

Stage Ten

Queens Gardens to Queen Victoria Square

This is the final stage of our walk and a chance



to find out about this wonderful open park area in the middle of this busy city. We now going to take you on a walk through Queens Gardens and back the Queen Victoria Square.

So please walk forward and down the steps in front of you or the ramp on your left. Once you are at the bottom of the steps, or ramp, look back and you will see, in relief, an artist's impression of scrimshaw the work sailors engraved on whalebone in the 1800's. You can see examples of this in the Maritime Museum.

Please now turn right turn right and walk past the step and with the flower beds on your right and take a note the new lighting shaped like dock side cranes.

You will be walking towards a tall 1960s building which is Hull College with an impressive column and statue in front of it.

Once you approach the end of the gardens take a moment to look up to the top of the column.



The statue proudly standing there is of William Wilberforce, probably the most famous son of Hull. When he died on July 29th 1833, 3 days after the Abolition of Slavery Act was passed in Parliament.

The people of the city donated money for a permanent memorial to him.

Initially it was hoped to raise enough for a simple column but such was the generosity of the Hull people that there were sufficient funds to also commission an 11 foot statue of him to sit on top. It was unveiled exactly one year after the Act was passed on 1st August 1834...is it a coincidence that that is also Yorkshire Day?

It was moved to here, in front of the College, in 1935 but we'll see its original location in Victoria Square later.



Before you move on, please look to your right at the buildings across the road. Here you will see the Bond 8 and 9 Warehouses built around 1840.

Now used as office accommodation.

To their left you can see what was originally a warehouse built in 1881. Later 2 stories were added and the conical roof. Notice the arched and porthole widows and the weathervane of a sailing ship on the top.



So now please look across the pond and you will notice the sculpture on the right. It's by renowned English modernist sculptor Robert Adams. The other wall panels you will see around the gardens are by Hull born artist Kenneth Carter.



OK so now walk round the pond, turn left and then walk down the centre line of the garden with your back to Hull College and the William Wilberforce's statue and you will come to a central paved area with seating. Once there you may wish to relax and use one of the seats, as I describe the history and development of these gardens.

This area was a dock opened in 1778 it was the second dock ever built in England but the biggest for the following 100 years.

It was the size of five football pitches and was imaginatively called The Dock until Queen Victoria and her family visited in October 1854 when it was renamed Queen's Dock.

As she was the first monarch to visit the city since we refused Charles I entry in 1642 that started the English Civil War, we got overexcited and renamed Junction Dock Prince's Dock; Timber Dock became Victoria Dock and the Fish Dock turned into Albert Dock!

Over the years ships got bigger and found it easier to enter the docks situated along the Humber than to access Queen's Dock from the River Hull so it was decided to close this dock in 1930, fill it in and form these gardens for the benefit of the people of Hull. It was opened in 1935 and has been a green oasis in the city centre ever since.

The artwork in front of you is a large-scale, intricate paving design by artist Katayoun Dowlatshahi.



It is engraved and sandblasted into the new paving and features a combination of high-quality crystal black granite, Kilkenny limestone with stainless steel and brass inlays.

This creates a durable, visually striking floor-level installation that you can walk over or around.



The design draws from nautical charts and tools showing maritime journeys, incorporating elements inspired by scrimshaw and the natural world encountered at sea including beluga whales and dolphins

Time to move on! Please continue to walk down the centre of the gardens and you see ahead of you our favourite Hull sculpture the **Solar Gate** or, as the locals call it, the Cheese grater.



There is much more than meets the eye to this 30 ft high sculpture designed by Tonkin Liu and manufactured in Hull. When you are standing in front of it, look around your feet. You will see **metal discs** with dates and times of famous historical events.



Now, on that day and at that time the sun shines through a particular set of holes in the Cheese Grater and illuminates that disc and that disc only...clever, eh? It really does work, I've done it!

