



PUB WALKS developed by CAMRA and Ramblers



Leeds, West Yorkshire

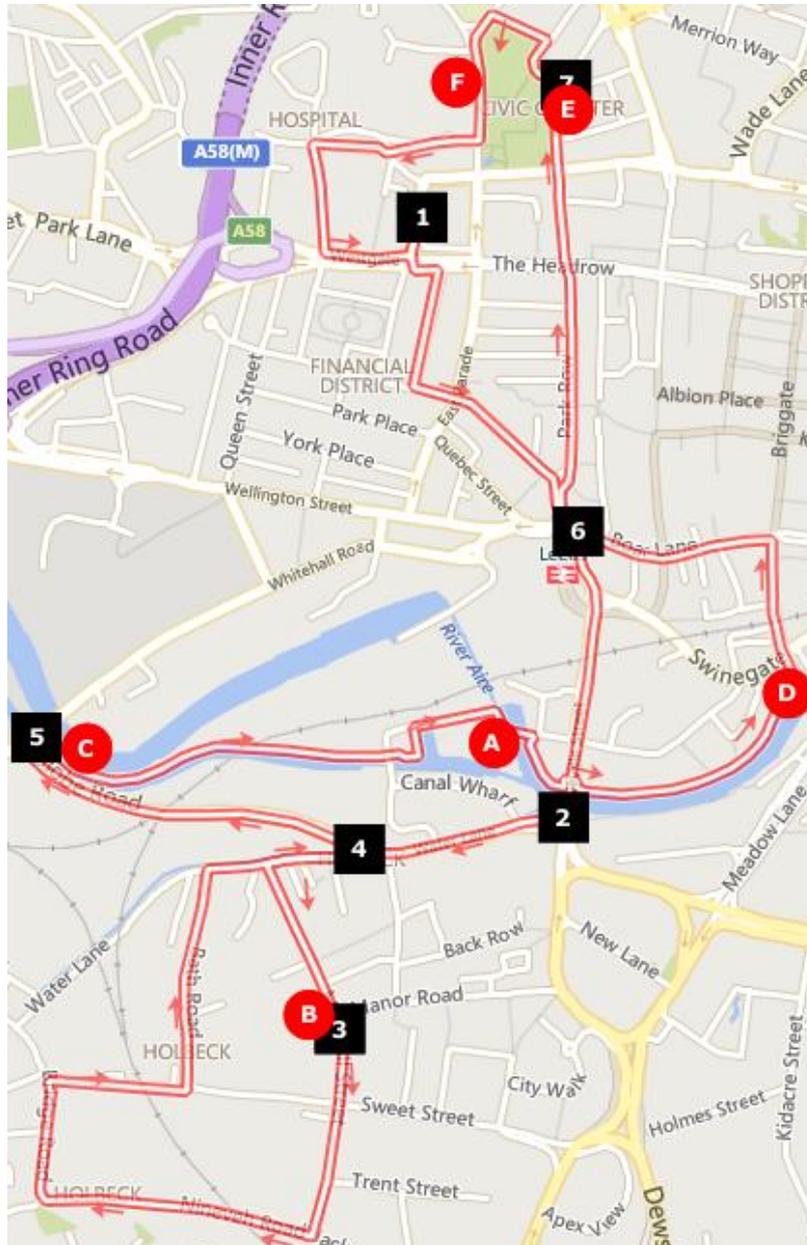
Difficulty **Easy** Walking time **2 hours** Length **7.5km / 4.7mi**

Route developer: **Des Garrahan**

Route checker: **Robin Segulem**

Start location: Leeds Town Hall

Route Summary: Circular walk around Leeds' civic centre and canal. This leisurely stroll takes in some of the many historic sites around the city of Leeds including the Town Hall and Leeds City Museum. Mostly pavement with some sections along canal towpaths.



Description



[1] Begin your walk with Leeds Town Hall at your back. Before crossing Headrow and going down Park Cross, take a moment to enjoy Cuthbert Brodrick's marvellous Victorian civic building, built in 1858.

