



Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

## Stories from the sea

A free self-guided walk in Liverpool



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

Find Explore Walk







## Contents

Introduction	4
Route overview	5
Practical information	6
Detailed maps	8
Commentary	10
Credits	38

© The Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London, 2012

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



---

# Stories from the sea

## Discover how international trade shaped Liverpool

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Liverpool 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 Olympic and Paralympic countries have shaped our towns and cities.

Tea from China, bananas from Jamaica, timber from Sweden, rice from India, cotton from America, hemp from Egypt, sugar from Barbados... These are just some of the goods that arrived at Liverpool's docks. In the nineteenth century, 40 per cent of the world's trade passed through Liverpool.



A painting of Liverpool from circa 1680, thought to be the oldest existing depiction of the city  
Courtesy National Museums Liverpool



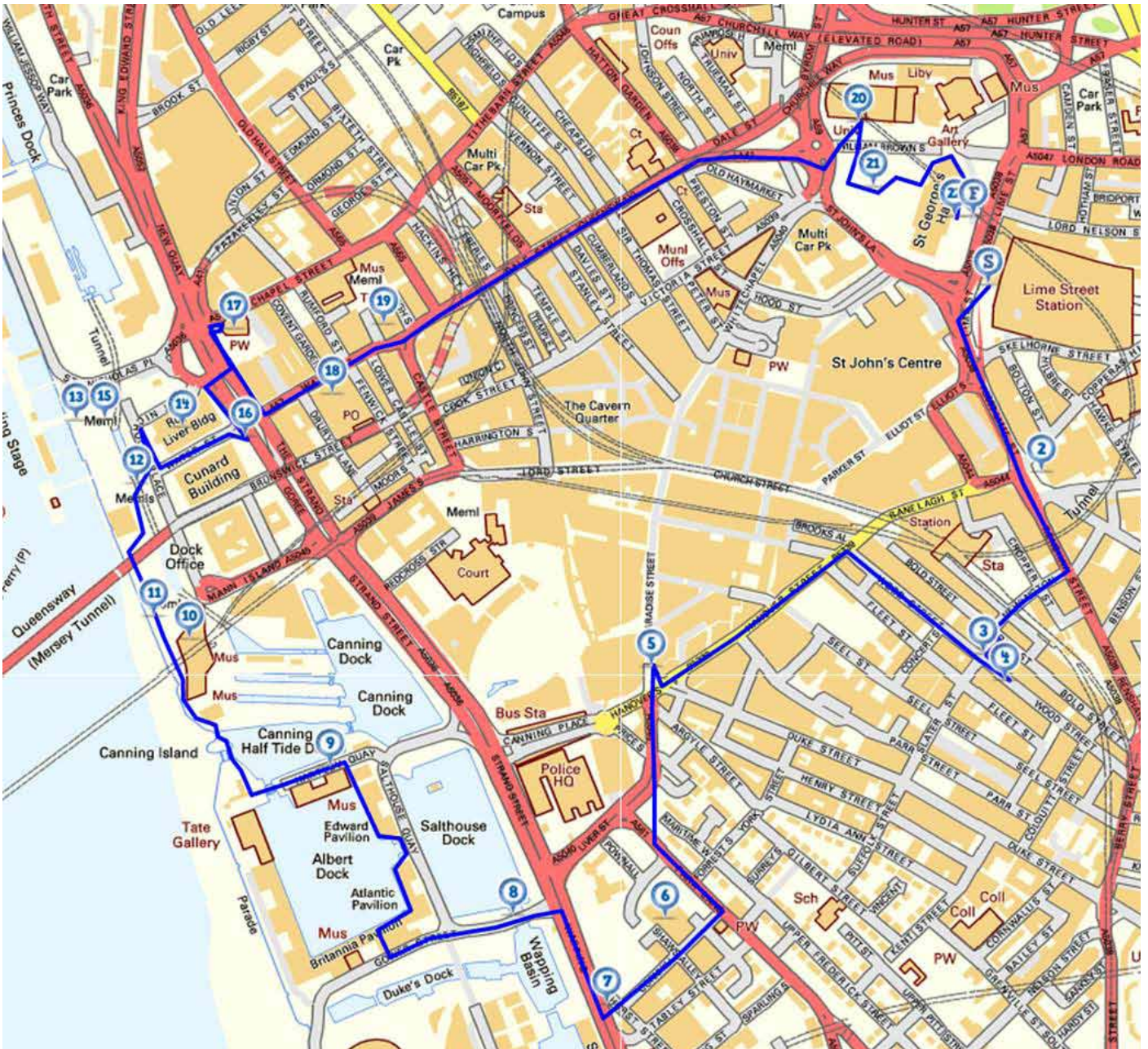
Albert Dock  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Though Liverpool's port employs less people today, the city still has a proud maritime industry. On this walk you can find out more about the different products shipped from around the world. Discover warehouses where goods were stored, streets where ropes were made and a pub where sailors drank. Visit memorials to those who died on merchant ships, a hotel where transatlantic passengers stayed, the headquarters of shipping companies, and a church named after the patron saint of seafarers.

As you explore some of the city's major landmarks as well as some lesser-known sights, see how Liverpool is truly a global gateway.



# Route overview



---

## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Liverpool, Northwest England
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - The walk starts from Lime Street station. Regular services include London Euston, Manchester stations, Leeds, Sheffield, York, Birmingham New Street, Norwich, Nottingham, Wigan and Newcastle.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - There are many local and long-distance services to the city centre. There are bus stations at Queens Square and Paradise Street.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Liverpool is easily accessible from the north and south. The M62 links to the east (Hull, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford) the M6 and M1 to the south (including London, Nottingham, Birmingham)</p>
<b>Start point</b>	Lime Street Station, L1 1JD
<b>Finish point</b>	St George's Hall, L1 1JJ
<b>Onward journey</b>	To route is almost a circle - Lime Street station is visible from St George's Hall
<b>Distance</b>	3 miles
<b>Level</b>	<b>Gentle</b> - a fairly flat city route with a section along the riverside
<b>Conditions</b>	A city walk on pavements and paths. Some cobbled streets in the Ropewalks. Take care for traffic in the city centre and wrap up warm for the waterfront section.

---

**Suitable for**

**Families** - take warm clothes as the riverside section can often be very breezy

**Pushchairs & wheelchairs** - an entirely step-free route apart from the grounds of Our Lady & St Nicholas Church

**Refreshments**

There are plenty of cafés and shops along the route

**Facilities**

Free public toilets are available inside the museums

**Other info**

Monthly tours of **Liverpool Town Hall** are available by booking in advance. Tickets £3. (Tel: 0151 225 5530)

**Family-friendly activities**

You can catch the famous **Mersey Ferry** from the Pier Head (Stop 13). Crossings offer great views of 'the Three Graces'. For times and tickets tel: 0151 330 1000

**Underwater Street Discovery Centre** is a family-friendly attraction, open from 10am – 4pm, Tuesday to Friday and 10am – 6pm at weekends. (Tel: 0151 227 2550)

**Merseyside Maritime Museum, International Slavery Museum** (Stop 9), **Walker Art Gallery** and **World Museum** (Stop 20) are open daily 10am -5pm. Free entry.

