



Walk This Way South Bank

London Eye to the
Imperial War Museum

South Bank is an area of incredible history, architecture, culture and regeneration. Originally isolated and defined by the Thames, for centuries this riverside location developed in a very different way from the affluent north bank. A marshy expanse of slum housing and country estates; a rural haven of green fields and pleasure gardens; a dynamic hub of industry and manufacturing; a nucleus of nineteenth-century theatre and entertainment venues; a host to the largest railway terminus in the country; and a byword for post-war cultural restoration. South Bank is now home to great national centres for art and culture, a vibrant and growing community and some of London's finest achievements in architecture, such as the London Eye, which drew the attention of the world in the Millennium Year. Throughout its history, the South Bank has endured fire, flood, slum clearance, railway demolition, devastating bombing, and the ebb and flow of investment and industry. Consequently, the area is peppered with unique examples of architecture and hidden mementoes from the past that are waiting to be explored. *Walk This Way* will guide you through this journey of discovery, into the heart and the history of South Bank.

See www.southbanklondon.com for a more detailed profile of the buildings and streets featured in *Walk This Way – South Bank*.

At a brisk pace, the *Walk This Way South Bank* route will take at least 50 minutes, although it is recommended that you allow more time to stop and sightsee at various points along the route.

www.southbanklondon.com

architecture + history at your feet

South Bank Influences

The Marsh

The Anglo-Saxon origin of Lambeth: 'Lambhythe', implies that a muddy harbour or marsh had been present from the earliest days of London. As the city grew, the Marsh, a prime location but difficult to develop, remained largely untouched, a green oasis of agriculture and public gardens where urbanites could find refreshment in a rural surrounding.

Theatre

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the area of Lambeth urbanised and the entertainment world burgeoned. Away from the rigid theatrical duopoly of the north bank, the cheap land of Lambeth enabled individual impresarios to build and develop their own performance venues, creating all-year, all-weather venues. Taverns converted to music halls and fringe 'Penny Gaffs' were ubiquitous. Without artistic restrictions or censorship (unlike the north bank), the theatres of the Marsh were quite permissive and, before modern film and radio put the theatres out of business, many were closed down for being 'disorderly houses'.

Industry

It was in the eighteenth century that industry also began to develop in the area: some needed the Marsh's fresh water supply (for brewing or cloth bleaching); others exploited the cheap land and river access to move or store their bulk goods (limestone, scrap iron and wood). Improved access from the new Westminster and Blackfriars bridges, combined with the need for large amounts of industrial labour led to a population explosion in the once-quiet village as thousands flocked to the South Bank to work on the coal wharves, timber yards, potteries, dye works, lime kilns, blacking factories and printing houses. The growth of industry was one of the key components in Lambeth's transformation from rural haven into a centre of industry, the other was the railway.

The Railway

From its arrival in 1848 the Railway has dominated the area, dividing it from the river with a bastion of brickwork and isolating the waterfront. With powers of compulsory purchase, the railway company was free to demolish anything to increase its railway lines and terminus. (One such casualty in 1900 was the insalubrious 'Whore-terloo' neighbourhood.) The vast number of steam trains running from the Station (as many as 700 a day by the end of the nineteenth century) polluted the local air, already choked by two centuries of industry, with thick smog.

The Festival of Britain

Ironically, it was the Second World War, which had done so much damage to the area, that was responsible for much of its regeneration. Intending to create a 'tonic' for the war-scarred nation, the South Bank was chosen as the site for the Festival of Britain. The bombed-out riverside was cleared and built upon, becoming the site, in 1951, of a national celebration. The Royal Festival Hall remained as a permanent legacy, to be followed in subsequent decades by other arts venues, such as the Hayward Gallery and Royal National Theatre, adding a new chapter to the history of the South Bank.

Community

Bomb-damage, commercial development and the decline of traditional industries took their toll on the post-war population of South Bank and by the 1970's, the residential population had fallen from 50,000 to just 4,000. A proposed skyscraper development in 1977 threatened to seal the river off from the interior completely, prompting the protests of the Coin Street Community Action Group. By 1984 this group proved successful and formed a not-for-profit company to redevelop and regenerate the area. Since then, derelict buildings have been demolished, new parks and riverside walkways have been opened up and affordable housing has been built, reversing the population decline, as well as introducing workshops, public art and festivals to the area.

'There is a grain of sand in Lambeth that satan cannot find,
Nor can his Watch Fiends find it: 'tis translucent and has
many angles'



WILLIAM BLAKE, SOUTH BANK RESIDENT

One of England's great religious poets and artists William Blake (1757–1827) spent almost a decade in the then-rural village of Lambeth Marsh, which would inspire the production of some of his finest works.