Turn left along St Pauls Street, cross East Parade and go along the length of Infirmary Street. Crossing Park Row you turn right and continue down to Bishopgate Street. Cross Bishopgate and turn right down Neville Street, which goes under Leeds stations' railway tracks. Just before you exit the underpass, turn right into The Granary Wharf Arches which are further under the station.

1 Underneath one of the arches is the "[Hop](#)", a busy, lively pub situated beneath the arches of platform 17 of Leeds station. On the ground floor pictures of rock bands and brewery mirrors adorn the walls. Eleven hand pumps serve beers from the Ossett family of brewers together with several guest ales and a real cider. The pub hosts live music in the upstairs bar at weekends, the upstairs also fantastic colourful murals on the walls. This pub serves four regular beers – Ossett Big Red Bitter, Ossett Excelsior, Ossett Silver King, Ossett Yorkshire Blonde and an impressive seven changing beers.



At the end of the tunnel turn right to exit by the side of the canal. Go across the courtyard and exit via the footbridge, which takes you to Little Neville Street. Turn right into Neville Street and cross Victoria Bridge.

(A) In 1864 it was proposed to build a 'New Station' in Leeds.

Construction began in 1866 and the station was completed in 1869, built on arches which span the River Aire, Neville Street and Swinegate. It led to the creation of the 'Dark Arches' over Neville Street, using more than 18 million bricks – a record at the time. Although the arches appear to be one single structure, closer inspection reveals they're a series of independent viaducts two or four tracks wide. The station is situated next to the terminus of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, but as the station is raised high above ground level it's possible to gain access to the Dark Arches from the towpath.

2 Turn right along Water Lane to find the "[Midnight Bell](#)", an award-winning pub that caters for office workers and real ale lovers who can enjoy the Leeds Brewery range of beers in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. At the rear of the building is a pleasant courtyard area perfect for rambles in the summer months. Dining is available at the upstairs bar. Real cider is served during the summer. This pub serves four regular beers – Leeds Best, Leeds Midnight Bell, Leeds Pale and Leeds Yorkshire Gold. It also serves two changing beers, which typically include beers from the Castle Rock, Oakham and Ridgeside breweries.

From Water Lane turn left into Marshall Street just past David Street.

(B) You'll pass Marshall Mills on your right, built by John Marshall who was born at 1 Briggate in 1765. In 1790, he bought the freehold of an acre of land on Water Lane, ideal for a mill because of its proximity to the canal and the Aire & Calder Navigation. The six-storey water-powered mill used water drawn from the nearby Hol Beck to spin yarn and created enough power to run 7,000 spindles, employing 2,000 factory workers. Just past the site is Temple Works (or Mill). Also built by John Marshall, it was designed by Joseph Bonomi and based on the Temple of Horus at Edu, with a chimney designed in the style of an obelisk. While empty and largely derelict these days, Temple Works is the only Grade I-listed building in Holbeck.

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At Marshall Mill, you will find the "[Northern Monk Refectory](#)" pub. The Refectory is a converted flax mill on the floor above the Northern Monk Brewery. The exposed brickwork and metal pipes on the walls and ceiling, and the modern artwork adorning the walls makes for a very attractive pub. This pub serves one changing beer from the Northern Monk brewery and numerous bottled beers.

[3] Continue to the end of Marshall Street and turn right onto Nineveh Road. Then turn right into Bridge Road and take the first right into Sweet Street West. Turn left into Bath Road and turn right where it meets with Water Lane. Retrace your steps for a short distance and then turn left onto Globe Road.

[4] Continue down Globe Road until it meets Whitehall Road. Cross over this road and turn left to take you down to the towpath along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

(C) Linking the cities of Leeds and Liverpool, the canal is 204 km/127 miles long. It crosses the Pennines and includes 91 locks along the main line. It has several small branches and a new link was recently constructed into the Liverpool docks system.