**Tate Liverpool** art gallery at Albert Dock is open daily from 10am – 5pm. Free entry except for special exhibitions (Tel: 0151 702 7400)

**Tourist Information**

**Albert Dock Visitor Information Centre**, Anchor Courtyard L3 4BS. Open daily from 10am. You can find it on the walk route after Stop 8. (Tel: 0151 707 0729)



## Start and end sections of the route

### Stopping points

- S.** Lime Street railway station
- 2.** The Adelphi Hotel
- 3.** Ropewalks
- 4.** The Tea Factory
- 5.** Former American Consulate
- 6.** Heap's Rice Mill
- 7.** The Baltic Fleet pub
- 8.** Salthouse and Albert Docks
- 20.** World Museum, Walker Art Gallery & Liverpool Central Library
- 21.** St John's Gardens
- 22.** St George's Hall
- F.** St George's Hall




**Ordnance Survey**  
 Licensed Partner



## Middle section of the route



### Stopping points

7. The Baltic Fleet pub
8. Salthouse and Albert Docks
9. Merseyside Maritime Museum
10. Museum of Liverpool
11. Merchant Navy memorial
12. 'The Three Graces' (Royal Liver Building, Port of Liverpool Building, Cunard Building)
13. Pier Head
14. Liver birds, The Royal Liver Building
15. Titanic memorial
16. The Goree
17. St Nicholas Church
18. India Buildings
19. Liverpool Town Hall

---

## 1. Welcome to Liverpool

### Lime Street railway station

Welcome to Liverpool! This is one of the major cities of northern England, known throughout the world – not just because of the Beatles or its football teams – but because it was the starting place, finishing place or stopping off place for many journeys by sea.

Liverpool was a major port city and built up its wealth and status through trade. And this trade connected the city with many other countries. This walk takes in 22 sights that reveal the links between Liverpool and nations around the world. These international connections tell a story about the people, trades and goods that built this city.

We have found links to almost 70 different countries but we'd love to hear from you if you find any others on or near the route. The walk will also give you some ideas of how to look for international links near your home.

The walk is about 3 miles long. We start at Lime Street Station and finish just opposite at St George's Hall. This is a city centre walk and a relatively flat route. There are a number of busy roads to cross so please take care and always use pedestrian crossings. We hope you enjoy the walk!



Sights of maritime Liverpool  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

**Directions 1** - With the station entrance behind you, turn left along Lime Street. Stay on the left hand pavement. Immediately after Copperas Hill is the Adelphi Hotel. Stop on the forecourt outside or go through the revolving doors into the lobby.

---

## 2. Land-locked liner

### The Adelphi Hotel

Our first stop is the Adelphi Hotel, the largest and most famous hotel in Liverpool. There has been a hotel on this site since 1826, though the current building was rebuilt in 1912 by the Midland Railway Company. The rebuild made the Adelphi one of the most luxurious hotels in the world at the time.

Many of its rooms have solid Italian marble walls and it was one of the first hotels in the UK that had baths and telephones in every room. The hotel's opulent fittings reflected Liverpool's wealth and allure.



Hall 1 at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel  
Wikimedia Commons

This wealth and status came from Liverpool's port. By the time the Adelphi was built, Liverpool was one of Britain's major trade destinations. Goods from around the world passed through Liverpool's docks and people from throughout the world stopped in the city – to live and to work, for business and for pleasure.

The Adelphi attracted wealthy visitors to the city. Many were passengers on huge luxury ocean liners that stopped in Liverpool during worldwide cruises. As a result The Adelphi was sometimes described as a cruise liner on dry land. The hotel's Sefton Suite is even a replica of the First Class Smoking Lounge on the Titanic. In 1981 rooms at the Adelphi were used to film ocean liner sequences for the TV adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited* when the main characters were sailing back from New York.

Many famous guests have stayed here over the years including Charles Dickens – who named it his favourite hotel – and Mark Twain. Perhaps the most famous visitor was a horse! In 1954 the American actor Roy Rogers, TV's 'singing cowboy', stayed at the hotel with his horse, Trigger. With Rogers bed-bound with flu Trigger was free to trot along the Adelphi's corridors and even made his way up one of the hotel's staircases.

**Country links** - Italy, United States of America

**Directions 2** - Continue along the main road which is now called Renshaw Street. Cross over in a safe place and then turn right into Newington. Follow this road then go into Slater Street. Stop at the junction of Slater Street and Wood Street on the right hand side.



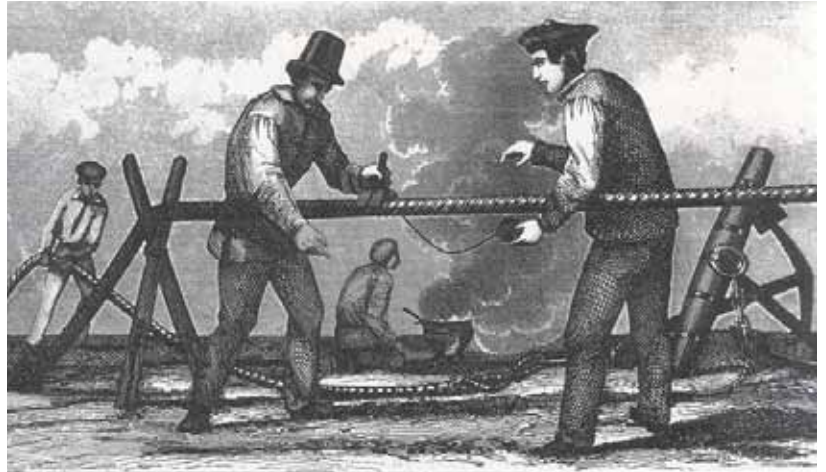
---

### 3. A sign of the past

#### Ropewalks

Just a stone's throw from an opulent hotel where the city's wealthiest visitors stayed is an area where poor labourers did some of the dirtiest and most back-breaking jobs.

This area is called the Ropewalks. It has only been called Ropewalks in recent years as part of the regeneration but the name has a long history. Ropewalks are roads or lanes where ropes are made. And ropes were essential for the ships and liners that used the port of Liverpool.



Sailors working on a rope walk  
Wikimedia Commons

Liverpool's first dock was built in 1715 when ships were powered by the wind. Sailing ships needed huge amounts of rope for rigging, mooring and anchors. A standard British Navy rope was 1,000 feet long (that's about 300 metres). A ship such as Admiral Nelson's *HMS Victory* carried over 20 miles of rope on board. Demand for rope here in Liverpool was vast. As the port grew so did the number of rope makers.

Rope was made from hemp which are soft, durable plant fibres. Some hemp was grown in Britain but there are also records of significant amounts being imported from Egypt, Riga in Latvia and Holland. Rope making was a dirty and difficult job. In the days before steam ropes were made by hand by teams of up to 200 men. The raw materials were spun into yarn then coated with tar and twisted. This mixture was very flammable and many rope factories suffered from fires. The material was laid down on the ground and twisted along a cable. This is why some of the streets here are very long and straight. These streets, the rope walks, were called 'wappings' or 'warpings'.

