

Top five places that inspired Harry Potter

The first stop on our Harry Potter tour is a little café in the heart of Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. This is the place where JK Rowling used to come to write the Harry Potter books. And she'd sit in this exact seat. Now people come from around the world to visit it. And if you look out of the window from this spot, there's one pretty big clue about where the idea for her wizarding school came from.

Video zone



Our second landmark: Edinburgh Castle, the inspiration for Hogwarts. 'Perched atop a high mountain ... its windows sparkling in the starry sky, was a vast castle with many turrets and towers.' Yep, pretty accurate!

Three. Greyfriars Kirkyard. Yes, a graveyard. The books are packed full of characters with unusual names: Sirius Black, Albus Dumbledore, Narcissa Malfoy. Some of them she got from the names of flowers, stars or Latin, which she studied. Others she got from places like this.

Four. The reptile house at London Zoo. Potter fans will recognise this as the first place where we really get an idea of what Harry can do. 'It was cool and dark in here, with lit windows all along the walls. Harry sat up and gasped; the glass front of the boa constrictor's tank had vanished.'

Five. King's Cross station, London, where our journey comes to an end but where Harry's really begins. Not only does he meet his best friend Ron here, but it's also the spot where he takes the Hogwarts Express for the very first time. 'He opened his eyes. A scarlet steam engine was waiting next to a platform packed with people. A sign overhead said *Hogwarts Express, 11 o'clock* ... with the words *Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$* . He had done it.' I wonder if I can get there too?

1. Match them up!



Match the words with the definitions.

a wizard	→	Someone who can do magic
a landmark		Strange
a graveyard		A place where we put dead people in the ground
packed		The place where we get on and off trains
a character		A big or important place that many people know
unusual		An animal with cold blood that lays eggs, like a snake
a reptile		A person in a story or a film
a platform		Completely full

2. Fill it in!



Watch the video. Write the places next to the ideas they gave the author.

King's Cross station, London	A café in Edinburgh	The reptile house at London Zoo
Edinburgh Castle		Greyfriars Kirkyard

- a. The idea for a wizarding school: A café in Edinburgh
- b. The idea for what Hogwarts looks like: _____
- c. Ideas for the names of some of the characters: _____
- d. An idea for what magic Harry can do: _____
- e. The idea for where Harry takes the Hogwarts train: _____

3. True or false?

Watch the video. Circle true or false for these sentences.

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|----|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. | JK Rowling went to a café to write the Harry Potter books. | ☒ true | ☐ false |
| b. | People come from around the world to visit the café. | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| c. | You can see Edinburgh Zoo from a window in the café. | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| d. | Edinburgh Castle has got lots of towers. | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| e. | Some characters' names come from flowers, stars and English. | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| f. | The reptile house has got lots of windows. | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| g. | Harry meets his teacher on platform 9 ³ / ₄ . | ☐ true | ☐ false |
| h. | The Hogwarts Express train leaves at 9 o'clock. | ☐ true | ☐ false |

