



The Jubilee Walkway



Section 1 of 5

The Western Loop (anti-clockwise)

Start and finish: Leicester Square
(at the Jubilee Walkway panel in the central gardens)

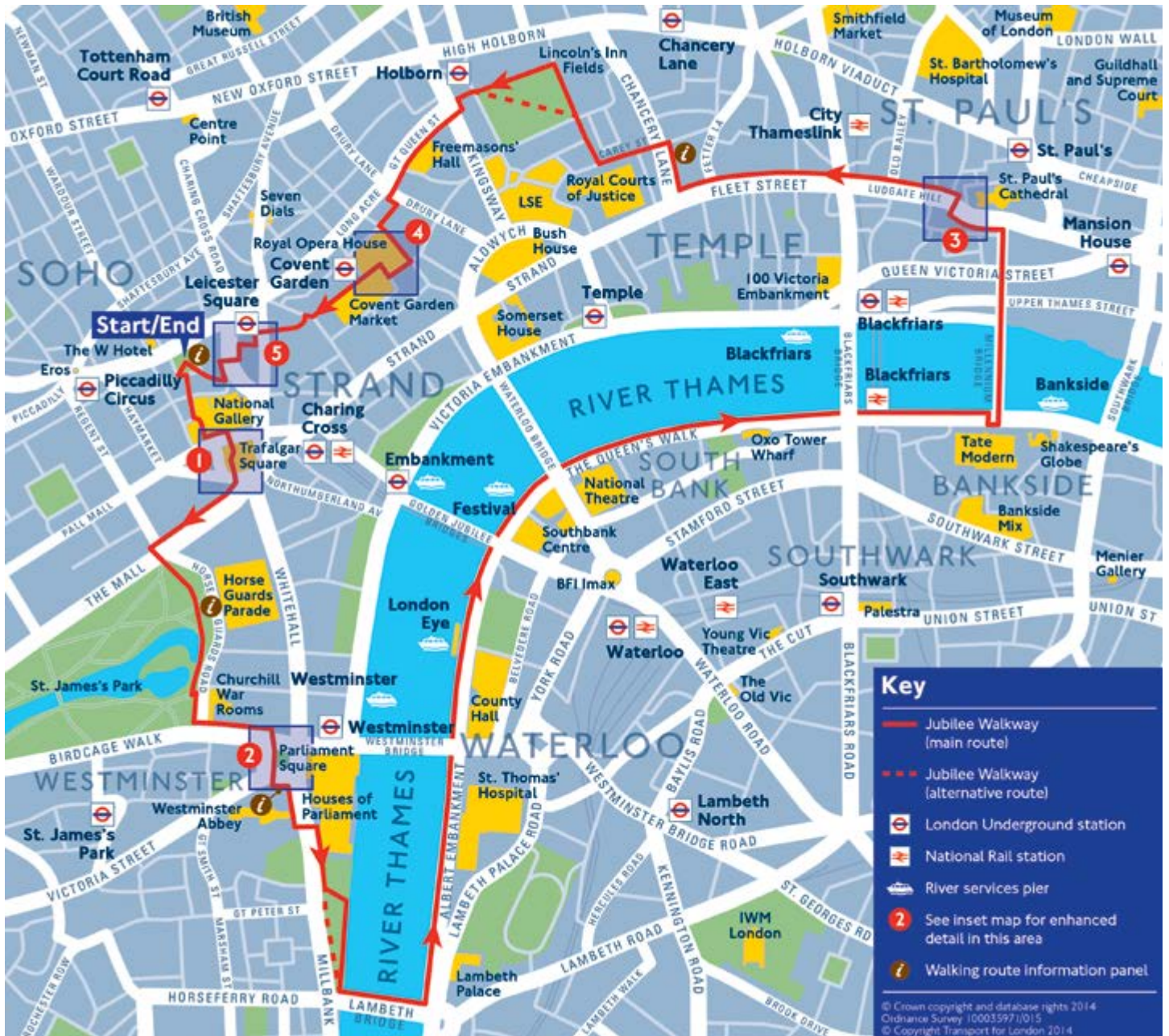
Nearest station: Leicester Square

Section distance: 6 miles (9.5 kilometres)



Introduction

This is a circular walk on the original Jubilee Walkway route, opened in 1977. Walk through the heart of the capital with connections to many of the main tourist attractions. Look out for the Jubilee Walkway discs in the pavement as you go round.




Directions.

 From the Jubilee Walkway  panel in the centre of Leicester Square, exit the park in the southwest corner by the Odeon West End Cinema.

Follow the pedestrianised area south, down St Martin's Street, passing Westminster Reference Library on the left. Continue straight ahead, passing between the two parts of the National Gallery.

Did you know?

The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of Western European painting in the world. Its location in Trafalgar Square was chosen in 1831 as it was considered to be at the very centre of London.

