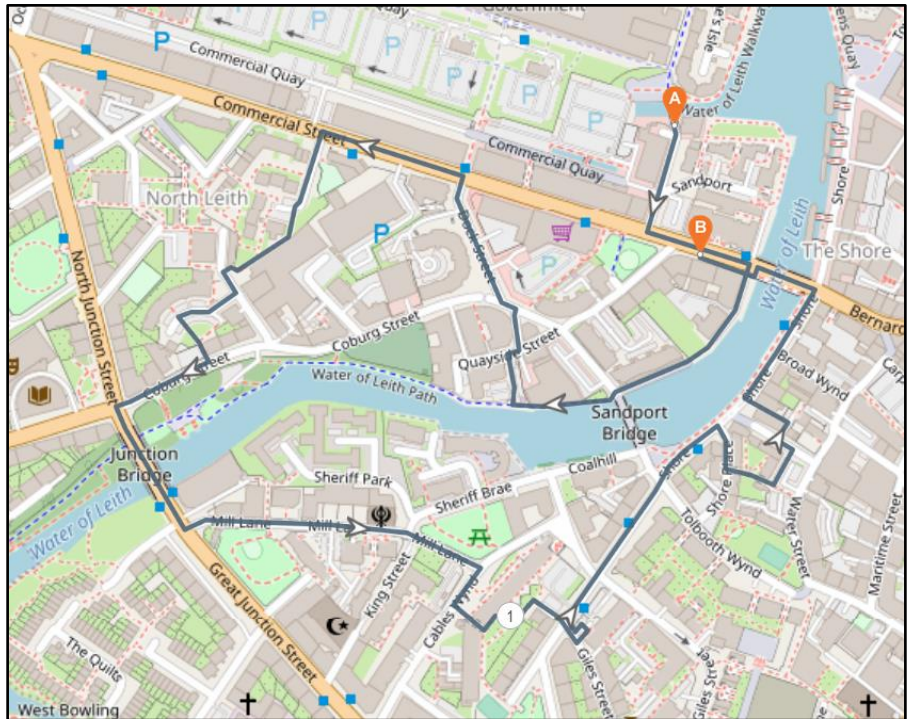


Leith: 'Medieval and Old' stroll

1. **Custom House**, 1812. Retained its original use until 1980. The impressive coat of arms over the entrance is that of George III. Robert Reid architect.
2. **The Cooperage**, early C19th. Converted to flats 1984-5 (when the 1-km-radius Health and Safety mortgage exclusion zone around the docks was removed) and as such marked the beginning of the yupification and gentrification of Leith.
3. **Early Graving Dock**, 1770s. One of first in Scotland. A basin-like structure large enough to admit a ship that can be pumped dry to access its bottom.
4. **Sandport Bridge**. Site of old Fishquay bridge (Leith's 2nd bridge, 1778)
5. **Site of the first bridge** across the Water of Leith, 1496.
6. **The oldest building to survive in Leith**. The extraordinarily picturesque St Ninian's Church and belfry date from 1493.
7. **The Citadel**. Part of Oliver Cromwell's plan to subdue Scotland after the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. Built, with an unusual pentangular-shaped outline, in 1650-56. The Citadel Port – the main gateway – survives.
8. **North Leith (or Citadel) Station**, 1846. The passenger route from Edinburgh came through the Scotland Street tunnel, to pass under Junction Bridge and through another tunnel under Coburg Street. The goods line extended into the docks, and on across the Water of Leith.
9. **Couper Street School gate piers**. Relics of a vanished school, built in 1890.
10. **Junction bridge**. At the end of the C18th century, the port of Leith was becoming very overcrowded. With the construction of the wet docks new infrastructure was needed to enable goods to be easily taken to and fro.



Junction bridge bypassed the narrow and busy streets of old Leith. The single arch of Phase I, which followed the alignment and course of the old 16th century walls, was completed in 1818. Extended with the arrival of the railway, and later, 1909, widened by steel spans on either side.

11. **Mill Lane.** The 'Gladstones' pub is a converted carpet warehouse. A range of buildings - part of Sir John Gladstone's benefactions to Leith: St Thomas' Schools comprise a boys' school and girls' school, a 'Female Asylum for Incurables', a rose garden, St. Thomas's Church and manse all in the Gothic style of architecture. Sir John, 1764 – 1851, who grew up locally became a fabulously wealthy Scottish merchant, plantation owner and owner of 2508 enslaved people (Jamaica, South America), and politician. Best known as the father of the liberal British Prime Minister.
12. **'Banana' flats constructed 1962-65.** Exemplar of the Brutalist concrete design as favoured by the urban planner Le Corbusier. They adhere to his concept of the vertical city. The flats offered a welcome improvement over the then common problems of overcrowding and slum housing conditions. The home of Sick Boy (a drug dealer, pimp and porn director) in the iconic Edinburgh-set, cult-film of Trainspotting. The Banana flats were notorious as a hotbed of drug abuse during the 1980s.
13. **The Henderson Street Improvement Scheme** of 1885 provided a new street with much better access to the docks. It involved the demolition of many of Leith's appalling slums in Leith's old closes, lanes, and courts.
14. **The Medieval Vaults.** This Category A-listed building dates from 1682. Its deep cellars were used for storage of large quantities of wine, much imported from Bordeaux and later from Portugal. The oldest building in Scotland with the same continuous use.
15. **Lamb's house: built in 1610.** For many years Leith's finest merchant's house. Note the continental features of crow stepped gables and pantile roof. By 1930, it had become semi-ruinous. Beautifully restored in 2010.
16. **The Shore:** used as a harbour since Anglo-Saxon times. It has served as the arrival point for several monarchs: Mary Queen of Scots (1561); Anne of Denmark (1590); Charles II (1651); George IV (1822).
17. **The King's Wark** (wark = a work = a building), a C15th fortification begun by James I in 1434, as the Royal arsenal and storehouse. c1690 destroyed by fire. Redeveloped in C17th to C18th. Modernized (2000 onwards).