Thames Path South Bank Section 3a

Follow the Thames Path from Tower Bridge to Greenland Pier. Take a walk through history as you pass historic sites, wharfs and pubs.

Distance 6 kilometres / 3.7 miles
Duration 2 hours

Water feature | Great views | Refreshments | Public transport | History

Use the QR code or link below to view this walk on our website or app.

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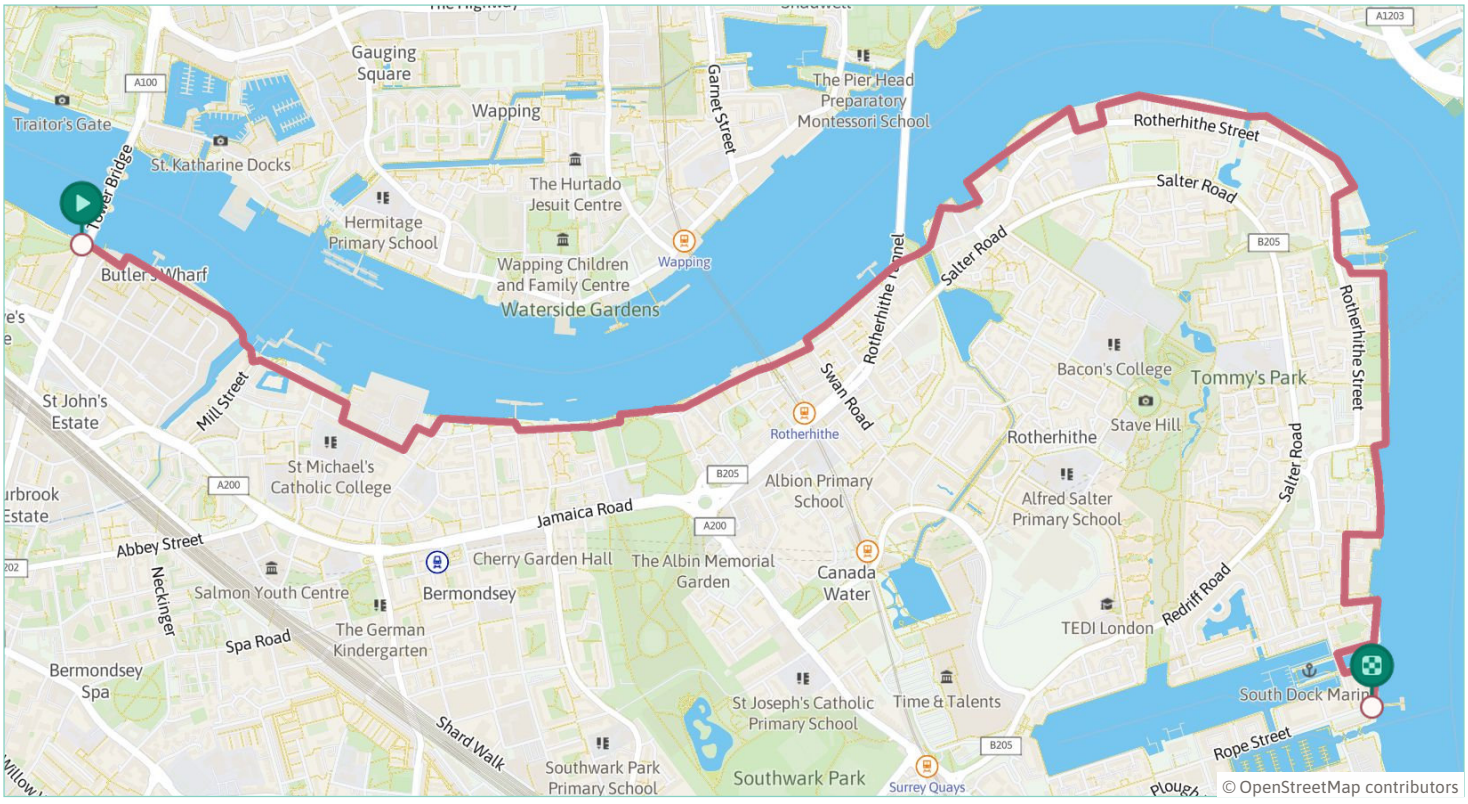

