

Category Theory 2019: excursion options

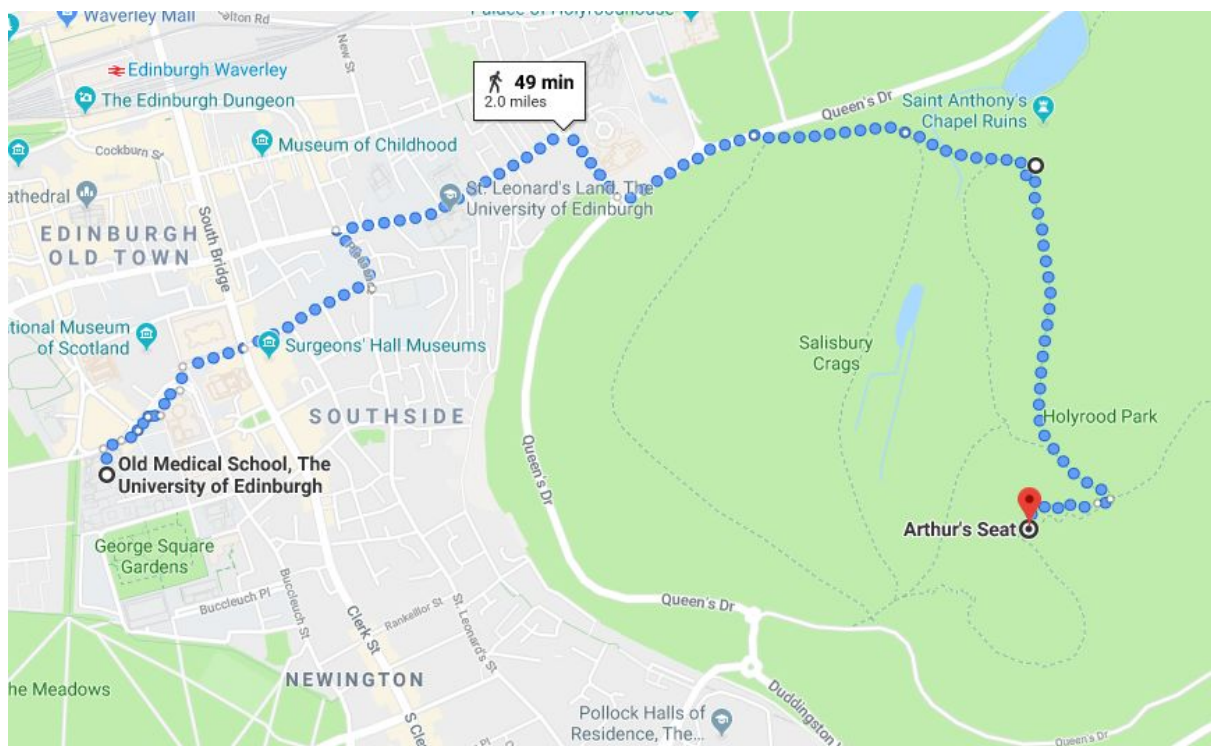
Wednesday afternoon is scheduled free of lectures, so you have some time to explore Edinburgh. There is no formally organised excursion. There are simply too many wonders to admire! Instead, the following pages list several options you could spend the afternoon. Peruse them at your leisure. You're of course also welcome to do something not listed here. Note in particular that there is no lunch on Wednesday, so everybody is free to go out and find their own exciting lunch option.

Sometime on Tuesday we'll tally preferences by a show of hands. Depending on that (and on the weather), local experts will shepherd groups of participants to the three or four most popular options.