[5] Walk along the canal with the water to your right. Where the canal meets the River Aire at Lock 1, turn left and then right to cross the water. At Neville Street continue straight, with the river on your right. On the skyline to your right you can see the famous Tetley's Brewery sign. Before you turn left at Leeds Bridge to cross the river, note the blue plaque commemorating Louis le Prince. After turning left, continue ahead along Bridge End which joins Briggate. Turn left onto Boar Lane and follow it until you come to Park Row.

(D) Considered by many to be the true father of motion pictures, in October 1888 Le Prince filmed moving picture sequences on Leeds Bridge using his single-lens camera and Eastman's paper film. These were several years before the work of competing inventors, like the Lumiere brothers and Thomas Edison.

[6] Turn right and go up Park Row. Cross Headrow and continue up Cookridge to the Leeds City Museum on your right.

(E) Established as the Mechanics Institute in 1819 by the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, this Cuthbert Brodrick creation was recently re-opened in 2008 as a free-to-enter museum.

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[7] Cross the road and walk around the back of the Leeds Civic Centre, turning left along Portland Crescent. Turn left onto Portland Way and the left again onto Calverley Street. Turn right onto Great George Street to walk in front of Leeds Infirmary. On Great George Street is "[Veritas Ale and Wine Bar](#)". This is a busy modern bar and part of the Market Town Taverns local chain of pubs. The pub is contained within one

large open plan L-shaped room and is dog friendly. The six guest beers change regularly and are mainly from local microbreweries. A good range of bottled and draught beers from around the world are also available. There is a deli counter within the pub, which sells local produce. Food is served from the kitchen between 12-2.30, 5-9 Mon-Fri; 12-9 Sat; 12-6 Sun. This pub serves two regular beers – Black Sheep Best Bitter and Ilkley Mary Jane. The pub also serves six changing beer, with ales from the Okells and Timothy Taylor breweries being regular features.



From the Leeds Infirmary, turn left onto Park Street and then left again to bring you back to Leeds Town Hall.

(F) The first hospital, known as the Leeds General Infirmary was built in 1771. Construction of the current hospital on its new site in Great George Street started in 1863 to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott.

POI information

Leeds was once famously described by Charles Dickens as ‘one of the beastliest places in England’. Well he would hardly recognize the place these days. The West Yorkshire capital has undergone a great



transformation in the last two decades. Back at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the mid 1700s, Leeds had a small but well established woolen industry centred around Briggate. What really acted as the catalyst for Leeds’ transformation from town to city was mechanized flax spinning. John Marshall’s success, in collaboration with Matthew Murray, encouraged others to build ‘the dark satanic mills’ that flourished in Dickens’ Victorian era. These buildings, that brought such prosperity to the city, can be seen on Marshall Street. In the 1920s Leeds began upgrading its inadequate civic buildings, and the impressively grand results can be seen around Headrow. The city is now a major legal and financial centre, and suited office workers have replaced the grimy mill workers of old, with shopping seemingly the major leisure activity. Which is quite fitting, really, given that Michael Marks opened his famous Penny Bazaar here in 1884 which would later become the nationwide highstreet giant Marks & Spencer.

Notes

Terrain: Mostly level roadside pavements and towpaths, with some steps to negotiate.

Maps: OS Explorer 289; Landranger 104 (A to Z Leeds and Bradford is best, though)

Eating & drinking: There are hundreds of options in Leeds.

Sleeping: Again, there are lots of options.

Visitor information: Leeds Visitor Centre, The Arcade, Leeds City Station (0113 242 5242, <http://www.visitleeds.co.uk>).

Local Ramblers Groups: Leeds Ramblers (<http://www.leedsramblers.co.uk>); Leeds & Bradford 20s & 30s Ramblers (<http://www.takeahike.org.uk>).

Acknowledgements

This walk originally appeared in Walk magazine in Summer 2011 (issue 31)

For more information about Pubs & Wellbeing please visit:
www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing

For more information about local routes, please visit:
www.ramblers.com

Looking for another pub walk in Yorkshire? Try CAMRA's Yorkshire Pub Walks – available at: <https://shop.camra.org.uk/>

