



## Jubilee Greenway

Section 8

Tower Bridge to Westminster Bridge



Transport  
for London

walk  
London

**Start:** Tower Bridge (TQ336801)

**Station:** Tower Hill (tube) or St Katherine's Pier (Thames Clipper)

**Finish:** Westminster Bridge (TQ305796)

**Station:** Westminster (tube) or Westminster Millennium Pier (Clipper)

**Distance:** 2.4 miles (3.9 km)



**Introduction:** The pulse of urban London quickens again as you begin Section 8. Hugging the South Bank, it links no less than eight landmark bridges and is a hub of cultural centres, including the Globe Theatre, South Bank Centre, Tate Modern and several famous museums.

The route continues to be the Thames Path and now also joins the original route of the Jubilee Walkway, as well as The Queen's Walk, which was fully opened in 1994. It is now possible to walk from Tower Bridge to Lambeth, only leaving the riverside briefly at Southwark.

After passing through a number of riverside boroughs, the walker is now in a heavily built-up part of London, with many magnificent landmarks in view. The Thames is crossed by numerous bridges.

As you walk you will be able to enjoy the skyline of London which has changed dramatically in the last half century, and continues to change from year to year, particularly along this section of the Thames.

V1 : Mar 10

**Directions:** Starting at Tower Bridge (on the south side of the Thames, with Tower Bridge itself on the right), walk along the promenade which is The Queen's Walk towards the peculiar-shaped glass building – this is City Hall.

Pass this, as well as The Scoop at More London on the left. HMS Belfast is moored in the Thames to the right. Looking behind, there is good view of the Tower of London from here.

The Tower is the oldest and most celebrated fortress in the country, it was a royal palace for five centuries and the home of the Royal Mint at one time. State records were held there, it was the site of the original Royal Observatory, a place for assemblies and treaties, a notorious prison with many famous prisoners, including royalty, and even a zoo (before the exotic animals were transferred to the London Zoo in Regent's Park in the 1830s). It is now home to the Crown Jewels, one of the most popular displays for the many visitors that come from all over the world.

Continuing westwards pass Southwark Crown Court and Hay's Galleria. Pass along London Bridge City Pier (where there is a Jubilee Walkway panoramic panel).

Just before London Bridge it is necessary to make a short inland detour. After the Cottons Centre and the London Bridge Hospital, turn left down a covered walkway away from the riverside, then turn right onto Tooley Street. Look out for the Thames Path signage and the Jubilee Walkway pavement discs as a guide. Next is Glaziers' Hall (in Montague Close) to the right, and a little further to the left, is Southwark Cathedral. **A**

Follow the road round to the left and with the corner of the Cathedral on your left, turn almost immediately sharply to the right around the corner of an office building. Walk towards a dock where a model of Drake's Golden Hinde is moored. At the riverside by the Old Thameside Inn is another Jubilee Walkway panoramic panel.

Turn left along Clink Street, with The Old Thameside Inn and other buildings on the right, between you and the river. Pass Pickford's Wharf and the Clink Prison Museum. There are toilets at the end of Clink Street. Bear round to the right past a couple of eateries, then turn left along the riverside past

another pub. Continue on to Southwark Bridge, where the Financial Times Building stands on the left. Next is the Globe Theatre. ©

The Bankside Gates, opened in October 1999, under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, adjoin the Globe Theatre, next to which is Provost's Lodge (all on the left). The Globe Theatre dates back to the 1500s. William Shakespeare moved to Southwark in 1599, having become a shareholder in the theatre in 1598 and staged many plays here. In 1613 during a production of his *Henry VIII*, the theatre was burnt down. It was rebuilt and Shakespeare may have staged some more plays here. But in 1642 all theatres and places of entertainment were closed, and it was demolished in 1644.

Further along The Queen's Walk are Cardinal's Wharf, Bankside Gallery and Tate Modern, directly opposite Millennium Bridge. There are toilets near Bankside Gallery.

The London Millennium Footbridge is a pedestrian-only steel suspension bridge, with a ramp, crossing the Thames, linking Bankside with the City. It was designed by Foster & Partners as a 'blade'-like design and developed in close collaboration with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineers Arup. The bridge appears as a thin ribbon of steel by day but at night it is illuminated and gives the impression of a shining blade of light across the river. The bridge alignment is such that a clear view of St Paul's south facade is presented from across the river, framed by the bridge supports, thus providing a scenic view of the cathedral.

*Just after the Tate Modern cyclists follow a different route to the end of this section as the path alongside the river is closed to cyclists. Turn left onto Hopton Street after the Tate Modern and then right onto Southwark Street. Turn right onto Blackfriars Road, heading North towards Blackfriars Bridge, but turn left into Upper Ground just before you cross the bridge.*

*Pass the National Theatre on the right and head under Waterloo Bridge continuing along Belvedere Road. With the London Eye directly to the right, turn left onto Chicheley Street. At the end, turn right onto York Road. To reach the official end point of this section, follow the road around and turn right towards Westminster Bridge where this section ends. Alternatively, to*

*continue onto section 9, continue ahead onto Lambeth Palace Road towards Lambeth Bridge.*

From the Millennium Bridge, continue westwards on the south side of the Thames. Pass under Blackfriars Bridge (named after Blackfriars Monastery), a Dominican priory which once stood nearby. After this comes the pub called Doggett's Coat & Badge.

Next are the London TV Centre, and the National Theatre. Then comes Waterloo Bridge. Outside the National Film Theatre is the popular South Bank book market, where stalls sell a wide range of books at competitive prices. Then you pass the complex of cultural buildings on this exciting area of Bankside with its many buskers and entertainers.

Pass under the Golden Jubilee Bridges – these are the old Hungerford Bridges (the two white footbridges either side of the rail bridge which runs across the Thames towards Charing Cross). Next the route opens out near some green space – Jubilee Gardens. On the left is the Silver Jubilee flagpole, behind which is the Shell Centre. Next is the London Eye. ©

The former County Hall is on the left, containing The Movieum of London, the Dalí Museum and the London Aquarium. Pass under Westminster Bridge in a subway which becomes obvious once you approach the steps.

Beside Westminster Bridge, on the left, is the South Bank Lion. This section ends here. Section 9 – South Bank Lion to Buckingham Palace – continues along the Thames.

For public transport either go up the steps to cross Westminster Bridge to reach Westminster tube station, or back-track to the London Eye to pick up the clippers, or from Jubilee Gardens turn inland to reach Waterloo Station (rail and tube). There are accessible toilets at Waterloo East and at Westminster station.