By the early-eighteenth century, this area was a vibrant and busy spot, home to merchants, sailors and craftsmen. Today it is a conservation zone. Ropewalks was one of the first parts of Liverpool to be redeveloped in the 1990s and these streets have become a symbol of the city's renaissance. At this corner you can see some hand-painted signs on the walls. They advertise some of the wares of the rope makers: 'twines; paper; hessian; wadding; flags'.

**Country links** - Egypt, Latvia, The Netherlands

**Directions 3** - From the corner cross Slater Street and stop outside the Tea Factory building on the left hand side of Wood Street.

---

## 4. Time for tea

### The Tea Factory

Over the next few stops we will explore some of the international goods that were imported through the port of Liverpool and traded in the city. Here on Wood Street we have arrived at a bar called the Tea Factory. Tea was one of Liverpool's major imports. From the 1840s, hundreds of ships brought tea to Liverpool's docks. Most of it came from the east – especially China and then India.

As the demand for tea increased merchants wanted faster ships to bring their cargoes across the oceans. These were known as clippers. The clipper trade was very competitive. Journey times of rival clippers were even printed in newspapers. The fastest journeys from Liverpool to China would have taken about 85 days. The last surviving tea clipper is the *Cutty Sark*, now housed at Greenwich Dock in London.

Partly because of the tea trade Liverpool has the oldest Chinese population in Europe. Many of today's Chinese community have ancestors who arrived on tea clippers and other ships importing goods such as silk and cotton.

In the late 1850s the Blue Funnel Shipping Line employed Chinese sailors and built houses for them beside the docks. Some of these sailors settled here and by the 1890s the first Chinese shops and businesses had set up in the city. Today an estimated 10,000 Chinese people live in Liverpool, many in an area south of the city centre known as Chinatown.

Since 1999 Liverpool has been twinned with Shanghai. To mark the occasion a spectacular Chinese arch was built at the entrance of Chinatown symbolising Liverpool's historic relationship. The close relationship between Liverpool and China continues to this day. In fact Liverpool was the only UK city represented at the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010.



The Tea Factory signs  
© Andy Miah via Flickr.com  
(Creative Commons License)

**Country links** - China, India

**Directions 4** - Retrace your steps back to Fleet Street. Continue to the end of Fleet Street then turn left into Hanover Street. Walk downhill to the junction of Argyle Street and Paradise Street then turn right onto a pedestrianised road. Stop outside the third building on the right.

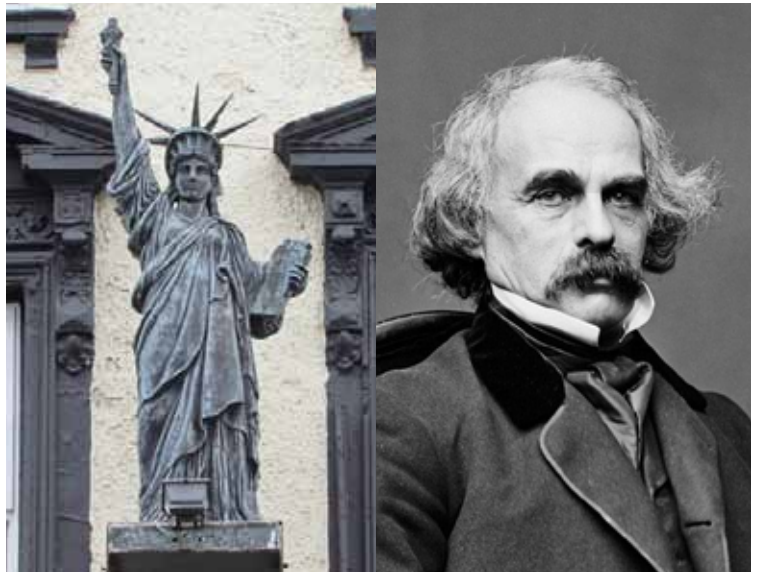
---

## 5. The New York of Europe

### Former American Consulate, Paradise Street

At the last stop we heard about Liverpool's trading links with China. As well as trade with the east Liverpool traded with the west, in particular the United States of America. America was important because of cotton. And cotton was the main raw material for the textile industry which had boomed in northwest England in the 1800s. In fact, 60% of America's cotton was exported to Liverpool. Well into the twentieth century Liverpool was Britain's biggest trade link with America.

This building with the carved eagle is the former offices of the United States Consulate. This was America's first ever overseas consular office.



A replica Statue of Liberty on Lime Street /  
US writer Nathaniel Hawthorne was a US Consul in Liverpool  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain / Wikimedia Commons

Liverpool was considered the greatest commercial city in England. The first consul was James Maury, appointed in 1790. In fact the job became America's most lucrative foreign posting. In 1853 the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne was posted here as consul. He was paid \$7,500 a year which in those days was quite a sum!

By then Liverpool was described as "the New York of Europe" for its trade value and the size of its buildings. Then in the 1860s came the American Civil War fought between the Confederates of the southern states that wanted to keep slavery and the Union of the northern states that had already abolished it. Liverpool depended on cotton grown in the slave plantations of the South.



CSS Alabama  
Wikimedia Commons

So when the American southern states commissioned a warship in Liverpool in 1862, the city's cotton merchants helped to cover up why it was being built. The ship – the *CSS Alabama* – was built in secret on the River Mersey as an unarmed steamer. Weapons were added to it in the Azores and the *Alabama* was used in the Civil War.



---

As you can see the original Consulate building remains. After the Second World War the Consulate moved and this building became The Eagle pub. Left empty for many years the site was restored in 2008. As Liverpool's central business district was redeveloped the huge carved wooden bald eagle we can see was cleaned and repaired. It is rather ironic, though, that this one-time base for American trade is now home to a shop from a mighty Japanese electronics empire!



The wooden eagle on the former US Consulate building  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

**Country links** - Japan, United States of America

**Directions 5** - Return to the junction with Hanover Street. Cross over the road and go along Paradise Street. Keep on the left hand side with the triangle shaped garden on your right. Cross over Park Lane at the first junction with Beckwith Street. Stop and look across the road at the large brown building.

---

## 6. Heaps of rice

### Heap's Rice Mill

We've already heard about two major imports that came through Liverpool's docks – tea and cotton – but that wasn't all. Foodstuffs were another major import. Fish, fruit, sugar, spices, flour, wheat, grain and many other products were imported or processed in the city.

From here you can see the derelict warehouse of Joseph Heap & Sons. It is one of the oldest in the city. Although the lettering says 'Rice Millers', the company started off in 1778 in sugar refining. Sugar was traded in Liverpool from the 1670s and in time the city became one of the world's biggest refining centres.



Heap's Rice Mill sign  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Up until 1805, all the sugar imported to Liverpool came from the West Indies particularly Barbados and Jamaica. Thereafter imports also came from the East Indies (particularly Java and The Philippines), India and Mauritius, Argentina and the United States. The most famous Liverpool sugar company was Tate Sugars, now known as Tate & Lyle, which was founded in 1872. At its peak a century later the factory produced 550,000 tons of sugar per year.

