



London
The River
Thames

Two thousand years ago, the Romans decided to build a bridge across the Thames as far downstream as they could. With that, London was born. Today, London Bridge still stands on the same spot and the vast city around it came about thanks to its "High Street" – the river, which made London a successful centre of global commerce.

Before you Way2Go

To plan your journey

Why not use the Transport for London website: tfl.gov.uk or call the 24 hour TFL Travel Information Line on: +44 (0)20 7222 1234.

Oyster Cards are available at most Tube and railway stations as well as some newsagents – just look for the blue Oyster sign. They can also be purchased before you arrive, through the Visit London website: visitlondon.com/travel/oyster

View London from a boat on the Thames?

Several operators run scheduled services on the river, from Central London downriver to Greenwich, the Thames Barrier and Woolwich, and upriver to Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court.

For more information and the latest travel news, visit Transport for London's web site at: tfl.gov.uk/river or telephone the 24 hour TFL Travel Information Line (details shown above).

See the river from the London Eye

One of London's favourite attractions is situated over the Thames.

The London Eye, Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7PB

Information and bookings: +44 (0)870 5000 600 9am - 5pm seven days a week
londoneye.com

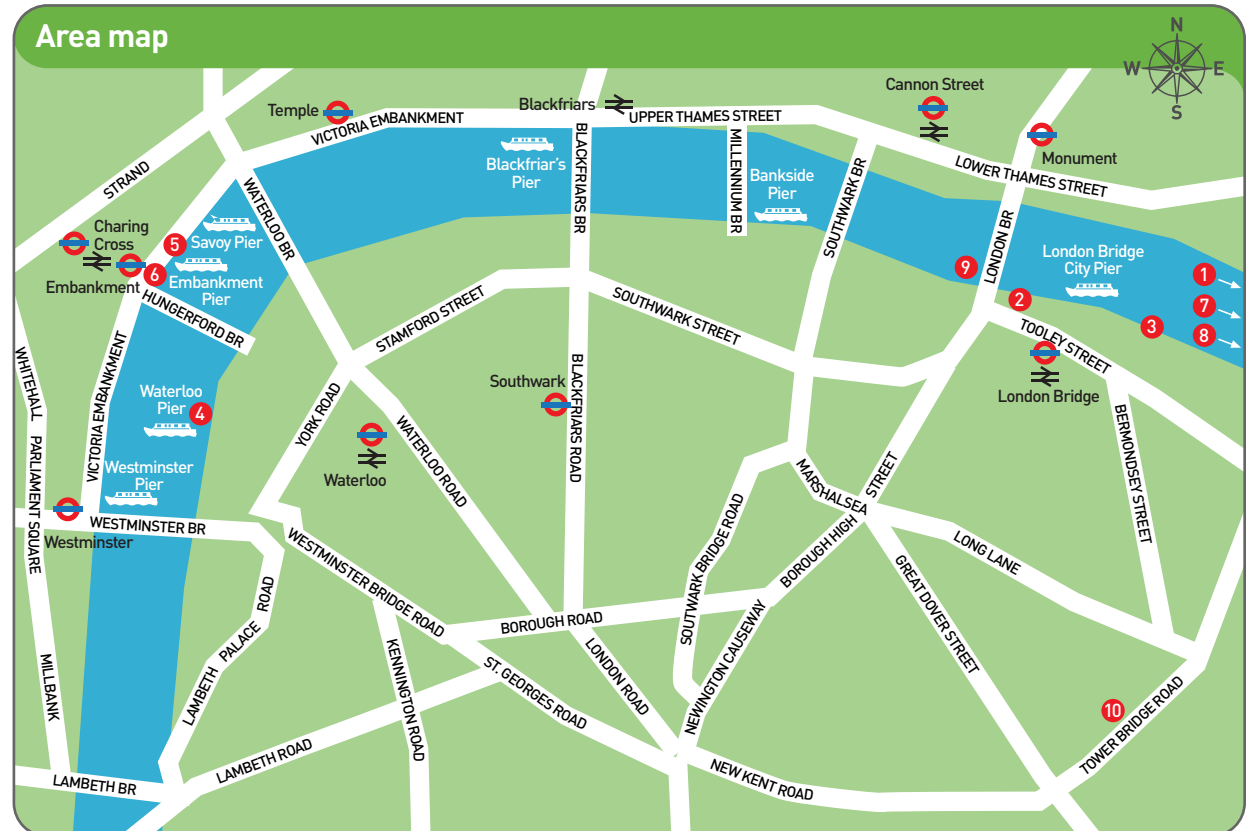
Walk along the river

The Thames Path National Trail is one of the best walks in London. It runs along both riverbanks, is well signposted and has numerous sights of interest and stunning views. walklondon.org.uk/route.asp?r=6&submit.x=15&submit.y=10