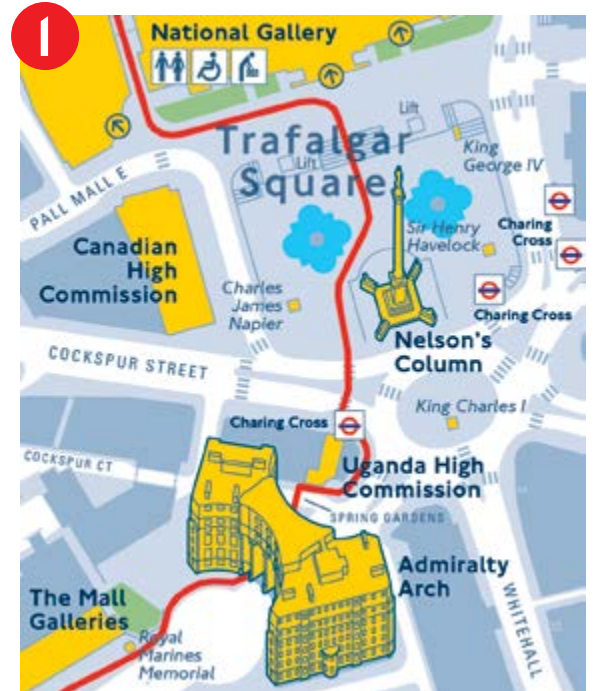
 **1** Enter into the top of Trafalgar Square, with its fountains, Nelson's Column and statues. Trafalgar Square is dominated by Nelson's Column with an 18-foot statue of Lord Nelson standing on top of the 171-foot column.


With Trafalgar Square behind you, and keeping Canada House on the right, cross the road and follow the curve of the road around to enter The Mall under the large stone Admiralty Arch - go through the right arch. Keep on the right-hand side of the broad avenue that is The Mall.

Did you know?

The Mall is London's main Ceremonial route from Buckingham Palace to the City of London.


The Queen's coach came along here to her Coronation in Westminster Abbey in 1953, and to St Paul's Cathedral for the thanksgiving services for her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 1977, 2002 and 2012.



 Continue ahead, passing the Royal Marines Memorial on the right, and passing in front of the grand facade of Carlton House Terrace. After nearly 300 metres, at the Duke of York steps, (with its large granite column and bronze statue of the Duke of York at the top), cross over The Mall at the Duke of York steps towards St. James's Park. Once across the road there is a view of Buckingham Palace.


Section Five of the Jubilee Walkway continues alongside St James's Park to Buckingham Palace.

Next, turn left and then right to take the path (running parallel to Horse Guards Road) beside the war memorial - there are toilets along here and cafes nearby.

To your left is Horse Guards Parade ground and by the road is a Jubilee Walkway  panel showing the scene for Trooping the Colour which is held every June to mark the Queen's official birthday.



Continue through the park, past the lake on your right. Just beyond the lake, turn left and join Horse Guards Road. At the end of the road is the junction with Birdcage Walk.

Section Five of the Jubilee Walkway heads to the right to Buckingham Palace.

 To continue on section one, turn left on to Great George Street. Continue 150 metres further on, into Parliament Square to see the tower of Big Ben.

Did you know?


Parliament Square itself has statues of many famous statesmen, including Sir Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela. Straight ahead (on the left-hand side of the wall) there is an information panel showing details of what you can see in this area.

 **2** Cross at the lights near the next Jubilee Walkway  panel, and walk towards Westminster Abbey, keeping the UK Supreme Court on your right. The Abbey's visitor entrance is straight ahead.

Did you know?


The history of Westminster Abbey goes back more than a thousand years when Benedictine monks came to this site in the 10th century.



 Turn left and follow Parliament Square around the south side turning right along St Margaret's Street opposite the Houses of Parliament. You will pass another information panel on the way.

Did you know?

The site of the Houses of Parliament is officially known as the Palace of Westminster, and was the residence of kings. The clock tower contains the famous Big Ben bell, cast in 1858 and named after Benjamin Hall, commissioner of works at that time. In 2012 the tower was renamed 'Elizabeth Tower' to commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

 Cross St. Margaret's Street at the crossing in front of Old Palace Yard and find the pavement behind the black security wall. Continue walking southwards, down St. Margaret's Street, and at the end of the Houses of Commons and the security wall, turn left into Victoria Tower Gardens.

 For an accessible route over Lambeth Bridge, avoid the steps and keep on Millbank to the bridge.

Otherwise stay in Victoria Tower Gardens, follow the River Thames on your left to the children's play area at the foot of Lambeth Bridge. At the end of the Gardens, climb two flights of steps up to Lambeth Bridge.

 Cross the Thames and at the other side of Lambeth Bridge, turn left to follow the Thames Path downstream. Opposite this point is the Museum of Garden History, housed in a disused church, and Lambeth Palace, both on your right.

Did you know?

Lambeth Palace has been a historic London residence of Archbishops of Canterbury since the 13th century. The Museum of Garden History was set up in 1977 in the historic church of St Mary-at-Lambeth as the world's first museum of the history of gardens and gardening.

The route now takes the south bank of the Thames and joins the Queen's Walk and the Thames Path National Trail.



