



Stage One - Around Queen Victoria Square

Takes approximately 15 minutes

In the late 1800's this was a warren of back streets and narrow alleys, full of rundown businesses and slum housing. It changed when the Hull Mayor and architect Sir Alfred Gelder devised and implemented his development plan which opened up this area to create Queen Victoria Square, laid out in 1901-2 and Alfred Gelder Street, which we will see later on.

This area was severely damaged during World War II and many wonderful buildings lost. (See: ***Hull and the two World Wars in our 'Want to Know More?'*** section)

Stand behind the statue of Queen Victoria and face the City Hall. Ferens Art Gallery is to your left. Standing close to the Ferens, in the SW corner of the square is The Punch Hotel with its highly ornate facia.

However, we are going to turn right and move in a clockwise direction round the square.



The City Hall is Edwardian, completed in 1909. If you look up you will see, just below the copper dome, 2 statues representing the arts, and round the front and the side is a frieze depicting the sciences, music and the classics. The hall plays host to both classical and pop concerts, to comedians, to exhibitions and many other activities. To your right, past the fountains and on the corner of Saville Street, the building with the corner turret, now Nero's, was a branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank.

To the right of the bank, as you face it, is the **Maritime Museum** with two of its magnificent domes in view. Originally this building was the offices of the Hull Dock Company. It was built when Hull was one of the fastest growing ports in the country. It opened its doors in 1871 and operated as a working office until the mid 1970's when it was taken over by the Hull City Council and turned into this museum. At present, 2020, it is being revamped as part of the "Hull, Yorkshire's Maritime City" development. It will be closed until spring 2026.



Walk, to your right behind the museum. You will pass on the way, one of the city's special **telephone boxes**. They are usually not red Hull didn't join the nation telephone scheme when it was nationalised in the early 1900's. Most boxes are cream but sometimes they are decorated to celebrate people or events of note. This one has been painted in rainbow colours. Another distinguishing feature of our boxes is that they don't boast the Royal Crown emblem because they were never owned by the Post Office, then a government department.



They are now run by a private company, KCOM.

A little further on, temporarily obscured by the barriers of the new development is a monument dedicated to seafarers lost during the two World Wars.

From the telephone box you will see the fountain and flower garden of The Rose Bowl and beyond it, Queen's Gardens.

Queen's Gardens Before 1930 this was Queen's Dock. It was opened in 1778 and was the largest dock in the country at that time.

It stretched over 500 metres down to the River Hull and the width is indicated by the streets on either side of the gardens.

Originally the dock was known simply as 'The Dock', and then 'The Old Dock' when Hull's second dock was opened in 1809. Finally, it was named Queen's Dock in honour of the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1854. An indication of the history of the area is reflected in the street names; Quay Street, Dock Street and Queens Dock Avenue.



At the far end of Queen's Gardens is the Wilberforce Monument. You probably won't be able to see it if the trees between are in leaf. It was originally located near Monument Bridge, you'll hear about it on stage 2 of the walk. To the right you can see the very ornate Empress Hotel. It is tall and narrow because it was originally dock a warehouse.

Return to the front of the Maritime Museum. You will pass, on the far side of the road, **Beverley Gate** and will read more of that and of **Monument Bridge** in stage two of our walk. Pass one of the entrances to Princes Quay, a shopping centre, and then Monument Buildings, built in 1908. You have now reached Ferens Art Gallery.



Ferens Art Gallery opened in 1927. It is considered to be one of the finest provincial galleries in the country and, following extensive refurbishment, it was the host to the 2017 Turner Prize Award Ceremony. The gallery includes work by several distinguished artists, Lorenzetti, Frans Hals, Canaletto, Stanley Spencer and David Hockney. It also hosts temporary exhibitions. Admission is free.

Turn around and you will see in the centre of the square our **statue of Queen Victoria**, unveiled in 1903 by the then Prince of Wales, soon to be George V. There are a set of ornate public toilets underneath the memorial.

(See how Queen Victoria Square & nearby buildings used to look in the 'Now and Then' section of in the 'Want to Know More?' section of our website)

Please now turn right and walk back to the entrances to Princes Quay shopping.

This is the end of Stage i of the walk and the beginning of Stage Two 'Into the Old Town'.



End of Stage One