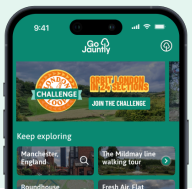

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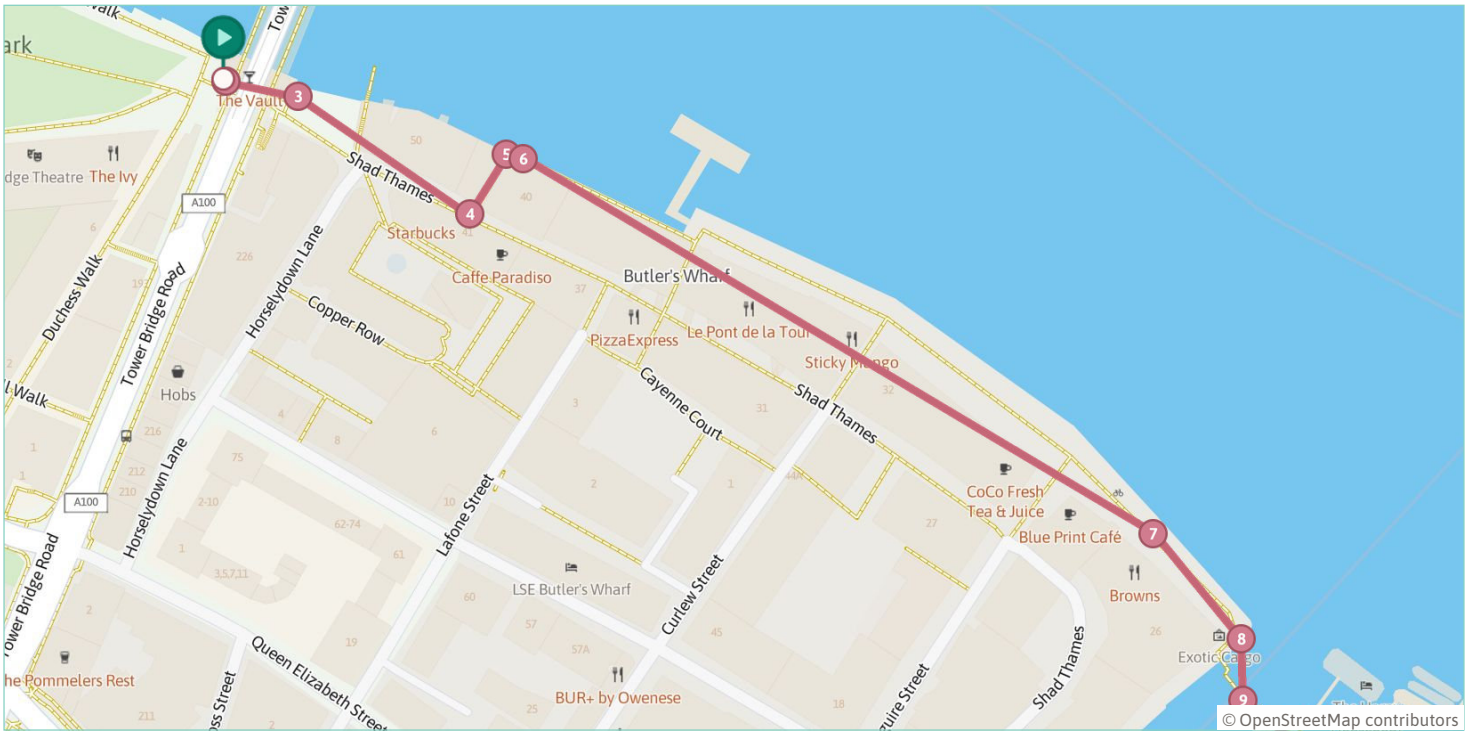

Step 1: Welcome to the Thames Path. This walk follows the South Bank of the iconic National Trail from Tower Bridge to Greenland Pier.

Step 2: The nearest tube and railway station to the start of this walk is London Bridge station. Buses 47, 343, 381, N199 and N381 stop at Hays Galleria (Stop H), if you're getting public transport to the start of this walk.

Step 3: Start at Tower Bridge with the river on your left and walk along Shad Thames.

Step 4: Turn left into Maggie Blake's Cause, an alleyway connecting Shad Thames with the riverfront.

Did you know?

Named after a local community activist the alleyway represents a significant victory - public access to the riverside in a predominantly privately-owned environment.

Step 5: Enjoy the views of Tower Bridge as you reach the water once again.

Step 6: Turn right to continue walking along the Thames.

Step 7: Walk through to the river frontage of Butler's Wharf. Imposing Victorian warehouses have now turned into riverside restaurants and apartments.

Step 8: Cross the stainless steel footbridge at the entrance to St. Saviour's Dock, an atmospheric inlet of warehouses and tidal mud.

Did you know?

St. Saviours Dock displayed the bodies of pirates who were captured and hanged here. It is here that Bill Sykes, in Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist, falls from a roof and dies in the mud. Dickens gives a vivid description of the dock.

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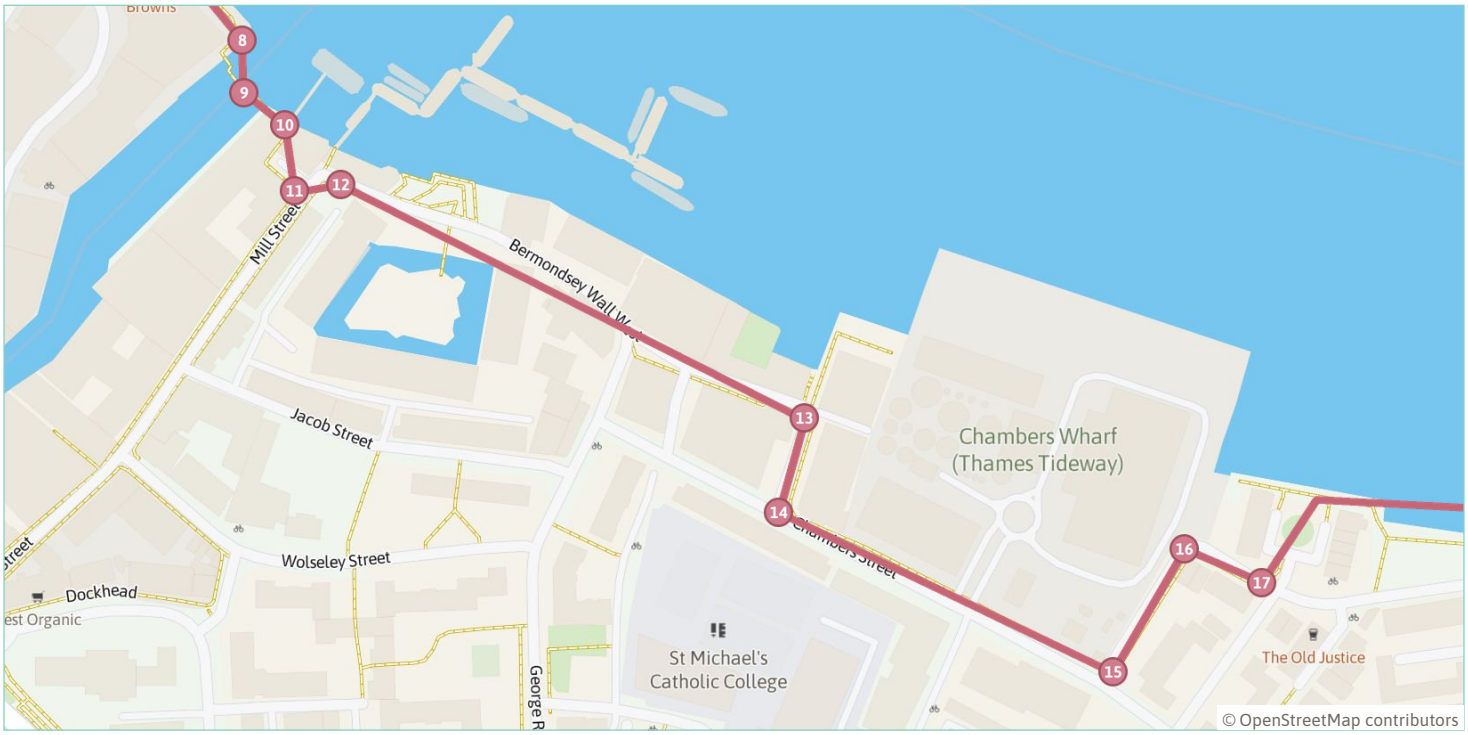


Step 9: Head across the bridge to New Concordia Wharf and Jacob's Island Pier.

Did you know?

This is the part of Bermondsey which Charles Dickens described as, "the filthiest, strangest and most extraordinary of the many localities that are hidden in London".

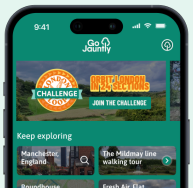
Step 10: After crossing the inlet to St. Saviour's, the Thames Path goes through and under the building on the river frontage.

Step 11: Follow the narrow ramped path down to Mill Street.

Step 12: Then carry on straight ahead along Bermondsey Wall West. The river is mainly hidden by old warehouses here.

Step 13: Turn right down East Lane.

Step 14: Then turn left into Chambers Street.



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Step 15: Take the next left into Loftie Street.

Step 16: Follow the road as it bends round to the right.

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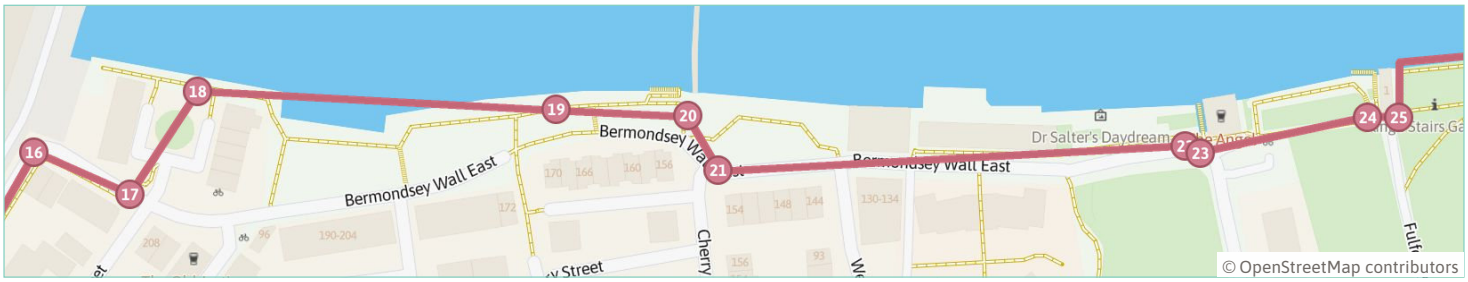

Step 17: Take your next left to walk through Fountain Green Square to get back riverside.

Step 18: Turn right at the river to continue with the Thames on your left.

Step 19: The walkway widens at it approaches the pier by Bermondsey Beach and there are many tree planters for shade.

Step 20: At Cherry Garden Pier, turn right to head back to the road via the metal barriers.

Step 21: Turn left to continue along Bermondsey Wall East.

Step 22: At the end of the road you'll reach The Angel pub on your left.

Step 23: To the right of The Angel pub there is a sunken grassy space which hides the remains of the 14th-century moated manor house of Edward III.

Did you know?

King Edward III, who reigned from 1327 - 77 built a residence in Rotherhithe. Part of the walls still stand today!

Step 24: Follow the road straight past the pub onto the pedestrian path.

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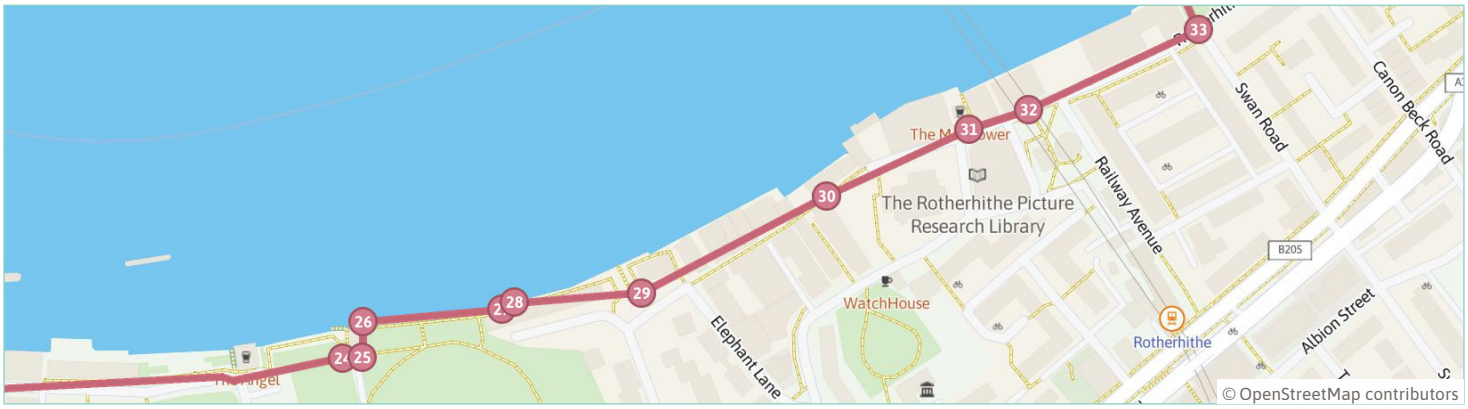

Step 25: On your left, take the ramp past the barriers back up to the river.

Step 26: These are the lovely King's Stairs Gardens, named after the stairs that served Edward III's palace.

Did you know?

The stairs also served generations of watermen and the mudlarks who scavenged along the river at low tide. The word mudlark was originally used to name the children in Victorian London who were forced by desperate poverty to scour the Thames foreshore for items to sell for a few pence - such things as bits of coal and rope, discarded iron, copper nails, old bones (ground up for fertiliser) and lost tools.

Step 27: From King's Stairs Gardens carry on ahead, with the river on the left.

Did you know?

On the north bank of the Thames you can see across to the the Execution Dock. Here the notorious Captain Kidd, who had been convicted of piracy and murder, was executed on in 1701.

Step 28: Go through a narrow passage between warehouses linked by overhead bridges.

Step 29: After the warehouses, pass through the barriers to get back to the road. Turn left to continue on Elephant Lane then Rotherhithe Street.

Step 30: Pass by St. Mary's Church, which provides the burial place for four of The Mayflower's owners including Christopher Jones, who captained the ship to the New World.

Step 31: You have now reached the lovely old pub, The Mayflower. Continue on Rotherhithe Street.

Did you know?

The pub is named after the famous ship which carried the Pilgrim Fathers to America in 1620, and which began its epic journey from its mooring near here, returning to London the following year.
The Last Will and Testament of the Mayflower crew is displayed in the bar and the passenger list is on show in the restaurant upstairs.

Step 32: Just beyond the pub is Brunel Museum.

Did you know?

During the construction of Brunel's Thames Tunnel this building was the engine house which pumped out water. The Thames Tunnel was the first tunnel ever built under a navigable river. Today it is used by trains between Rotherhithe and Wapping on the London Overground.

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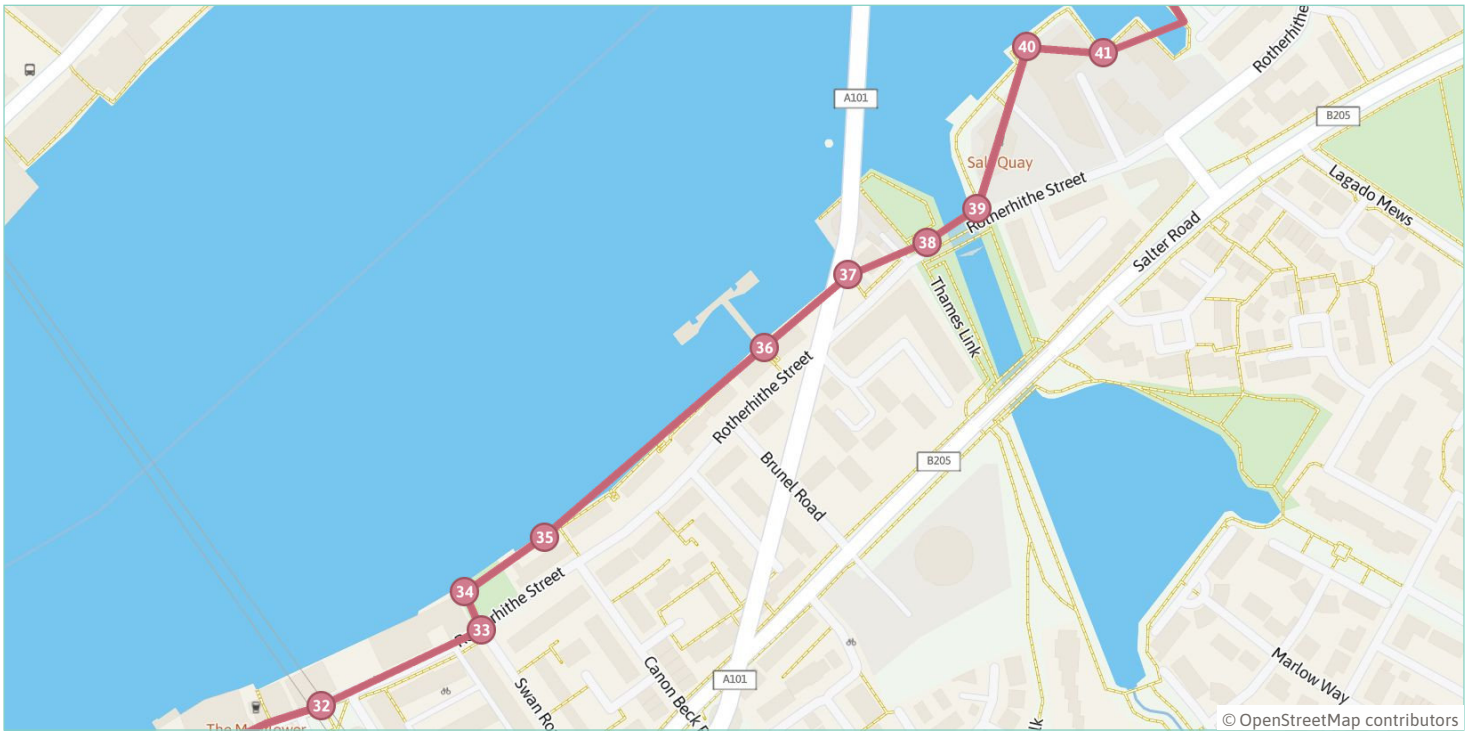


Step 33: At the junction with Swan Road, look for a signpost next to the trees on the left. Turn left through a small garden area to reach the river.

Step 34: This sculpture represents the ghost of William Bradford, the famous governor of the New Plymouth Colony.

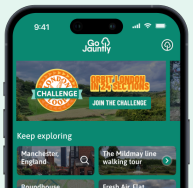
Step 35: Walk on riverside with the Thames on your left again.

Step 36: Along the path you'll see views inland to Rotherhithe's gasometer.

Step 37: Turn right at Octagon Court to come back to the road once again. Turn left onto Rotherhithe Street towards the bridge.

Step 38: You have now reached the entrance to Surrey Water. Cross Surrey Basin Bascule Bridge.

Step 39: On the other side, turn to the left and head down the steps to walk around the Old Salt Quay pub.



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Step 40: Continue past the apartments.

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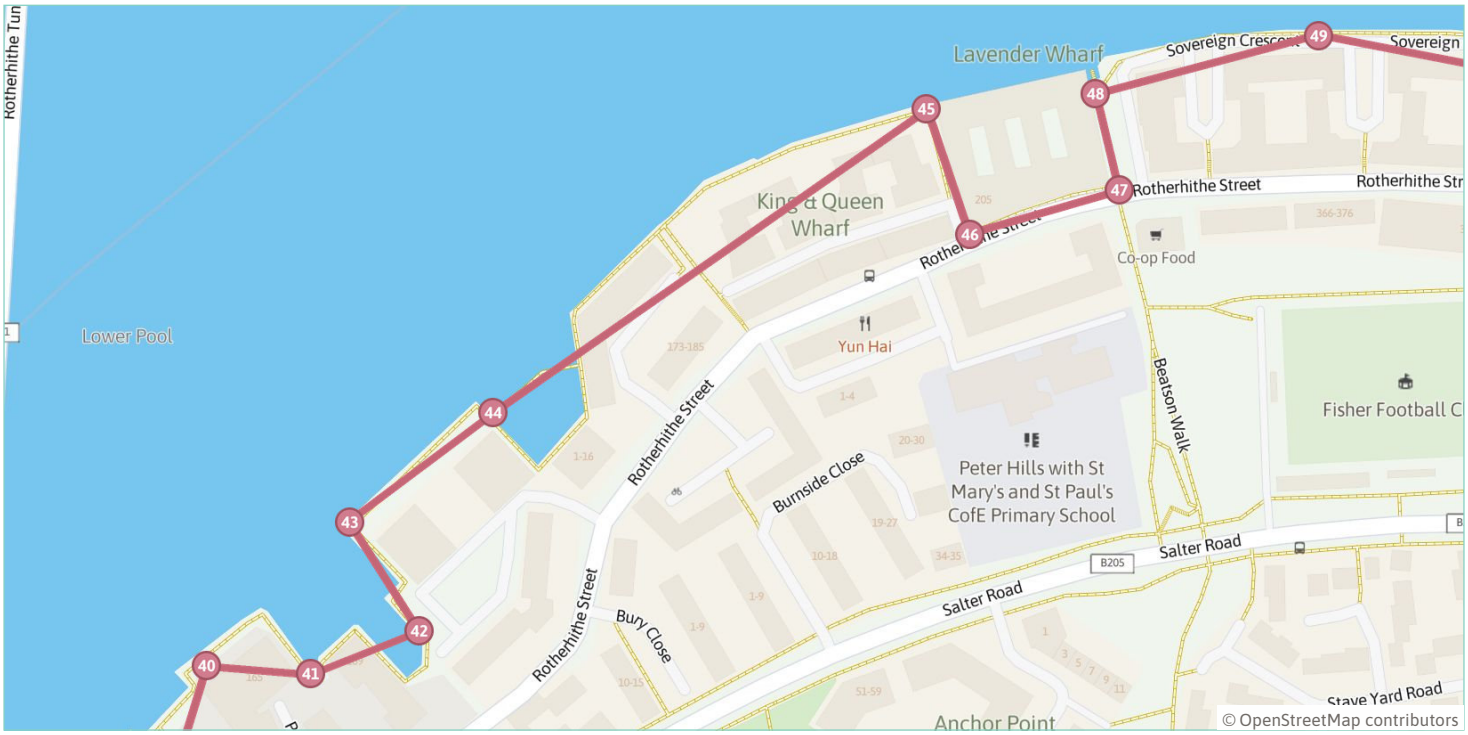

Step 41: Head inland briefly as the route follows the water's edge as it goes around a series of inlets.

Step 42: As you come back to the river, don't forget to take in the views to your left, right and across the Thames.

Step 43: You may see rowers and other water sports along this stretch.

Step 44: At the next inlet, you can use the bridge to go straight across.

Step 45: At the former warehouse and rice mill of Globe Wharf turn right to head away from the river.

Step 46: Turn left onto Rotherhithe Street.

Step 47: Now head back to river via Globe Stairs.

Step 48: Before the staircase, take the ramp on the right to walk back along the river.

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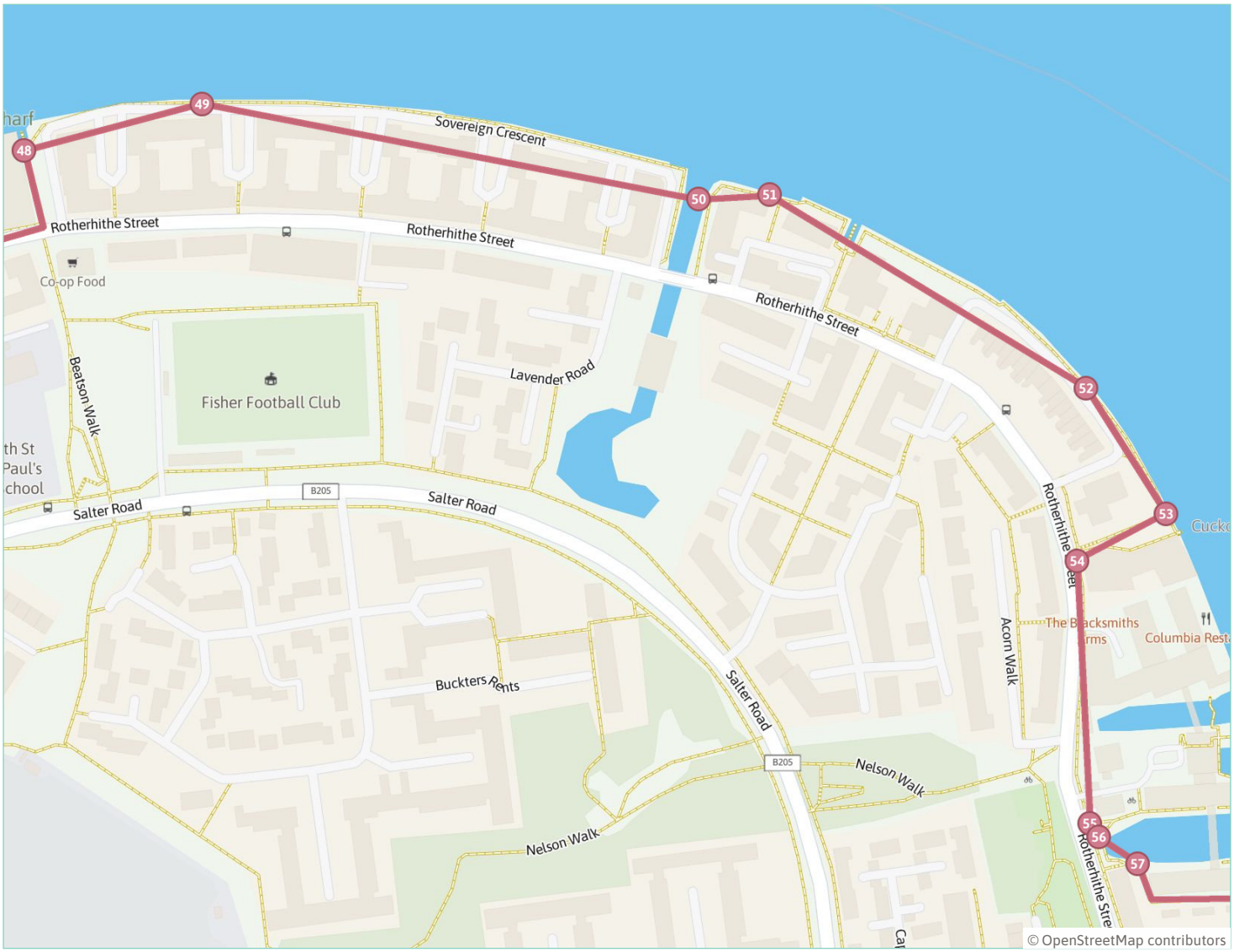

Step 49: Pass the handsome houses of Sovereign Crescent.

Step 50: Then go over the little footbridge over an inlet. You can head inland here for a small detour around Lavender Pond Nature Reserve.

Step 51: Continue riverside with clear views to the tower blocks Canary Wharf's financial centre.

Step 52: Continue on alongside Pageant Crescent.

Step 53: Continue on for a short while as the road ends. Turn right down the this passage towards Rotherhithe Street.

Step 54: Turn left and pass The Blacksmiths Arms pub on the way.

Step 55: Take the stairs on the left after passing the Hilton Hotel.

Step 56: Turn right at the top of the steps, enjoying views across Nelson Dock to Canary Wharf.

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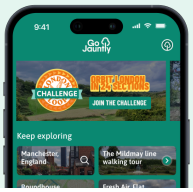
Step 57: Walk away from Nelson Dock, to skirt around the apartment block of Nelson Court.

Step 58: Turn left with Nelson Court on your left and the river straight ahead of you and walk back to the river.



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Step 59: Turn right and pass through the metal barriers as you continue along the river to pass Durand's Wharf green space.

Step 60: The next landmark you will reach is Surrey Docks Farm, which was once the site of an 18th century shipyard.

Step 61: The Farm has a variety of animals, a working blacksmiths, a dairy, a herb garden and a cafe.

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Step 62: Continue past the farm and it's parade of bronze animals.

Step 63: Head out the exit gate and continue straight ahead along the river.

Step 64: Turn right as the path leads away from the river again.

Step 65: Now turn left onto Odessa Street.

Step 66: Then turn left again by The Ship & Whale pub to reach the river.

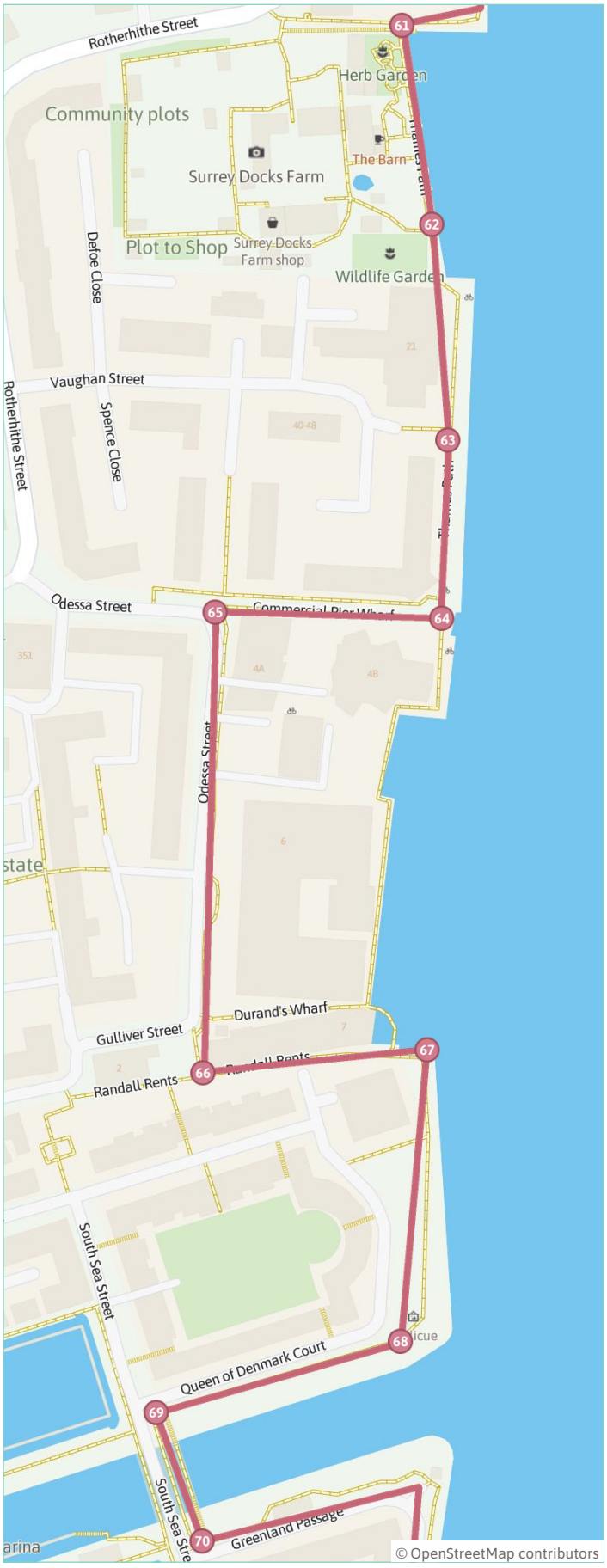
Step 67: Walk on to the entrance to the Greenland Dock.

