



## **Stage Five – The Pier Area – Marina to Castle Street**

*Takes approximately 15 minutes*

Stage Five begins at the **Napoleonic Cannon** close to the lock gates over The Marina.



(Please keep your eye on children round here, there is a lot of water.)

Be aware that, in places the pavement is uneven and there are cobblestones.

As you walk towards the Humber, just past the cannon on the right is a building standing alone. This was the **Customs and Excise House**, now apartments. On the left you will be passing the side of the **Minerva Pub** on the corner. Keep walking onwards to Minerva Pier ( aka West Pier) slightly to your right and through the flood gates. As you walk to the end of this Pier you will pass two war memorials dedicated to seamen of the Royal and Merchant Navies lost in the two world wars.

From the end of Minerva Pier look to your right to see, in the distance, **The Humber Bridge**.

The ferry service ended on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1981 when the bridge opened for traffic. It was, for a time, the longest single span bridge in the world. You can get a closer view from Hessle Foreshore.

Looking left, eastwards, the first thing you see is **Victoria Pier**.

Further east, over the river Hull is **The Deep**, Hull's Millennium visitor attraction.

As you return through the flood gate you will come onto the newly built, flood defences.



On your left is the **Minerva Pub**. It was built in 1829. It has lots of small snug type rooms. One of them is said to be the smallest pub room in the country, seating only 3 people. The walls are covered in interesting photographs of Old Hull and this area in particular. You can eat here.

Also on the left are our award winning public toilets. They were built in the 1930s and, in a recent survey, were voted one of the best 100 places to visit in England.

At the far side of the toilets is the junction of Nelson and Pier Street. Walk along Nelson Street, which runs parallel to the flood defences. If you look towards the buildings you will see another of our telephone boxes. **(Be aware that this area is used as a car park in normal times)**

Soon you will come to the **Pier Station**; one of the few British Rail ticket offices situated nowhere near any railway lines. This ticket office was for the ferry which, from 1948 was run by British Rail. The ferry went from Victoria Pier, to New Holland in Lincolnshire. On the roof line above the **Pier Station** (Now apartments) you will see the date it was built, 1880 and the initials MSL, which stand for the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway Company, who originally ran the ferry. There have been ferries crossing the Humber since at least Roman Times, but they were probably west of here, to your right, where the river is narrower. The first Hull ferries were established in the early 1300s by permission of Edward II. The first regular paddle steamer service from Hull to New Holland in Lincolnshire was established in 1826. The ferry service ended on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1981 when the Humber Bridge opened for traffic.

The Humber is about a mile wide here and drains about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of England. Victoria Pier is behind you and stretching out towards the Humber.

Victoria Pier was originally called Corporation Pier but was renamed in 1847 following the visit of Queen Victoria. It was where the ferry left from but, these days, is just a pleasant place to visit with its own flood gates.

At present the Pier is closed due to dangerous conditions so pause at the flood gates here and look around. Across The Humber is Lincolnshire with New Holland, slightly to the right. Eastward, to your left you will see The Deep and further along where the ferries run between Hull and Rotterdam. From this vantage point The Deep obscures Hull's green port where Siemens make wind turbines. Twenty miles further is the North Sea.

As you pass the Pier, just to your right, over the wall, is the '**oss wash**, an old established ramp where, as the name suggests, working horses were washed. There was also some loading of goods at this point.



Continuing in the same direction you will find the statue of Hull's first mayor, in 1332 **Sir William De La Pole**, close to the top of Queen Street. (Lord Mayor status was awarded to Hull in 1914 following a visit by King George V.) The de la Pole family went on to be influential in England's history.

On the left corner of Queen Street is the splendid **Pilots Office** built in 1819. It served as the headquarters of the Humber Pilot Service until 2002 when the operation was moved to Spurn Point. It is now apartments.

Further along, at the corner of the walkway, and up some steps, is a smaller, modern statue facing seaward. Voyage was a gift from the people of Iceland in recognition of the long established relationship between the island and Hull. (Does anyone remember 'The Cod Wars'?)

You are now where the River Hull flows into The Humber. Sometimes it is very low and you can see birds searching for food in the silt. Other times, when the tide is high, it can be very full.



From here follow the walkway along the side of the River Hull in the direction of The Tidal Surge barrier built in 1980. It is a grade 2 listed building. Before then, the centre of Hull was frequently flooded. The Barrier protects against very high tides but it didn't protect the area in 2007 when water running off the Wolds flooded much of the East Riding. 10,000 homes were flooded and one man lost his life. Flood defences are ongoing further along the Humber banks and inland.

Follow the walkway along the side of the River Hull in the direction of The Tidal Barrier.

Turning left you will pass Hull's Open Air Theatre, once a dry dock, and the footbridge across the river giving access to the Deep.

The walkway meets Humber Street. Join the street, turn right and continue past the Tidal Barrier and turn up a ramp on your right. Make your way to the railings. Close by, over the railings, are two small sculptured heads. These are of a couple of teenage Inuit people who came to Britain on a whaler, the Truelove. There is an information plaque close by, attached to the railings.

Now go back down the ramp and turn right along Humber Street. There are two dropped kerbs nearby by to make crossing easier.

Across the street, just before you arrive at the overhead road bridge, there is a street sign, which reads 'Blackfriargate'. This area is the site of an Augustinian Monastery founded in 1303. Its friars wore black robes, hence the street name.

Walk up Blackfriargate and you will come to Queen Street turn right and it will bring you close to a light controlled crossing over Castle Street. Taking great care because it is a very busy road. When the lights permit cross over the main road and to the right hand corner of, which is Market Place. To your right is the magistrates' Court.

**This is the end of Stage five. Stage Six starts here.**