Transport

General travel information can be obtained on Transport for London's 24-hour number: 020 7222 1234, www.tfl.gov.uk

Underground Stations

-  **Waterloo** Northern, Bakerloo, Waterloo & City and Jubilee (Jubilee Line exit is wheelchair accessible)
-  **Southwark** Jubilee (main exit is wheelchair accessible)

Buses

The buses that stop at or near Waterloo include:

1, 4, 26, 59, 68, 76, 77, 168, 171, 172, 188, 211, 243, 341, 507, 521, X68, N1, N68, N171, N381

Riverside (RV1) Bus Service

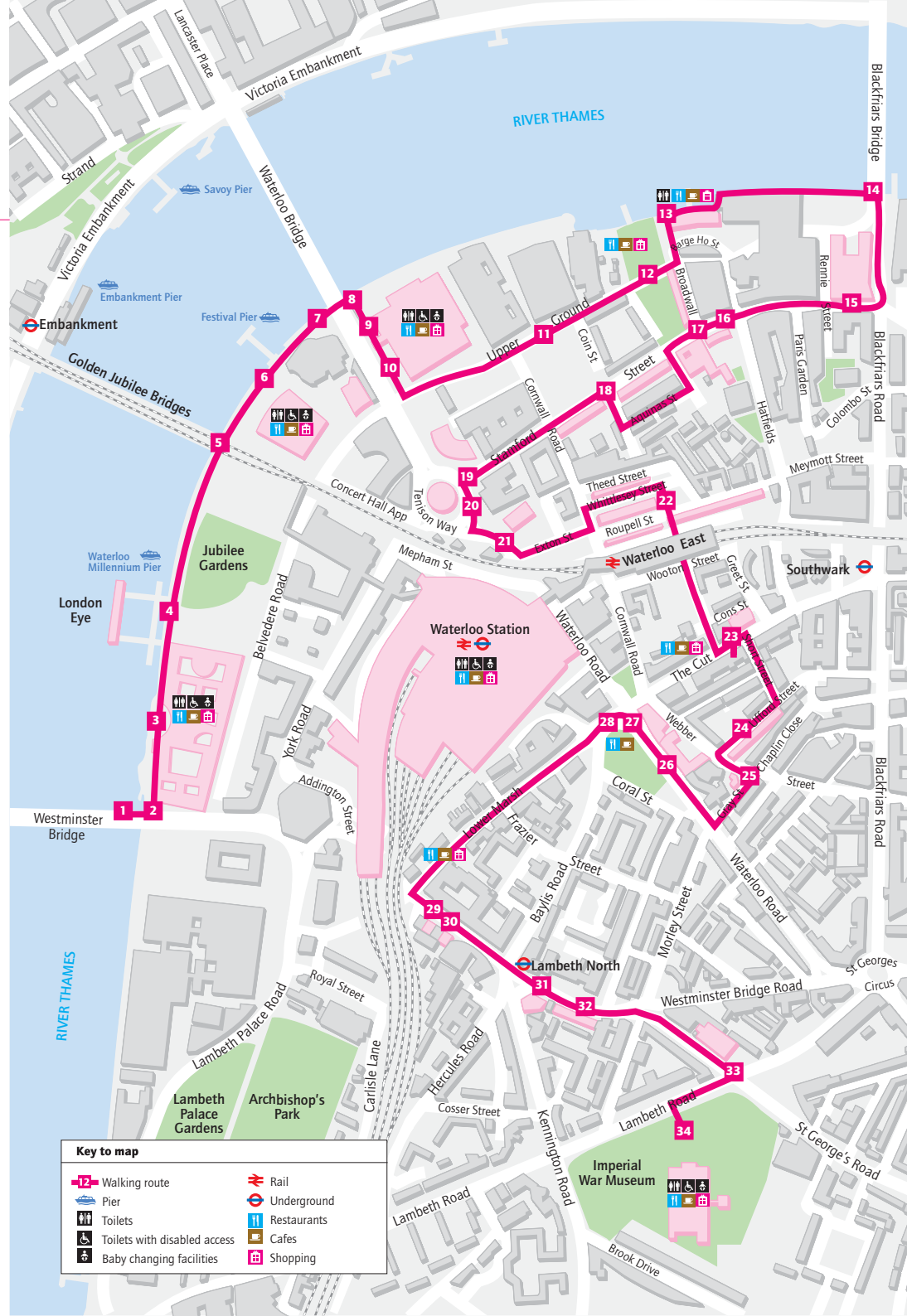
Riverside 1 is a bus service linking Covent Garden, South Bank, Waterloo, Bankside, London Bridge and Tower Gateway, providing a cost-effective, easily recognisable link to over thirty of London's attractions.

Route Accessibility

There is no through access from point 14. Continue along Upper Ground to reach Rennie Street and point 15 to resume the route.











