



Royal  
Geographical  
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with IBG

## **Manufacturing and migration**

**A free self-guided walk in Birmingham**



[www.walktheworld.org.uk](http://www.walktheworld.org.uk)

**Find Explore Walk**



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Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. The digital and print maps used for Walk the World are licensed to RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey.



The  
Heritage  
Alliance



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## Manufacturing and migration

### Discover Birmingham's industrial and cultural heritage

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Birmingham is one of 20 in different parts of the UK. Each walk explores how the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries. Along the routes you will discover evidence of how many countries have shaped our towns and cities.

Birmingham in the heart of the West Midlands has been described as the 'Workshop of the World'. The city's manufacturing history includes copper coins, chocolate, printed books and jewellery.

Since the Middle Ages the centre of Birmingham has also been subject to constant change. On this walk you can find out about the latest wave of redevelopment and regeneration. See how the city's heritage is being celebrated in converted old buildings and spectacular new ones.

Also see evidence of the waves of immigration that have made Birmingham so ethnically and culturally diverse - from Irish labourers and Jewish refugees to Chinese businessmen and South Asian farmers.

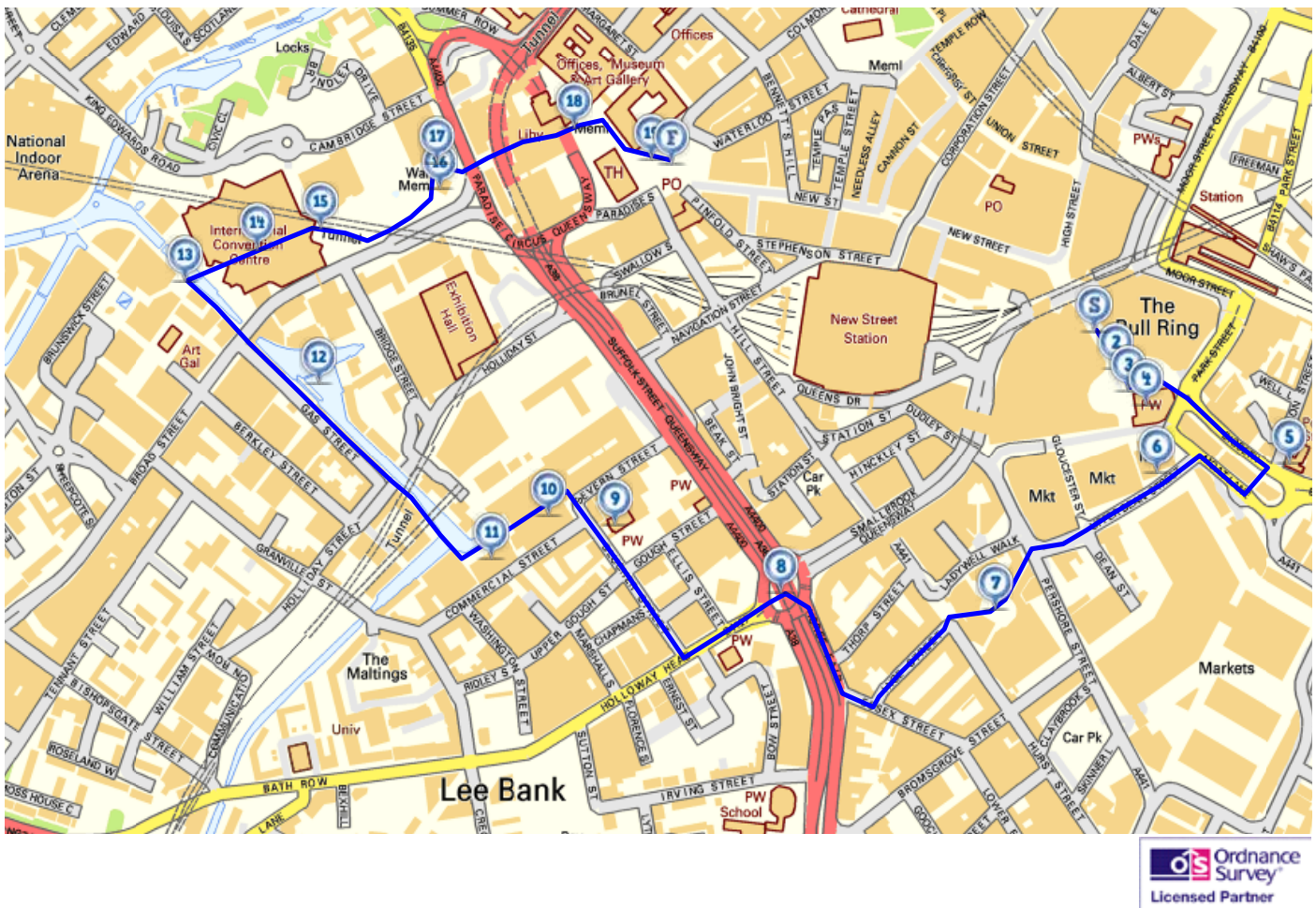
If you haven't visited Birmingham for some time you will be surprised by the transformation taking place.