Working in sugar refineries was heavy and hot work; illness was common and life expectancy short. Many English and Irish labourers refused to do the work. In fact refiners recruited skilled workers from Germany particularly from the Hamburg area. In the 1851 census there were 44 German-born sugar workers in Liverpool and this had risen to around 200 thirty years later. The pay was high, particularly if you were a skilled sugar boiler. The hours were long but there were perks – gallons of beer to replace the body moisture lost in the terrific heat!

Joseph Heap & Sons later shifted their main activity to importing rice. This building was once the country's largest rice mill. Heap & Sons used their own fleet of ships called the Diamond H Line to import rice from Calcutta in India and Rangoon in Burma. They then exported the rice to Australia. As you go down Cornhill towards the next stop, look back at this warehouse and you will see the words 'Anglo Australian Rice'. There are proposals to turn this building into luxury flats. We will see some more examples further along our walk of former warehouses turned into apartments.

**Country links** - Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, Russia, Singapore, The Philippines, United States of America

**Directions 6** - Continue a short way along Park Lane then turn right into Cornhill. Continue to the junction with the main road. Stop outside the Baltic Fleet pub.

---

## 7. The sailor's watering hole

### The Baltic Fleet

Another of the goods that came into Liverpool was timber. Most timber arrived from Canada, Scandinavia (particularly Norway, Sweden and Finland) and Russia's Northwest and Baltic (present-day Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia). So much timber was imported into Liverpool that a new dock was built in 1859 especially for the timber trade. It was called Canada Dock. Canada Dock is still in operation today although it now handles bulk cargo and scrap metal.

This pub, The Baltic Fleet, was once a drinking hole for the men who worked on the ships sailing with their timber loads from the Baltic. The oldest part of the pub dates from the 1780s. It is full of character and apparently home to several ghosts.



The Baltic Fleet  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

It is also the only micro-brewery in the city – award-winning beers are brewed in the cellar. The cellar is also the entrance to tunnels that run to the waterfront which were allegedly used for smuggling. The tunnels are now bricked up to stop any beer from going missing!

While we're talking about home-brewed beer let's think for a moment about some related imports into Liverpool. Rum became a popular import after the British Navy captured Jamaica in 1655. The Navy used to give their sailors a daily liquor ration and Jamaican rum replaced French brandy as the tipples of choice. Tobacco came to Liverpool from the southern states of America. The first shipment was recorded in 1648 and the trade took off in the 1660s.

If you go inside The Baltic Fleet there is a good chance some of the wood fittings are Scandinavian or Canadian. After centuries of damp, heat and spilt drinks a lot of the wood has warped. Speaking of warps do you remember how ropes were made in streets called warpings or wappings? This road we are on is called Wapping – it is another ropewalk.

**Country links** - Canada, Estonia, Finland, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Sweden  
United States of America

**Directions 7** - Turn right along Wapping and cross over at a pedestrian crossing. Turn left into Gower Street with Salthouse Dock on your right and Wapping Basin on your left. Stop overlooking Salthouse Quay.



---

## 8. Quays to the city

### Albert Dock

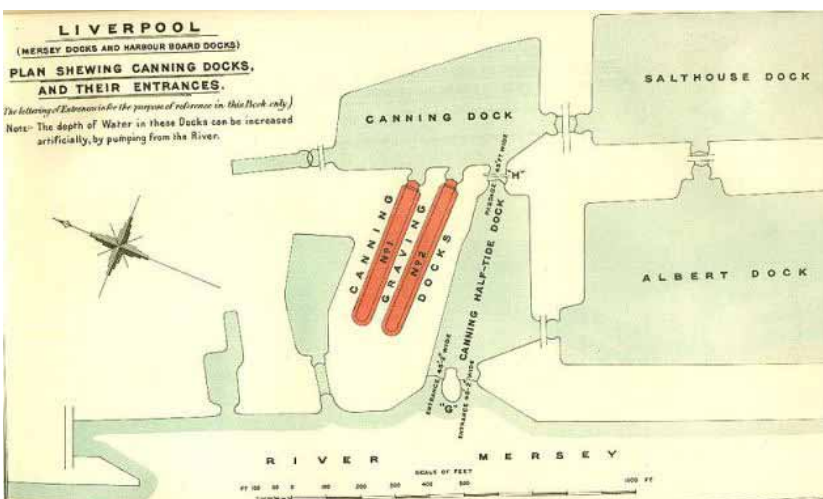
We have arrived at one set of Liverpool docks. The docks stretch for many miles along the river front. By the nineteenth century 40% of the world's trade passed through Liverpool's docks. That is incredible – 40% of the world's trade came through here!

Ships would have queued for a berth in the docks. The docksides would have been packed with crowds of sailors and stevedores, traders and merchants, craftsmen and rope makers. Thousands of tonnes of goods were unloaded every week.



Albert Dock at dusk  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

The warehouses were crammed with goods destined not just for Liverpool but also for the other industrial cities of northern England. It would have been a noisy, bustling place. There were times when Liverpool's wealth exceeded London's. Liverpool's Custom House became the single largest contributor to the British Exchequer. The city was so important to Britain's economy that Liverpool is still the only British city ever to have an office in Whitehall.



A 1909 British Admiralty map of Albert, Canning and Salthouse Docks  
Wikimedia Commons

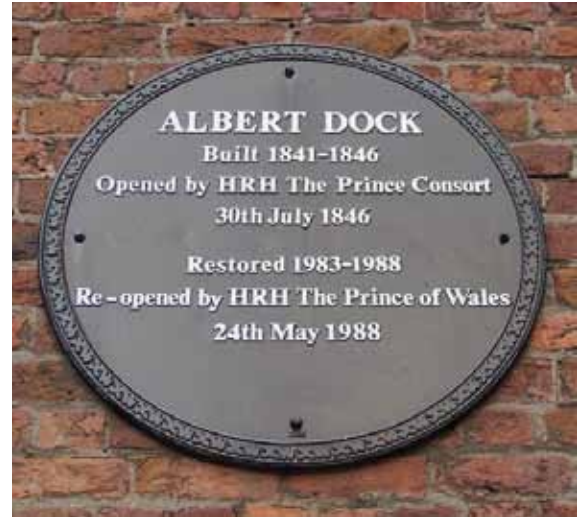
Liverpool's port didn't just bring goods from around the world – people arrived too. As well as the Chinese settlers we heard about earlier Liverpool became home to a large Irish population. Liverpool is nearer to Dublin than London.

As a result many Irish people have settled here over the centuries. After the Irish famine of the 1840s around two million Irish immigrants came to Liverpool within a decade. By 1851 a quarter of Liverpool's population were from Irish descent.

---

Many of the docks along Liverpool's waterfront remain but few are used for their original purpose. Many docks have been cleaned out and are used for leisure boats. Many warehouses have been restored and are home to museums and galleries, apartments and hotels, shops and television studios. This area around the Albert Dock is basically a leisure venue. This has revitalised the city's economy and brought life back into what had become a derelict industrial site.