Arthur's Seat



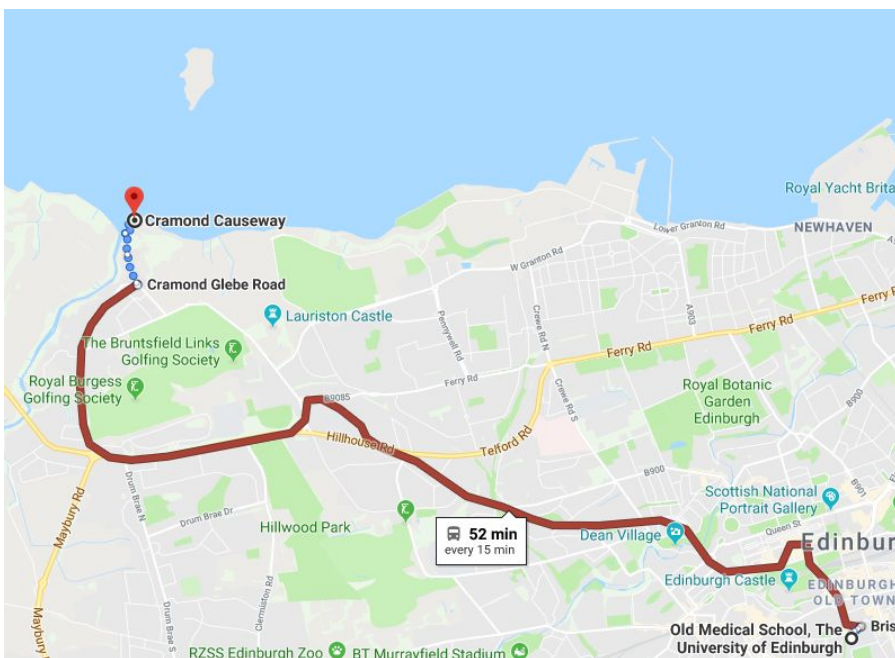
Arthur's Seat is an extinct volcano in the middle of Holyrood Park, close to the Scottish Parliament and the Queen's Palace of Holyrood, at the bottom of the Royal Mile. It rises about 250m above the city, provides great views, and is relatively easy to climb. It takes about an hour to get to the top from the conference venue.



Cramond Island



Cramond Island is a tidal island about 1.5km out to sea, connected to the mainland at low tide, when a paved path allows easy access. The island contains some ruined farms and WW2 fortifications, and used to have oyster beds and fisheries, but is now given over to nature. Don't leave it too late to return or you'll get stranded! The crossing takes about 15 minutes, and you could easily explore the island for an hour or two. Reaching the trailhead takes about 45 minutes by bus from the conference venue.



Surgeon's Hall museum



Surgeon's Hall museum is focused on medical history. The main exhibitions are the Wolf pathology museum, history of surgery museum and the dental museum. It's located very near the conference venue, leaving ample time to browse the collections.

Music Museum at St Cecilia's Hall

Also within a short walk from the venue is the Music Museum at St Cecilia's Hall.

St Cecilia's Hall is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland, and the second oldest (after Oxford's Holywell Room) in the British Isles. Originally constructed in 1762 by the Edinburgh Musical Society, today the building comprises, in addition to the concert hall, four museum galleries which have recently been renovated with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The galleries display The University of Edinburgh's unparalleled collection of musical instruments from across the globe, including the Raymond Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments. More than 400 instruments have been conserved as part of the redevelopment project, and this work continues: the building also features a dedicated space for treating instruments, which is visible for those visiting to see.



Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art



The National Gallery of Modern Art houses the collection of modern and contemporary art dating from about 1900 to the present in two buildings that face each other, Modern One and Modern Two, on Belford Road to the west of the city centre. The National Gallery has a collection of more than 6000 paintings, sculptures, installations, video work, prints and drawings and also stages major exhibitions.

The (free admission) temporary exhibition at Modern One in July is a major survey of work by Paisley-born artist Anya Gallaccio, who was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2003 and was a prominent figure in the Young British Artists generation. The exhibition also features work by French artist Aurélien Froment, sculptor and installation artist Roger Hiorns, and Scottish artist Charles Avery.

