side. It is now offices and flats.

16 Leith Links

Leith Links provided the first home of golf. Play was banned by James II in 1457 but quickly revived. James IV and Mary, Queen of Scots both played here in the 16th century. In 1744, the rules of golf were written in Leith.

18 South Leith Parish Church

This church was first built in 1487, but it was extensively restored in 1847 by Thomas Hamilton. It bears the coats of arms of four monarchs: Marie of Guise, Mary, Queen of Scots, James VI and Charles I.

20 Cables Wynd House

Cables Wynd House is a classic example of 1960s brutalist architecture. The Category A listed building is nicknamed 'the Banana Flats' due to its unusual shape. It featured in Irvine Welsh's book Trainspotting.

22 Paolozzi Mural

This 2014 mural by Russell Ian Dempster depicts the famous Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi (1924-2005). Paolozzi was born in Leith and is considered to be one of the pioneers of pop art.

24 The King's Wark

Started by James I, 'The King's Wark' developed as a custom house, storehouse, arsenal and residence for officials. It was demolished in 18th century and partially replaced by the present structure.



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