Accessibility Information

London Eye	0870 990 8885
Royal Festival Hall	020 7921 0971
National Film Theatre	020 7388 2227
National Theatre	020 7452 3000
Hayward Gallery	020 7921 0813
Oxo Tower Wharf	020 7401 2255
bfi London IMAX Cinema	020 7388 2227
Imperial War Museum	020 7416 5262



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	Shopping

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1

Westminster Bridge

Thomas Page
1862

For centuries before the construction of Westminster Bridge, the monopoly of Thames crossings was held by the London ferrymen. Battling against these powerful established interests, the campaigners for a new bridge were finally permitted to raise funds for the bridge through a public lottery, a fact which only increased the derision from those who opposed the 'Bridge of Fools'. In 1739, the first foundations of the new bridge were laid, beginning an eleven-year project beset by European warfare, ferrymen sabotage, the death of the bridge's sponsor, a small earthquake and the Thames freezing over. Even when the bridge finally opened, it tended to sway on its foundations and was never fully trusted. Rebuilding work began in 1853 on a seven-arch bridge of wrought-iron, decorated with Gothic detailing by Charles Barry, architect of Parliament. Setting a precedent that others soon followed, Westminster was the bridge that opened up the South Bank.

2

The South Bank Lion

Westminster Bridge

W F Woodington
1837

This thirteen-ton Lion is one of the last-known products to be made of Coade Stone, a hard-wearing material produced by a mother-and-daughter factory on the South Bank. Founded in 1769, Eleanor Coade's stone ornaments were a major feature on the buildings of Georgian London. The Lion was commissioned for the South Bank's Red Lion Brewery where, painted red, it stood on the roof for over a century. When the bomb-damaged

3

County Hall

Belvedere Road

Ralph Knott
1911–1933

Home for the London County Council, the Main Building is a six-storey, symmetrical construction, faced with Portland Stone, in the 'Edwardian baroque' style. It took twenty-five years to complete (outlasting its architect, who died in 1929), with North, South and Island Blocks added thereafter (the last in 1974). The capital's government, known as the Greater London Council from 1965, was abolished in 1986. County Hall now houses the Saatchi Gallery, Dalí Universe, the London Aquarium and two hotels.

4

British Airways London Eye

Jubilee Gardens

Marks Barfield
2000

Already an established landmark that attracts millions, the inspiration for the London Eye came from: "The perfect symmetry of a circle which - from a distance - seems to be transparent, embodies the passages of time." An integration of architecture, engineering and design, the creation of the London Eye was a project that brought together engineers from all over Europe on a British design. The sections of this 2,100 tonne construction were transported down the Thames and raised a massive 135 metres high. From that height, 15,000 passengers a day, travelling in the 32 glass observation pods, can view up to 25 miles over the city and beyond.

5

Golden Jubilee Bridges

Isambard Kingdom
Brunel
1845

Originally built as a suspension footbridge, the Hungerford Bridge (named after the market on the north bank) was bought in 1859 to extend a railway line to the new Charing Cross station. Much of the original bridge was recycled and used in Bristol's Clifton Bridge, while the new bridge, of trussed iron girders (replaced with steel in 1982), is the only London crossing to combine foot and rail. In 2000, a project was started to create two new foot-bridges to replace the single dilapidated footbridge. Christened the Golden Jubilee Bridges, this new visual landmark for London has opened up the heart of the river in one of London's most breathtaking locations.

6

Royal Festival Hall

Belvedere Road

Robert Matthew,
Leslie Martin
1948–51

Built on the site of the Red Lion Brewery, the Royal Festival Hall is the only permanent legacy of the 1951 Festival Of Britain. Designed in a 'Modernist' style with glazed screens and Portland Stone facings, with a green roof of weather-exposed copper, it is the first post-war building to receive a Grade 1 listing. Inside, the auditorium is built high on the upper floors, insulated from the sound of the nearby railway, while beneath are placed galleries, restaurants, shops, cafés and performance areas. In 1965 a redevelopment scheme was completed that now defines much of the outward appearance: the Portland Stone exterior was re-cased; the river frontage was pushed thirty yards forward; and a new riverside entrance was created. In 2001 a £60 million programme was commenced



7

National Film Theatre

Upper Ground

Leslie Martin,
Hubert Bennett
1956–58

The NFT owes its origins to the 1951 Festival of Britain and the 'Télekinema', a purpose-built cinema designed to celebrate British film-making and technology. Never intended to be a permanent exhibition, the Télekinema's popularity led to the National Film Theatre opening in 1957, tucked underneath Waterloo Bridge's southern arches. Initially containing only one cinema, the Theatre was given a second in 1970 and is now one of the world's leading cinematheques, organising the London Film Festival.

8

Waterloo Bridge

Designed as the Strand Bridge, the granite construction was bought by the government, re-named 'Waterloo Bridge' after the recent victory and opened in 1817. Falling into neglect, by 1923 the bridge was deemed beyond repair and closed permanently. Work eventually began on a replacement in 1939, immediately delayed by the outbreak of War, though work continued throughout, mostly with female labour. The new bridge was even built with demolition chambers, in case of enemy invasion, though it was nearly demolished in a more direct fashion, being damaged by enemy action several times. Labour shortage and V2 rockets notwithstanding, the current construction of reinforced concrete was opened in 1945.