Continue on up the ramp towards the impressive



fountain and colourful flower beds, known as the **Rose Bowl** then turn left and walk around the Rose Bowl and through some heavy safety bollards.

You will then come to Guildhall Road again on your left, cross over (traffic comes from the right) and walk towards the light-controlled crossing over Alfred Gelder Street.

Once over Alfred Gelder Street turn right, look ahead of you to the right of the Maritime



Museum, beyond the fountain; you will see a rather plain looking curved 3 story building. This is **Dock Office Chambers**.

On the buildings original plans from 1872, it was described simply as “Offices, Stables etc.” on behalf of the Hull Dock Company, as you walk you will see the larger arched doorways were coach and horses could access the stables behind.

Now before we look at the magnificent Maritime Museum.

Look ahead of you and you will see an artiste's impression of the bow of a ship. Well, this is a memorial to the Royal and Merchant seamen who lost their lives in the two world wars



Now for the Maritime Museum. The outside has recently has cleaned and its stonework repaired by gifted stonemasons.

The lead you see on the domes is original but was removed, melted down, remoulded and replaced...we are good at recycling in Hull!

Take time to look at the detail in the stonework there are Cherubs with nets, seashells, fish scales and dolphins are all part of its majesty. Also note the wrought iron fencing topped with tridents.

It was originally the Dock Offices for the Hull Dock Company and was opened in 1871. Ships passed its windows travelling from Queen's Dock to Prince's Dock and vice versa. The doorway you can see was the entrance to the **Wharfage Offic**e where ships pursers would go to pay their harbour dues.





Now for the museum itself, housed in this magnificent, Victorian former Dock Offices, the newly transformed **Hull Maritime Museum** charts 800 years of Hull's seafaring history. It brings to life the city's deep maritime roots with, interactive galleries and viewing areas. Visitors can explore a rich collection of over 1,300 carefully preserved objects, featuring intricate ship models, exceptional scrimshaw carvings, and an iconic 40-foot whale skeleton and even a polar bear. The museum honours the stories, sacrifices, and triumphs of Hull's legendary whalers, deep-sea trawlers, and merchant sailors, providing a deeply compelling and highly educational experience that celebrates the city's enduring connection to the sea.

So, for now please turn left and walk past the bus stop on your left.

As you walk you will pass the excavation showing part of the old town walls you may notice a sign saying "Monument Bridge". Remember we saw this on Stage 2 of the walk

On your right you will see a light-controlled. Before you cross over crossover walk forward about 10 metres and you should be able to see set in the pavement a plaque identifying the original location of the Wilberforce Column and Statue.

Ok so please return to the light control cross, cross over and you'll find yourself back in Queen Victoria Square and the end of the Hull Heritage Walk.

If you haven't already done so this is your chance to visit the Maritime Museum, the Ferens Art Gallery or one of the other fascinating museums we've passed on our walk.

... and remember they are all free of charge.

Well, I do hope you have enjoyed your walk around our city so on behalf of the members of the Hull Heritage Group of Tom Dealey, Jennie Freeman, Janet Penny, Don Knibs, Debbie Ralph, Mark Roper and Dave Todd may I thank you for downloading the guide.

Theses guides are dedicated to Liz Sowerby, Ray Stephens, Photographer Rupert Rudd, Singer, song writter Tom Hall all of whom have made significant contributions to the website.

I would also like to thank Eric Twiddle one of the founders of the project for his contribution in getting the show on the road.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Hull Daily Mail and Hull's Good Old Days for the use of the historic photographs and BBC Humberside of the Sound effects and Clips.

You can find lots more about Hull on our website www.visithull.org.uk and also please take time to visit the Box Office under the City Hall or the Information Pod in the Paragon Interchange where you can find out about things that are happening in Hull today and for the rest of your visit.

Please take opportunity to let us know what you think about any aspect of our website then please go to TripAdvisor, reviews then Hull Heritage Walk and take it from there

Once again thank you for listening and enjoy the rest of your day. Good bye.