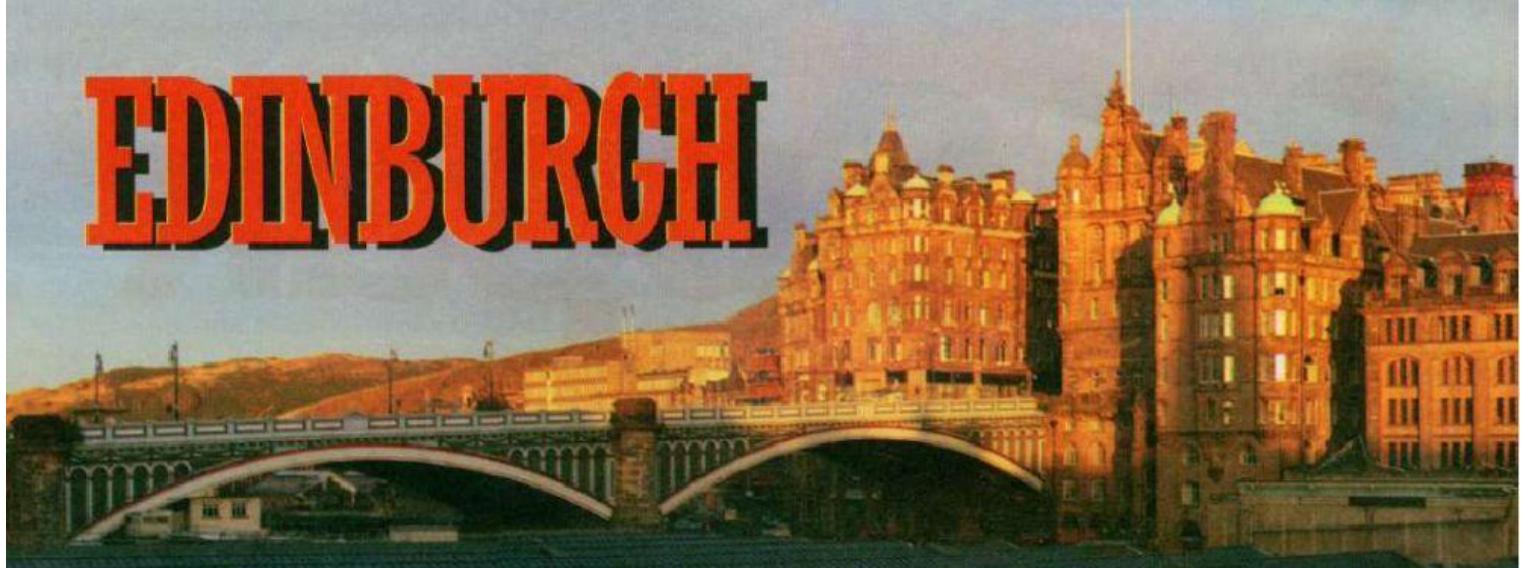
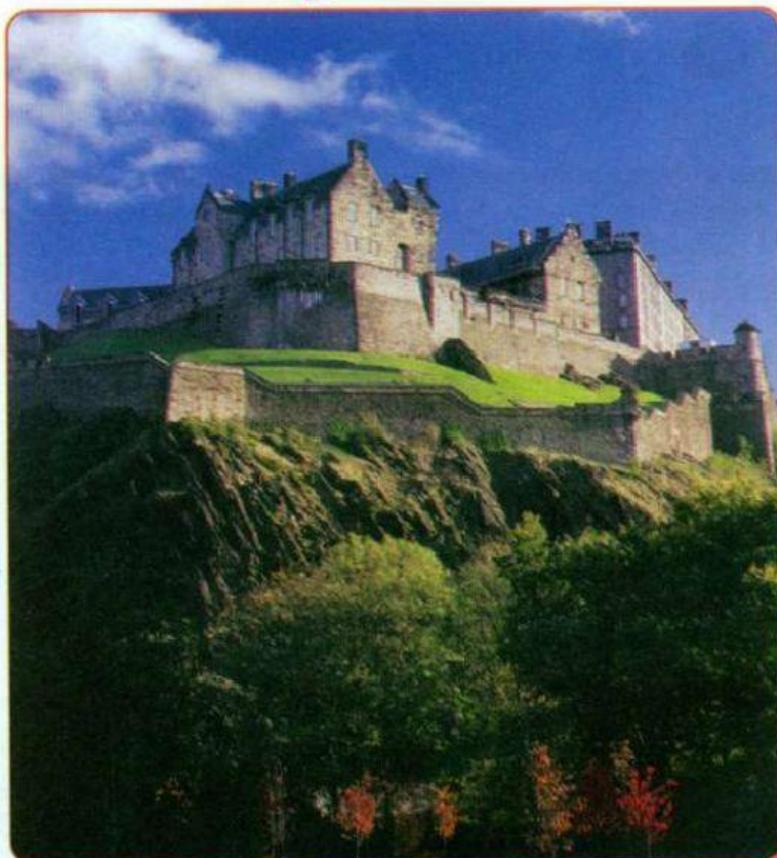


