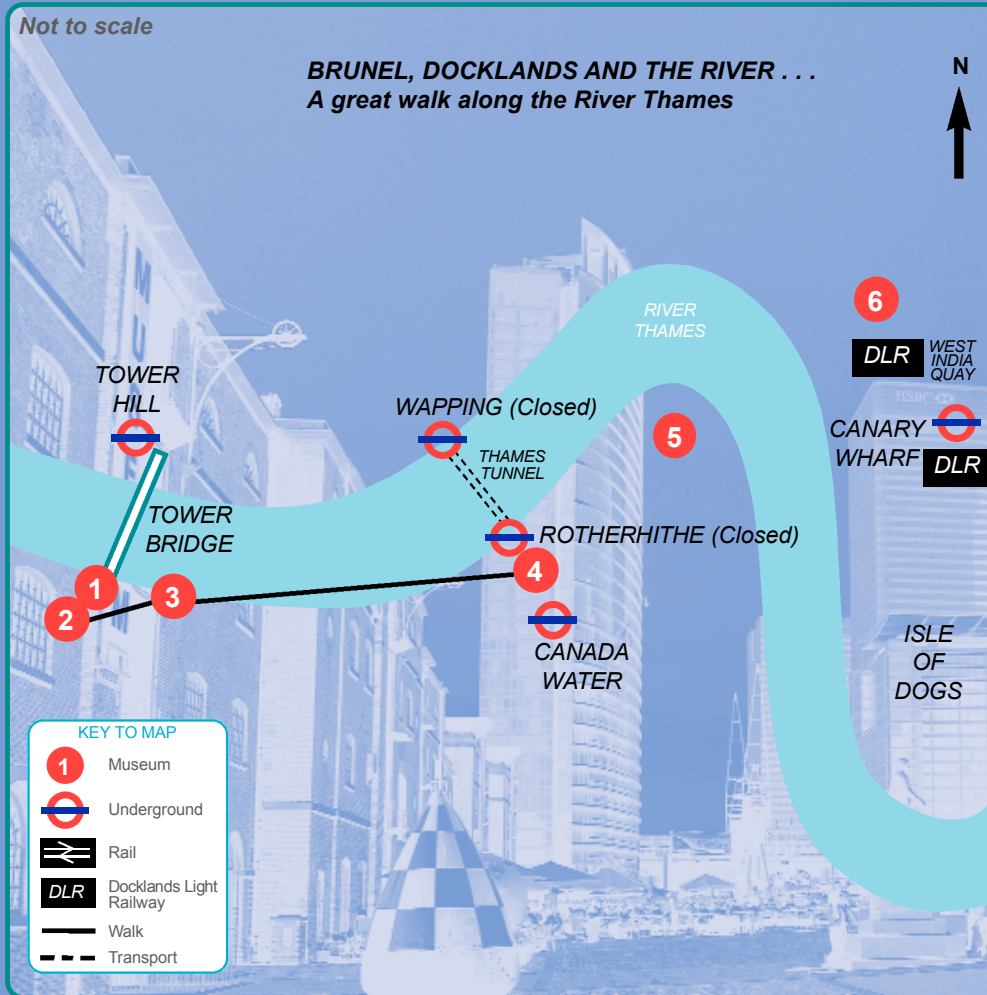


trail 7

Discover London Trails 08

Not to scale

BRUNEL, DOCKLANDS AND THE RIVER . . . A great walk along the River Thames



KEY TO MAP

- 1 Museum
- Underground
- Rail
- Docklands Light Railway
- Walk
- Transport



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map & introduction

BRUNEL, DOCKLANDS AND THE RIVER . . .

Half day

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was one of the most versatile, audacious and inspirational engineers of the 19th Century. This trail combines the legacy of three generations of the Brunel family with walk along the River Thames and the exploration of Docklands.

Starting at Tower Bridge, you visit the Design Museum and see City Hall, home to the Mayor of London, before enjoying a walk along the Thames Path to Maritime Rotherhithe and The Brunel Museum. Here Brunel began his extraordinary career and built the first tunnel ever under a navigable river... Imagine working here underwater in the 19th century, before you take the riverboat past Brunel's Great Eastern launch site to Greenwich or head for Canary Wharf in the heart of the new Docklands; also home to the Museum in Docklands.

Towering above Canary Wharf and visible along your River walk is the distinctive glass structure of the 800-foot high Canada Tower, a classical pyramid reflecting the changing colour of the sky. The Tower, designed by Argentine architect Cesar Pelli and currently the tallest building in the UK, is located on what was once the West India Dock. This historic area has a constantly changing landscape and now thrives as a superb modern work environment, as well as an excellent place for eating, walking, shopping and sightseeing.