Giles Gilbert Scott
1937–45

9

National Theatre

Upper Ground

Denys Lasdun
1969–1976

Stanton Williams
1997–2000

In 1976, after more than a century of planning and fourteen years in the Old Vic, the National Theatre company moved into the three theatres of their new building: Lyttelton, Olivier, and Cottesloe. Lasdun's 'Modernist' design of reinforced concrete and horizontal lines, with a skyline augmented by the massive Olivier and Lyttelton fly-towers, has become a landmark of the South Bank. In 1997 work began to develop and renovate the National Theatre's main entrance, box office, bookshop and foyer performance areas; the backstage equipment was upgraded; and a new exterior performance space added: 'Theatre Square'

10

Hayward Gallery

Belvedere Road

Hubert Bennett,
Jack Whittle
1963–68

Named after Sir Isaac Hayward (leader of the London County Council), the Gallery is one of London's main venues for large art exhibitions. It is considered a classic example of sixties 'brutalist' architecture: reinforced concrete following strong horizontal lines with the top two of its three levels accessible from the pedestrian walkways that traverse the area. The little pyramids that crown the building are, in fact, skylights for the upper gallery. There are five galleries in total, of differing shapes and sizes, displaying both classical and contemporary art. Crowning the gallery is the neon tower, originally an exhibit, this 'kinetic sculpture' changes colour in response to the direction, speed and strength of the wind.

11

South Bank Banners

Upper Ground

Lifschutz Davidson and
individual artists
1997

Sixty-six huge banners along the streets of the South Bank create London's biggest open-air art gallery. Specially designed, selected from more than two thousand entries and illuminated at night, the banners bring colour and energy to the skyline.

Upper Ground

From the Middle Ages, artificial banks and causeways were constructed in Lambeth and Southwark to allow crossings of the flooded low-lands and to hold back the Thames. The most important of these causeways were Bankside, The Broad Wall and The Narrow Wall. Once the river had been successfully pushed back, the causeways became roads, and The Narrow Wall remained, changing its name to Upper Ground Street (also because of its causeway origin) in 1787. The Broad Wall was a neighbouring street, becoming Broadwall in 1881.

12

Gabriel's Wharf & Bernie Spain Gardens

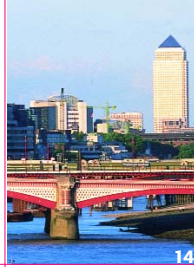
Upper Ground

Coin Street
Community Builders
1988

The site for the annual Coin Street Festival, Gabriel's Wharf is a crafts market, having turned old garages into colourful studio premises with public seating, a bandstand and a backdrop painted on the overlooking wall. The Gardens, named after local resident and campaigner Bernadette Spain, once the site of the Eldorado Ice Cream Company, are now riverside areas of grassland and flowerbeds with public seating.



13



14



14



15



16

13

Oxo Tower Wharf

Upper Ground

A W Moore
1928

Lifschutz Davidson
1995

Built as a power station, the Wharf was acquired in the 1920's by a Meat Extract Company, which built great cranes on the riverside frontage to haul meat from Thames barges directly into their factory. In the 1930's, the Company also built a tower that carried the illuminated name of their most famous product. Designed to circumvent strict laws about exterior advertising, the letters that spelt out 'OXO' were in fact stained glass windows. The industry faded away however, and by the 1970's the building was an empty shell. When a developer proposed to demolish the building to build a massive hotel and skyscraper, the local community rallied in protest. After seven years, the community prevailed and the Coin Street Community Builders were formed as a consequence, to restore and regenerate the area. One of their tasks was the refurbishment of the derelict wharf, giving it a paved mall area, retail units, exhibition space, restaurants and housing, and earning it the 1997 Building of the Year Award for Urban Regeneration.

14

Blackfriars Bridge

J. Cubitt
1860-69

Opening in 1769 as William Pitt Bridge (after the Tory Prime Minister), the unpopular title was soon changed to that of the Black Friars, a begging order of Dominican Monks that settled in London in 1279. The bridge itself had nine elliptical arches of Portland Stone (the designs are depicted on the walls of the southern underpass) and was rebuilt with five cast-iron arches on granite piers. All that now remains of the Blackfriars Rail Bridge, which once ran parallel, are the red columns in the river and the brightly coloured cast-iron insignia of the company: London, Chatham and Dover Railway.

15

Stamford House

Rennie Street

Sykes
1912

From 1890, until October 2001 this site was the headquarters of J Sainsbury plc. Once a depot and factory, Stamford House was built in 1912 from reinforced concrete, hidden away behind red brick and stone dressings. The lower floors are fronted by great archways while the upper floors rest on Corinthian-style pilasters.

Rennie Street

The architect and engineer John Rennie (1761-1821), lived and worked close to this road. Rennie designed the mechanised Albion Flour Mills at Southwark, turning the site into his workshops when the Mills burnt down. Rennie also designed the original Southwark and Waterloo Bridges and even, posthumously, the nineteenth century London Bridge.