Because of increasing mechanisation the docks now account for less than 10% of Liverpool's employment. Liverpool remains an important UK port though. Several international shipping companies have UK headquarters in Liverpool such as the Japanese firm NYK and Denmark's Maersk Line.



A sign of change...  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

**Country links** - Denmark, Ireland, Japan

**Directions 8** - Continue towards Albert Dock. Find one of the passageways through the building to the inside of the dock. Make your way round the edge of the dock to the Merseyside Maritime Museum. Stop outside the museum.

---

## 9. Trade triangle

### International Slavery Museum

We've talked a lot about the different goods that were brought to Liverpool from around the world. There's another type of trade that must also be mentioned too: the trade in people.

The first recorded slave ship from Liverpool set sail on October 3rd 1699. Named the Liverpool Merchant, it arrived in Barbados on September 18th 1700 with a cargo of 220 enslaved Africans. Over the following decades the slave trade boomed in Liverpool. By the end of the 1700s, Liverpool controlled over 80% of the British slave trade and over 40% in Europe.



An iron cuffle used to transport enslaved Africans  
Courtesy National Museums Liverpool

Africans were captured and enslaved from all the countries around the West African coast including present-day Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana. They were taken across the Atlantic to the Caribbean to islands such as Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and the Leeward Islands, as well as British Guyana. Altogether nearly one and a half million Africans were forcibly transported in Liverpool ships.

Although slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1807 Liverpool continued to trade with West Africa by importing palm oil. It also continued to import goods from places where slave labour was still legal – sugar from plantations in the Caribbean and cotton from the southern United States. Evidence of Liverpool's involvement in the slave trade can be found in some of the city's buildings and street names and most obviously the people. Liverpool has the oldest Black African community in Europe. Of the city's population today 9,000 are of Black African origin and 4,000 of Afro-Caribbean origin.

The Merseyside Maritime Museum is also home to the International Slavery Museum. Both are well worth a visit. Here you can find out the history of the slave trade including stories of bravery and rebellion among enslaved people. You can also find out about the legacies of the trade as well as contemporary forms of slavery.

**Country links** - Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Montserrat, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Trinidad & Tobago, United States of America

**Directions 9** - When you are ready, make your way towards the waterfront. Cross the bridge over Canning Half Tide Lock and follow the riverside footpath. Stop outside the Museum of Liverpool. Look for a set of large animal sculptures.



---

## 10. Baa-nanas

### Lambananas, Museum of Liverpool

Here outside the new Museum of Liverpool are some unusual animals. This group of odd sculptures look a bit like sheep. If you look closely they look like sheep that have swallowed huge bananas. So what on earth are they? They are called Superlambananas. As the name indicates, they are a cross between lambs and bananas.

There are four of these creatures on either side of the Museum. So take your time to walk around the building. Each one is a replica of an original seventeen-foot tall sculpture which moves around the city. At the time of creating this walk the original Superlambanana was standing outside the library of Liverpool John Moores University. This flock of eight small Superlambananas are grazing here for now but may move on in due course.



A musical Superlambanana  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

The original Superlambanana was designed by Taro Chiezo, a Japanese artist based in Manhattan, New York. It was made in 1998 for a public art exhibition. The idea is not as bizarre as we might think because both bananas and lamb commonly passed through Liverpool's docks. Lamb was transported from Wales while bananas were imported from the Caribbean particularly Jamaica and the Windward Islands. In fact Liverpool introduced the banana into Britain when ship owner Sir Alfred Lewis Jones brought some through the docks in 1884.

The Superlambananas are a humorous reminder of Liverpool's trading past. Like the regenerated docks and the Museum of Liverpool they also show how the city has reinvented itself in recent years as a hub for the arts. This process culminated in 2008 when Liverpool was host city for the European Capital of Culture. A series of arts events across Liverpool brought visitors from throughout the world and confirmed Liverpool as an international city once more.

**Country links** - Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Japan, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, United States of America

**Directions 10** - Just past the Museum of Liverpool is a group of war memorials next to the waterfront. Stop by the tallest memorial.

---

## 11. Brothers in arms

### Merchant Navy Memorial

Along the river front are some other reminders of Liverpool's international connections. The marble structure with a tower in the middle is the Merchant Navy memorial. It records the fallen of the Second World War. Liverpool was a very important city during the Second World War. It was still Britain's most important trade link with the USA and the city became a vital source for American food supplies.

As well as food the docks transported military goods such as weapons. Overall Liverpool handled 90 per cent of the military equipment brought into Britain. Liverpool was also a major naval base in the Battle of the Atlantic. Allied Navy ships from throughout the world were based and launched from here. Put simply, without Liverpool, Britain would have lost the war.



Liverpool Merchant Navy memorial  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

But because of its strategic importance Liverpool was bombed. After London Liverpool was the second most-bombed city in Britain. The Liverpool Blitz began during the night of 28 August 1940 when 160 German bomber planes attacked the city. The Blitz continued until January 1942 and of course the docks were the major target. In all 2,736 people were killed in the city and around 4,000 people across Merseyside as a whole.

As a port city many of Liverpool's Blitz victims came from overseas. Here you can find dedications to people from other countries that died here. Memorials include those for the Dutch Merchant Navy, the Belgian Merchant Navy, Chinese merchant seamen, Irish sailors and Norwegian air crew. As part of reconciliation after the war, Liverpool was twinned with the heavily-bombed industrial city of Cologne in Germany.

**Country links** - Belgium, China, Germany, Ireland, Norway, The Netherlands, United States of America

**Directions 11** - Stay near the memorials and turn your back to the river. Look away at the three buildings on the waterfront.

---

## 12. The Three Graces

### The Liver, Cunard & Port of Liverpool buildings



The 'Three Graces' in 1950  
© Ben Brooksbank via Geograph.com

From here you can see the most famous buildings on Liverpool's waterfront, known as 'the Three Graces'. With your back to the river, they are (from left to right) the Royal Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building. Built between 1903 and 1917 they were originally the headquarters for shipping and marine insurance companies. Impressive, aren't they?

The term 'the Three Graces' dates back to ancient Greek and Roman myths. The Three Graces were the goddesses of charm, beauty and creativity. Using this name for these buildings is appropriate because they include ancient Greek and Roman style design features such as columns, stepped entrances and elaborate facades. They were designed to reflect Liverpool's international wealth and importance. No expense was spared in the external and internal fittings, with the best designs and materials coming from around the world.

