



Jubilee Walkway
Section 5
The Jubilee Loop

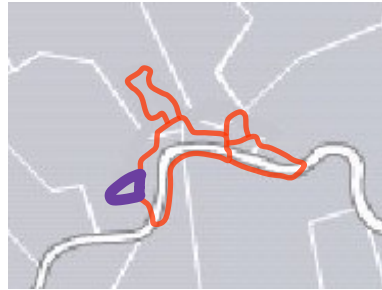


V1 : July 2009

Start / Finish: The panel on the South side of
Trafalgar Square (TQ300804)

Station: Charing Cross

Distance: 2 miles (3 km)



Introduction: This is a circular walk in the heart of London linking The Monarchy with the Government.

This section of the Walkway connects with Section 1 at Trafalgar Square and at Great George Street.

Directions: Trafalgar Square was laid out in 1840 by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the new Houses of Parliament.

The square, which is now a 'World Square', is a place for national rejoicing, celebrations and demonstrations as well as the home of hundreds of pigeons. It's dominated by Nelson's Column with the eighteen foot statue of Lord Nelson standing on top of the 171 foot column. It was put up in honour of his victory at Trafalgar.

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

Admiralty Arch is a large office building in London which incorporates an archway providing road and pedestrian access between The Mall, which extends to the southwest, and Trafalgar Square to the northeast. The Mall was laid out as an avenue in 1660-62 as part of Charles II's scheme for St James's Park.

Admiralty Arch, which replaced some of the St James's Park, was designed by Sir Aston Webb, constructed by John Mowlem & Co and completed in 1912. It adjoins the Old Admiralty Building, hence the name. The building was commissioned by King Edward VII in memory of his mother Queen Victoria, although he did not live to see its completion.

The Mall is London's 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 the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Continue ahead, passing the Royal Marines Memorial on the right, and passing in front of the grand façade of Carlton House Terrace. After nearly 300m, 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 and enter St. James's Park. **B**

At the top of the Duke of York's steps is the Duke of York Column; he was

the second eldest son of King George III. The column is made of pink granite, and the statue created by Sir Richard Westmacott in 1834. The Duke of York was the commander-in-chief of the British Army during the French Revolutionary Wars and is remembered in the children's nursery rhyme, "The Grand Old Duke of York".

St James's Park is the oldest Royal Park in London and near to three palaces: Westminster, now the Houses of Parliament, St James's Palace and Buckingham Palace. It was once famous for its Milk Fair which, until 1904, provided fresh milk from cows tethered beneath brightly coloured awnings.

Once across the road, you get a good view of Buckingham Palace. Turn right and follow the path at the side of the park up to Buckingham Palace (The Queen's official London residence), passing a double-sided panel interpreting the spectacular views. In front of Buckingham Palace is the Queen Victoria Memorial, **C** a white marble column with statue of Queen Victoria facing up The Mall, completed in 1911.

Look out for another panoramic panel, unveiled opposite the Palace to mark the Golden Wedding of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, celebrated in November 1997.

Buckingham Palace has served as the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns since 1837. It was originally a town house that was owned from the beginning of the eighteenth century by the Dukes of Buckingham. Now it is The Queen's official residence, with 775 rooms. Although in use for the many official events and receptions held by The Queen, areas of Buckingham Palace are opened to visitors on a regular basis.

Walk around the western edge of St James's Park and turn left down Birdcage Walk, again on the edge of the park, passing the Guards Chapel and Wellington Barracks on the other side of Birdcage Walk.

At the end of Birdcage Walk, leave St James's Park, and cross Horse Guards Road, into Great George Street. Continue 150m further on, into Parliament Square **D** to see Big Ben, The Houses of Parliament, and round to the right, Westminster Abbey.

Parliament Square itself has statues of many famous statesmen, including Sir Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela.

Straight ahead there is an interpretative panel in Parliament Square, with a number to ring for an audio description. Look also for the Jubilee Walkway maps wrapped around lamp-posts.

The history of Westminster Abbey goes back more than a thousand years of history when Benedictine monks came to this site in the tenth century, establishing a tradition of daily worship which continues to this day. The Abbey has been the coronation church since 1066 and seventeen monarchs are buried here. The Abbey towers over the attractive St Margaret's Church, which is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, who legend says was swallowed by a dragon. Its current form dates from 1486-1623 and since 1614 it has been the church of the Houses of Commons.

The site of the houses of Parliament is officially known as the Palace of Westminster, and was the residence of kings. Since 1547 it has been the permanent site of Parliament. The clock tower contains the famous Big Ben bell, cast in 1858 and named after Benjamin Hall, commissioner of works at that time. You can hear it striking the quarter and its familiar chimes on the hour.

Retracing back along towards Horse Guards Road and cross back to the edge of St James's Park, finding the pathway that goes down to St James's Park lake, which is home to pelicans. East from here is the back of Downing Street, **E** where the Prime Minister lives. Look for another information panel near the memorial at Horse Guards Road, opposite the parade ground, where every June, The Queen's birthday parade (or Trooping the Colour) is held to mark her official birthday. Here there is a war memorial - there are toilets along here and cafés nearby.

Back in St James's Park, continue northwards to again cross the road in front of the Duke of York steps, then turn right and return to Trafalgar Square under Admiralty Arch.