Chapters (for use when listening to your Way2GoGuide)

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Area map



While you Way2Go

1 Take a boat through the Thames Barrier

London's flood defence system is a striking piece of architecture. Several operators run scheduled services from Central London to Woolwich Arsenal Pier.
tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/departureboards/river

2 The London Bridge Experience & The London Tombs

The bridge's history brought to dramatic life, followed by a spooky visit to the London Tombs - located in the bridge's vaults! (not suitable for young children).

2-4 Tooley Street, London Bridge, London, SE1 2PF
Telephone: +44 (0)8000 434666
thelondonbridgeexperience.com

3 HMS Belfast

The cruiser HMS Belfast saw action throughout the Second World War and is moored in the Thames (opposite the Tower of London) as a floating museum.

Morgan's Lane, Tooley Street, London, SE1 2JH
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7940 6300
hmsbelfast.iwm.org.uk/

4 Fancy a Duck?

The London Duck Tour allows you to visit key London landmarks aboard an amphibious vehicle. After driving the streets of London the vehicle takes to the river to complete this unique tour. Ideally book at least 3-5 days in advance!

Enquiries and bookings:
+44 (0)20 7928 3132
londonducktours.co.uk

5 Dinner on a Thames river cruise

Enjoy a gourmet dinner and music whilst taking in the sights of London, including: The Houses of Parliament, London Eye, Tate Modern, St Paul's Cathedral and an illuminated Tower Bridge. Embarks/disembarks Embankment Pier.

Enquiries and bookings:
+44 (0)20 7695 1800
bateauxlondon.com

6 Experience the Thames on a high speed inflatable boat

Imagine you're James Bond on an exhilarating trip along the river.

Thames RIB Experience, Embankment Pier, Victoria Embankment, London, WC2N 6NU.
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7930 5746.
Mobile: +44 (0)7960 931145
thamesribexperience.com

7 See the grand entrance hall to Brunel's Thames Tunnel

Visit the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe. Opening times for the 'Underground Cathedral' vary.

Railway Avenue, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 4LF
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7231 3840
brunel-museum.org.uk

8 Learn more about London's Docks

Housed in a Victorian warehouse at West India Docks, the Museum of London Docklands has exhibits covering 2000 years of trade on the River Thames.

No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay, London, E14 4AL
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7001 9844
museumindocklands.org.uk

9 See a boat race

The 300 year old Doggett's Coat and Badge Race takes place in July, from London Bridge to Chelsea.
pla.co.uk/display_fixedpage.cfm/id/163/site/events

The Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race (started in 1829) takes place in March, from Putney Bridge to Chiswick Bridge.
theboatrace.org/

The Great River Race between Greenwich and Richmond takes place in September and features hundreds of different boats, from traditional Thames craft to Chinese Dragon Boats, to Hawaiian canoes.
greatriverrace.co.uk/

10 Sample some Thames produce

Eels were once London's favourite food. Manze's is a traditional Pie 'n' Mash shop serving succulent Thames eels, either jellied or stewed.

87 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 4TW
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7407 2985
manze.co.uk

The River Thames FastFacts

Way2GoGuides.com

Thames Trivia

The Thames is tidal and the height difference between high and low water can be as much as 7 metres.

Along the embankments at Westminster are lions' heads holding mooring rings in their mouths. If the river reaches the lions' mouths, the Thames Barrier will close.

When the arch of a bridge is being repaired, the law states a bale of straw must be hung from it.

The world's first police force was the Thames River Police, who were established in 1798.

In 1977 the Sex Pistols celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee by chartering a boat called Queen Elizabeth and playing their song "God Save the Queen" as they sailed past Westminster. The boat was raided by police and all were arrested.

Share your experience

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