Paris Garden

A small hundred-acre manor between Lambeth and Southwark, Paris Garden Manor dates back to 1113. In 1660 it was developed into housing and a parish church, almost all of which collapsed on the undrained ground. Blackfriars Road, built in 1769, cut through the Manor, leaving only the name, which replaced that of Brunswick Street in the twentieth century.

Hatfields

On this site, in the days of rural Lambeth, there were once fields where beaver-skins were prepared to be manufactured into fine hats. Millinery continued with the construction of a hat factory in the Victorian era on the corner of Stamford Street. The factory is now a public house, The Mad Hatter.

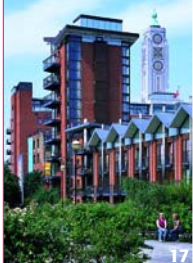
16

London Nautical School

Stamford Street

James Montague
1820

The Nautical School was founded in 1915 to educate naval cadets as a response to the Titanic disaster. The original Rotherhithe premises were destroyed in the Second World War and it occupied its present building in 1965, by which time the school playground had received a Neo-Classical portico with Greek columns, added when the neighbouring Unitarian Chapel (built in 1823) was demolished. Before the Nautical School moved in, the building had previously been owned by the London School Of Printing (1921-1965), and The Benevolent Society Of St Patrick (1820-1921), a charity founded in 1784 to educate and clothe poor Irish children.



17

Lifschutz Davidson
1995

Palm Housing Co-operative

Broadwall

The second of the Coin Street Community Builder's housing developments consists of eleven three-storey terraced houses sandwiched between two four-storey blocks of flats, with a small nine-storey tower at the north end, directing the terrace towards the river while at the same time overlooking the neighbouring Bernie Spain Gardens. The building itself was made from an unusually diverse palette of materials (brick, hardwood, zinc, lead and copper) which combine with the building's design of red brick, balconies, gabled roofs and glazed screens to produce some of the area's most appealing architecture.

Aquinas Street

Originating around 1819 as Thomas' Street, the street was re-named in 1888 Aquinas Street, originating from the medieval theologian, St Aquinas.

Coin Street

Once Prince's Street, it was re-named in 1893, probably after the nearby Tudor 'mint of coinage', established by Henry VIII, that had been recently unearthed.

18

David Laing
1829

65–119 Stamford Street

Stamford Street

This row of Georgian houses stretch along the length of what was once Upper Stamford Street, built to house the reputable residents of the newly urbanised South Bank. Converted into flats in 1912, some gained additional features, like first floor pediments over the windows, and the ten-bay Corinthian centrepiece.

19

M S Nicholson
1903–05

Stamford Street

Translating as 'Sandy Ford', it was probably another of Lambeth's causeways. Once a small street in Southwark, in 1815 it was extended (as Upper Stamford Street) all the way to Waterloo Road. The two roads were merged in 1868.

19

Royal Waterloo Hospital For Children & Women

Waterloo Road

Beginning as a dispensary in the City, the Royal Universal Infirmary For Children moved to the South Bank in 1823, one of the first buildings on Waterloo Road. It was completely rebuilt in 1905 with red brick, terracotta dressings and a ceramic facade that bore the new name of the institution. The Hospital closed in 1936, and the building now houses one of the campuses of the Schiller International University.

20

Brian Avery & Associates
1999

bfi London IMAX Cinema

Waterloo Road

Out of Waterloo Road's sunken 'bullring' roundabout rises the giant glass drum of the IMAX. Home to the biggest cinema screen in the country: 20m by 26m (the height of five double-decker buses) and complemented by the world's most sophisticated sound and projection system. The exterior walls of the building project include a major work of art by Howard Hodgkin, one of Britain's most distinguished artists, and at night they are lit with a variety of colours.

20

Francis Octavius Bedford
1822–24

Waterloo Station

The first Waterloo Station, built from 1848-85, was a confused collection of eighteen platforms spread over four stations, entirely beyond the comprehension of the average commuter. By 1900, it was decided to demolish the terminal and build a new station, a construction of red brick and Portland Stone, whose twenty-one platforms and grand booking hall were complete by 1922. The Station received fifty bomb hits during the War, but remained operational and was the terminus for the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Station's best exterior feature is: the main entrance, named 'Victory Arch' (after the First World War), which includes sculptures around its massive fanlight.

21

St. John The Evangelist Church

Waterloo Road

Built in the early 1820's, St John's is known as one of the four 'Waterloo Churches'. It was designed in the 'Neo Classical' style, with Greek columns and portico, crowned with a tall thin steeple. In 1940, the church received a direct hit during a bombing raid, and though the crypt was strong enough to protect those who sheltered within, the interior of the church was gutted. (One of the few surviving pieces was the eighteenth century Italian white marble font.) In 1950, the Church was selected for inclusion in the 1951 Festival of Britain and the building was restored.



