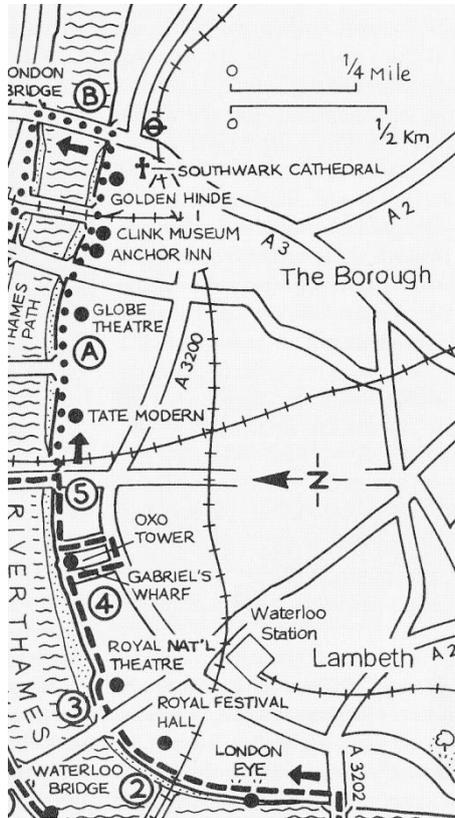


Explore London Group 9

The South Bank



A walk along the South Bank from Waterloo Station tracing the history of its bridges and highlighting the buildings in between. Long before the Romans arrived, the river was used as a highway by seafaring traders. The Romans built the first bridge near the site of the current London Bridge. The walk begins at Westminster Bridge and finishes at Tower Bridge.

County Hall, work commenced in 1909 with the embankment wall brought in line with that of the St Thomas's Hospital foreshore and the existing Cross & Blackwell factory was demolished. The foundation stone was laid by King George V accompanied by Queen Mary in 1912. 10 years later, they revisited to "officially" open County Hall.

The London Eye is a unique and versatile structure, comprising the best of British architecture and design, rising high above London's skyline at 135 metres. It is the tallest cantilevered observation wheel in the world.

Southbank Centre was built in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain and the concert halls were originally funded and managed by the London County Council and their successors, the Greater London Council. The Hayward Gallery was built in 1968 and was funded and managed by the Arts Council.

Oxo Tower Around 1900 a power station was built on this site to supply electricity to the Post Office. In the late 1920s it was purchased by the Liebig Extract of Meat Company. The Oxo Tower has been a riverside landmark since the 1930s.

Millennium Bridge. The bridge was opened in 2000 to provide the since first new Thames crossing since the opening of Tower Bridge. A shallow, suspension structure, it is designed to allow pedestrians unimpeded views up and down the river.

Tate Modern- When Tate Modern was created out of the shell of the Giles Gilbert Scott's old Bankside Power Station, areas associated with the power station infrastructure have remained untouched. These included a large Switch House, and three massive underground chambers, which once housed the oil tanks that ran the turbines and the Turbine Hall. Tate Modern was created in the year 2000 to display the national collection of international modern art, defined as art since 1900.

The Globe Theatre - In 1949, when Sam Wanamaker came to London for the first time, he looked for the site of the original Globe and was disappointed not to find a more lasting

memorial to Shakespeare and his theatre.

In 1970 Sam founded what was to become the Shakespeare Globe Trust, and in 1987 building work began on site when the six-metre deep foundations were laid. In 1993, the construction of the Globe Theatre itself began.

Sadly, Sam Wanamaker died on 18 December 1993. At that time, twelve of the fifteen bays had been erected. The plasterwork and thatching began the following year and were completed in 1997.

Clink Prison - The Clink Prison Museum is on the site of the original Clink Prison, possibly the oldest men's prison and probably the oldest women's prison in England, which held prisoners from the early Tudor years until 1780.

The Golden Hinde - The Golden Hinde is a full-sized reconstruction of the Tudor warship in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe in 1577 – 1580. The journey took three years, with the Golden Hinde being the only ship to complete the voyage.

Borough Market - London's oldest food market and boasts a mouth-watering range of fresh food stalls under its Dickensian wrought-iron roof.

Southwark Cathedral – a church has stood on this site since AD 606. There may well have been a church here even earlier. Southwark Cathedral is the oldest cathedral church building in London, and archaeological evidence shows there was Roman pagan worship here well before that. Significantly, Southwark stands at the oldest crossing point of the tidal Thames at what was the only entrance to the City of London across the river for many centuries.

The Shard- Shard London Bridge, previously known as London Bridge Tower, and also known as the Shard of Glass, 32 London Bridge and The Shard, is a skyscraper under construction in Southwark, London. When completed in 2012, it will be the tallest building in the European Union and the 45th tallest building in the world. It is the second tallest free-standing structure in the United Kingdom after the 1,084 ft (330.4m) Emley Moor transmitting station.

The tower will stand 1,017 ft (310 m) tall and have 72 floors, plus 15 further radiator floors in the roof. The building has been designed with an irregular triangular shape from the base to the top. It will be clad entirely in glass. The viewing gallery and open-air observation deck will be on the top (72nd) floor.

Hayes Galleria - Built in the 1850's, Hay's Wharf took deliveries from ships from all over the world and the area became known as the 'Larder of London'. The great Hay's Wharf complex has been restored to its former glory and those who visit the Galleria today stand on the same spot where the tea clippers from India and China edged their way into the dock 150 years ago.

HMS Belfast - Construction of the second ship of the 'Edinburgh' class was assigned by tender to Messrs Harland and Wolff of Belfast on 21 September 1936 and the vessel was launched by Mrs Neville Chamberlain on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 1938. She was brought to London and opened to the public on 21 October 1971.

City Hall - City Hall is a distinctive glass globe, with a purpose-built assembly chamber and offices for GLA staff. The building is 45 metres high; with 185,000 sq ft (gross) of floor space spread over 10 floors. In conventional terms, the building has no front or back: its shape is

derived from a geometrically modified sphere. This hybrid form is designed to minimise the surface area exposed to direct sunlight.

Tower Bridge - London Bridge was originally the only crossing for the Thames. As London grew, so more bridges were added, although these were all built to the west of London Bridge. Since the area east of London Bridge had become a busy port, a new bridge was urgently needed. Over 50 designs were submitted for consideration. It wasn't until October 1884 however, that Horace Jones, the City Architect, in collaboration with John Wolfe Barry, offered the chosen design for Tower Bridge as a solution. It took 8 years, 5 major contractors and the labour of 432 construction workers to build Tower Bridge. Two massive piers were sunk into the river bed to support the construction and over 11,000 tons of steel provided the framework for the Towers and Walkways. This framework was clad in Cornish granite and Portland stone to protect the underlying steelwork and to give the Bridge a more pleasing appearance.