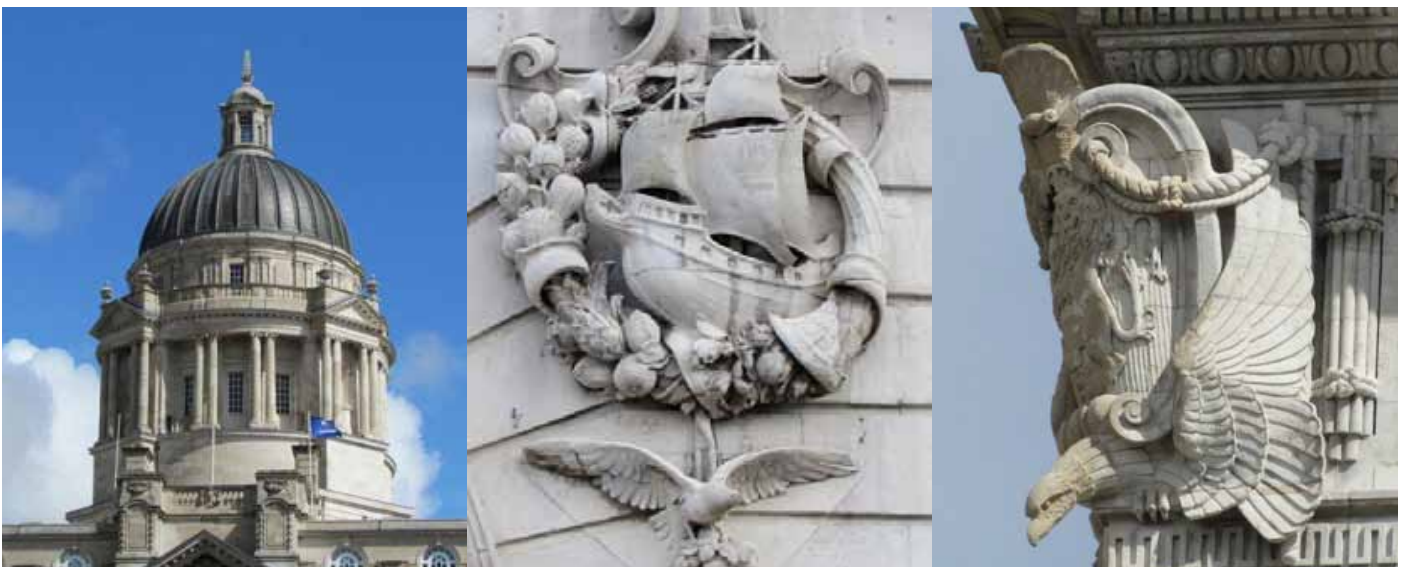
First let's look at the Port of Liverpool Building – the one on the right with the domed roof. The dome is Italian Renaissance style. The corridors inside the building are lined with Indian marble, while wood fittings include Spanish mahogany and Polish oak. The central staircase contains stained glass windows that commemorate countries of the former British Empire such as Canada, South Africa, Singapore and Australia.



---

The Cunard Building in the centre was made for the Cunard Steamship Company, which operated trans-Atlantic cruise liners. The building is designed in the style of an Italian palazzo – or palace. There are also American eagles on the building’s corners. These symbolise Cunard’s cruise lines to America. On the pavement outside we can find the Canada Boulevard, a series of plaques that record Canadian sailors killed in the Second World War.

We will talk about the third building – the Liver Building – in more detail a bit later. Meanwhile, do take your time to enjoy the spectacle of these buildings and look at the wealth of detail on their facades



Built to show the wealth of Liverpool and full of a wealth of details  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

**Country links** - Australia, Canada, Greece, India, Italy, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, United States of America

**Directions 12** - Turn around and face the river. A short distance further is the Pier Head. Stop here.

---

## 13. Ferries and floating palaces

### Pier Head

So far we have mainly heard about Liverpool's port being used for commercial and military purposes but remember the grand Adelphi Hotel where we started our walk and the wealthy people who arrived in Liverpool ready to board ocean liners?

The great ocean liners used to dock here at the Pier Head. Most of them ran between Liverpool and America though a few went also to Canada. The first trans-Atlantic service ran from Liverpool to Boston in 1840. As the crossings became more popular competition grew between the shipping companies such as Cunard, White Star Line and Inman.



The new Pier Head cruise liner terminal in use  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

As competition increased so did the ships. By the 1900s passengers who could afford to travel in the highest levels of luxury on huge ships that were like floating palaces. Alongside wealthy holidaymakers travelling in style there were more affordable liners for ordinary people who had chosen to emigrate and find a new life abroad. The American company Williams & Guion, for example, specialised in helping Irish workers get to New York.

After a slow decline the ocean liners left Liverpool. White Star and Cunard moved to Southampton and then mass air travel took off in the 1960s. In recent years, though, the liners have come back. In 2009 a new cruise liner terminal opened at the Pier Head culminating in the visit of the royal liner, Queen Mary 2. Today's cruises are often touring the Mediterranean or the Caribbean. The pier is also used for ferries to the Isle of Man and for the Mersey ferries shuttling across the river to Birkenhead.

**Country links** - Canada, Ireland, United States of America

**Directions 13** - Turn away from the river again and continue a short way along the waterfront. Stop when you have a good view of the Liver Building.

---

## 14. Liverpool legends

### The Liver Birds, The Royal Liver Building

This is the most iconic building in Liverpool – the Royal Liver Building usually abbreviated to the Liver Building. It was completed in 1911 and in its day was at the cutting edge of building technology. It was the first building in the UK made using steel and reinforced concrete. Some 6,000 people worked here for the Royal Liver Assurance Group.

What we're interested in are the Liver Birds perched on top of the clock towers. It's difficult to appreciate their size from down here but they are actually eighteen feet tall and have a wingspan of over twenty feet. Liver Birds are mythical creatures that are a cross between an eagle and a cormorant. They have been a symbol of Liverpool since the twelfth century when they were stamped on coins.



Liver Bird keeping watch  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

These Liver Birds also provide an interesting link with Germany. They were designed by a German sculptor living in England called Carl Bernard Bartels. Although the cormorant is a lucky bird for sailors the Liver Birds didn't bring Bartels much luck. At the start of the First World War he was arrested and imprisoned on the Isle of Man. After the war he was sent back to Germany, despite having an English wife.

A lot of folklore surrounds the Liver Birds. Some stories claim they are a pair, one male and one female. They face away from each other so the female bird can look out to sea and protect sailors while the male bird keeps an eye on the city's pubs! Apparently they also face away from each other so that they cannot mate and fly away. If the Liver Birds took flight then Liverpool would disappear!

**Country links** - Germany

**Directions 14** - Pass the Liver Building and the ferry terminal. Continue to the traffic island with a tall stone memorial in the middle depicting some men in overalls.



---

## 15. Engine room heroes

### Titanic Memorial

Past the Liver Building we find this stone monument. It is inscribed to 'the heroes of the marine engine room' and shows some ships mechanics, engineers and crew. It is dedicated to all those who lost their lives below decks at sea in the First World War. There's another aspect to the story too. The monument is known locally as the 'Titanic Memorial' as it was originally going to be dedicated to the engine crew of the *Titanic*.

The Titanic disaster is one of the most famous in marine history. On 15 April 1912 the ship was on its maiden voyage when it hit an iceberg off the coast of Nova Scotia in Canada. The supposedly unsinkable ship sank. In all 1,517 people died.



Detail from the Titanic memorial  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

A well-known story in the tragedy is how the band kept playing as the ship went down. Less well known is that another group of men also stayed at their posts – the engine crew.