EDINBURGH



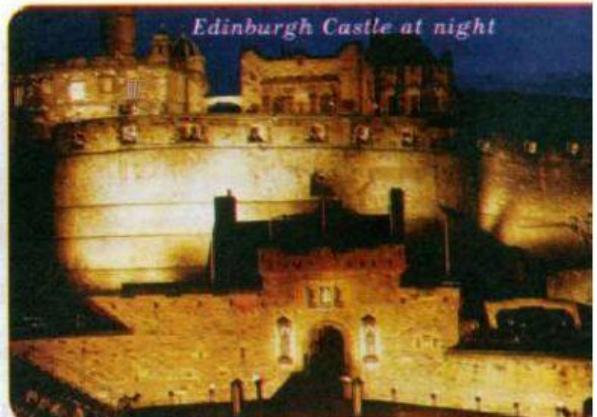
Some people think that Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is the most beautiful and romantic city in Europe.

Edinburgh Castle



In the centre of Edinburgh is Edinburgh Castle. It's every schoolboy's dream of what a castle should look like. It sits on top of a hill and is over 1,000 years old.

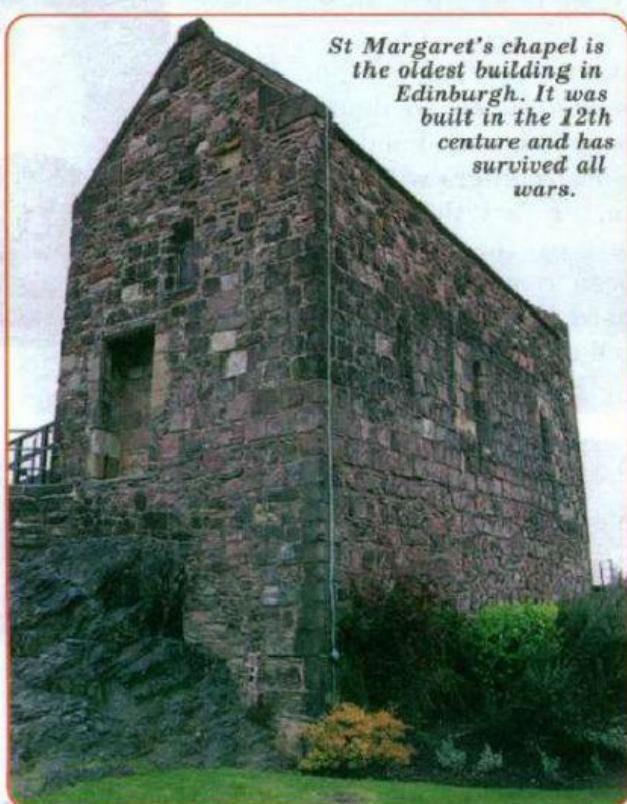
In the Middle Ages it was Scotland's main royal castle. (Scotland hasn't always



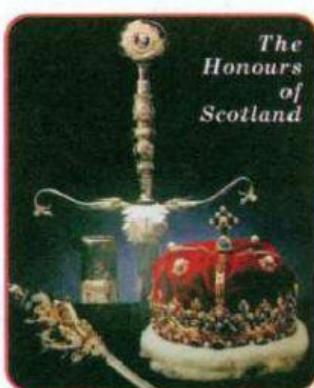
been a part of the United Kingdom and the Scottish people had their own kings and queens.)

