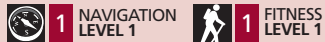


• Distance 8km/5 miles • Time 2hrs • Type City tour



Plan your walk



PHOTOGRAPHY: DES GARRAHAN



WHERE: Circular walk around Leeds' Civic Hall and canal.

START/END: Leeds Town Hall (SE297338).

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).

GETTING THERE: Leeds is well served by national rail and coach services. The train station is on Neville Street, half a mile from the start.

EATING & DRINKING: The Hop pub under the Dark Arches on Dark Neville Street is an atmospheric place for a pitstop pint (© 0113 243 9854).

SLEEPING: The Discovery Inn on Bishopgate Street is an affordable choice and right next to the station (© 01843 585179, www.comfortinnleeds.co.uk).

VISITOR INFORMATION: Leeds Visitor Centre, The

Leeds was once famously described by Charles Dickens as 'one of the beastliest places in England'. Well, he would hardly recognise 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 woollen industry centred around Briggate. What really acted as the catalyst for Leeds' transformation from town to city was mechanised 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, which 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.

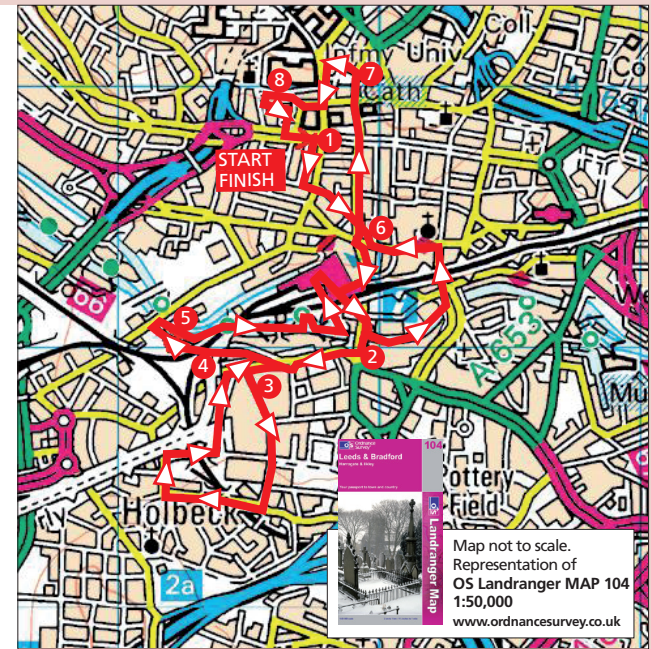
1. START Begin your walk with your back to Leeds Town Hall. Before crossing Headrow and going down Park Cross, take a moment to enjoy Cuthbert Brodrick's marvellous Victorian civic building, built in 1858. Turn L along St Paul's Street, cross East Parade and go along the length of Infirmary Street. Crossing Park Row, you turn R and continue down to Bishopgate Street. Cross Bishopgate and turn R down Neville Street, which goes under Leeds station's railway tracks. Just before you exit the underpass, turn R into The Granary Wharf Arches, which are further under the station. In 1864, the building of a 'New Station' in Leeds was proposed. Construction began in 1866 and was completed in 1869, built on arches that span the River Aire, Neville Street and Swinegate. It led to the creation of the 'Dark Arches' over Neville Street. The station is situated next to the terminus of the Leeds and

Continued...

Arcade, Leeds City Station (© 0113 242 5242, www.visitleeds.co.uk).

GUIDEBOOKS: *Ramblers' Leeds Volume 1: East of Leeds* (£4.95 + £1 p&p, ISBN 1 901184 23 4) and *Ramblers' Leeds Volume 2: West of Leeds* (£5.95 + £1 p&p, ISBN 1 901184 24 2), both by Douglas Cossar and available from 11 Woodroyd Avenue, Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6LG. Cheques payable to 'West Riding Area Ramblers' Association'.

LOCAL RAMBLERS GROUPS: Leeds Ramblers (© 0113 279 0229, www.leedsramblers.co.uk); Leeds & Bradford 20s & 30s Ramblers (www.takeahike.org.uk).



Ordnance Survey mapping © Crown copyright. AM3408

Liverpool Canal, but you can gain access to the Dark Arches from the towpath. At the end of the tunnel turn R 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 R into Neville Street and cross Victoria Bridge.

2. Turn R along Water Lane and then L into Marshall Street just past David Street. You'll pass Marshall Mills on your right, built by John Marshall, who was born at 1 Briggate in 1765. The six-storey water-powered mill used water drawn from the nearby Holbeck to spin yarn. Just past the site is Temple Works (or Mill). Also built by John Marshall, it was based on the Temple of Horus at Edfu, with a chimney designed in the style of an obelisk. Largely derelict, Temple Works is the only Grade I-listed building in Holbeck.

3. Continue to the end of Marshall Street and turn R on to Nineveh Street. Then turn R into Bridge Road and take the first R into

Sweet Street West. Turn L into Bath Road and R where it meets with Water Lane. Retrace your steps for a short distance and then turn L on to Globe Road.

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

5. Walk along the canal with the water to your R. Where the canal meets the River Aire at Lock 1, turn L and then R to cross the water. At Neville Street continue straight, with the river on your R. On the skyline to your R you can see the famous Tetley's Brewery sign. Before you turn L at Leeds Bridge to cross the river, note the blue plaque commemorating Louis Le Prince. 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. Continue ahead along Bridge End, which joins Briggate. Turn L

on to Boar Lane and follow it until you come to Park Row.

6. Turn R and go up Park Row. Cross Headrow and continue up Cookridge to the Leeds City Museum on your R. Established as the Mechanics Institute in 1819 by the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, this Cuthbert Brodrick creation was re-opened in 2008 as a free-to-enter museum.

7. Cross the road and walk around the back of the Leeds Civic Hall, turning L along Portland Crescent. Turn L on to Portland Way and then L again on to Calverley Street. Turn R on to Great George Street to walk in front of Leeds Infirmary. The first hospital, known as the Leeds General Infirmary, was built in 1771. Construction of the current hospital on Great George Street began in 1863, to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott.

8. From here, turn L on to Park Street and then L again to bring you back to Leeds Town Hall.
Route devised by Des Garrahan