It might seem unusual to have a monument here to a ship that sank on the other side of the world. But the *Titanic* was closely associated with Liverpool. Although the ship was built in Belfast, it was registered in Liverpool as it belonged to the Liverpool liner firm White Star Line. Many of the crew were Liverpoolians – including the engineers who stayed below decks and are commemorated by this memorial. In fact so many Liverpoolians worked on the *Titanic* that the crew referred to one of the service corridors as 'Scotland Road', a street in the city.

**Country links** - Canada

**Directions 15** - Walk between the Liver Building and Cunard Building along Water Street. Look for a street sign on the back of the buildings called Goree. If you cannot find it, just stop at the end of Water Street.

---

## 16. A curious name

### The Goree

On this side of 'the Three Graces', the main road at this point is called The Goree. Look carefully and you might see this name on a street sign. The sign is all that remains of Goree Piazza which was a large warehouse complex. Goree Piazza was demolished in the 1950s after Second World War bomb damage.

Goree is rather a strange name isn't it? It originates almost 3,000 miles away in West Africa. Gorée is a very small island – less than a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide – which lies beyond the main harbour of Dakar, the capital of Senegal.



*Goree Piazzas, 1850* by Joseph Appleyard (1952)  
© The Liverpool Wiki (Creative Commons license)

The island of Gorée was one of the first places in Africa to be settled by Europeans. First were the Portuguese then the Dutch, British and French. In the late 1700s and early 1800s a variety of products were shipped to Liverpool from the Goree including peanuts, peanut oil, gum Arabic and ivory. Goree island was also synonymous with the slave trade that we heard about earlier. In the building from which enslaved Africans were shipped was a 'door of no return'. Today Goree island is very important and is a place of pilgrimage for the people of the African Diaspora.

The Goree is a good example of a street name providing an international link. Why not try finding out if the streets where you live have international names? While we're here behind the Port of Liverpool Building we can see the unusual George's Dock Ventilation Tower. This tall building was made in the 1930s to provide ventilation for the Queensway road tunnel under the River Mersey. It is designed in a style influenced by Egyptian architecture.

**Country links** - Egypt, France, Portugal, Senegal, the Netherlands

**Directions 16** - Find a safe point to cross over the main road ahead, the Strand. Only use pedestrian crossings as this road is very busy. When you have crossed over turn left along The Strand a short way to the steps to Our Lady and St Nicholas Church. Stop in the church gardens.

---

## 17. The sailors' church

### Our Lady and St Nicholas Church

This is Our Lady and St Nicholas Church, known locally as 'St Nick's' or 'the Sailors' Church' because it was used by sailors who worked at the docks. St Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers. If you explore the church you will find several features indicating maritime links such as the weather vane shaped like a ship on the church tower.

Churches are fantastic places to look for international links where you live. Inside churches you can often find war memorials to people who died in service overseas, plaques to people who lived abroad, and statues of notable people. You may also find building materials imported from other countries, such as marble, glass and wood. Church graveyards, especially in a port city like Liverpool, often contain people who lived, worked or died overseas.



The St Nicholas Church weather vane  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

But here at St Nicks we are going to look around the church gardens. This church was once surrounded by high walls because of the River Mersey which used to reach up to the church at high tide before the docks were built. Between 1758 and 1772 there was even a row of cannons in the burial ground to protect the river.

Beside the steps the garden contains plants and flowers referenced in the Bible. Many churches have similar gardens and dedicate them as peace gardens. The plants have been collected from across the globe and include shrubs from Tibet and China and also a Judas Tree. Judas Trees are native to the eastern Mediterranean area and are common in Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Nearby look for a ship's mast which records Russian convoy sailors of the Second World War. It's fitting that 'the Sailors' Church' has such an international garden because it reflects how people and goods came to Liverpool from across the world.

**Country links** - Bulgaria, China, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, Tibet, Turkey

**Directions 17** - Leave the church gardens the way you came and turn left back along The Strand. Take the first left into Water Street. A short way up the right hand side of Water Street is the India Buildings. Stop by the metal doors.



---

## 18. Imperial trade

### India Buildings

We are now by the India Buildings, a vast structure that takes up an entire block. It was designed as an office for the shipping company the Blue Funnel Line. We heard earlier that this company brought many Chinese sailors to work in Liverpool. As the name of this building suggests, Blue Funnel also had connections with India.

Blue Funnel's founder, George Holt, named the India Building to commemorate the end of the East India Company's monopoly on Indian trade. Britain's interests in India started with trade. Over time trade was consolidated and organised under the auspices of the East India Company.



Guards at the India Building  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

The Company imported goods such as dye, silk, cotton, tea and opium and many of these goods arrived in Liverpool. The East India became very powerful and even had some military and legal powers in India. They used their powers to ensure they controlled all the country's exports. But from 1857, the British Government took over from the East India Company in the administration of India.

Today the building has an upmarket arcade of shops on the ground floor and offices on the upper floors but there are still echoes of international maritime links. Look on the index list by the entrance and you will find one of the companies based here is the Mediterranean Shipping Company. There are other international links too: the Norwegian High Commission has an office here. As you leave look across Water Street to New Zealand House. Many of the impressive buildings on Water Street were built when Liverpool was at the height of its nineteenth-century boom and reflect Liverpool's position of global importance.

**Country links** - India, New Zealand, Norway

**Directions 18** - Continue up Water Street until you reach the Town Hall on the left hand side. It's probably best viewed from the other side of the road.

---

## 19. African menagerie

### Liverpool Town Hall

One of the grandest buildings in Liverpool is the Town Hall. This is one of the city's oldest trade sites. In the 1670s a building known as the Exchange sat here and served as the Town Hall and a market.

The building we can see today dates from 1795 and is designed in a neo-classical style. The term 'neo-classical' refers to a style that copies the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome. See if you can spot any similarities with 'the Three Graces' that we saw earlier, such as columns, pediments and ornate carving.

If we look closely at the building there are a range of international links. On top of the dome is a statue of the Roman goddess Minerva. At the back of the building the four statues along the roof were originally on the Irish parliament building.

Also look closely at the ornate frieze that runs above the windows. Can you spot African faces and animals? Look out for elephants, lions, crocodiles, camels, giraffes and hippos.

These African sculptures are also another reminder of Liverpool's links with the slave trade. Many of the merchants who traded in the original Town Hall would have been involved in the slave trade. In fact it is thought sixteen of Liverpool's mayors were slave merchants.



Liverpool Town Hall, Minerva on the roof and an elephant in the wall frieze

Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

---

As the home of the city's administration the Town Hall has been attacked several times. Following the American War of Independence trade with America declined and local sailors' wages were cut. In 1775 rioting sailors bombarded the Town Hall even firing a cannon from the docks. In 1881 two Irish activists tried to blow up the building and 60 years later it was damaged by German bombers during the Blitz.

The Town Hall is open to visitors by appointment. If you arrange a visit you can find more international links inside. These include a fireplace with seventeenth-century Flemish carving, Italian plaster ceilings and a painting of James Maury, the first American Consul in Liverpool.