22

1–72 Roupell Street

Roupell Street

1818

These Grade 2 listed buildings were once workers' houses. Their two-storey terraces with 'double-pitched' (two slopes rising to a point) roofs are an elegant contrast to the truncated 'monopitch' (only one slope) homes of the neighbouring Whittlesey and Theed Street, which are of the same period. Built by and named after John Roupell, a local scrap metal merchant, it was Roupell's grandson, William, who would give the family name its greatest notoriety, when he was investigated as a corrupt Member of Parliament and convicted of embezzling the family fortune.

Windmill Walk

Windmill Street took its name from Lambeth's mills, once a key feature of its pre-industrial economy. A mill was even used to power the local Horn Brewery, whose taphouse has today evolved into a pub, named 'The Windmill'. The street, now pedestrianised, is now called Windmill Walk.

Cons Street

Once Little Windmill Street, it was re-named after one of Lambeth's most vigorous nineteenth century social reformers: Emma Cons. Cons is best remembered for her attempts to reform the 'Old Vic' Music Hall, which she owned from 1880. Alcohol and 'unsuitable' performances (such as Shakespeare) were banished from the Old Vic, and replaced with coffee and sobriety lectures, without great success.



23

The Young Vic Theatre

The Cut

W G Howell
1970

In 1970, with the National Theatre Company based at the Old Vic, Laurence Olivier and Frank Dunlop established the Young Vic to give emerging actors and directors the opportunity to present theatre to a younger audience in an intimate, informal space. The theatre's entrance is through an old butcher's shop – the only building remaining on the site following a direct hit during the Blitz in 1941. A thriving part of London's theatre scene it has recently undergone redevelopment. A large painting by abstract artist Clem Crosby will surround the main auditorium. It reopens in autumn 2006.

24

1–29 Ufford Street

Ufford Street

These cottages were constructed at the turn of the twentieth century, with features interesting enough to distinguish them from their contemporaries and a Grade 2 listing from English Heritage.

25

The Stage Door

Webber Street

In Samuel Pepys' diary of 1665, he mentions drinking at a 'Half-the-Way' inn. The tavern was probably the Halfway House, positioned exactly halfway between London Bridge and the Westminster crossing at Stangate. The Halfway House lasted until 1985 when it was remodelled and renamed The Stage Door, presumably because of the neighbouring Old Vic theatre.



24



26

26

David Grieg Department Store (former)

133–155 Waterloo Road

H Payne
1928–29

In the 1920's this building was constructed as a department store for David Grieg Ltd. Only the building's ashlar façade of giant three-storey columns now remain (awarded a Grade 2 listing), while the remainder of the building has long since been demolished. Behind the façade, a new building was erected in 1979 to house the Department of Health.

27

The Old Vic Theatre

The Cut

R Cabanel
1816–18

Opening in 1816 as The Royal Coburg Theatre (original arches still on the walls), it was renamed the Royal Victoria Hall in 1833, which quickly became the 'Old Vic', a bawdy and drunken music hall. For this reason the social reformer Emma Cons bought the theatre in 1880, and turned it into the Royal Victoria Coffee Hall, for sobriety and learning, driving out corrupting influences like alcohol and 'blood-and-guts' Shakespeare. In 1912, Cons' niece, Lilian Baylis, took control and re-established the theatre's dramatic productions to great success. By 1962, the Old Vic was one of London's premier venues and the natural choice to house the fledgling National Theatre, which it did until 1976. In 1983 the building was extensively restored, resulting in its present façade, and operates as a successful London theatre.



27



28

28

Waterloo Millennium Green

Baylis Road

Waterloo Community
Charity
2001

Opposite the Old Vic is Waterloo Millennium Green, a new public park created by a community-led regeneration project funded predominantly by the London Borough of Lambeth, the Countryside Agency and charitable trusts. The park provides green public space in Waterloo for workers, residents and visitors, hearkening back to the days when Lambeth was dotted with leisure gardens and public areas, before the mass-urbanisation of the nineteenth century.

Frazier Street

Named after Frazier's Circus, a nineteenth century 'Penny Gaff'. 'Gaffs' were theatrical shows performed by out-of-work actors in derelict buildings, both of which were plentiful in Lambeth Marsh. Bawdy songs, garbled Shakespeare and 'blood-and-thunder' melodramas were performed in arenas that could squeeze in as many as a thousand. Cheap and appealing, these 'Gaffs' were a popular attraction of London's night-life.

Lower Marsh

The name originated from Lambeth Marsh, the rural village that developed and urbanised in the eighteenth century. The road leading through the village was divided by the Waterloo Railway line in 1848 and renamed Upper Marsh and Lower Marsh, on either side of the tracks.



30

29

Crown And Cushion Pub

135 Westminster Bridge Road

1893

In 1615, 'The Dunghill Cock' tavern opened in Lambeth. By 1785, the name had changed to 'The Crown And Cushion' and a century later, the pub moved to its new premises, a three-storey Victorian building on the former site of the Flora Tea Gardens, another of pre-urban Lambeth's open-air venues.

