WALKS around PORTOBELLO

Description: This walk gives a quick impression of Portobello – what it's like today, and a bit of its history.
Length: ~3½ miles
Time: as a stroll: 2 hours; as a route march: one hour. The walk is circular, comprising independent halves.
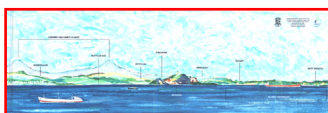Terrain: standard town streets; some gentle climbs; OK throughout for wheelchairs.

PORTOBELLO POTTERIES

The information board beside the old kilns illustrates how the pottery was made for which Portobello was renowned throughout Scotland.

THE TOWER BUILT C1785 AS A SUMMER-HOUSE USING MEDIEVAL CARVED STONES

The Tower: built around 1785 as a summer-house, using medieval carved stones from Edinburgh

PORTOBELLO SEASIDE 1850 - 1950

This information board illustrates some of the entertainments available to the thousands of visitors who flocked to Portobello in its heyday.
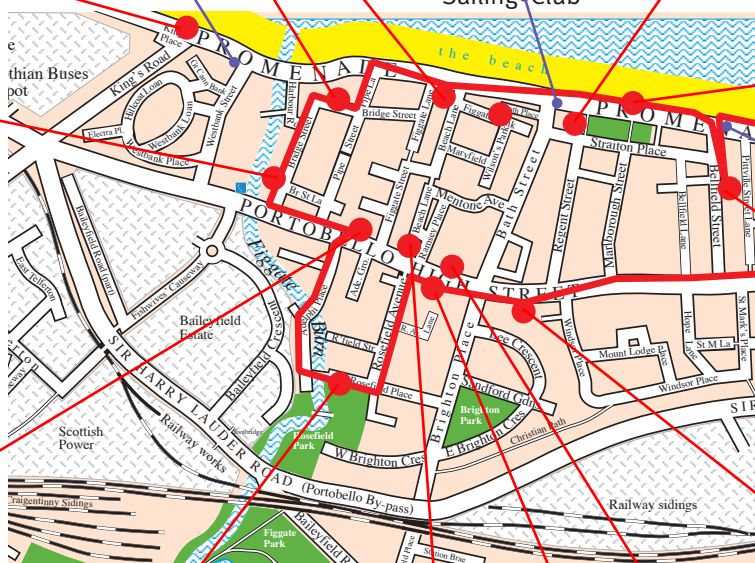

Features of the Fife coastline.

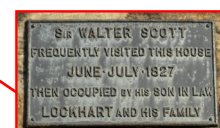Portobello Indoor Bowls

Portobello Sailing Club

NED BARNIE 1896-1983 CHANNEL SWIMMER LIVED HERE

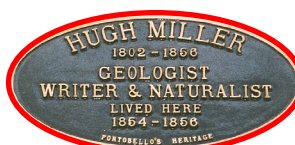Ned Barnie was the first Scot to swim the English Channel and the first person ever to swim it in both directions.

Sir Harry Lauder, regarded by many as the first global superstar, was born in Portobello on 4th August 1870.

Portobello Swim Centre

Si: WALTER SCOTT FREQUENTLY VISITED THIS HOUSE JUNE - JULY 1827 THEN OCCUPIED BY HIS SON IN LAW LOCKHART AND HIS FAMILY

Walter Scott was a frequent visitor to this house; his son-in-law John Gibson Lockhart who stayed here wrote a definitive biography.

HUGH MILLER 1802 - 1856 GEOLOGIST WRITER & NATURALIST LIVED HERE 1854 - 1856 PORTOBELLO'S HERITAGE

Hugh Miller was one of the founding fathers of modern geology, a gifted writer, and the formidable Editor of *The Witness*, through which he fought a valiant rearguard action in defence of his God. He spent the last two years of his life in Portobello.

PORTOBELLO FORMER TOWN HALL 1863 - 1877 ARCHITECT DAVID BRYCE

Portobello's first purpose-built Town Hall is now the Baptist Church.

SIR WILLIAM RUSSELL FLINT 1880 – 1969 ARTIST LIVED HERE 1885-1900 PORTOBELLO'S HERITAGE

The artist William Russell Flint grew up here.

PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL 1878-1896 ARCHITECT ROBERT PATERSON

The old Town Hall, now our police station.
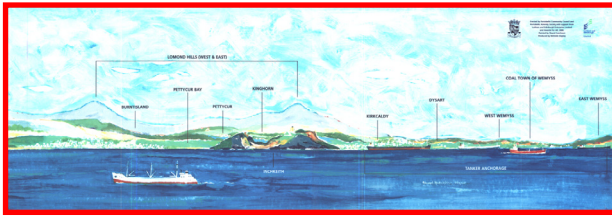The new Town Hall, across the road from here, is a theatre.

SIR HARRY LAUDER MEMORIAL GARDEN

A small memorial garden celebrates Sir Harry Lauder's connection with Portobello.

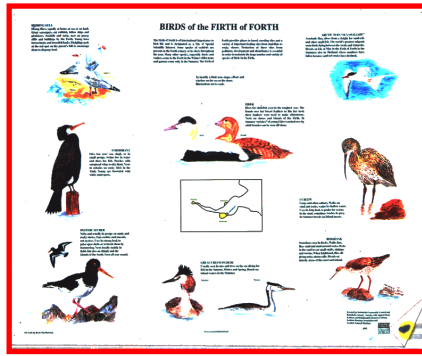HELEN HOPEKIRK 1856 - 1945 COMPOSER PIANIST TEACHER LIVED HERE 1856 - 1868

Helen Hopekirk was a gifted composer, pianist and music teacher who found fame in the United States.
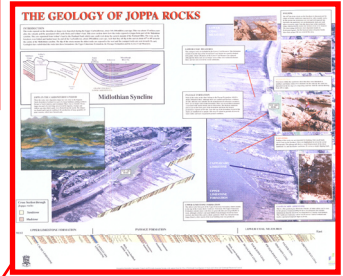
A landscape painting helps to identify the places and features along the far side of the Firth of Forth.

This information board depicts some of the many seabirds which can be seen on Portobello's shore.

DAVID LAING
1793 – 1878
ANTIQUARY & HISTORIAN
LIVED NEAR HERE 1846–1878
PORTOBELLO'S HERITAGE

David Laing was Librarian of the Signet Library and a key figure in the Scottish literary establishment.

Interpretation board explaining the origin of Joppa Rocks and this key local geological site, much admired by Hugh Miller.

These early 19th century Coade Stone pillars once stood elsewhere in Portobello, and now grace the Community Garden.

Joppa Rocks

ROCK COTTAGE
16TH CENTURY
OLDEST HOUSE IN PORTOBELLO
SALT PRODUCED ON THIS SITE
AT JOPPA SALT PANS
1630 – 1953
PORTOBELLO'S HERITAGE

The oldest house in the Portobello area, pre-dating the town itself; site of three centuries of salt-making – at first under the supervision of monks.
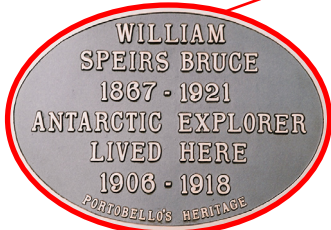
This memorial fountain was erected by his grateful patients to honour the memory of well-loved GP Dr Hugh Dewar in 1914 – after he had committed suicide because he felt responsible for the death of one of his patients.

WILLIAM SPEIRS BRUCE
1867 - 1921
ANTARCTIC EXPLORER
LIVED HERE
1906 - 1918
PORTOBELLO'S HERITAGE

William Speirs Bruce was a naturalist and oceanographer who organised and led the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in 1902, participated in several scientific and commercial expeditions to the Arctic, helped to found Edinburgh Zoo, and founded the Scottish Ski Club.

The Scaliger railing "Verona" 1380. This exact copy was made at Portobello, Midlothian, 1890, by James Ross, Blacksmith, along with David Greig, his assistant in the work.

Information board showing some of the creatures that are to be found in the Joppa Rock pools.

Portobello's cemetery was opened in 1877 and contains many fine Victorian monuments. Notable burials include Ian Charleson, star of Chariots of Fire and a noted Hamlet; William Robertson, who won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in the Boer War in 1899; 25 servicemen who gave their lives in the World Wars; and Edinburgh's Muslim cemetery.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL