



Liverpool Slave Trade History Trail

A walking tour through Liverpool to discover the city's links to the transatlantic slave trade. Liverpool prospered but at what human cost?

Distance 4.9 kilometers / 3 miles

Duration 1 hour and 45 minutes



Water feature



Great views



Public loos



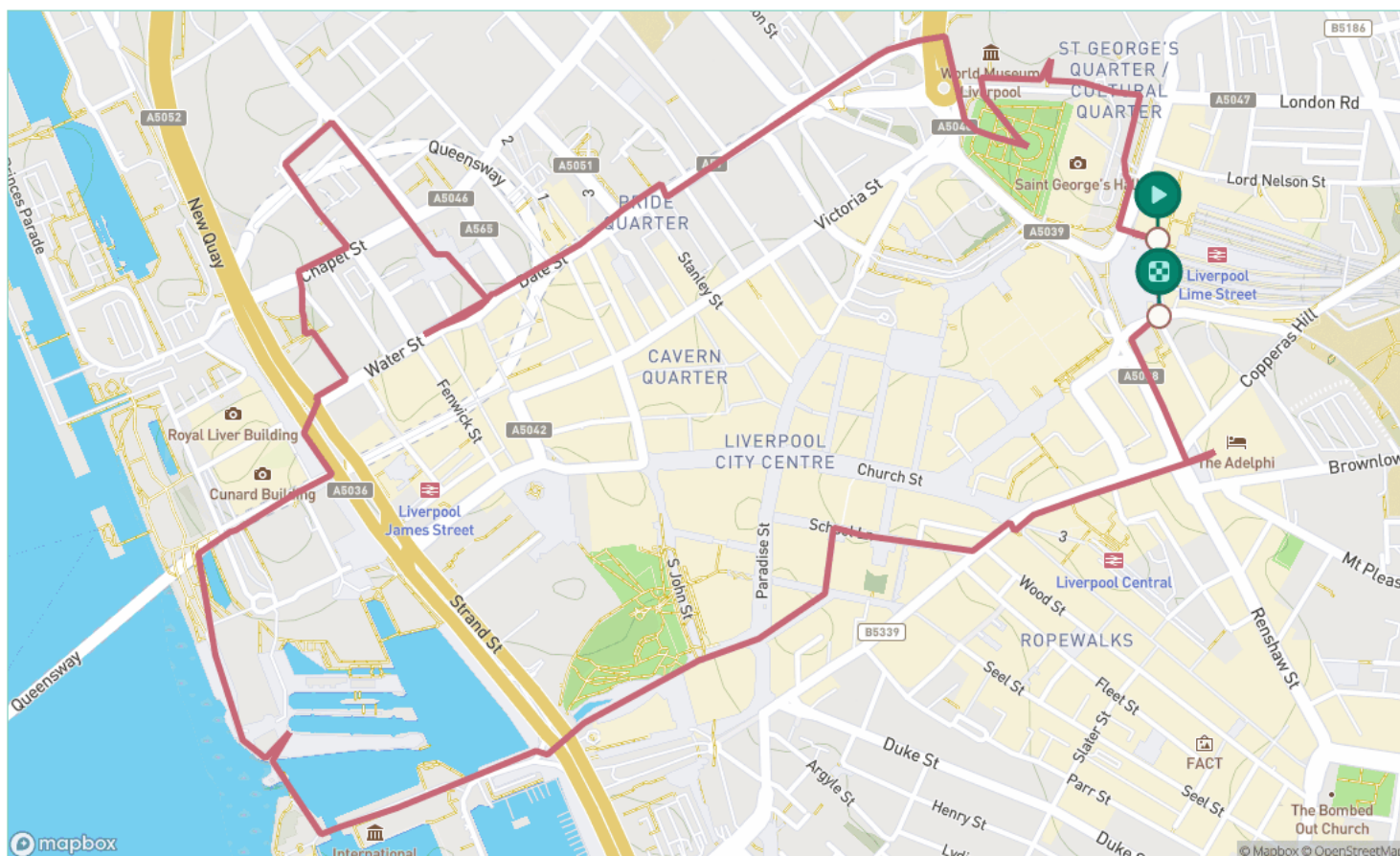
Refreshments



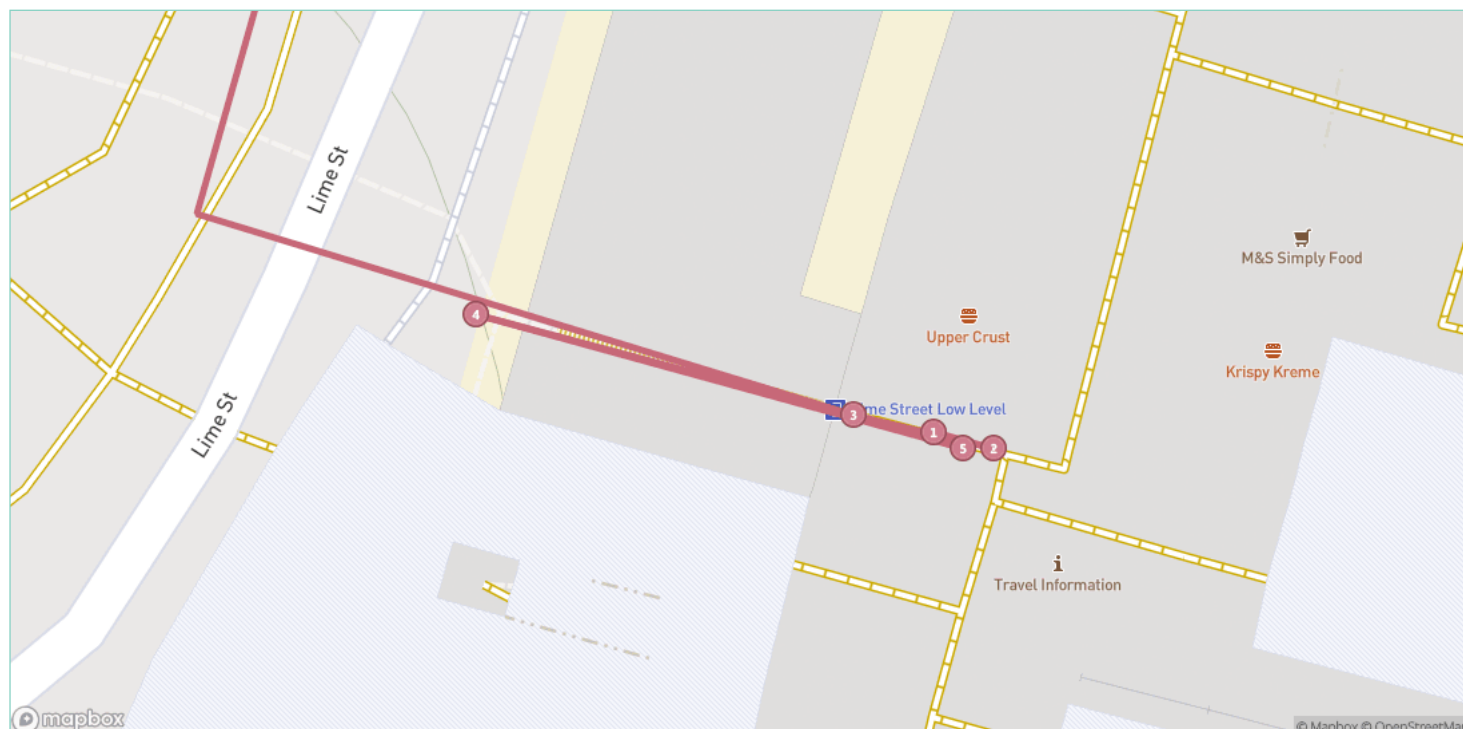
Public transport



History



Disclaimer: Directions are provided as guidance only. Weather, construction, closures or other factors may affect routes. Please take care when crossing roads and avoid private land. Always follow local signage and use common sense. Created by Go Jauntly Ltd © 2026. Last Updated: 04 September 2026.



Step 1: This trail maps sites built on slavery's profits. Tracing them reveals how deeply the trade shaped Liverpool's streets and culture and how its legacies still shape the city today. Tap below to read more.

About this Trail

This trail maps locations built on the profits of slavery, spaces that now serve, or ought to serve, as places for memory, truth and reflection. Grand civic buildings, elegant Georgian streets, and busy commercial districts across Liverpool were funded, directly or indirectly, by the trade in enslaved people.

Many of these sites carry no visible trace of that history, their connections quietly absorbed into the everyday fabric of the city. By tracing these sites, the walk reveals how deeply the slave trade shaped Liverpool's streets, buildings and cultural landscape. It asks walkers to pause at places they might otherwise pass by and consider who profited, who suffered, and whose stories were left out of the official record.

This is not a history confined to museums or plaques. It is embedded in the geography of the city itself. Walking this route encourages us to look critically at the environment around us, and to

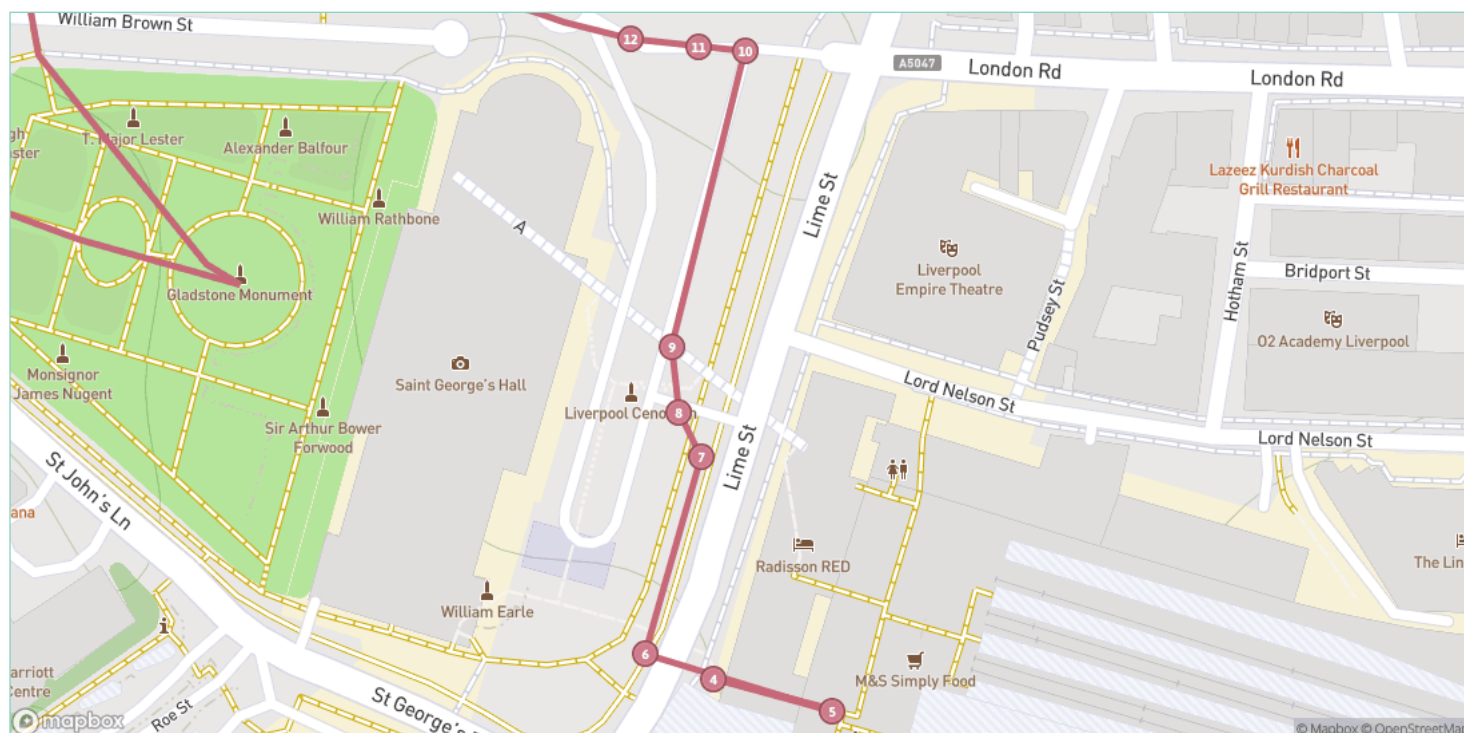
recognise how the legacies of transatlantic slavery and Black history continue to shape the city's public realm today.

From street names to statues, from wealth built centuries ago to inequalities that persist now, the past remains visible if we know where to look. This trail is an invitation to look, to question and to remember, so the people whose lives were taken and reshaped by this trade are not forgotten in the streets their enforced labour helped build.

Step 2: The walk begins at Liverpool Lime Street station. Head out the station exit towards Lime St.

Step 3: Take the stairs or ramped walkway down to street level.

Step 4: This grand area surrounding Lime Street speaks of a city once among the world's richest ports, a fortune built on the brutal triangular trade that carried enslaved African people across the Atlantic.



Step 5: Liverpool's growth and appearance were heavily shaped by the transatlantic slave trade and its impact remains visible across the city today. Read more about the history of the Slave Trade in Liverpool below. 

Transatlantic Slave Trade

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain's slave traders forcibly transported over 3 million enslaved people across the Atlantic between West Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean. Over 1.3 million of these enslaved Africans were carried on ships that began their journey in Liverpool, more than any other British port.

British landowners operating plantations in Virginia and the West Indies benefited greatly from this system. It provided them with inexpensive and dependable labour to cultivate highly profitable commodities such as sugar, rum, tobacco, cotton, and other lucrative goods. Enslaved men, women and children were traded like a commodity. Whilst very few enslaved Africans were brought ashore into Britain, Liverpool's merchants and port infrastructure made it the dominant force in the trade, responsible for around 80% of all British slaving voyages by the final decades before abolition in

1807.

For further reading, please head to National Museums Liverpool's History of Slavery page.

Read more

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/history-of-slavery>

Step 6: Cross Lime St and turn right.

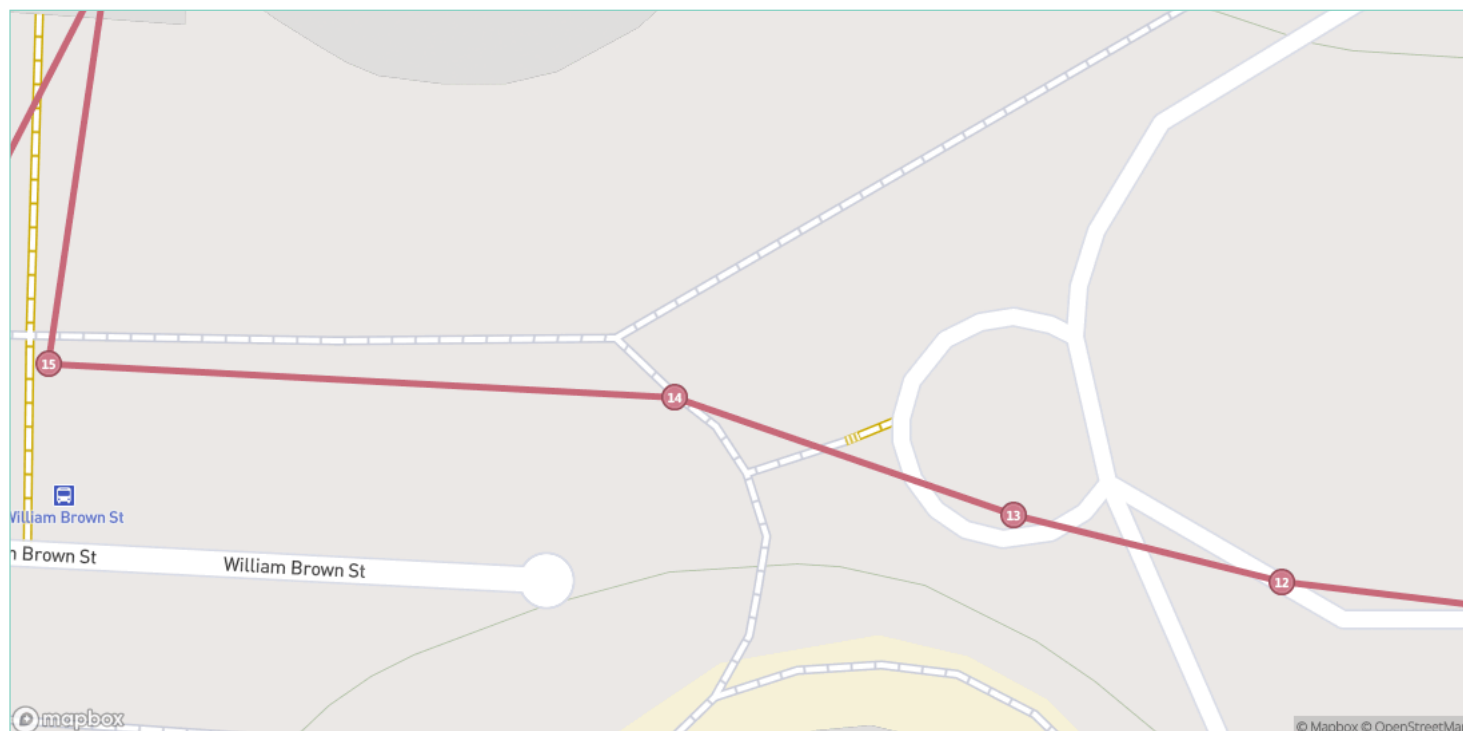
Step 7: Walk on until you see the entrance to St George's Hall, a huge neoclassical building, walk between the two lions and turn right.

Step 8: Head towards the statue of Queen Victoria riding a horse.

Step 9: Walk towards Wellington Column.

Step 10: Turn left just before the column.

Step 11: Continue on William Brown St heading towards St George's Quarter.



Step 12: Known as the Cultural Quarter, William Brown Street is lined with grand civic buildings, from the World Museum to the Walker Art Gallery. It's named after the merchant whose wealth, as we'll see, was entangled with slavery.

Step 13: On your right is the Walker Museum. A major art museum with free general admission, if you have time to pop in.

Step 14: Continue ahead towards the Central Library.

Step 15: You'll soon reach Liverpool's stunning Central Library. [Read more.](#)

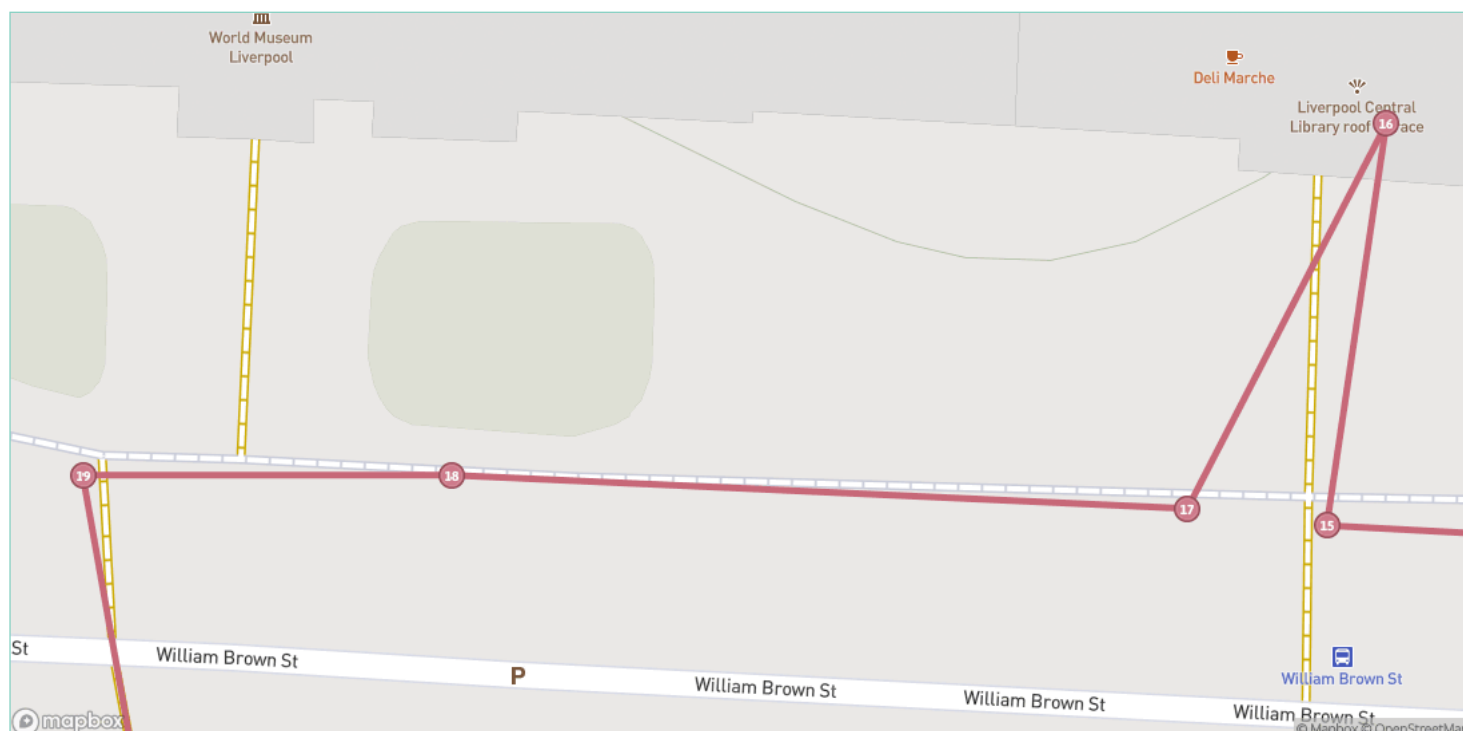
Central Library

Liverpool's stunning Central Library and World Museum have their origins in wealth accrued through slavery.

Sir William Brown personally donated £40,000, equivalent to millions today, to fully fund the construction of Liverpool's Library and Museum, which opened in 1860 on the street subsequently renamed in his honour. Brown's fortune was amassed through his merchant firm, later Brown, Shipley & Co., which became one of Liverpool's largest importers of slave-grown American cotton, feeding the textile mills of Lancashire. The family were also owners of enslaved people on their own plantations in the Deep South and Brown acted as a financier for plantation owners, extending credit against future harvests produced by enslaved labour.

A statue of Sir William Brown stands inside the adjacent St George's Hall, commissioned by the Liverpool Corporation to celebrate his philanthropy while omitting the origins of his wealth in Atlantic plantation slavery.

Today, Central Library and the World Museum



feature public exhibition spaces and archives that actively re-examine William Brown's legacy, placing his civic patronage in the context of Liverpool's dependence on slave capital. The legendary African American journalist and anti-lynching campaigner Ida B. Wells toured Liverpool in 1894 as part of her British anti-lynching campaign, speaking publicly in the city to expose the ongoing violence faced by Black communities in the US South.

Read more

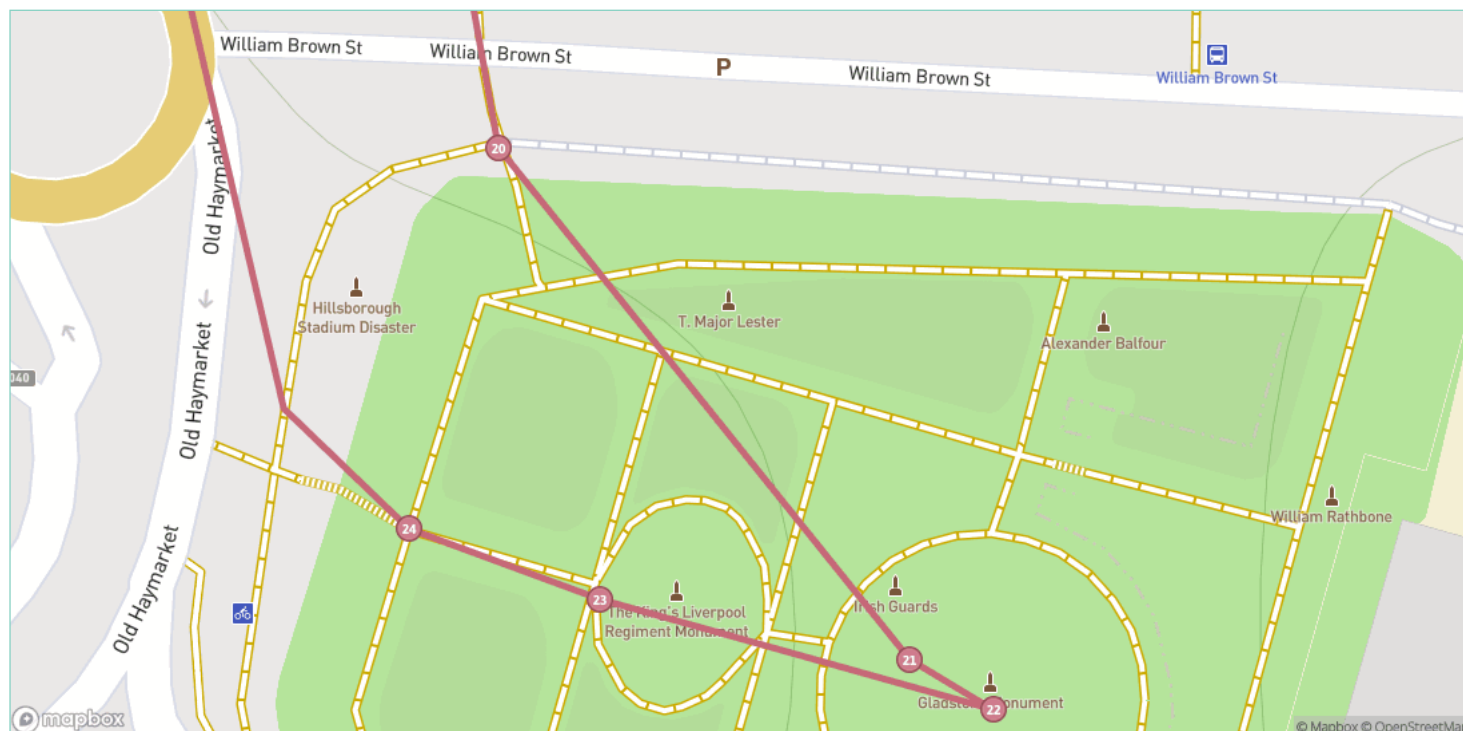
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/slavery-histories/william-brown-street>

Step 19: Cross over the road toward St John's Gardens.

Step 16: Head up to the top floor for city views from the roof terrace.

Step 17: In front of the library look out for the plaque about this street's namesake, William Brown and his involvement with the slave trade.

Step 18: After a few more steps you'll pass the World Museum. As well as exhibitions there are toilets and a cafe inside.



Step 20: Head inside the gates. This city park was formerly a cemetery and the resting place of a number of enslaved people. Read more [👉](#)

St John's Gardens

St John's Gardens: St John's Gardens at the rear of St George's Hall is the final resting place of a number of enslaved people who lived and died in Liverpool.

St John's Gardens was originally the parish graveyard for St John's Church, operating from 1767 to 1865, and holds the remains of an estimated 80,000 Liverpool residents, including numerous enslaved Black individuals.

Parish registers from St John's record burials of Black residents throughout the late 18th century, almost always without their own names recorded. On 23rd September 1778, the register logs the burial of "a Black boy belonging to Captain Penny", his identity reduced to the household he served rather than his own name. Entries like this reflect the common practice of stripping enslaved individuals of their identity and legally defining them as property.

In the late 1890s, the church was demolished and the graveyard was landscaped into public gardens, laying flat the original gravestones and burying

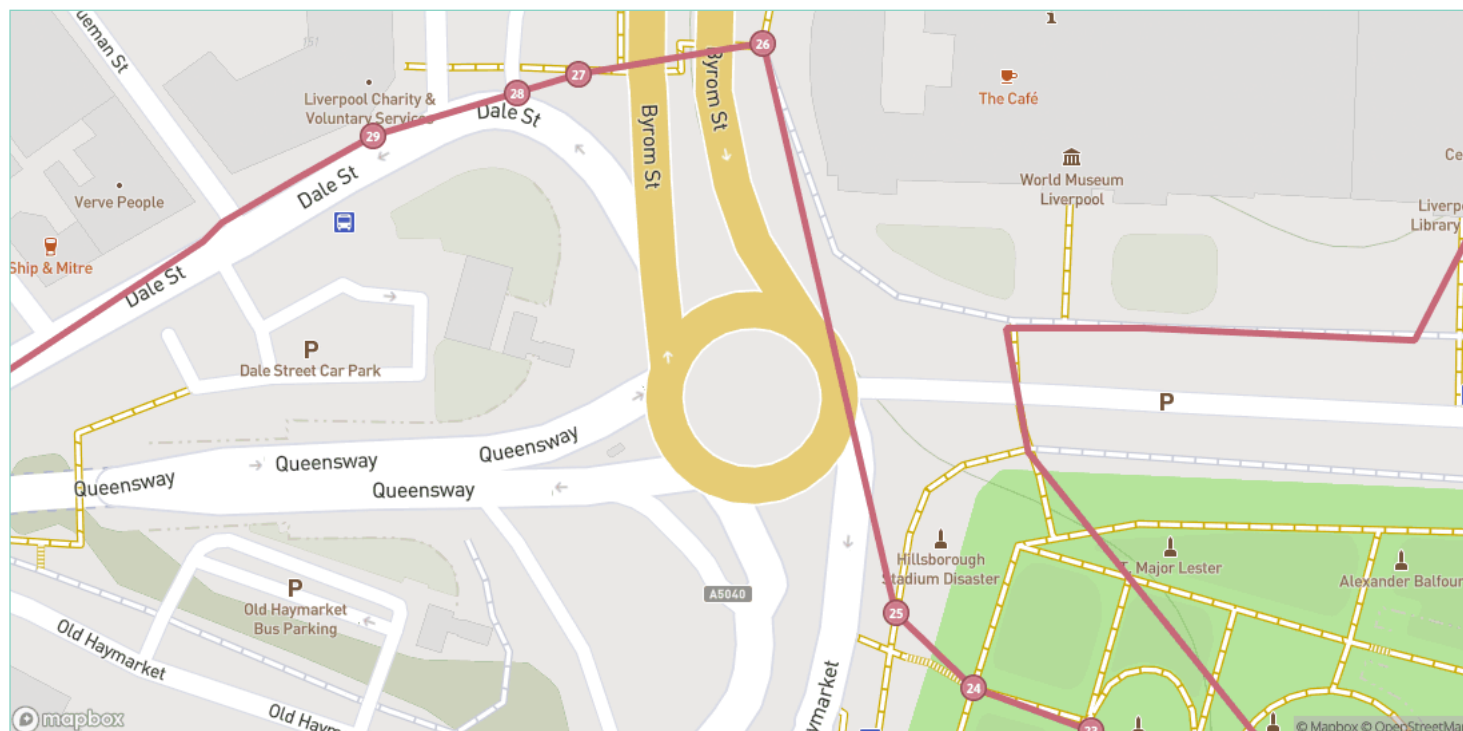
them beneath the modern ornamental lawns and stone pathways.

The gardens sit alongside St George's Hall, constructed between 1841 and 1854, a civic masterpiece largely funded by the immense municipal and commercial wealth generated through Liverpool's slave-based economy. Surrounding the gardens are prominent statues of 19th-century Liverpool political figures, several of whom belonged to wealthy merchant dynasties that actively fought against the abolition of slavery to protect the city's commercial interests.

Step 21: Once inside the park, head towards the middle to find a statue of William Gladstone, his father John was a wealthy merchant and slave owner.

Step 22: With the statue behind you, walk towards another statue in front which is the Monument to the King's Regiment.

Step 23: Head towards the exit onto Old Haymarket.



Step 24: Exit the park and turn right onto Old Haymarket.

Step 25: You'll pass a memorial to the victims of the Hillsborough Disaster, fatal human crush that occurred on April 15, 1989.

Step 26: Continue along Bryon St to reach a pedestrian crossing.

Step 27: Cross the road heading towards the art deco building in front.

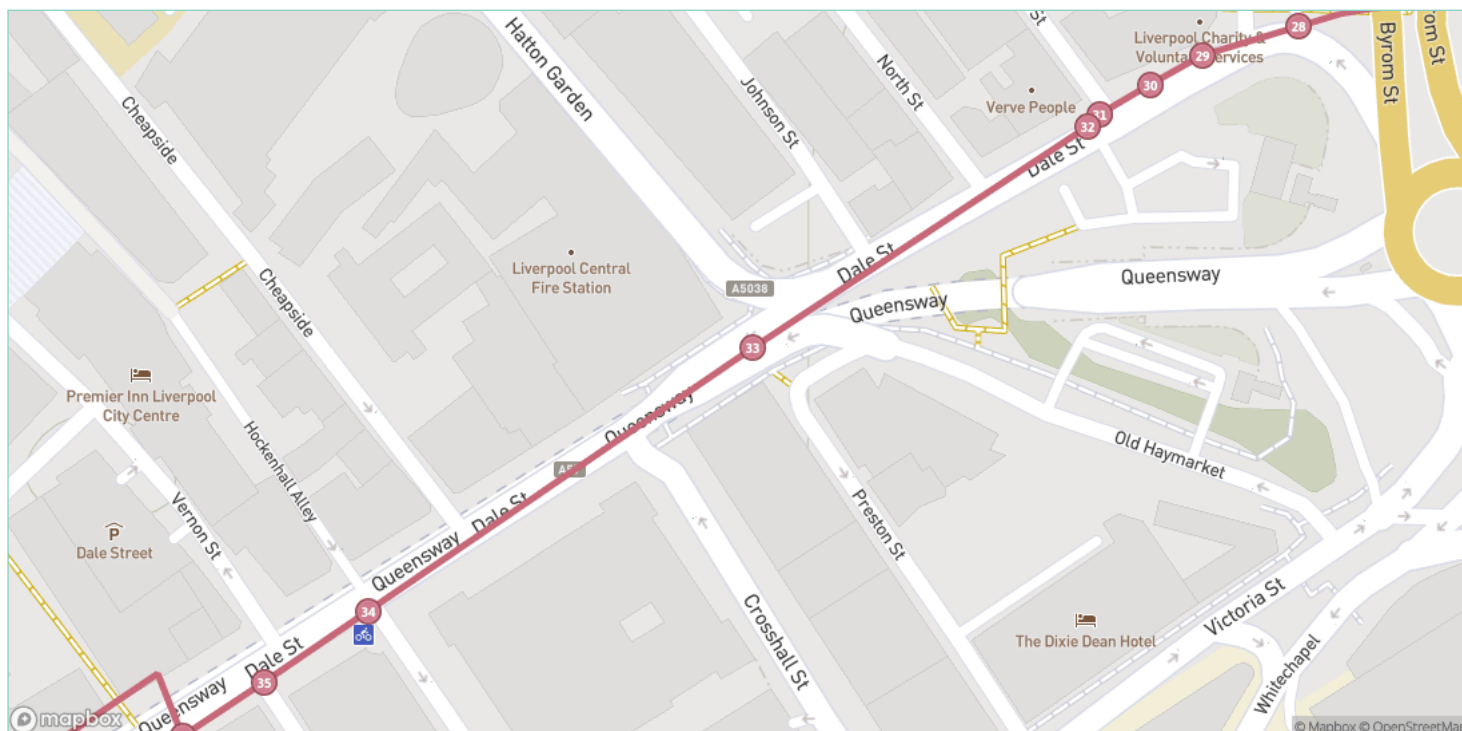
Step 28: This is the Blackburn Assurance Building. [Read more.](#)

Blackburn Assurance Building

The Blackburn Assurance Building occupies the site of Chorley Court, the birthplace of Robert Morris, a Founding Father of the United States and a key signatory of the Declaration of Independence.

While Morris is famous as the 'Financier of the American Revolution', his early wealth and merchant career in Philadelphia were heavily built on financing slave ships and conducting slave auctions.

Operating through his merchant firm Willing, Morris & Co., Morris co-owned slaving vessels like the Nancy, which trafficked hundreds of captive Africans from Ghana to America. Beyond direct shipping, Morris acted as a major agent for other transatlantic slave traders, handling the sale of incoming human cargoes and purchasing an indigo plantation worked by enslaved labor. A blue plaque erected on the site in 1999 commemorated Morris solely as a US Founding Father, but following public campaigns, an additional plaque was added to acknowledge his direct involvement in transatlantic slavery.



Step 29: Continue along Dale St.

Step 30: Dale Street is one of the seven streets of medieval Liverpool, then a small settlement on the Lyver Pool creek. Within five centuries, this modest fishing port would grow into the hub of transatlantic trade.

Step 31: On the right you'll pass 1 Trueman St. An example of a Georgian merchant's house, many would have owned slaves.

Step 32: Keep an eye out for the plaque. Head back to Dale St to continue the walk.

Step 33: Cross over Hatton Garden and then cross Dale St to continue in the same direction.

Step 34: On the left, you'll soon reach Sir Thomas Street, named after a co-owner of early slaving ships. Read more. [👉](#)

Sir Thomas Street

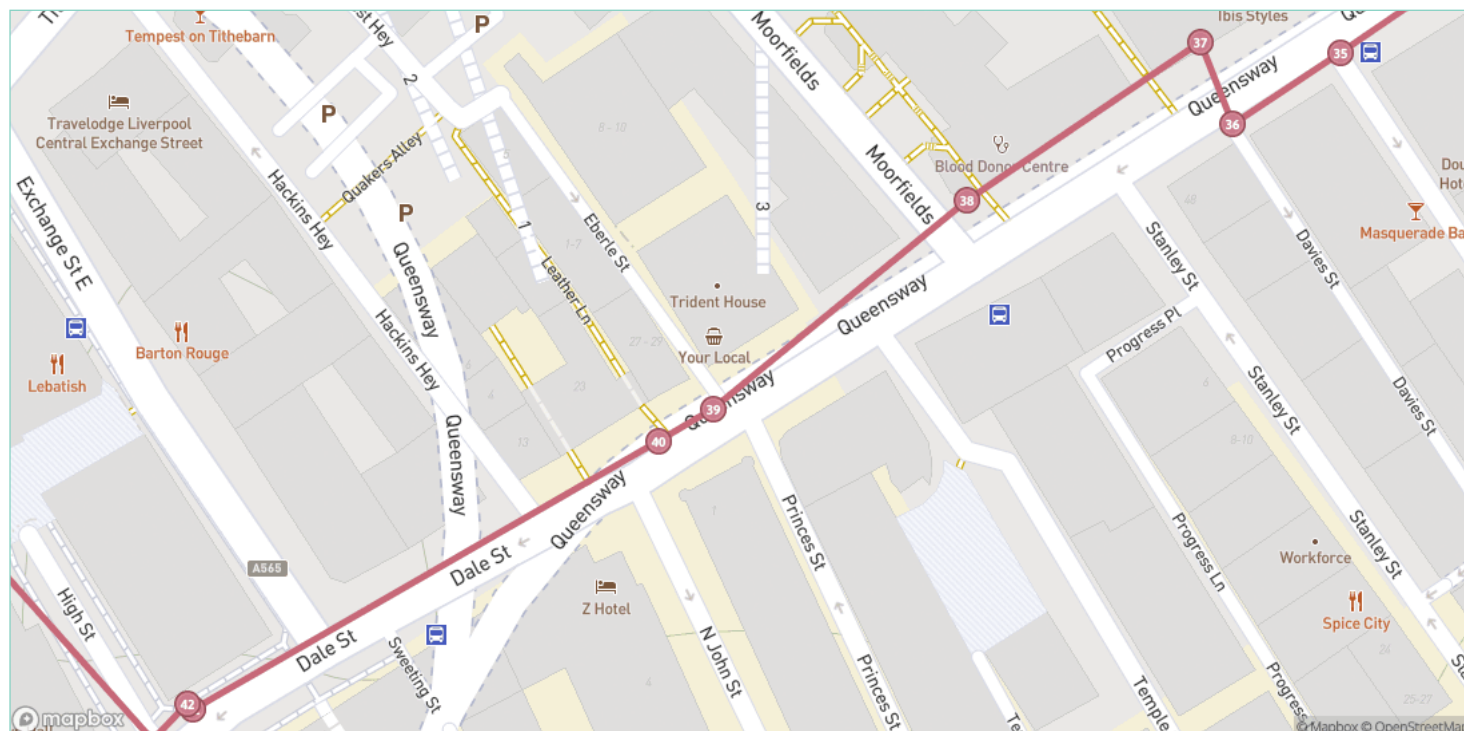
Named after Sir Thomas Johnson, co-owner of early slaving ships.

Johnson (1664–1728), was one of Liverpool's earliest recorded slave traders and a merchant deeply involved in the slavery, tobacco and sugar trades with Britain's American colonies.

Johnson is often called "the founder of modern Liverpool". He served as Mayor in 1695 and sat as an MP from 1701 to 1723, using his political standing to push the town's growth, largely funded by transatlantic trade.

He was a partner of merchant Richard Norris in one of the earliest ships to legally leave Liverpool specifically to transport enslaved Africans, an early formalisation of what became the city's dominant industry.

Step 35: Continue on Dale St and get ready to crossover.



Step 36: Cross to the other side of Dale St at the pedestrian crossing.

Step 37: Continue on Dale St.

Step 38: Look up and around: many of these ornate buildings housed banks and insurers that financed Atlantic trade, slave ships among them.

Step 39: Continue on Dale St towards the Town Hall.

Step 40: On the right you'll pass Leather Lane taking its name from the leather market it once led to. A glimpse of medieval Liverpool.

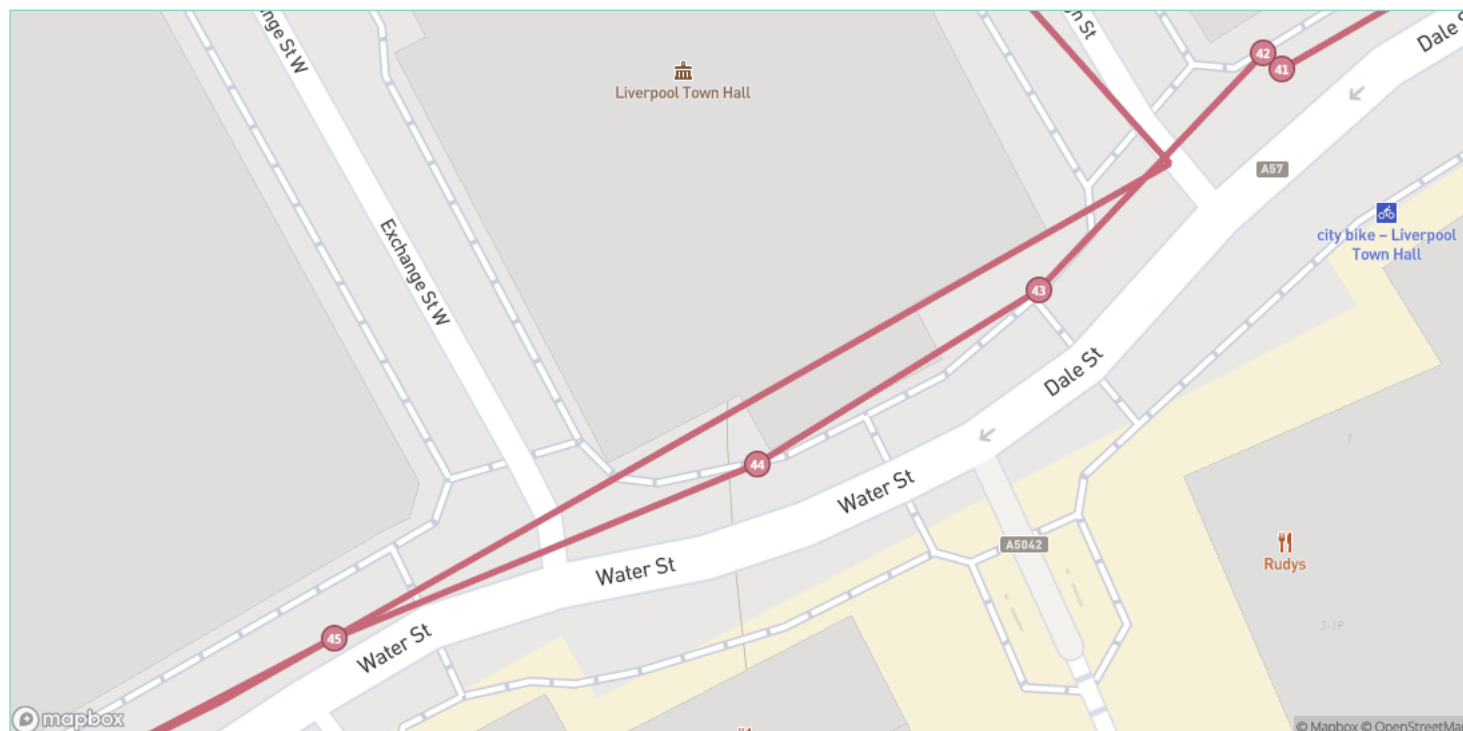
Step 41: Liverpool's Town Hall was built on merchant money in the 1750s. Read more. [👉](#)

Liverpool Town Hall

Liverpool Town Hall is probably the most significant building still standing in Liverpool that is directly connected to the trade in enslaved Africans.

Liverpool Town Hall (Grade I listed), built c.1749–1754 and designed by John Wood of Bath. It was at the centre of the city's trading activity, and is widely regarded as the single greatest architectural monument to Liverpool's involvement in the slave trade. It was funded and built by some of the era's most prominent slave traders.

Look for the exterior frieze and carved panels, especially on the east and west elevations, the panels are carved with emblems of Liverpool's mercantile trade, including African and Indian heads, an elephant, a crocodile and a camel. The west elevation, built around 1792 (by which point the slave trade was becoming controversial even in Liverpool), continues the maritime commerce theme, marine horses, cornucopias, ropes, anchors, but this later phase makes no direct reference to Africa, a subtle shift worth noting if comparing the



two sides of the building.

It's recorded that around 20 mayors of Liverpool were directly involved in the slave trade, and specifically every mayor between 1787 and 1807 had transatlantic slave-trade links.

Step 42: Look up at the Town Hall's frieze: carved African heads and exotic animals, emblems of the trade in enslaved people.

Step 43: Spot the golden pineapples on the gates: emblems of the goods trade whose profits flowed alongside, and funded, the trafficking of people.

Step 44: Now continue along, Dale St becomes Water St. You can see the Mersey and Liver building in the distance.

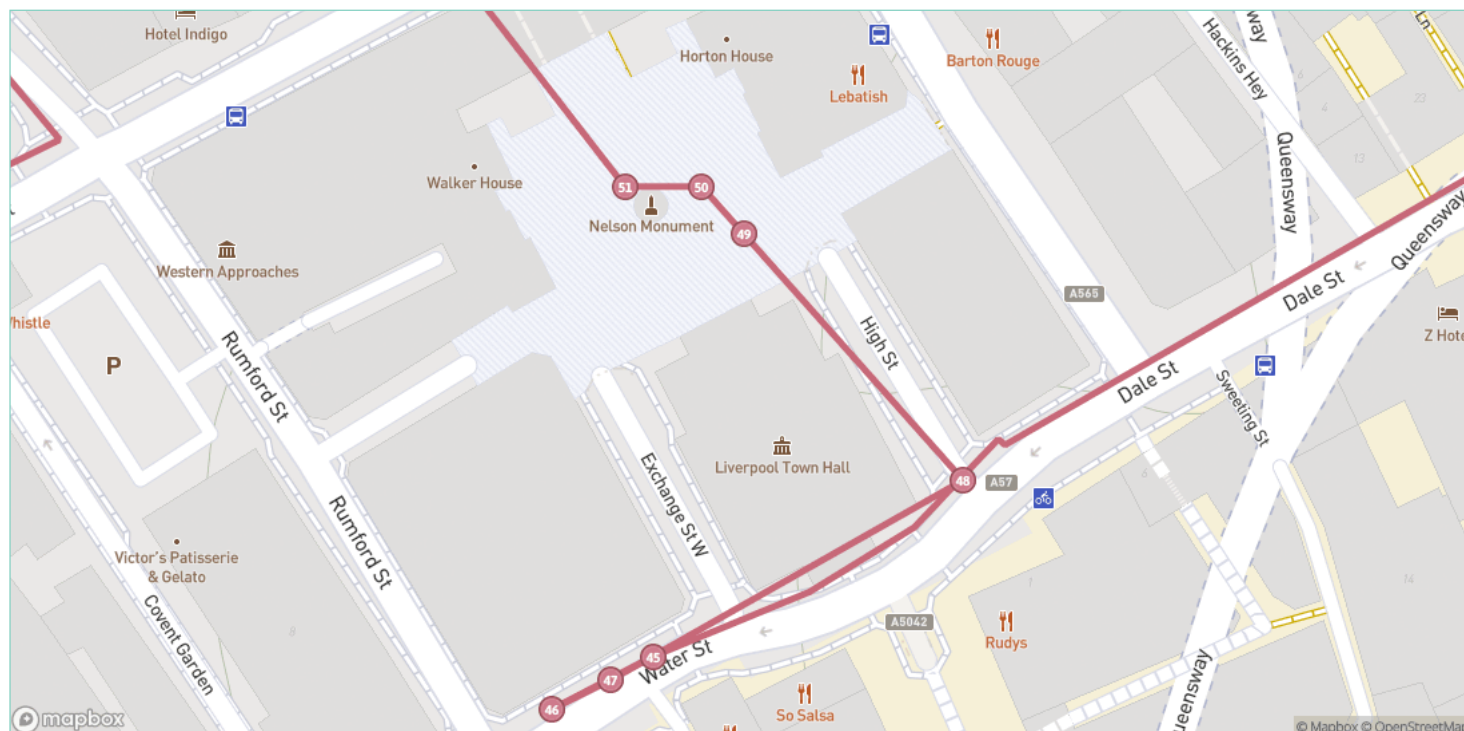
Step 45: You'll soon reach the former Martin's Bank on your right. Read more. 

Martin's Bank - Starwood & Principal Hotel

The burgeoning eighteenth and nineteenth-century financial industry of Liverpool benefited greatly from the town's involvement in slavery. Ten of the fourteen important Liverpool banks listed after 1750 were founded by slave traders.

Martins Bank swallowed up older private institutions, most notably Heywood's Bank founded in 1773 by brothers Arthur and Benjamin Heywood. The Heywoods amassed their wealth directly as slave merchants and shipowners, financing at least 133 slave voyages between 1745 and 1789 investing profits from human trafficking to finance early banking.

Look at the massive main entrance doors on Water Street. Designed by Herbert Tyson Smith, the bronze relief carvings explicitly depict maritime trade, sea life, and wealth flowing from across the Atlantic, visually encoding Liverpool's reliance on ocean commerce funded by colonial ventures. Above the ground-floor windows and along the Portland stone facade, look closely at the carved relief figures. Several sculptures explicitly



represent Indigenous and African figures holding products like cotton and sugar, symbolising the transatlantic mercantile network that built the bank's wealth.

Look closely at the carved figures along the lower facade panels. Indigenous and African individuals are depicted in subservient, crouching, or bent postures, bearing raw materials on their shoulders, directly contrasting with the upright, classical European gods of trade like Mercury and Neptune positioned above them. Bank co-founder Arthur Heywood kept detailed shipping logs for his slaving vessel *The African*, including records of an unnamed young African woman who led an onboard revolt off the Windward Coast in 1754, demonstrating resistance directly against the merchants who funded the bank's capital. Local banks like Heywood's provided letters of credit and underwriting for slave voyages departing Liverpool docks. They financed the purchase of manufactured British goods like textiles, guns, and metalwork sent to West Africa to exchange for captive human beings.

When slavery was abolished across the British Empire in 1833, the British government paid £20 million in compensation to plantation owners rather than enslaved people. Prominent banking

families associated with the lineage of Martins Bank claimed huge payouts, further solidifying the institution's capital base.

Step 46: Look closely at the lower panels: African and Indigenous figures stand bearing goods, while Europe's gods of trade stand tall above them.

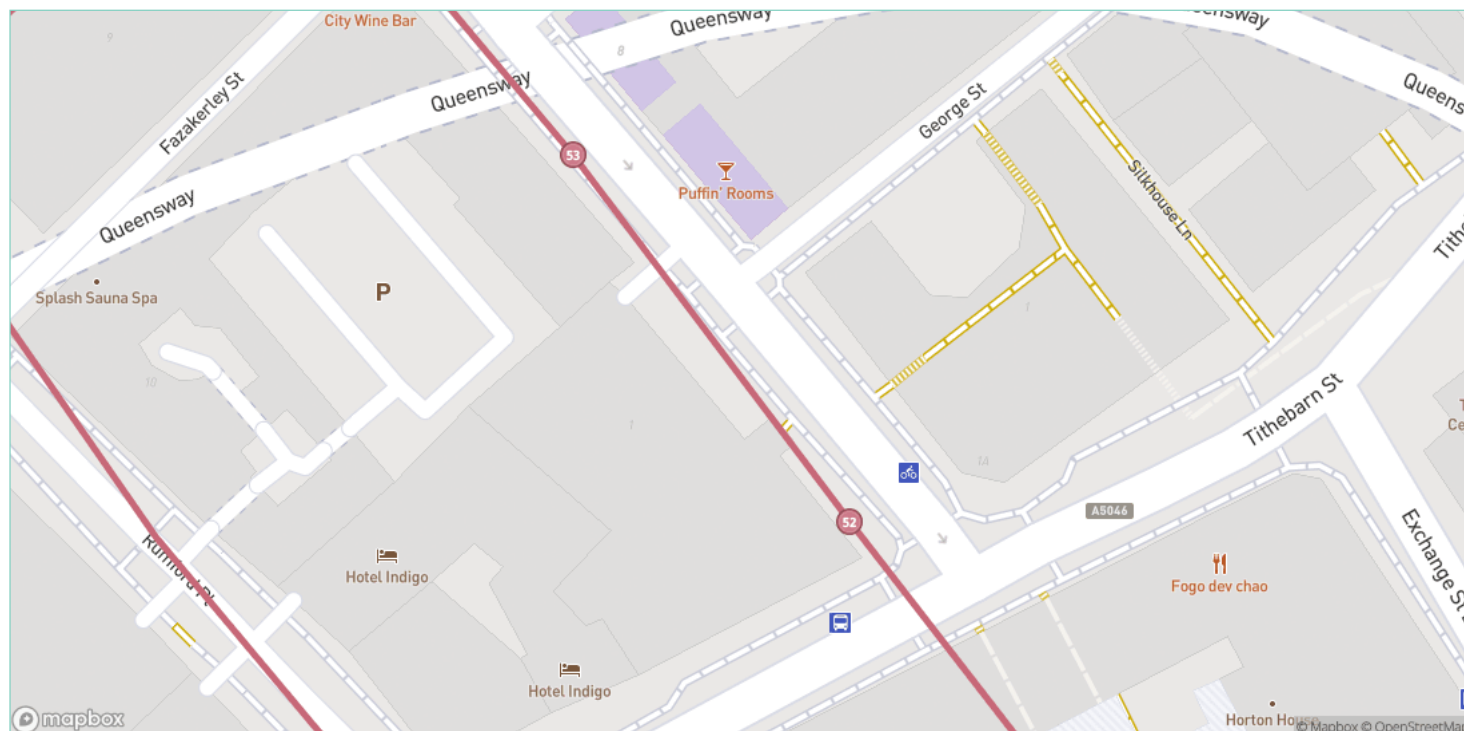
Step 47: Head back towards the Town Hall.

Step 48: After the Town Hall, turn left onto High St.

Step 49: You'll reach a courtyard with a striking monument.

Step 50: Four chained figures ring Nelson's monument. Officially prisoners of war, yet enslaved people were once sold barely a minute's walk away.

Step 51: Continue towards the passageways onto Chapel St.



Step 52: Cross the road and continue straight along Old Hall St.

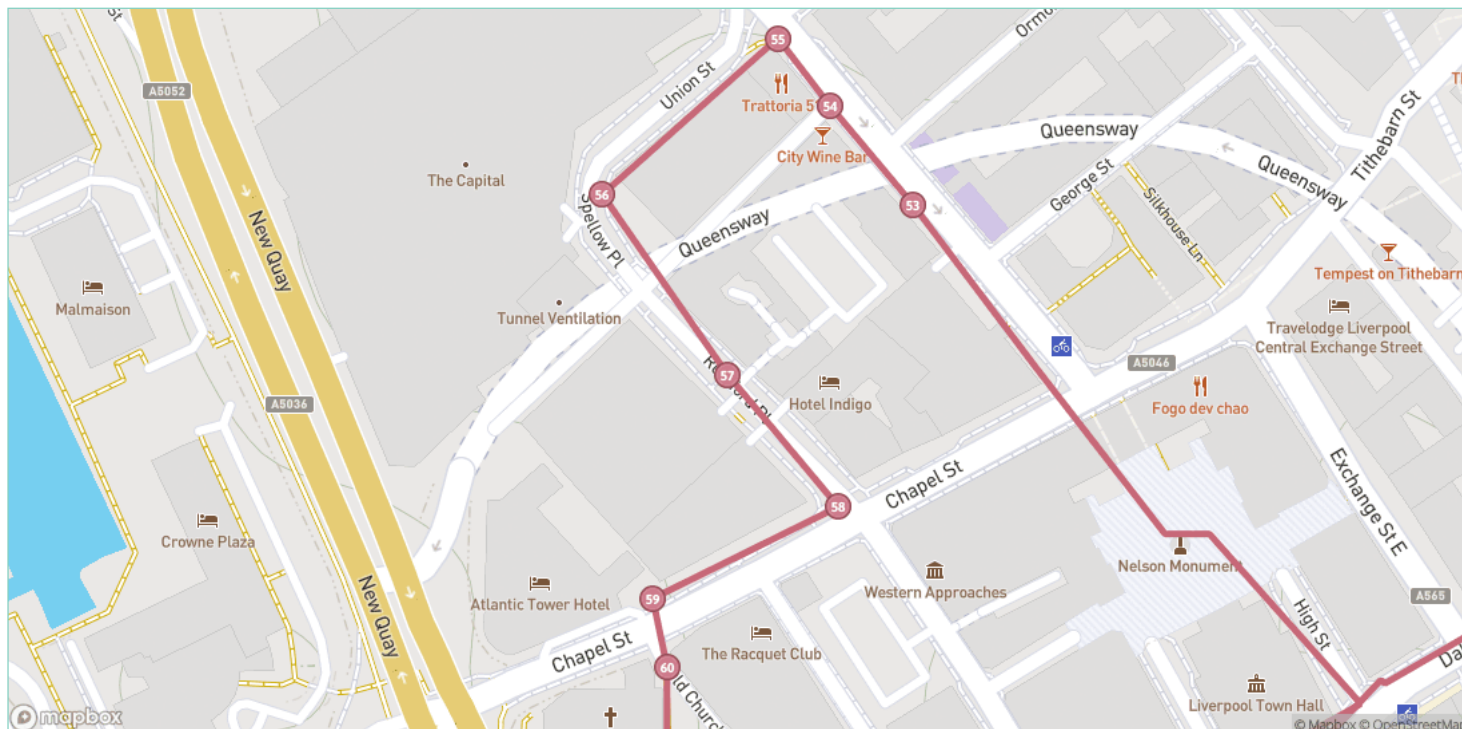
Step 53: On the right side of the road look out for The Albany Building. Read more 

Albany Buildings

The Grade II listed Albany Buildings was commissioned by Liverpool banker Richard Christopher Naylor (1814–1899) as a purpose-built trading hub for the city's cotton merchants, dealing in raw cotton grown on American plantations by enslaved African people before the American Civil War.

Naylor was a partner in the banking firm Leyland & Bullins until 1848, when he and his brother inherited a large fortune from their uncle and Naylor retired from banking. The Albany, built in 1856, was funded from that inherited wealth and developed as a commercial investment for Liverpool's booming cotton trade rather than through Naylor's own active brokering; by the time it opened he had already left business to become a landowner and racehorse breeder.

The grand central courtyard features high-level carved stone busts representing various continents, celebrating the global trade networks that supplied Liverpool with slave-grown commodities like cotton, sugar, and tobacco. Liverpool's financial sector grew significantly in



the decades following British abolition in 1833, as the city pivoted to importing vast quantities of slave-grown American cotton to feed Lancashire's textile mills; the Albany was built at the height of that boom.

Look closely at the elaborate archway entrance on Old Hall Street, which features ornate stone carvings, ironwork gates, and classical decorative details designed to project the immense wealth of 19th-century commodity brokers.

Step 59: Cross over Chapel St towards Liverpool Parish Church.

Step 60: Head into the church gardens.

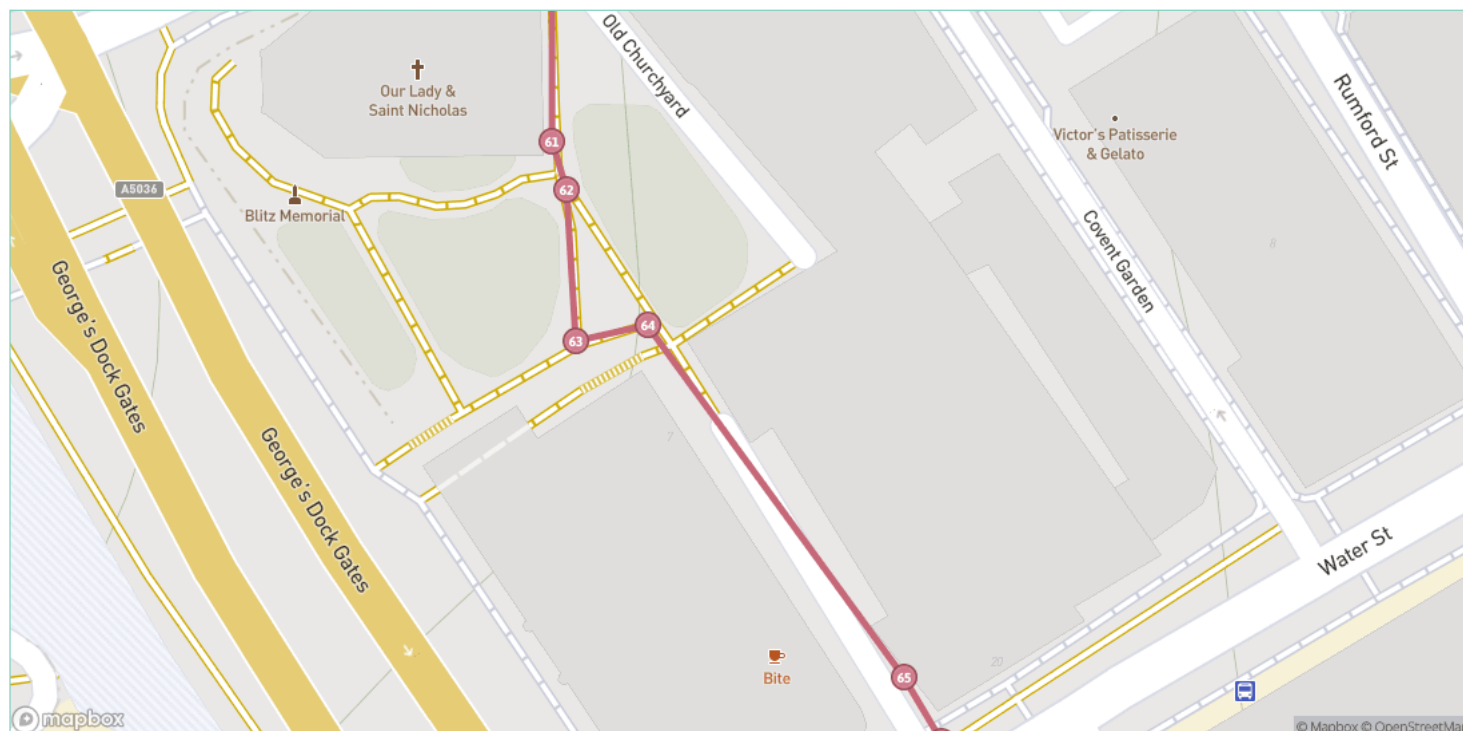
Step 54: Continue on Old Hall St and get ready to turn left.

Step 55: Turn left onto Union St.

Step 56: Continue on this street as it bends to the left.

Step 57: Continue along the street, which becomes Rumford Place.

Step 58: Turn right onto Chapel St.



Step 61: Abell, an enslaved man was buried here. Read more about Abell below. 

Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and Saint Nicholas)

On 1st October 1717, Abell was buried here, the earliest surviving written record of a Black resident in Liverpool. The parish register entry reads "Abell a blackmoor belonging to Mr Rock," his "owner" probably Samuel/Lemuel Rock, one of the town's early slave merchants, and it documents the legal status of enslaved people living in England at the time.

Prominent slave traders and plantation owners, including Bluecoat School founder Bryan Blundell, served as churchwardens and major financial benefactors, directly embedding slave capital into the church's early expansion and upkeep.

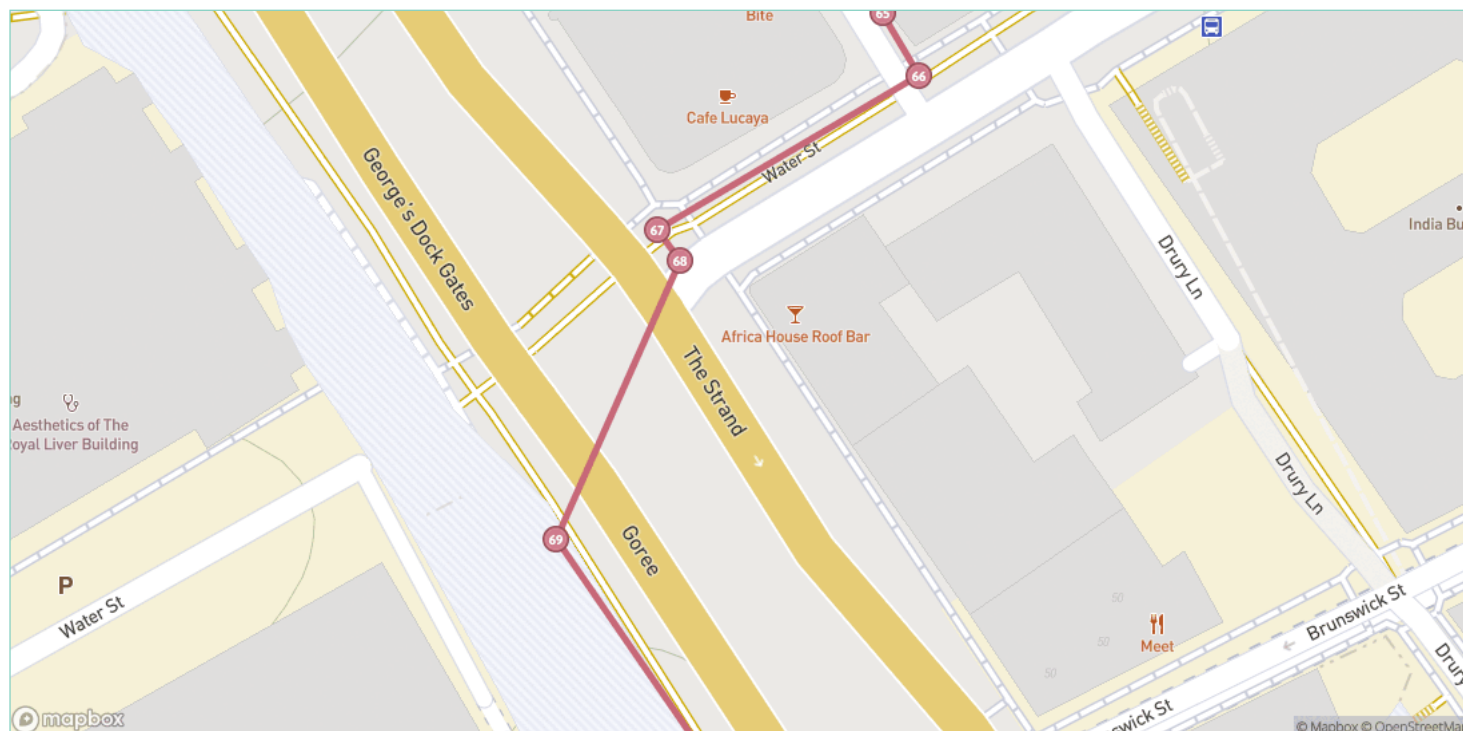
A dedicated memorial headstone was unveiled in the churchyard gardens in October 2020 by local historian Laurence Westgaph and the parish, formally recognizing Abell and marking the site as a key historical landmark for the city's Black heritage.

Step 62: Keep your eyes peeled for Abell's stone, unveiled in 2020.

Step 63: Look out for the 'Homeless Jesus' statue by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz.

Step 64: Exit the churchyard onto Tower Gardens and continue straight.

Step 65: Turn right onto Water St.



Step 66: The Exchange Coffee House once stood on this street. Read more. 

Water Street

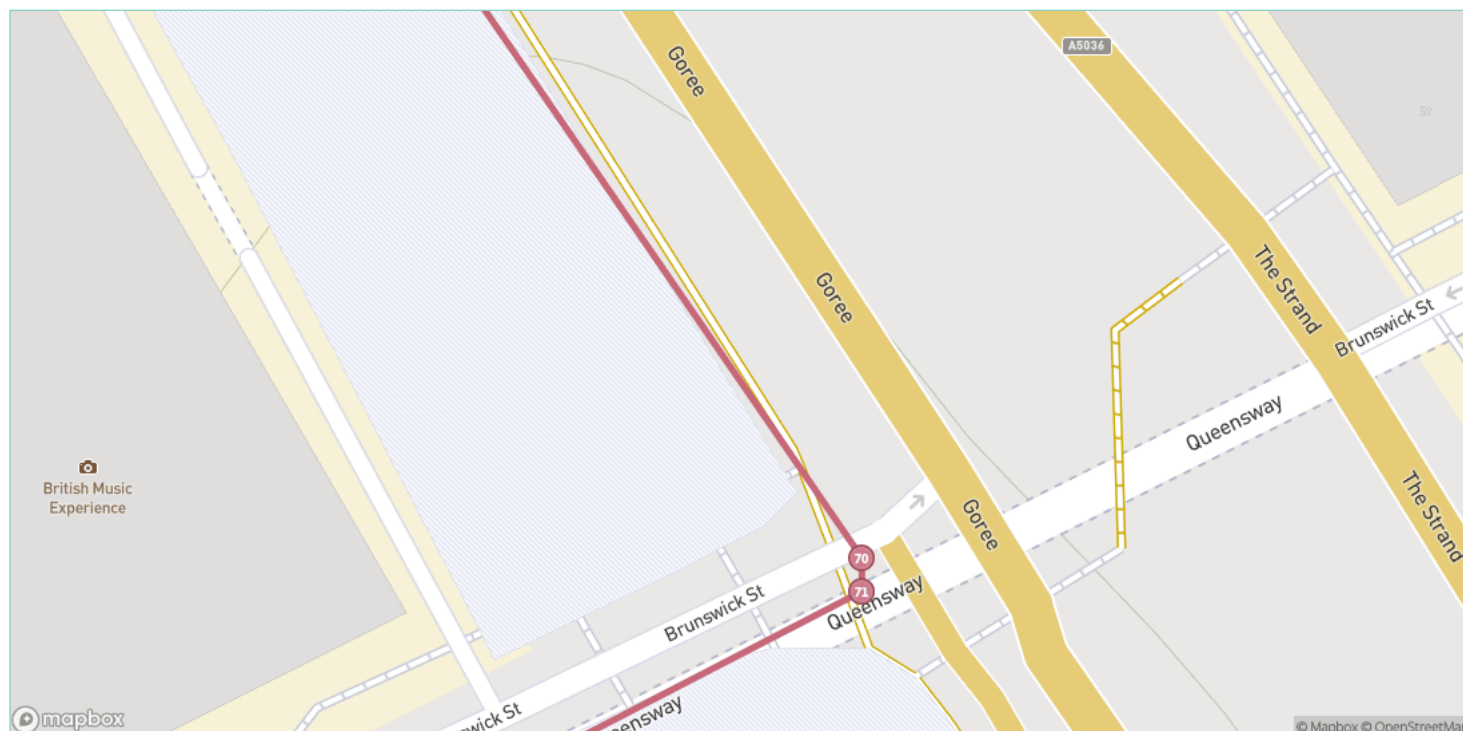
Site of the former Exchange Coffee House where enslaved humans were auctioned, and near former banking headquarters funded by slave merchant profits.

The Exchange Coffee House once stood on Water Street, an 18th-century venue where, alongside ordinary merchant business, enslaved Africans who had been brought back to Liverpool were auctioned. A newspaper advert from 12 September 1766 records the sale of 11 enslaved people there. Coffee houses like this doubled as informal trading floors. These advertisements for slave sales peaked during the 1750s and 60s, and enslaved people were sold there alongside goods, with buyers often seeking Black servants as status symbols for wealthy households.

Step 67: Look up at the Liver Birds, guarding the city since 1911. Legend says if they ever fly away, Liverpool will cease to exist.

Step 68: Turn left onto the Strand and cross the road.

Step 69: Now cross The Strand and turn left to stay on The Strand and continue toward Brunswick St.



Step 70: This area is named after Goree Island, an infamous slave-trading post off the coast of Senegal. Read more. [👉](#)

the final passage enslaved people walked before being loaded onto ships, though historians continue to debate how large a role Gorée itself played in the transatlantic trade compared to its symbolic and memorial importance today.

Pier Head & The Goree

The Goree Piazzas/Goree Warehouses were a range of grand warehouses built in 1793 right here and named after Gorée Island off Senegal. They were destroyed by WWII bombing and demolished between 1948 and 1950, so nothing of the original warehouses survives, but the street name "Goree" still exists today on the Strand near Pier Head in remembrance of the history of the transatlantic slave trade.

Gorée island lies off the coast of Senegal, opposite Dakar, and was ruled in succession by the Portuguese, Dutch, English and French between the 15th and 19th centuries. Its most famous structure, the Maison des Esclaves ("House of Slaves"), was built in the late 18th century and is the last slave house still standing on Gorée. It became the island's central memorial site after Senegalese curator Boubacar Joseph Ndiaye restored it as a museum in 1962, largely responsible for turning it into the internationally recognised site it is today.

Its "Door of No Return" is remembered by many as



Step 71: Located nearby at 5 Brunswick St is the former Headquarters of Heywood Bank. You can take a detour here if you wish. [Read more](#)

Brunswick Street

In Brunswick Street stands the Grade II listed Heywood's Bank, Liverpool's oldest surviving purpose-built bank, erected in 1800. It was built for Arthur Heywood, Sons & Co., founded in Liverpool in 1773 by brothers Arthur and Benjamin Heywood, both heavily involved in the slave trade.

Arthur Heywood came to Liverpool from Ireland in 1731 as a 14-year-old apprentice; the bank first operated from Hanover Street, then Castle Street from 1775, before moving into the purpose-built Brunswick Street premises by 1800.

The Heywood family's slave-trading activity spanned three generations with the family investing in at least 133 slave voyages between roughly 1745 and 1807, making them one of the most prolific slave-trading dynasties in British history.

Benjamin Heywood later split off to found a separate Manchester bank with his sons, using £10,000 of the family's slave-trade profits as founding capital. That bank eventually became

part of the Royal Bank of Scotland group, while the Liverpool bank passed through the Bank of Liverpool, Martins Bank, and eventually Barclays before closing in 1991.

The building still stands on Brunswick Street (at its junction with Fenwick Street). A solid, unassuming Georgian commercial building, easy to miss unless you know its history is written directly into the bricks and mortar of Liverpool's banking system.

Step 72: Turn right onto Brunswick St.

Step 73: The Port of Liverpool Building was opened in 1907.

Step 74: Continue straight with the Mersey river in front of you and pass the famous Beatles statue.

Step 75: Turn left with the river now on your right.

Step 76: Continue past the Museum of Liverpool on your left.



Step 77: Take a moment to look over to the Mersey, Liverpool's road to the world. From this river, ships sailed on thousands of slaving voyages.

Step 78: Continue over a walkway with the river on your right.

Step 79: Turn left towards the Canning Graving Docks.