In the Royal Palace you can see the Honours of Scotland (the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Stone of Destiny, a big grey stone on which Scottish kings and queens sat during coronations. In 1296 the Stone was captured by Edward I and taken to Westminster Abbey. It was returned to Scotland only in 1996!

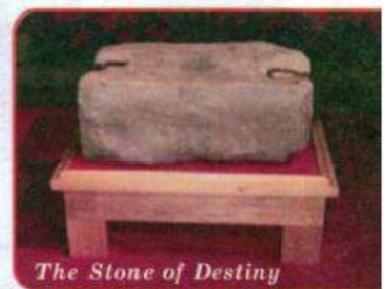
In the Palace you can also see a tiny room where Mary Stuart gave birth to her only son, the future King James VI of Scotland. In 1603 King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England and Scotland and moved to London. This ended Scottish independence.



St Margaret's chapel is the oldest building in Edinburgh. It was built in the 12th century and has survived all wars.



The Honours of Scotland

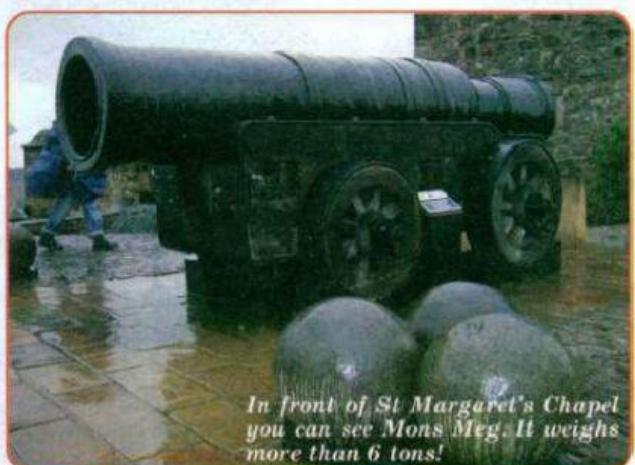


The Stone of Destiny

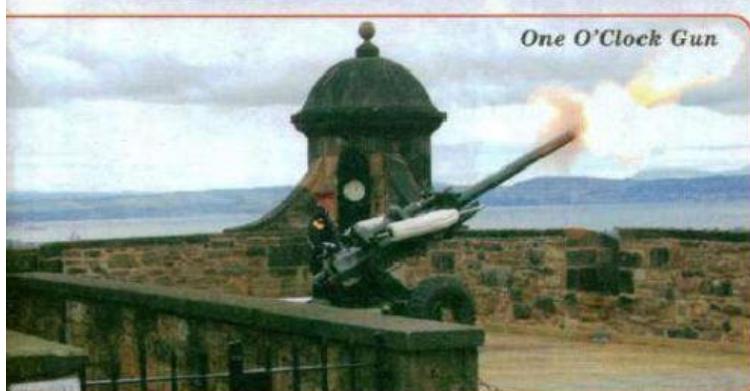
There are lots of other interesting things in Edinburgh Castle, including St Margaret's chapel (the oldest and smallest building in

Edinburgh), Mons Meg (a huge medieval cannon), the One O'Clock Gun (which is fired at exactly 13:00, allowing citizens and visitors to check their clocks and watches).

The castle today is not only a museum but also the barracks for a Scottish army regiment.