Follow the walk along the Albert Embankment passing St Thomas's Hospital and go under Westminster Bridge - find the tunnel by looking slightly to the left at the foot of the steps. The path continues straight on past the London Eye and old County Hall.

Did you know?

At 135 metres (450 feet) above London, the London Eye provides panoramic views of up to 25 miles on a clear day. It opened in March 2000 and the wheel design was used as a metaphor for the turning of the century.



Continue beside the Thames along The Queen's Walk, passing Jubilee Gardens, and then go under Hungerford Railway Bridge (with its elegant pedestrian suspension bridges either side) to reach the Southbank Centre.

Did you know?

This is the site of the 1951 Festival of Britain and is now part of a riverside promenade which is alive with street performers. There are cafes and accessible toilets here.



The Jubilee Walkway continues onwards under Waterloo Bridge, passing the National Theatre, the white ITV Tower, Gabriel's Wharf and the Oxo Tower.

Walk under Blackfriars Bridge and Blackfriars station - the only station on both banks of the Thames.



You'll pass Bankside Gallery, before reaching the Tate Modern and the Millennium Bridge link to the City of London and St Paul's Cathedral.

Did you know?

Tate Modern, the former Bankside Power Station, houses Britain's collection of international, modern and contemporary art.

Section Two of the Jubilee Walkway continues along the South Bank.

Did you know?

Foster & Partners' 'blade of light' bridge design was developed in close collaboration with sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and engineers Arup. Formed by a single sweeping arc, the bridge appears as a thin ribbon of steel by day, and when illuminated at night, as a shining blade of light across the river.




Cross over the Thames on the Millennium Bridge. Once on the north bank of the Thames, continue straight ahead, walking up St Peter's Hill pedestrianised area to St Paul's Cathedral.

On this side of the Thames, Section Two of the Jubilee Walkway heads east along Queen Victoria Street.

Did you know?

The Cathedral - the fourth to occupy this site - was designed by the court architect Sir Christopher Wren. Built between 1675 and 1710 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, this magnificent building, which is considered as Wren's masterpiece, is a noted landmark in London.

 **3** From the impressive south entrance of the cathedral, turn left along St Paul's Churchyard, cross at the zebra crossing at the junction.

Continue westwards down onto Ludgate Hill, walking on the right-hand side of the road. Go over Ludgate Circus into Fleet Street.

Section Three turns right along past the Cathedral.



Did you know?

Fleet Street was once the home of Britain's national newspapers and news organisations. They have all moved out now, although signs remain if you look for them, including the distinctive art-deco Express building.

 Continue about 450 metres along Fleet Street and turn right onto Chancery Lane. Look out for a Jubilee Walkway  panel outside Kings College Maughan Library on Chancery Lane, on the gate post.


Section Four of the Jubilee Walkway continues north along Chancery Lane.

Turn left off Chancery Lane onto Carey Street. From Carey Street turn right on Serle Street crossing into Lincoln's Inn Fields. To visit Sir John Soane's Museum at Number 13, stay on the north side of the square, otherwise cut diagonally through the square with its mature trees, grass and cafe.

Did you know?

John Soane was born in 1753, the son of a bricklayer, and died after a long and distinguished career, in 1837. He designed this house to live in, but also as a setting for his antiquities and his works of art. Today it is a fascinating collection of the books, casts and models that Soane collected for the benefit of students, and is open to the public.


At the northwest corner of Lincoln's Inn Fields, turn left along Remnant Street, cross Kingsway and then ahead into Great Queen Street, passing the Freemasons' Hall.

 Cross Drury Lane and turn left down it for 30 metres, then turn right in to the Broad Court pedestrian area and at the end of there, turn left on Bow Street to the Royal Opera House, a large white building with white columns.

Did you know?

The Royal Opera House is one of the foremost opera houses in the world - home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

This large building, often referred to as simply 'Covent Garden' is a major performing arts venue in the London district of Covent Garden.


 **4** Pass the Royal Opera House and next to it, the splendid glass and cast iron floral hall - a reminder of the market days of Covent Garden - and continue on Bow Street.



 Turn right towards Covent Garden along Russell Street. Covent Garden opens up to the left and right, the London Transport Museum is to your left.

Keep to the right of the market along the Piazza and on to the cobbled King Street.

Cross over Bedford Street and continue along New Row, turning left after 50 metres along Bedfordbury and almost immediately first right down a small alleyway known as Goodwins Court.

 **5** Cross St Martin's Lane and continue straight ahead (slightly to the left) on the pedestrianised Cecil Court. At the end of there, turn left at Charing Cross Road and cross at the zebra crossing 40 metres away.

Now on the right-hand side of Charing Cross Road, follow it round to the right, then turning right into Irving Street. The northern entrance to the National Portrait Gallery is on your left.



Did you know?

The National Portrait Gallery is an art gallery housing a collection of portraits of historically important and famous British people. It was the first portrait gallery in the world when it opened in 1856.

 Cross into Leicester Square and you're back at the start, having completed this section.