30

London Necropolis Station (former)

121 Westminster Bridge Road

C B Tubbs
1902

From this building operated London's only one-way train service. Founded in 1854 in response to the city-wide cholera epidemic, the Necropolis and its hearse-carriages took the dead of London (as many as fifty a day) to their final destination. Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey, the world's largest at the time, contained separate platforms for Anglican and Non-Conformist deceased, and the station even had a licensed bar (with a sign that read 'Spirits Served Here'). The first Necropolis was demolished in 1900 to allow for the expansion of Waterloo Station. This replacement continued to function until after the Second World War and while the ground floor has been converted into a mezzanine, much of the building's original features remain.



30



31

31

Hercules Road

The road's name derives from Hercules Buildings, Georgian houses developed by dare-devil horseman and theatrical impresario, Philip Astley. In 1779 he founded Astley's Amphitheatre, a permanent circus building which lasted until the end of the nineteenth century, despite burning down several times. The buildings were named after Astley's 'Hercules' strong-man act and one of his first residents was the Romantic poet and artist, William Blake. Blake lived on the site of the flats named 'Blake House' from the early 1790's, and the years that he would spend in 'lovely Lambeth', some of the most productive of his life, would be expressed in his poetry and prose more than any other part of London.

H J Paull & A Bickerdike
1873

Christchurch & Upton Chapel

Westminster Bridge Road

Once the site of a female orphanage (founded in 1758), the local clergyman (a strong supporter for the Union in the American Civil War) received many donations from America to build the Christchurch. Consequently the design of the church spire, named the 'Lincoln Tower', incorporates red bands and geometric shapes to form a 'stars and stripes' pattern that is still visible. During the bombing of 1940, the Church was all-but destroyed but the Tower was spared demolition and given a new chapel in 1960. A six-storey office block was also added, resulting in the interesting spectacle of a nineteenth century Gothic Tower integrated into a twentieth century office block.



32

Wellington Mills

Westminster Bridge Road

B Bienias
1970–76

This housing co-operative comprises of 140 maisonettes, built by the G.L.C., now privately-owned. Originating as an eighteenth century female orphanage, part of the site was bought by J Oakey and Sons, who established a factory in 1873 (named Wellington Mills) to produce emery paper (sandpaper) and blacking.

33

St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral

St. George's Road

A W N Pugin
1840–48

Ironically or intentionally, the high altar of the Cathedral stands on the very spot where the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots of 1780 began. Opening as the largest Roman Catholic Cathedral in England, the architect was A.W.N. Pugin, famed for the Gothic grandeur of his designs, including Parliament. Pugin's visions had exceeded the budget, however, and his grand cruciform cathedral was never fully completed. A century later, in 1941, St. George's was incinerated during a bombing raid and the neighbouring Amigo Hall became the pro-cathedral. Rebuilding work commenced in 1953, attempting to mix an 'Arts and Crafts' style with the remnants of the original, both elements are now visible from within.

34

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road

James Lewis
1815

Originally the home of the Bethlem Royal Hospital for the Insane which opened in 1247 as a London priory. St Mary of Bethlehem gradually began to specialise in care for the insane and by 1815 'Bedlam' had moved to its new building in Lambeth. The hospital's design, a giant portico with six Ionic columns, was later augmented by a tall copper dome and two great flanking wings that gave the building the longest frontage in Europe. When the institution moved to Kent in 1926, the London County Council took the building, demolished the wings and leased the central portion to the Imperial War Museum (which had opened at Crystal Palace in 1920). With both large-scale hardware (including the two gargantuan naval guns before the entrance) and exhibitions on the social effects of war, the Museum now covers all British conflicts since 1914.

Where the great hospital wings once stood is now the expansive Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, named after the mother of Viscount Rothermere. One of the Park's most recent additions is the Samten Kyli – the Tibetan Garden of Contemplation and Peace, which was opened by the Dalai Lama in 1999. Around the garden are sculptures representing earth, air, water and fire, while the centrepiece is a Buddhist symbol connected with peace and well-being.

More Walking Guides

If you have enjoyed this guide then please visit www.southbanklondon.com to discover the other titles in the series:

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A discovery of the Thames, especially written for young people

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For further information about *Walk This Way* or the South Bank, please see www.southbanklondon.com

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Directory



Things to do

BA London Eye (4) is the world's tallest observation wheel offering spectacular views across London. A London Eye river cruise operates from the pier throughout the day.
☎ 0870 990 8883
www.ba-londoneye.com

Jubilee Gardens (4) is the perfect place to relax with a picnic and soak up the sensational riverside views.