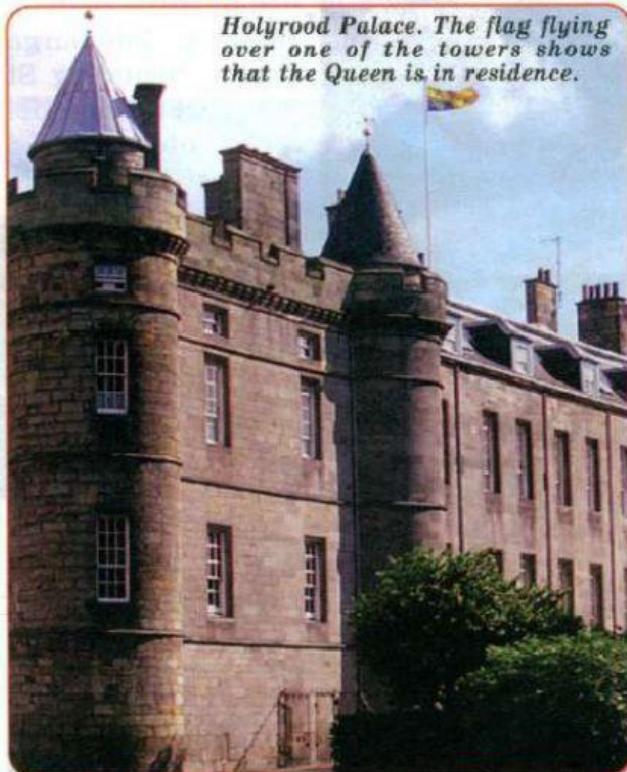
In front of St Margaret's Chapel you can see Mons Meg. It weighs more than 6 tons!



One O'Clock Gun



Holyrood Palace



Holyrood Palace. The flag flying over one of the towers shows that the Queen is in residence.

Edinburgh Castle nowadays has no royal connections, but when Queen Elizabeth II visits the capital she has a royal residence in Edinburgh. It's Holyrood Palace.

Some of its rooms are open to the public, and every summer the Queen holds a garden party (just as she does at Buckingham Palace), entertaining around 8,000 guests.

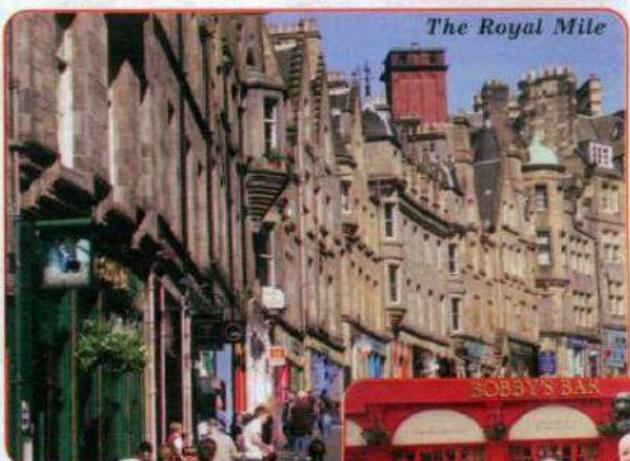
Holyrood Palace is closely associated with Scotland's stormy past. This was the place, where Mary Stuart spent six years of her

tragic reign. Here, in the Palace, near Mary's bedroom, her Italian secretary David Rizzio was stabbed to death by her jealous husband and his friends. Ghost-hunters will be interested in the fact that the bloodstain left by the murder has never been removed. No matter how hard the scrubbing is, the dull red stain always returns.



Mary, Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart)

Old Town and New Town



The Royal Mile

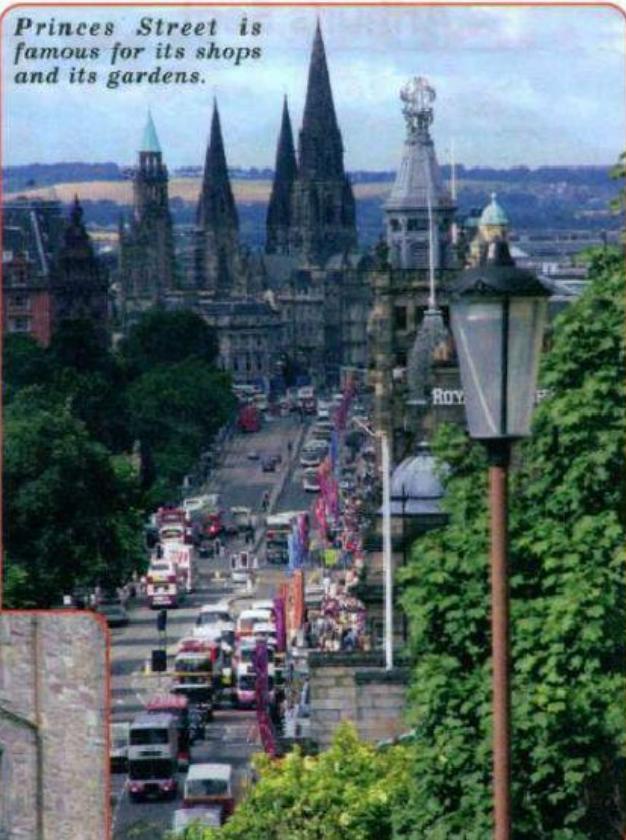


A typical pub in the Royal Mile

Edinburgh is divided into two parts – the Old Town and the New Town. The New Town, however, isn't exactly 'new'. It was built in the 18th century and is sometimes called 'The Athens of the North'.



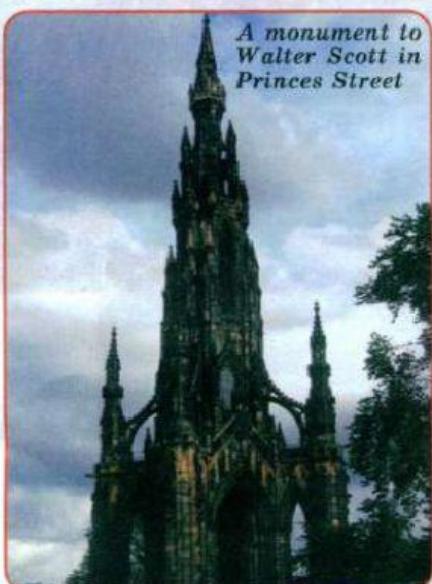
Princes Street is famous for its shops and its gardens.



There's a place in the Royal Mile where some people spit for good luck. A prison once stood on the site, where executions used to take place.

A monument to Walter Scott in Princes Street

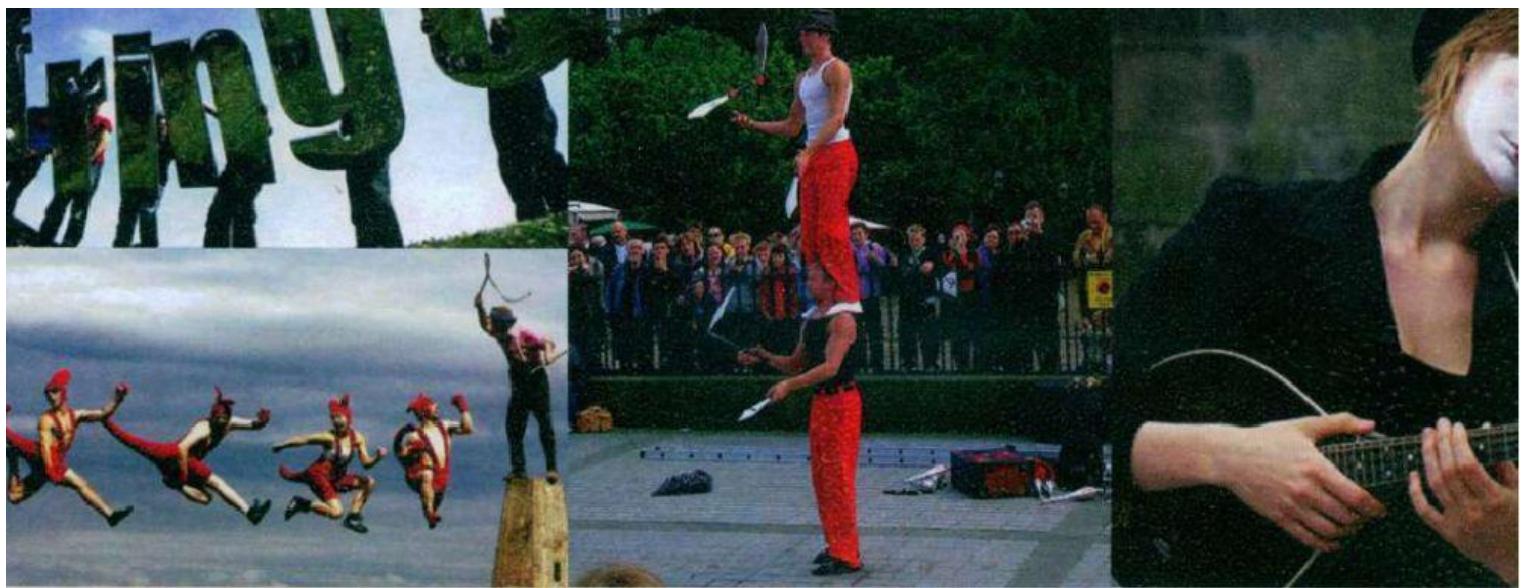
The most famous street in the Old Town is the Royal Mile. In fact, it's a