- 1 Tower Bridge Exhibition
- 2 City Hall
- 3 Design Museum
- 4 The Brunel Museum
- 5 The Pumphouse Educational Museum
- 6 Museum in Docklands

...go to next page for addresses & summary

Tower Bridge Exhibition

Tower Bridge, SE1
www.towerbridge.org.uk
 Open: 1000-1830 1 Apr-30 Sep daily
 0930-1800 1 Oct-31 Mar daily
Tel: 020 7403 3761
 Admission charge
 Brings to life the story of Tower Bridge

City Hall

The Queen's Walk, SE1
www.london.gov.uk/gla/city_hall/
 Open (parts): 0800-2000 Mon-Fri; occasional Sat, Sun
Tel: 020 7983 4000
 Home to the Mayor of London

Design Museum

Butlers Wharf, Shad Thames, SE1
www.designmuseum.org
 Open: 1000-1745 daily
Tel: 0870 833 9955
 Admission charge
 Examines how great design affects our lives

The Brunel Museum

Railway Avenue, Rotherhithe, SE16
www.brunel-museum.org.uk
 Open: 1000-1700 daily
Tel: 020 7231 3840
 Admission charge
 The Thames Tunnel and the Great Eastern, Brunel's first and last project

The Pumphouse Educational Museum

Lavender Pond and Nature Reserve
 Lavender Road, Off Rotherhithe Street SE16
www.thepumphouse.org.uk

Open: 1000-1600 Mon - Fri
Tel: 020 7231 2976
 The history of the Surrey Commercial Docks

Museum in Docklands

West India Quay, Canary Wharf, E14
www.museumindocklands.org.uk
 Open: 1000-1800 daily
Tel: 0870 444 3851
 Admission charge
 Unlocks the 2000-year old story of London's river port and people

CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Tower Bridge Exhibition -various family activities throughout the year

The Design Museum – free entry for under 12s, design action packs, treasure trails, bookable Sunday events.

The Brunel Museum – free entry for under 16s, tunnel peepshow kits, 3D viewers, drawing table, activity packs. Regular family events including festivals, playschemes and week end workshops.

Museum in Docklands – free entry for under 16s, children's gallery with hands-on interactive exhibits, regular family events.

Images
 The Brunel Museum
 Museum in Docklands



THE RIVER, DOCKLANDS AND BRUNEL . . .

TRAIL SUMMARY

This trail begins at Tower Hill station. Cross over Tower Bridge and turn right along the River for **City Hall** before visiting the Victorian Engine Rooms at the **Tower Bridge Exhibition**. Head down-river from here on the south side visiting the **Design Museum**, with its displays of international design and architecture. Walk from here along the Thames Path for approximately half an hour, enjoying the wonderful views, to historic Rotherhithe, an old East India Town. You pass above the Thames Tunnel, the oldest section of tunnel in the London Underground, before visiting **The Brunel Museum** for the history of this great feat of engineering by the Great Briton, **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**. (Note: *The East London Line will be closed until 2010 for modernisation*).

From here there is a choice; either continue your panoramic river walk for another 25 minutes to the **Pumphouse Educational Museum** to learn about the history of the Surrey Commercial docks. And then walk towards Hilton Hotel pier. Catch the ferry across to Canary Wharf.

Or, if you have had enough of the river, walk from the Brunel Museum via Swan Road, Albatross Way and Albion Channel to Canada Water and get the Jubilee Line to the awe-inspiring Canary Wharf station. Marvel at recent developments before visiting the new **Museum in Docklands** covering the history of the area by themes of River, Port and People.

Plan your own journey by visiting Transport for London's website www.tfl.gov.uk.

THE RIVER, DOCKLANDS AND BRUNEL . . .

Take the District line to Tower Hill Underground station.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's son Henry Marc Brunel was consultant engineer on Tower Bridge, which has stood over the Thames since 1894 and is one of the finest, most recognisable bridges in the world. The entrance to the **Tower Bridge Exhibition** is located on the northwest side of the Bridge. Here you can enjoy breathtaking views from the high-level walkways and learn about the history of the Bridge and how it was built. From the top of the North Tower you can see the Bridge's steel skeleton hidden beneath the Victorian Gothic exterior built to match the Tower of London. You can then visit the Victorian Engine Rooms on the south side of the Bridge. The huge, and beautifully maintained, coal-driven steam engines (in use until 1976) were used to power the bascule Bridge lifting the roadway to allow ships to pass underneath.

On the south side of the Bridge stands the striking rounded glass building of **City Hall** (designed by Foster and Partners) and home to the Mayor of London, the London Assembly and Greater London Authority. Completed in 2002, the building is a new landmark for the Capital. The landscaped area around it provides space for people to sit and children to play. At certain weekends throughout the year, visitors can see and walk around some of the areas not open to the public during the week,

including the Chamber and the top floor 'London's Living Room', with its panoramic views.

Walk back towards the Bridge and then continue along the south side of the River passing the restaurants and bars of Butler's Wharf to reach the **Design Museum**.

The Butler's Wharf area was the largest warehouse complex on the Thames when completed in 1873. The wharf, which mainly dealt in foodstuffs, closed in 1972. The buildings have been converted, by Sir Terence Conran, into luxury apartments, bars and restaurants.