The South Bank Centre, including the **Royal Festival Hall (6)**, offers music and performing arts from around the world. There are free installations and performances in the Royal Festival Hall foyer every weekday lunchtime.
☎ 0870 401 8181 / www.rfh.org.uk
RFH reopens in Summer 2007

National Film Theatre (7) is one of the world's greatest cinemas and hosts a wide range of screenings and talks. It is home to the London Film Festival and also offers themed seasons throughout the year.
☎ 020 7928 3232
www.bfi.org.uk/nft

National Theatre (9) presents an eclectic mix of new plays and classics. Also, there are three restaurants, a bookshop, free foyer music on weekdays at 6pm and Saturdays at 1pm & 6pm, and every summer, the colourful street theatre festival 'Watch This Space'.
☎ 020 7452 3000
www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

Hayward Gallery (10), also part of the South Bank Centre, is the largest most versatile public art exhibition space in the country, presenting exhibitions that span history, cultures and media.
☎ 0870 169 1000
www.hayward.org.uk

From June to September, **Bernie Spain Gardens (12)** hosts the Coin Street Festival culminating in The Mayor's Thames Festival in mid-September
☎ 020 7401 2255
www.coinstreetfestival.org

thegallery@oxo (13) at Oxo Tower Wharf and Bargehouse are two venues with regular free exhibitions.
☎ 020 7401 2255
www.oxotower.co.uk

bfi London IMAX Cinema (20) allows you to experience larger-than-life images and ultra-realistic digital sound. The cinema shows 2D and 3D films on the largest cinema screen in the UK.
☎ 0870 787 2525
www.bfi.org.uk/imax

Young Vic (23) is the country's leading home for world-class directors and younger theatre artists presenting seasons of classic plays and rediscovered theatrical gems.
☎ 020 7928 6363 www.youngvic.org

The Young Vic is on Walkabout while its home is redeveloped. Its shows will be appearing across London before it reopens in autumn 2006. Visit www.youngvic.org for details

Old Vic Theatre (27) is one of London's oldest theatres, famous throughout the English speaking world. Long known as 'the actors' theatre', many of the greatest performers of the last century have played on its stage, and since 2004 it has been under the artistic direction of Kevin Spacey.
☎ 0870 060 6628
www.oldvictheatre.com

Imperial War Museum (34) uses personal stories to tell the story of conflict from the First World War to the present day. Free events for all the family are held throughout the year.
☎ 020 7416 5320 www.iwm.org.uk

Also on the South Bank:
The Museum of Garden History
☎ 020 7401 8865
www.museumgardenhistory.org

The Florence Nightingale Museum
☎ 020 7620 0374
www.florence-nightingale.co.uk

Shopping

Oxo Tower Wharf (13)
With three levels of design shops Oxo Tower Wharf is a hotbed of creativity and design flair in home style, design, jewellery and fashion. Pick up stylish presents from £5 or commission something unique.

Gabriels Wharf (12)
Gabriel's Wharf is home to an array of shops selling unique design items including jewellery, fashion and home accessories. From Indian fair-trade furnishings to affordable artwork. Qualified therapists also turn Gabriels Wharf into a shopper's retreat.

Festival Riverside (6)
Fantastic arts-related shops in beautiful riverside location, from international music at MDC Music & Movies to the latest books at Foyles.

Lower Marsh and The Cut (29–28–23)
Minutes from Waterloo Station, these historic streets are vibrant, and friendly, offering an eclectic array of shops selling everything from vintage clothing to quirky gifts.

The Best of the Rest
Don't miss the fantastic shops at these South Bank attractions.
■ Hayward Gallery
■ Imperial War Museum
■ London Eye
■ National Theatre

Eating & drinking

South Bank Centre (6)
Drop into the Hayward Gallery for a coffee at Starbucks or, at the Festival Riverside, choose from sandwiches at EAT, family-friendly dining at Giraffe, Italian cuisine at Strada or noodles at Wagamama. Alternatively try a light bite at the Festival Square Café.

National Film Theatre (7)
Relax with a chilled drink from the cool bar or enjoy a light meal. The outdoor terrace is perfect for long, lazy summer afternoons.

National Theatre (9)
Enjoy sandwiches and pastries at the ground floor Espresso Bar, light meals at the Terrace and Circle Cafés and formal dining at the Mezzanine Restaurant.

Gabriels Wharf (12)
A range of bars, cafes and restaurants with both indoor and outdoor seating and stunning riverside views. A perfect spot for lunch or grabbing a quick snack.

Oxo Tower Wharf (13)
You can enjoy soup, sandwiches or sushi at EAT café on the ground floor or travel to the 8th floor and have a drink at the OXO Tower Bar or dine in the famous brasserie or restaurant.

The Old Vic Bar & Restaurant (27)
Join an arty crowd for a drink at this buzzy theatre bar or explore the varied restaurant menu.

Lower Marsh and The Cut (29–28–23)
These two streets play host to an enormous selection of cafes, bars and restaurants, featuring tastes from around the world.

Where to Stay

Marriott Hotel County Hall (3) provides luxurious accommodation right at the heart of the South Bank. The hotel has an amazing and recently renovated spa and leisure club, boasting the largest gym and swimming pool in a hotel in London, where relaxing treatments and a leisurely swim can be enjoyed after a hard day's shopping and sightseeing.
☎ 020 7928 5200