Step 80: Built in 1765, Canning Graving Docks were used to enable the cleaning and repairing of ships. Read more. [👉](#)

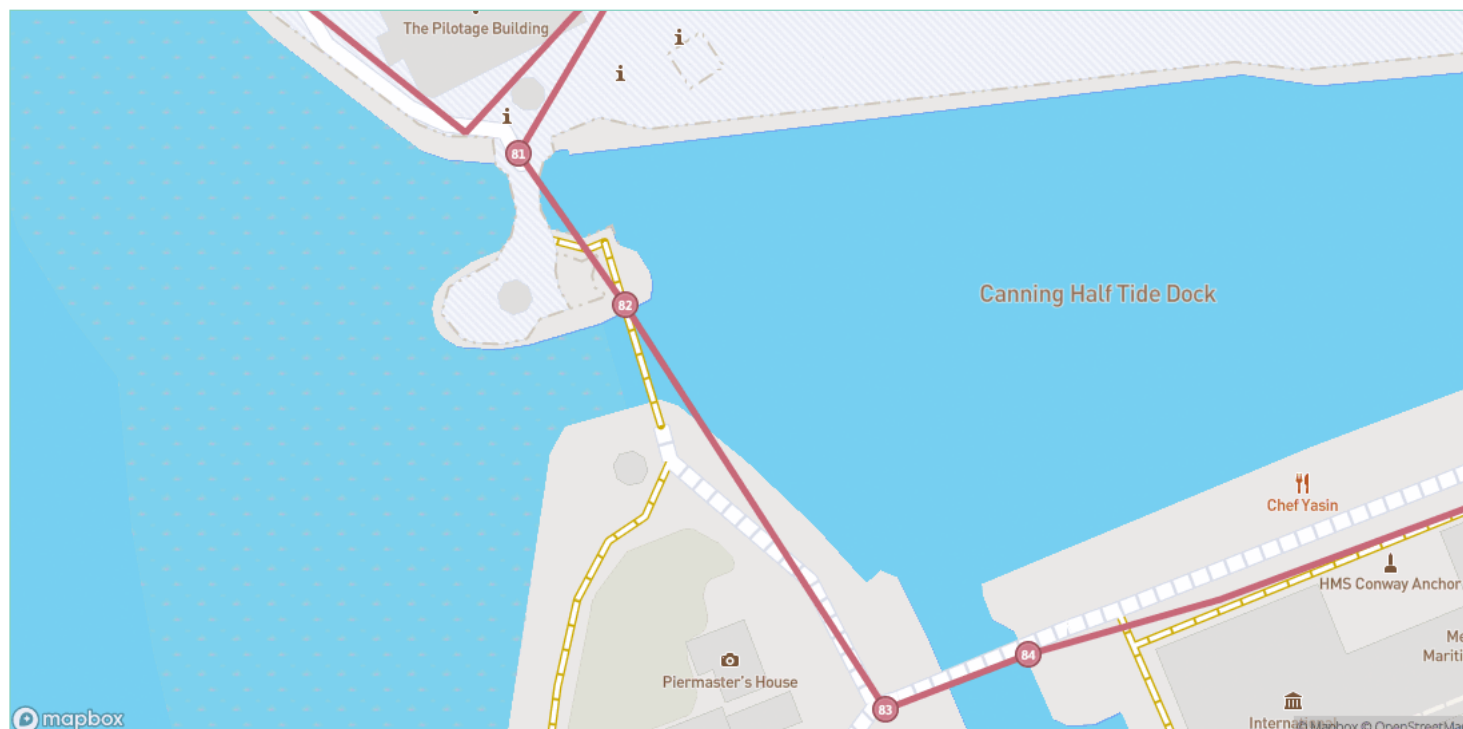
Canning Graving Docks

Built in 1765, Canning Graving Docks were used to enable the cleaning and repairing of ships, the word "graving" refers to the "scraping" of vessels' hulls to remove barnacles and marine growth. Their 18th-century roots make them one of the oldest surviving above-ground parts of the Liverpool docks.

They're a form of dry dock, they can be drained of water to provide a dry haven for ships to be washed, barnacles chipped from the hulls, and any damage repaired between voyages.

Through the 18th century, around 200 merchants controlled the trade in enslaved African people in Liverpool, with a further 1,400 investing in or being employed through them, many of the ships serviced at the graving docks would have been engaged in this trade.

Keep an eye out for how the docks changed over time, they were lengthened and deepened in 1842 as the size of ships was increasing, so you can see the layered engineering history in the stonework and dock walls.



The site has an ongoing "hidden history" project worth knowing about: since 2020, the Liverpool Black History Research Group and National Museums Liverpool have been working together to uncover the history of the Canning Graving Docks, scouring old newspapers and maps to piece together the personal stories of the people, including enslaved and free Black individuals, who lived and worked around the docks.

Step 81: Head back towards the river walkway.

Step 82: Continue over a bridge.

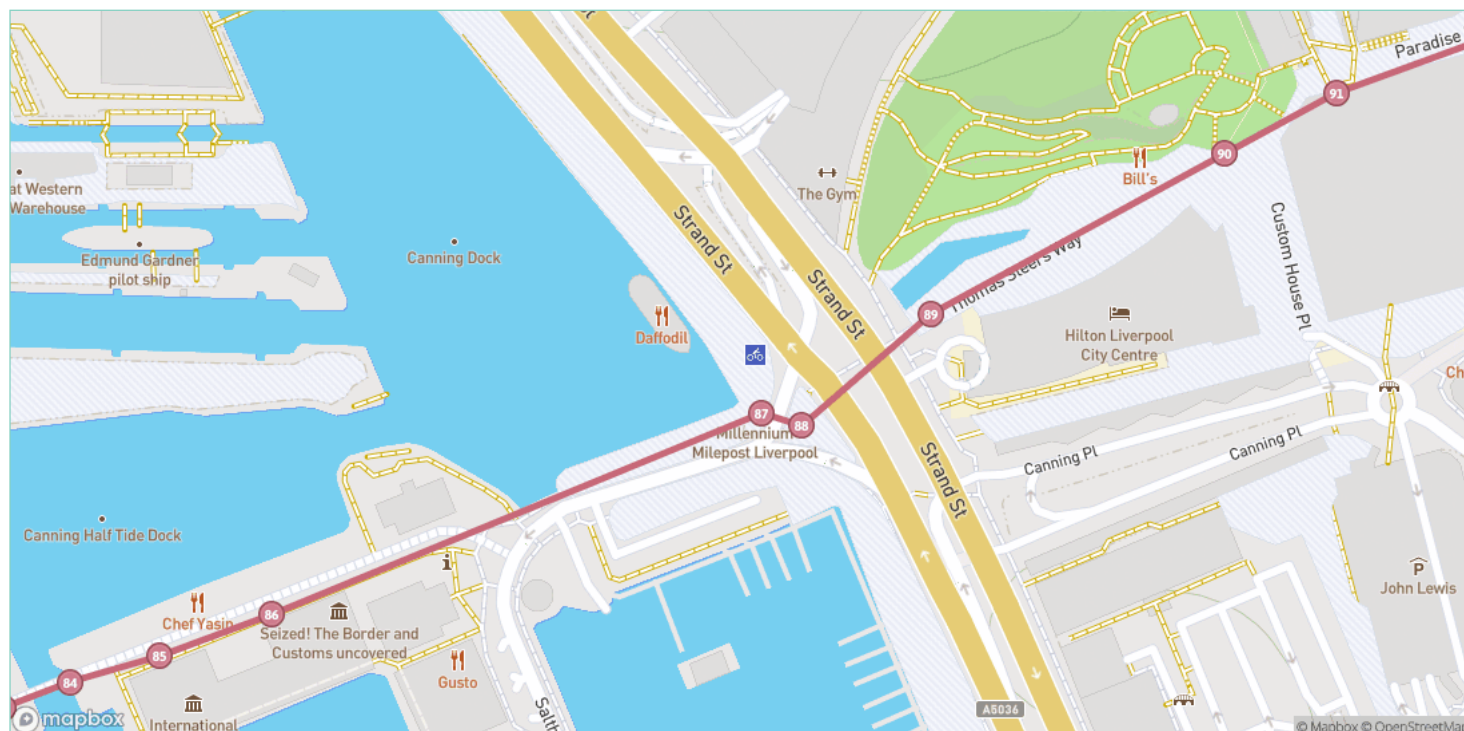
Step 83: The Royal Albert Docks were the point of departure for ships. [Read more](#)

Royal Albert Dock & Pier Head

Royal Albert Dock & Pier Head is the point of departure for ships; home to the International Slavery Museum which details the history and legacy of the trade.

Liverpool controlled over 80% of the British and over 40% of the entire European slave trade by the late 18th century, making it Britain's principal slaving port.

Between 1700 and 1807, ships from Liverpool carried over 1.3 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic in conditions of great cruelty. Ships sailed from Liverpool with English goods to Africa, where they were exchanged for enslaved people; those people were then transported and sold in the Americas, and the ships returned home loaded with cotton, tobacco, sugar or rum for sale back in England, each leg of the "Triangle Trade" turning a profit for merchants and investors. Pier Head played a major role in the transatlantic slave trade, being a point of departure for ships, and the docks more broadly were where slave merchants could do business freely out in the open.



Step 84: Turn left to crossover another footbridge.

Step 85: On your right (currently under scaffolding) is the International Slavery Museum. [Read more](#)

International Slavery Museum

The International Slavery Museum was established on 23 August 2007 and is the only museum in the world dedicated specifically to the history and legacies of transatlantic slavery.

The museum is currently closed for a period of essential maintenance and repair work ahead of a major capital project subject to funding and is due to reopen in 2028.

Step 86: Continue ahead.

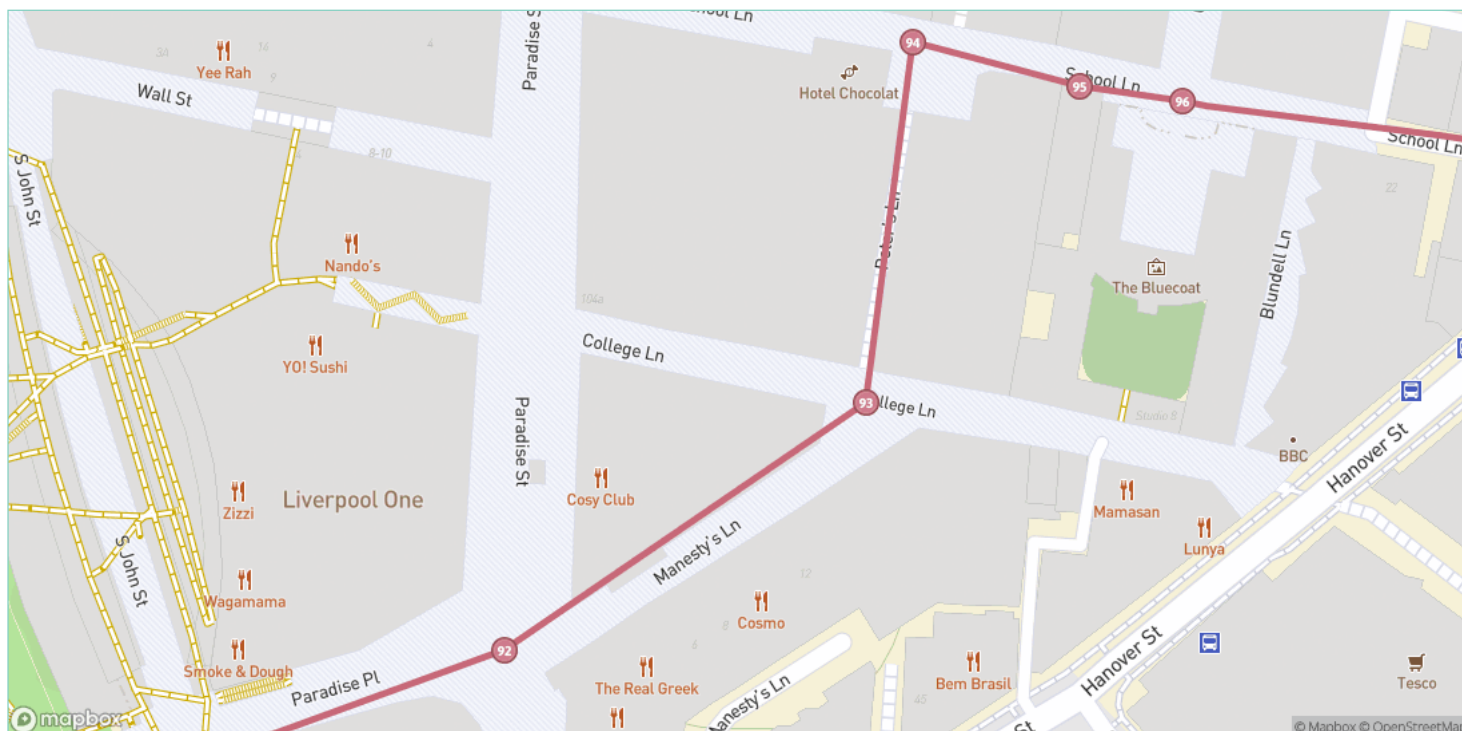
Step 87: Look out for the Millenium Milepost, a cast-iron Fossil Tree by artist Jon Mills.

Step 88: Cross over Strand St.

Step 89: Continue ahead onto Thomas Steers Way towards the Liverpool One shopping area.

Step 90: Look out for this glimpse to see the Old Dock wall.

Step 91: Continue ahead passing under a footbridge. There are plenty of shops and restaurants here if you need a break.



Step 92: Continue ahead as the walkway becomes Manesty's Ln.

Step 93: Turn slight left to head into the covered Peter's Lane.

Step 94: Turn right onto School Ln.