The Design Museum is one of the world's leading museums of modern and contemporary design with a mission to excite everyone about design. Since its foundation in 1989, the museum has become the cultural champion of UK design and won international acclaim for exhibitions of modern design history and contemporary design innovation. This stylish museum has a regularly changing exhibition programme covering a wide range of themes from product and graphic design, fashion, furniture, architecture and engineering. Current exhibitions include 'Designer of the year' (until 18 June) and 'My world – the new subjectivity in design' (10 June – 10 September). There is a riverside café and a shop that stocks a range of design-led products and books from design classics to the latest innovations.

Continue along the Thames Path for approximately half an hour. Occasionally the path diverts away from the River, so follow the signs carefully. There are some interesting viewing points and pubs along the route to Rotherhithe and **The Brunel Museum**. The museum is in a charming conservation area with cobbled streets and old wharves. The Mayflower jetty and pub, from where the Pilgrim Fathers sailed for the New World, is opposite the Museum. The Fellows of the Royal Society met here on Marc Brunel's 65th birthday in 1834 and launched the Tunnel Club in the upper room. A plaque commemorates the party.

To enter the Museum you pass above the **Thames Tunnel**, the historic feat of engineering built between 1825 and 1843. This was a triumph of ingenuity and perseverance by Sir Marc Brunel and his son, Isambard Kingdom, in the face of floods, financial losses and human disaster. Designed for moving cargo, it actually opened as a pedestrian route and underwater shopping arcade in 1843, and on the first day 50,000 people walked through. It was sold to the railway company in 1865 and is the oldest section of tunnel in the London Underground. In 2008 the line closed for engineering works to extend north and south for the Olympics, and the Museum is also extending into the dramatic space above the railway.

The Brunel Engine House is a scheduled ancient monument and commemorates Brunel's

THE RIVER, DOCKLANDS AND BRUNEL . . .

first and last projects. The Brunel Museum tells the story of the engineer's heroic first struggle to build the Thames Tunnel, and his last battle to launch his Great Eastern steamship. You are at the birthplace of the tube system, and a riverboat will take you past the launch ramps of the world's first modern ocean liner.

The Museum and its café stands in award winning gardens that commemorate Brunel's work. At the centre stands a shaft weighing a thousand tons and measuring 50 feet in diameter. Today it is ringed by concrete fishes (sculptor Liz Leyh who made Milton Keynes' concrete cows) and has a Blue Plaque to Brunel. The Tunnel (now closed for reconstruction work) has sixty interconnecting arches with columns, Doric capitals and pilasters, and stretches under the river to Wapping. This was the world's first Underwater Shopping arcade, the first underwater fairground and an underwater banquet hall before the trains came. It is now an International Landmark Site because it is the first tunnel under a river anywhere in the world. A plaque marks the spot where Brunel narrowly escaped drowning. The Tunnel will reopen in 2010.

From here you have a choice:

As Rotherhithe Station is closed, walk towards Canada Water and pick up the Jubilee Line here, either returning to Central London or to explore Canary Wharf. Or you can walk on a bit further and get a riverboat either to Canary

Wharf or to Greenwich. You can also continue the Thames Path all the way to Greenwich (probably another two hours).

To reach the River crossing, continue walking along Rotherhithe Street. Make sure you take the path between the river and the Old Salt Quay pub. At Lavender Wharf visit the Pumphouse Educational Museum, the home of the Rotherhithe Heritage Museum and the Lavender Pond and Nature Park. The Museum relates the history of the Surrey Commercial Docks as well as a large display area with social history exhibitions, with a collection of artefacts from 20th century homes and a working jukebox.

Return to Rotherhithe Street and walk towards Hilton Hotel pier. Boats leave from the Hilton Hotel for Canary Wharf. You pick up the Greenwich boat on the other side. It will take you past the launch ramps for the Great Eastern, Brunel's last project, before taking you to Greenwich and a wealth of attractions including the National Maritime Museum.

Heading for Canada Water from the Brunel Museum, turn right into Swan Road, at bend in the road take the middle path into Albatross Way and right along Albion Canal to Canada Water tube station. Take the Jubilee Line to Canary Wharf. Enjoy the modern architecture of this "city" environment. Then cross the dock and walk to the new **Museum in Docklands** on West India Quays. This museum explores

the history of London's River, port of people from Roman times through to the recent regeneration of London's former Docklands. Twelve major galleries are located within a splendid late Georgian warehouse. The centuries of social and economic change of the area are shown within the galleries; there are also stories of the people who helped to build and shape the city, including the great engineers, father, son and grandson Brunel.

A lively mix of traditional displays and multi-media technology animates the 2000-year storyline. Artefacts, engravings, paintings, testimonies and photos drawn from the outstanding collections of the Museum of London and Port of London Authority emphasise the skills and ingenuity of the Docklands community. Temporary exhibitions and events showcase the region's rich cultural heritage.

The area around the museum in West India Quay has been completely transformed and you can now enjoy refreshment at one of the cafes and restaurants overlooking the river as well as within the Museum.

From here you can return to Central London via the Docklands Light Railway – a sightseeing trip in itself.