Views of the 'Workshop of the World'  
Mike Jackson © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain



## Route map



### Stopping points

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>S.</b> The Bullring shopping centre                 | <b>11.</b> The Cube                             |
| <b>2.</b> Bull sculpture, The Bullring shopping centre | <b>12.</b> Gas Street Basin                     |
| <b>3.</b> Admiral Nelson statue                        | <b>13.</b> View of the National Indoor Arena    |
| <b>4.</b> St Martin's Church & Selfridges Building     | <b>14.</b> International Convention Centre      |
| <b>5.</b> Digbeth police station                       | <b>15.</b> Library of Birmingham                |
| <b>6.</b> Bull Ring market                             | <b>16.</b> The Hall of Memory                   |
| <b>7.</b> Arcadian shopping centre                     | <b>17.</b> <i>Industry and Genius</i> sculpture |
| <b>8.</b> Chinese pagoda, Holloway Circus              | <b>18.</b> Chamberlain memorial                 |
| <b>9.</b> Singer's Hill Synagogue                      | <b>19.</b> The River fountain, Victoria Square  |
| <b>10.</b> BBC Birmingham, The Mailbox                 | <b>F.</b> <i>Iron: Man</i> , Victoria Square    |

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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Birmingham, West Midlands
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - The nearest station to the walk is Birmingham New Street. Direct services run from London Euston, Cardiff Central, Glasgow Central, Edinburgh Waverly and many other major stations.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Many local bus routes and long distance coaches. Birmingham Coach Station is on Digbeth, near Stops 5 and 6 of the walk route.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Access via the M5 from the South West, M6 Toll from Wolverhampton, M40 from London, and M42 from the East Midlands. Plenty of car parking in the city centre (charges apply).</p>
<b>Start point</b>	The Bullring shopping centre, B5 4BU
<b>Finish point</b>	Victoria Square, B
<b>Onward journey</b>	To return to the start of the route use Directions 20 (on page 11)
<b>Distance</b>	1 ¾ miles
<b>Level</b>	Gentle - an easy city centre walk, though beside some busy roads - especially at the start of the route
<b>Conditions</b>	The route is on flat pavements and pedestrianised streets. Lifts and ramps for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Be careful of traffic by main roads.

<b>Suitable for</b>	<p><b>Families</b> - plenty to enjoy for all ages including public art, the canal and lots of shops</p> <p><b>Wheelchairs / pushchairs</b> - an entirely step-free route</p> <p><b>Dogs</b> - must be kept on a lead</p>
<b>Refreshments</b>	There are plenty of places along the route and throughout the city centre.
<b>Toilets</b>	Public toilets available at the shopping centres
<b>Other info</b>	There are some very busy streets at the beginning of the route so do take extra care. The city centre, especially the shopping centres, can be very busy on Saturdays
<b>Family-friendly activities</b>	<p><b>BBC Birmingham Public Space</b> is at The Mailbox (Stop 10). Childrens' activities, watch live radio shows, have a go at radio presenting. Open daily, free entry. Tel: 0121 567 6767</p> <p><b>Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery</b> is in Chamberlain Square (by Stop 18). Open daily until 5pm, free entry. Tel: 0121 303 2834. (Website address on p29)</p> <p><b>The National Sea Life Centre</b> is opposite the ICC (Stop 14) For tickets and opening hours Tel: 0121 634 6777</p> <p><b>Cadbury World</b> indoor family attraction in Bournville tells the story of chocolate. Interactive factory tour and the world's biggest chocolate shop. Booking advised. Tel: 0845 450 3599</p>
<b>Tourist Information</b>	<b>Central Library Information Centre</b> , The Rotunda, 150 New Street B2 4PA. Tel: 0844 888 3883 / 0121 202 5115

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## Directions

These directions are for use with the Birmingham walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

### 1. Welcome to Birmingham

#### The Bullring shopping centre

**Directions 1** - Make your way to the Bullring shopping centre. Find the statue of a bull outside the West Mall on Level 3. Listen here to Track 2.

### 2. Bull baiting

#### Bull statue, The Bullring shopping centre

**Directions 2** - From the statue of the bull, turn immediately right towards the church. Walk for 100 metres until you reach a statue of Nelson. Listen to Track 3.

### 3. Rule Britannia

#### Admiral Nelson statue

**Directions 3** - Walk down the steps or follow the ramp to the front of St Martin's Church. Stop here to listen to Track 4.

### 4. A reluctant soldier

#### St Martin's Church, Selfridges Building

**Directions 4** - Walk round to the back of St Martin's church by the silver and blue Selfridges Building. Cross the road at the traffic lights and continue down the right side of Digbeth for about 100 metres. Stop opposite Digbeth Police Station. Listen to Track 5.

### 5. Irish influence

#### Digbeth police station

**Directions 5** - Walk through Upper Mill Lane passage beside Smithfield House and turn right into Moat Lane. Head back towards St Martin's Church. Before you reach the church, cross over at the traffic lights to the open market. Listen here to Track 6.



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## 6. Foreign fruits

### Bull Ring market

**Directions 6** - Walk to the bottom of the market, away from the church, and turn right along Upper Dean Street passing the Rag Market on your right. Continue for about 200 metres past the indoor market until you reach Pershore Street. Cross at the traffic lights and walk in to the centre of the Arcadian Shopping centre. Listen to Track 7.

## 7. Chinatown

### The Arcadian shopping centre

**Directions 7** - With the water feature at the centre of the shopping centre in front of you, take the exit to your right to Ladywell Walk. Turn left and follow the road to the right. Turn left into Thorp Street, and follow this for 150 metres to the main road. Turn right and you will see a Chinese pagoda in the centre of the roundabout. You reach this by a pedestrian underpass. Listen to Track 8.

## 8. A take-away pagoda

### Holloway Circus

**Directions 9** - Leave the pagoda through the subway by the mosaic walk - take the steps or the ramp. At the top are traffic lights. Cross the main road, Holloway Head, here. Turn left crossing Ellis Street, then turn next right into Blucher Street. Continue along Blucher Street for 200 metres until you reach a synagogue on your right. Listen here to Track 9.

## 9. Jewish migration

### Singer's Hill Synagogue

**Directions 9** - Continue past the synagogue and enter The Mailbox building directly ahead of you. Make your way up to the seventh floor using the escalators or lifts and stop outside BBC Birmingham. Listen to Track 10.

## 10. Broadcasting live

### BBC Birmingham, The Mailbox

**Directions 10** - Walk to the glass exit doors overlooking the canal and stop just outside. Listen to Track 11

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## **11. A jewellery box**

### **The Cube**

**Directions 11** - Now follow the walkway past the Cube, turning right and crossing the canal bridge. Continue along the canal path for 200 metres until you reach the Gas Street Basin. Listen to Track 12.

## **12. Canals and cocoa**

### **Gas Street Basin**

**Directions 12** - Continue along the canal, passing under Broad Street Tunnel. Stop by the next footbridge opposite the ICC. Listen to Track 13.

## **13. Indoor records**

### **The National Indoor Arena**

**Directions 13** - Cross the footbridge and enter the International Convention Centre. Walk up the stairs or use the lifts and stop by the Symphony Hall. (There is flat access to the ICC by taking the lift a few yards further down the canal bank). Listen to Track 14.

## **14. An organ of regeneration**

### **The ICC (International Convention Centre)**

**Directions 14** - Leave the International Convention Centre by the doors by Symphony Hall. Go into Centenary Square and listen to Track 15.

## **15. A new chapter**

### **Library of Birmingham**

**Directions 15** - Walk past the front of the new library to the domed building ahead of you which is the Hall of Memory. Listen here to Track 16.

## **16. Lest we forget**

### **The Hall of Memory**

**Directions 16** - Just behind the Hall of Memory look for a sculpture outside Baskerville House called 'Industry and Genius'. Listen here to Track 17.

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## **17. A fine font**

### ***Industry and Genius sculpture***

**Directions 17** - Continue on the pedestrian way and enter into Paradise Forum under the Central Library. Go straight through this and exit into Chamberlain Square. Listen here to Track 18.

## **18. Big Brum**

### **Chamberlain Square**

**Directions 18** - Leave the square between the Museum and Town Hall and you will enter Victoria Square. Walk to the fountain in the centre of the square and listen to Track 19.

## **19. Floozie in the Jacuzzi**

### **The River fountain, Victoria Square**

**Directions 19** - Walk to the lower end of the fountain and to your right you will see a statue of an iron man. Stop here and listen to Track 20.

## **20. Iron man**

### ***Iron: Man sculpture, Victoria Square***

**Directions 20** - If you wish to return to the start of this walk in the Bullring, follow New Street from the bottom of the Square.



Some of the sights around Birmingham, the "Workshop of the World"  
Mike Jackson © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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## Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

### **BBC Asian network**

[www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork](http://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork)

### **BBC Birmingham tours**

[www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/birmingham.shtml)

### **Big City Plan**

[bigcityplan.birmingham.gov.uk](http://bigcityplan.birmingham.gov.uk)

### **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**

[www.bmag.org.uk](http://www.bmag.org.uk)

### **Birmingham Town Hall and Symphony Hall**

[www.thsh.co.uk/symphony-hall](http://www.thsh.co.uk/symphony-hall)

### **Cadbury**

[home.cadbury.co.uk](http://home.cadbury.co.uk)

### **The Cube**

[www.thecube.co.uk/about](http://www.thecube.co.uk/about)

### **Hall of Memory**

[www.hallofmemory.co.uk](http://www.hallofmemory.co.uk)

### **The ICC**

[www.theicc.co.uk](http://www.theicc.co.uk)

### **Library of Birmingham**

[www.libraryofbirmingham.com](http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com)

### **The Mailbox**

[www.mailboxlife.com/about](http://www.mailboxlife.com/about)

### **National Indoor Arena**

[www.thenia.co.uk](http://www.thenia.co.uk)

### **St Martin's in the Bullring Church**

[www.bullring.org](http://www.bullring.org)



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## Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Mike Jackson** and **Gary Gray** for creating the walk and taking photographs
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- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
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- **David Bowen, David Merritt** and **Gavin Warrins** for additional photographs

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The UK is an island nation but we are by no means isolated -  
we are a hub of worldwide connections.

Walk the World is an exciting series of free geographically-themed  
walks that aim to show how the UK is linked with the 206 countries  
due to compete at London 2012.

Each walk explores how the Olympic and Paralympic Nations  
and their people have shaped our surroundings -  
often in surprising ways.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring.  
Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and  
to find the unexpected.

**Visit [www.walktheworld.org.uk](http://www.walktheworld.org.uk)**

**Submit your own links**

**Search for other walks**

**Find out how to create your own walk**