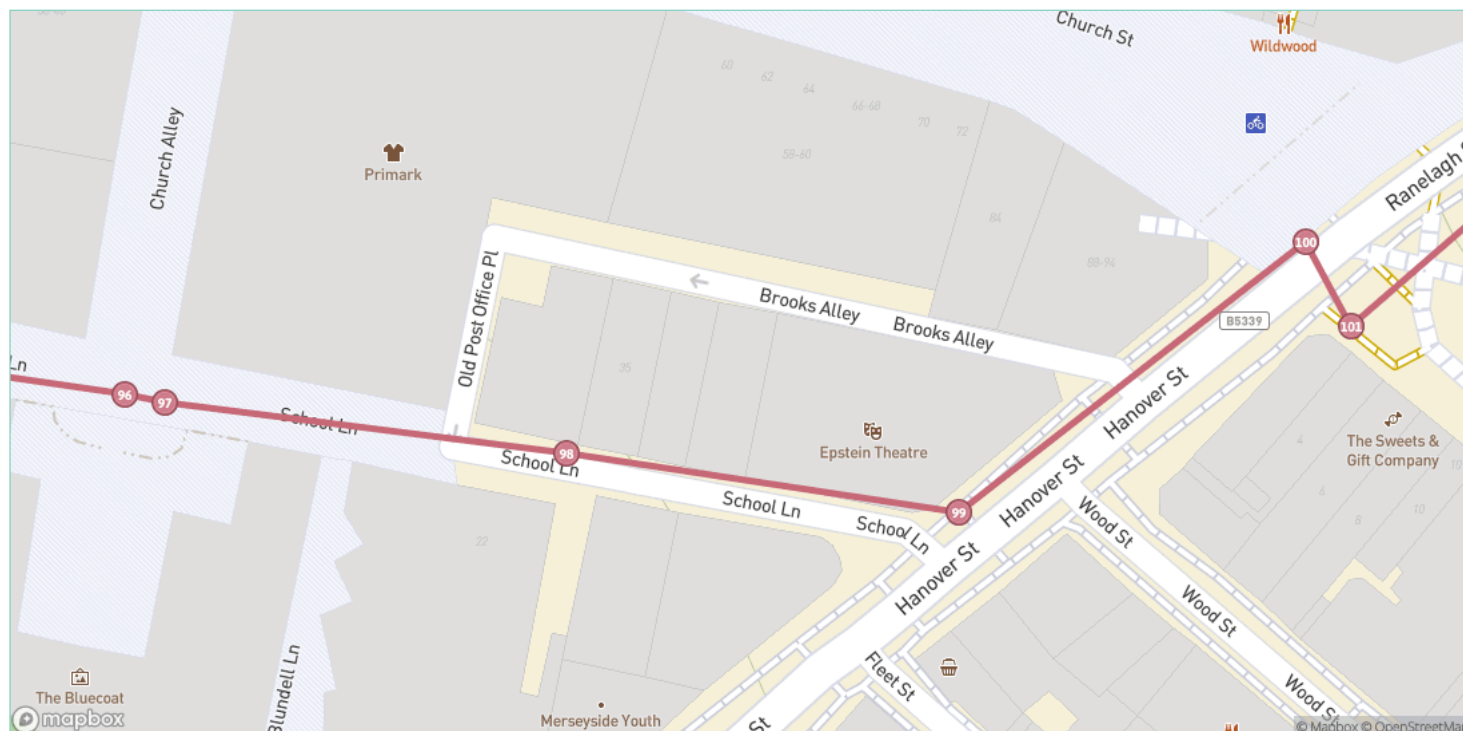
Step 95: After a few metres you'll reach the entrance to The Bluecoat. Read more [👉](#)

The Bluecoat

The Liverpool Blue Coat School, regarded as one of the city's most prestigious educational institutions, was founded in 1708 by Bryan Blundell (1675-1756).

Bryan Blundell was a prolific slave ship captain and merchant who co-founded the Blue Coat charity school in 1708 alongside the rector of Liverpool, Robert Styth, to educate poor children. Blundell personally financed the construction of the Grade I listed building on School Lane, completed in 1717, by pledging a tenth of his total earnings from transatlantic slaving voyages directly into the school's building fund. Records show Blundell was captain or owner of multiple slave ships, including the Thetis and the Tarleton, transporting hundreds of captured Africans to the Americas and returning with cargoes of tobacco and sugar.

The Bluecoat is the oldest surviving building in central Liverpool, and as a modern contemporary arts centre, it actively runs heritage projects and displays addressing its direct foundational ties to transatlantic slavery.



Step 96: The Bluecoat, the oldest building in central Liverpool, is now an arts centre that faces up to its slave trade origins in its own displays.

Step 97: Head back onto School Ln and continue in the same direction.

Step 98: Get ready to turn left.

Step 99: Turn left onto Hanover St.

Step 100: Crossover Hanover St and continue.

Step 101: You have reached the start of Bold St. [Read more.](#)

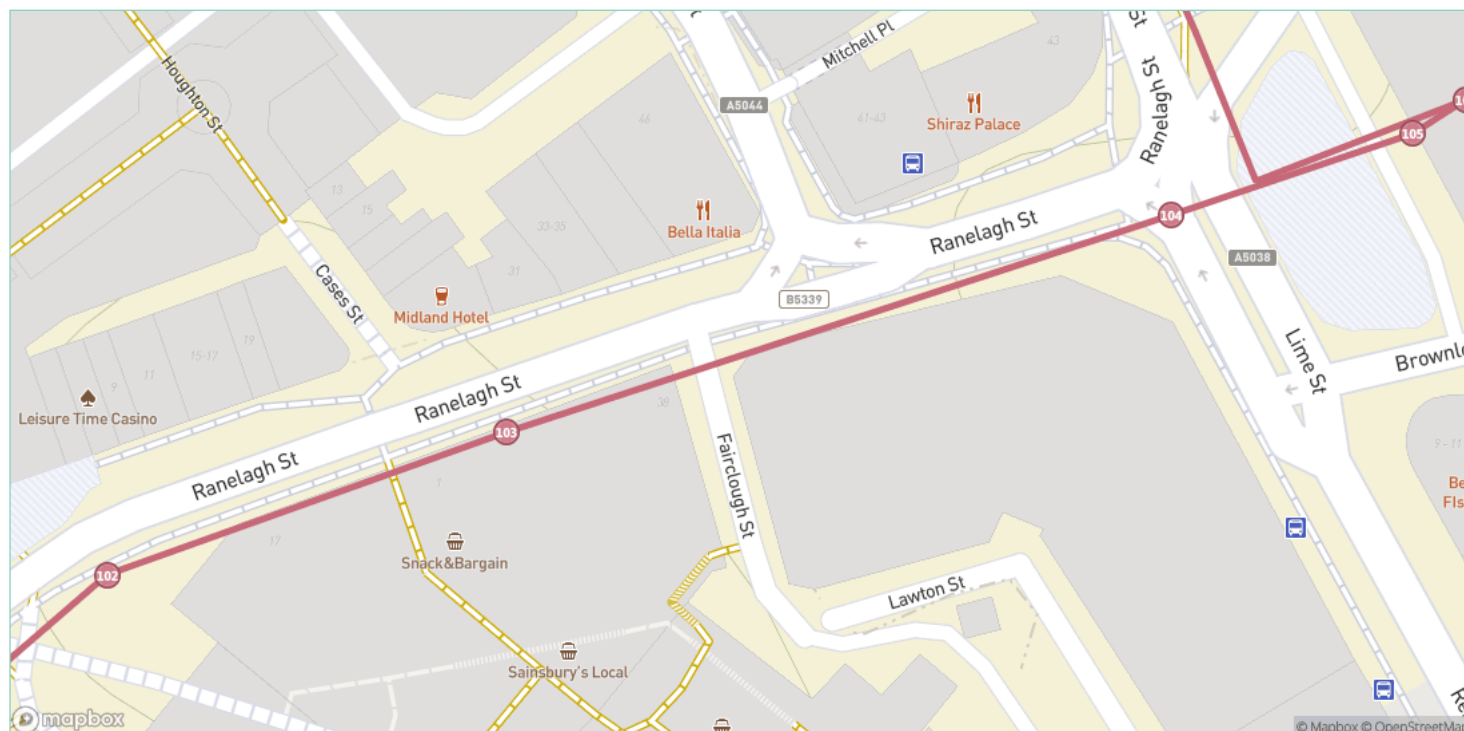
Bold Street

The street is named after Jonas Bold, who leased the land from Liverpool Corporation around 1785–86. He was a sugar merchant, banker and Mayor of Liverpool in 1802, but his wealth came largely from the transatlantic slave trade, he's recorded as having participated directly in at least four slave voyages.

Bold was a partner in the banking firm Staniforth, Ingram, Bold and Daltera. All four men were involved in the slave trade, financing voyages and trading activity tied to the slave economy.

Before Bold developed it, the land had been home to a ropewalk owned by the enslavers Joseph and Jonathan Brooks (after whom nearby Brooks Alley is named). The site was used to manufacture rope for sailing ships, including slave ships.

Look out for the street's unusually long, straight layout; it runs to around 300 metres, which was the standard length needed to stretch and measure rope for ships. This is also why the surrounding area is known as "The Ropewalks."



Step 102: Continue along Ranelagh St.

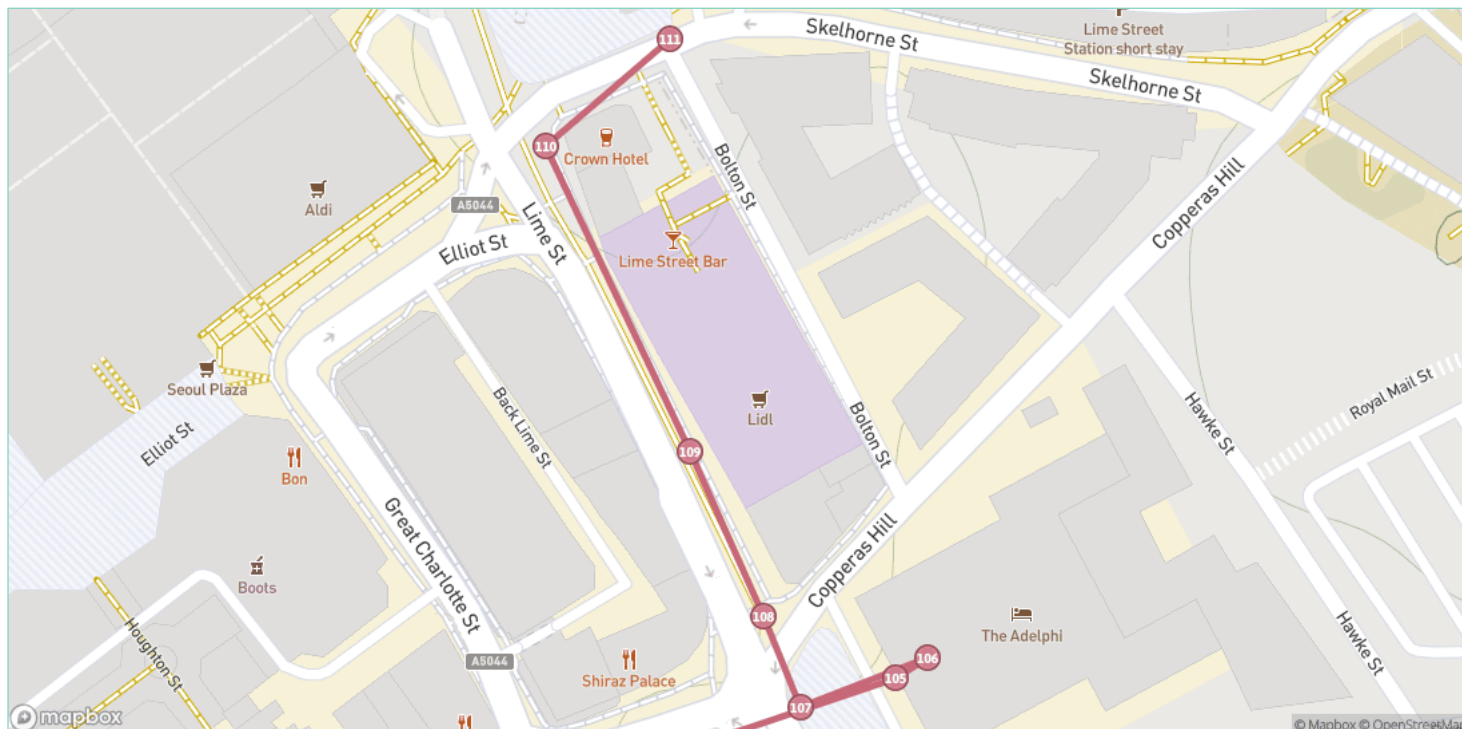
Step 103: Continue on this street.

Step 104: You'll soon reach the Adelphi Hotel located in Ranelagh Place. Crossover to take a closer look.

Step 105: Our final stop is the Adelphi Hotel, the largest and most famous hotel in Liverpool. Read more. 

Adelphi Hotel

The Adelphi became Liverpool's grandest hotel precisely during the era when the city's wealth, trade infrastructure, and reputation as a major port had been built on the earlier slave economy. The original hotel opened in 1826, built by hotelier James Radley on the site of Ranelagh Gardens, Liverpool's first public recreation space. It was rebuilt twice, once in 1876 and then again in 1912-14, with the current Grade II listed Edwardian building being the third hotel on the site. It sits at Ranelagh Place, at the junction of Copperas Hill and Brownlow Hill, and was designed by architect Frank Atkinson who also designed the interiors of some of the world's great ocean liners and London's Selfridges store, which shows in the hotel's grand, ship-like interiors. The hotel became one of the main departure points for wealthy transatlantic passengers in the early 20th century, since Liverpool was a major hub for ocean liner travel to North America.



Step 106: Architect Frank Atkinson also designed Selfridges and grand ocean liner interiors, and it shows in the hotel's ship-like splendour.

Step 107: Exit the hotel and cross Copperas Hill.

Step 108: In front is a grand old pub, The Vines of 1907, called The Big House by locals. Its lavish interior was built to show off brewery wealth.

Step 109: Continue along Lime St. Heading back to the station.

Step 110: Cross over Skelhorne St.

Step 111: You have reached Liverpool Lime St where this walk ends. We hope you enjoyed this walk! Come back and discover your next walk in the app. 📱