Botanic Garden



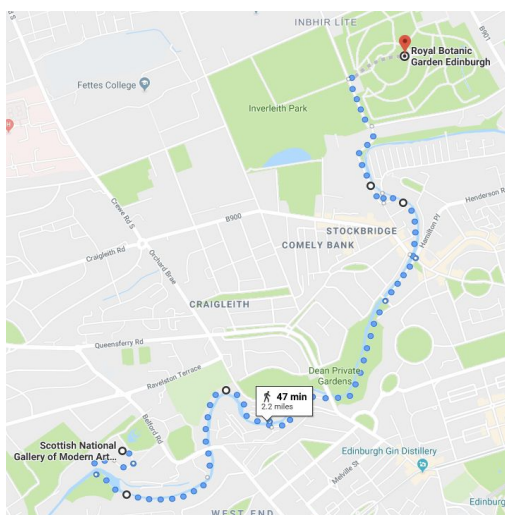
The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is a scientific centre for the study of plants, their diversity and conservation, as well as a popular tourist attraction. Founded in 1670 as a physic garden to grow medicinal plants, today it occupies four sites across Scotland — Edinburgh, Dawyck, Logan and Benmore — each with its own specialist collection. The RBGE's living collection consists of more than 13,302 plant species, (34,422 accessions) whilst the herbarium contains in excess of 3 million preserved specimens.

Water of Leith

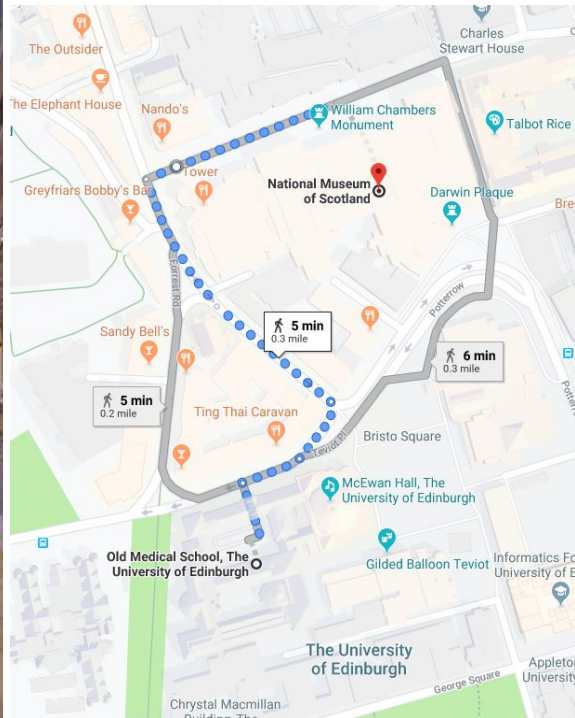


A visit to either the Gallery of Modern Art or the Botanic Garden, or both, may (optionally) be combined with a walk along the Water of Leith, through Dean Village.

The Water of Leith has its source in the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, and flows for 24 miles through the city before meeting the Firth of Forth at Leith. Once Edinburgh's industrial heartland, the river valley accommodated over 70 mills harnessing the power of the water to produce paper, fabric and flour. 11 of those mills were at one time situated in Dean Village, a hamlet now fully absorbed into the body of the city. Today the river is home to a wide diversity of plants and animals from wild garlic and orchids to brown trout, heron, kingfisher and otter - though possibly not all in the two mile stretch we'd be walking.



National Museum of Scotland



The National Museum of Scotland has collections relating to Scottish culture and history, as well as collections covering science, technology, and natural history, in a hands-on way. It is a distinctive building, consisting of a modern part (opened in 1998), and an old part (opened in 1866) with a Victorian facade and a grand central hall. Notable exhibits include the stuffed body of Dolly the Sheep, ancient Egyptian collection, one of Elton John's extravagant suits, a large kinetic sculpture named the Millennium Clock, and The Maiden, an early Scottish form of the guillotine.

Scottish National Gallery



The national art gallery of Scotland is located on the Mound in a neoclassical building first opened in 1859. It houses fine art, spanning Scottish and international art from the renaissance up to the start of the 20th century. The collection includes masterpieces by Bassano, Van Dyck, Tiepolo, Rubens, and Titian, as well as works by Scottish artists. Notable pieces include *The Skating Minister*, and *The Monarch of the Glen*, a painting considered to be iconic of Scottish culture.