Step 68: Follow the path parallel to Queen of Denmark Court until you reach South Sea Street.

Step 69: Turning left at South Sea Street and cross over Greenland Dock entrance via the pedestrian bridge.

Did you know?

Created in the 17th century to serve the Royal Dockyards at Deptford, Greenland Dock later became a base for Arctic whalers - hence its name.



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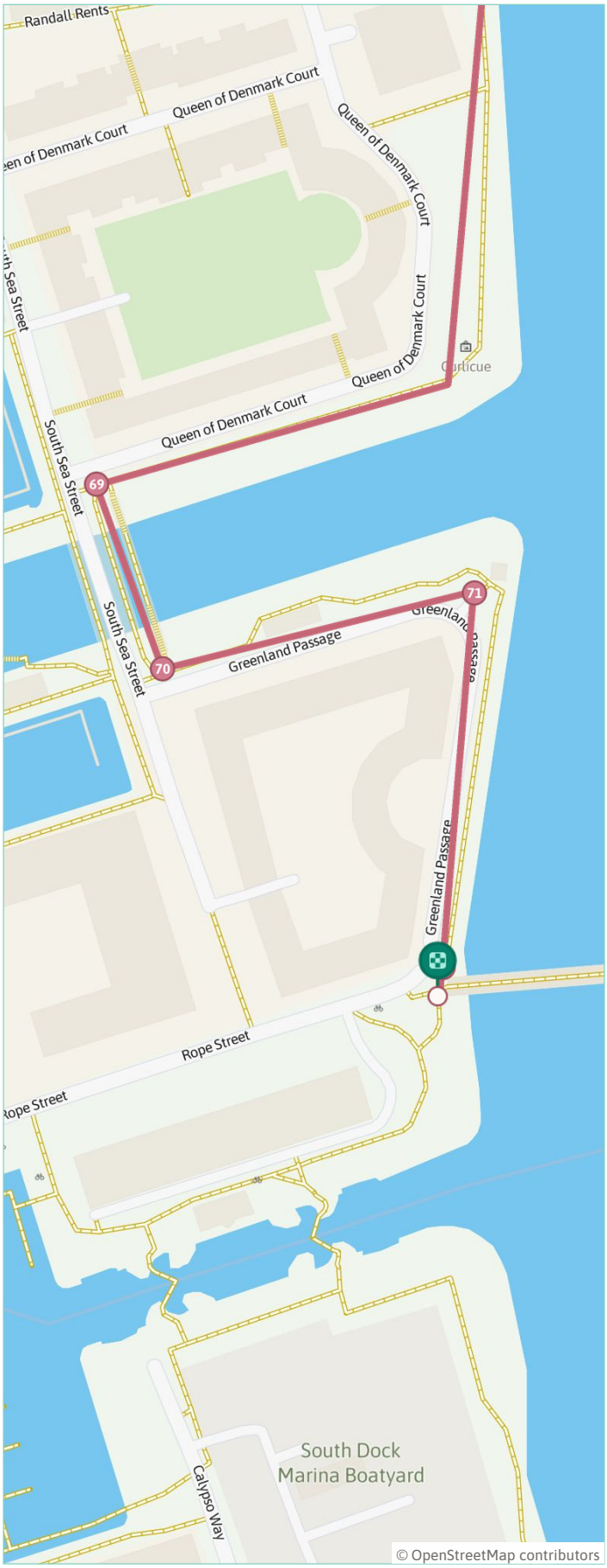
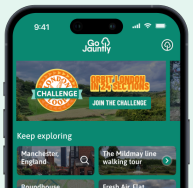


Step 70: Turn left once you have crossed the water to continue along the riverside path towards the Tide Gauge House.

Step 71: For lock operations, the people on duty needed to know the exact state of the tide. In this house, a tide gauge monitored the water height.



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Step 72: Along the river you'll soon reach Greenland Pier where this section ends.

Did you know?

This whole peninsula took the biggest pounding of any British docks in World War II. South Dock was pumped out and used to build the concrete caissons for the 'Mulberry Harbours', used in the D-Day landings, and named after Mulberry Quay.

Step 73: You've now completed this section of the Thames Path. How about moving on to the next section towards Greenwich Power Station?

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