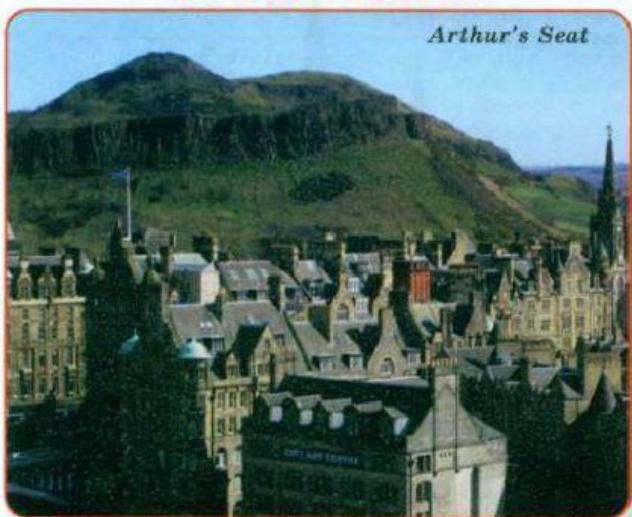
One of the most famous inhabitants of the New Town was Greyfriars Bobby, a small Highland terrier, who refused to leave his master's grave when his master died. He was given food by the local people when he went to the grave every day and now there is a monument near the cemetery to this loyal little dog.

line of fascinating medieval streets leading from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace. Some of the houses there are three or four hundred years old!

The most famous street in the New Town is Princes Street. It's Edinburgh's main shopping centre, but the shops are only on the north side of the street. On the south side there are large sloping gardens.



Arthur's Seat



Arthur's Seat

Behind Holyrood House, the Queen's palace, is Edinburgh's famous hill, Arthur's Seat. Some people say it has this name because Edinburgh was the site of the kingdom of King Arthur and his knights of the round table. However, as there is another place in Cornwall which many believe to be the legendary Camelot, nobody really knows!

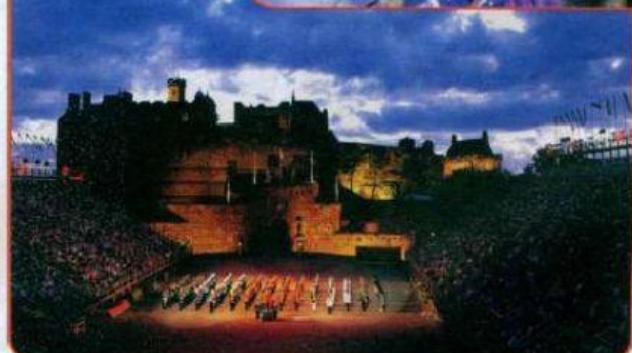
Edinburgh Festivals

Edinburgh is also famous for the arts. There are four festivals in August alone! Visitors from all over the world fill the city. There is a film festival, an international arts festival with world-class theatre, music and dance groups from all

over the globe, the Royal Military Tattoo and, of course, the Fringe.

The Fringe is very special and attracts lots of young people, as performers and as spectators. As you can see in these photos you never know what to expect at the Fringe. However, more plays and concerts take place at the Fringe than at the official arts festival.

The Royal Military Tattoo takes place every August in front of Edinburgh Castle. It's famous all over the world and the tickets for it are sold about 6 months before!



With its beauty, culture and history, Edinburgh is truly a capital city.