A woodcut of Liverpool Town Hall in the 1820s  
Wikimedia Commons

**Country links** - Africa, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, United States of America

**Directions 19** - Continue along Dale Street. Take time to look up at the interesting buildings that demonstrate Liverpool's wealth. As the road rises up onto a flyover keep left down Dale Street. Using the pedestrian crossings, cross the dual carriageway under the flyover. Make your way round to William Brown Street. Stop outside the World Museum.

---

## 20. Extinct birds and Martian rocks

### World Museum, Liverpool Central Library & Walker Art Gallery

We have now arrived at a magnificent trio of civic buildings. They were built between 1860 and 1877. Their grand design and sheer size again indicate Liverpool's wealth and civic pride. Notice some more neo-classical style architecture as we also saw at the Town Hall.

The World Museum on the left features a large stepped portico, the Central Library is fronted by a row of columns and the Walker Art Gallery around the corner also features a typical neo-classical façade. As its name suggests the World Museum contains artefacts from across the globe.



Entrance to World Museum Liverpool  
© Pilgrim via Flickr.com

Built in 1860 as the Derby Museum, this magnificent building is home to Ancient Egyptian mummies, Japanese Samurai armour, Saudi Arabian sculptures and even a meteorite from the planet Mars! We can also find several stuffed examples of extinct animals. They include the dodo from Mauritius, the South Island Piopio from New Zealand, the Thylacine from New Guinea and the Lord Howe Swamphen from Australia.

Meanwhile, the Walker Art Gallery contains works dating from the thirteenth century to the present day. Known as the 'National Gallery of the North' the collection includes work from around the world by – among others – Rembrandt, Holbein, Poussin, Rossetti, Rubens and Sickert. Outside the gallery is the Steble Fountain, designed by French sculptor Paul Liénard.

**Country links** - Australia, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands

**Directions 20** - Cross the cobbled William Brown Street and go into St John's Gardens. Stop at the statue for the King's Regiment.



---

## 21. In memoriam

### St John's Gardens

In the heart of Liverpool's cultural quarter lies this peaceful garden. St John's Gardens take their name from a former church, St John the Baptist, which was demolished in 1898. Today the land is home to several memorials and statues of notable Liverpool people.

This is the King's Liverpool Regiment statue. Military memorials like these are good places to find international connections as regiments usually serve overseas. The King's Regiment were one of the oldest in the British Army. They were founded in 1685 and saw service throughout the world. Look for the inscriptions recording campaigns in Afghanistan, Burma and South Africa. The King's also fought in Greece, Italy and Korea.



King's Regiment memorial, St John's Gardens  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Behind this statue are other smaller memorials including those to Irish Guards, Normandy veterans and Korean veterans. There's even a memorial to those involved in British nuclear tests on the Pacific islands of Kiribati. Why not see if there are similar memorials where you live?

Gardens like these are not only a pleasant space for office workers to sit to eat their lunch they are an important part of civil architecture. Just like the surrounding civic buildings this garden offers reminders of a city's history and a space for communal remembrance. Places like these are an important part of civic identity and pride and help to bind a community together.

**Country links** - Afghanistan, Austria, Australia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Myanmar, South Africa, South Korea

**Directions 21** - Walk up through the gardens towards the enormous building, which is St George's Hall. Go left around the side of the hall to the other side. Stop outside the front steps.

---

## 22. The Liverpool senate

### St George's Hall

We are now at our last stop. And what a way to finish! Just look at the size and scale of this enormous building. This is St George's Hall perhaps the grandest example of Liverpool's wealth and pride and this building provides us with more international links.

St George's Hall is another civic building that uses neo-classical architectural style. Outside are twin statues of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Queen Victoria presided over the expansion of the British Empire across the world. In 1876 she was even granted the title Empress of India. Her husband Prince Albert, meanwhile, was from the German city of Hanover.



Major-General William Earle statue, St George's Hall  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

On the steps of the Hall is a statue of the former Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, who was of Italian-Jewish descent. We can also find the Liverpool-born Major-General William Earle who died in 1885 at the Battle of Kirbekan in present-day Sudan.

Inside the building are some more international features. The bronze doors to the Concert Hall feature the letters SPQL. This motto is an adaptation of the one used in Ancient Rome. In Rome, SPQR stood for 'Senatus Populusque Romanus' or 'the Senate and People of Rome'. It was a symbol of Roman civilisation and democracy. Here it means 'Senate and the People of Liverpool'. Equating St George's Hall with the Roman senate shows how much the ancient world was appreciated in Victorian Britain – and how grand the vision for Liverpool was. The décor also features columns, porticos and arabesques – Islamic leaf patterns.

Today St George's Hall serves two public functions. It contains a concert hall and law courts. It seems odd at first that this building contains two quite different civic functions. Actually the SPQL motto is rather appropriate.

**Country links** - Germany, India, Italy, Sudan

**Directions 22** - Remain outside St George's Hall for the final stop.

---

## 23. A proud city

### St George's Hall

We've now reached the end of our international walk through Liverpool. Along the way we have seen how Liverpool became one of the most important ports in the world.

We've heard about the many different goods that arrived at the docks, from tea, sugar, bananas, rice, palm oil, tobacco, timber, cotton and many more. We've learned about the people who arrived in Liverpool from foreign parts, and those who left these shores for new lives abroad. We've also seen how the wealth generated from shipping and trading was used to build magnificent commercial and civil buildings.

During the twentieth century, Liverpool's prospects declined as modern technology changed the ways in which goods and people move around the world. By the 1980s the city's economy was stagnant, docks and industrial sites were derelict and unemployment was high. But since then the city has revived itself.

On our walk we have seen how Liverpool's heritage has been used to build a new twenty-first century identity; the Ropewalks and the Tea Factory, the docks and warehouses, the 'Three Graces' and the India Building. All these areas and buildings connected with shipping and trade have been built into the contemporary fabric of the city.

Today, Liverpool's economy is largely built around shopping, leisure, tourism and culture but its heritage has not been forgotten.



Sights from Liverpool's transformed docks  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

---

Liverpool's important heritage as a port was confirmed in 2006. Six areas of the city were collectively awarded UNESCO World Heritage status under the name 'Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City'. We have visited four of the six on our walk today – Albert Dock, the Pier Head, 'the Three Graces' and the Lime Street cultural quarter. This World Heritage Site status gives Liverpool international recognition. Liverpool is once again a thriving and proud city.

On our journey through Liverpool we have found evidence of links to over 70 of the 206 Olympic and Paralympic participating nations. Maybe you spotted more. If you did please let us know. And if you enjoyed this walk look on the Walk the World website and you will find more in different parts of Britain that you can try. Why not think about creating your own walk?



Sunset over the Mersey  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

**Directions 23** - Across the road is Lime Street Station where we started.



---

## Credits

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

- **Eugene Rae** for researching the walk
- **Rita Gardner** for providing the commentary
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Rory Walsh** for creating the walk resources and providing photographs
- **Nick Stanworth, Kristian Wall, Emma Richardson, William Dyson and Christine McKenna** for assistance with compiling walk resources
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **Christine James** for testing the walk
- **Ben Brooksbank, Andy Miah and Pilgrim** for additional photographs
- **National Museums Liverpool** for permission to reproduce archive images

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







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**