



Durham Blooming Trail

A leisurely, circular bloom-filled walk around Durham. Expect gorgeous views, beautiful bridges and wonderful buildings along the way.

Distance 4.3 kilometers / 2.7 miles

Duration 1 hour and 40 minutes



Great views



Public loos



Refreshments



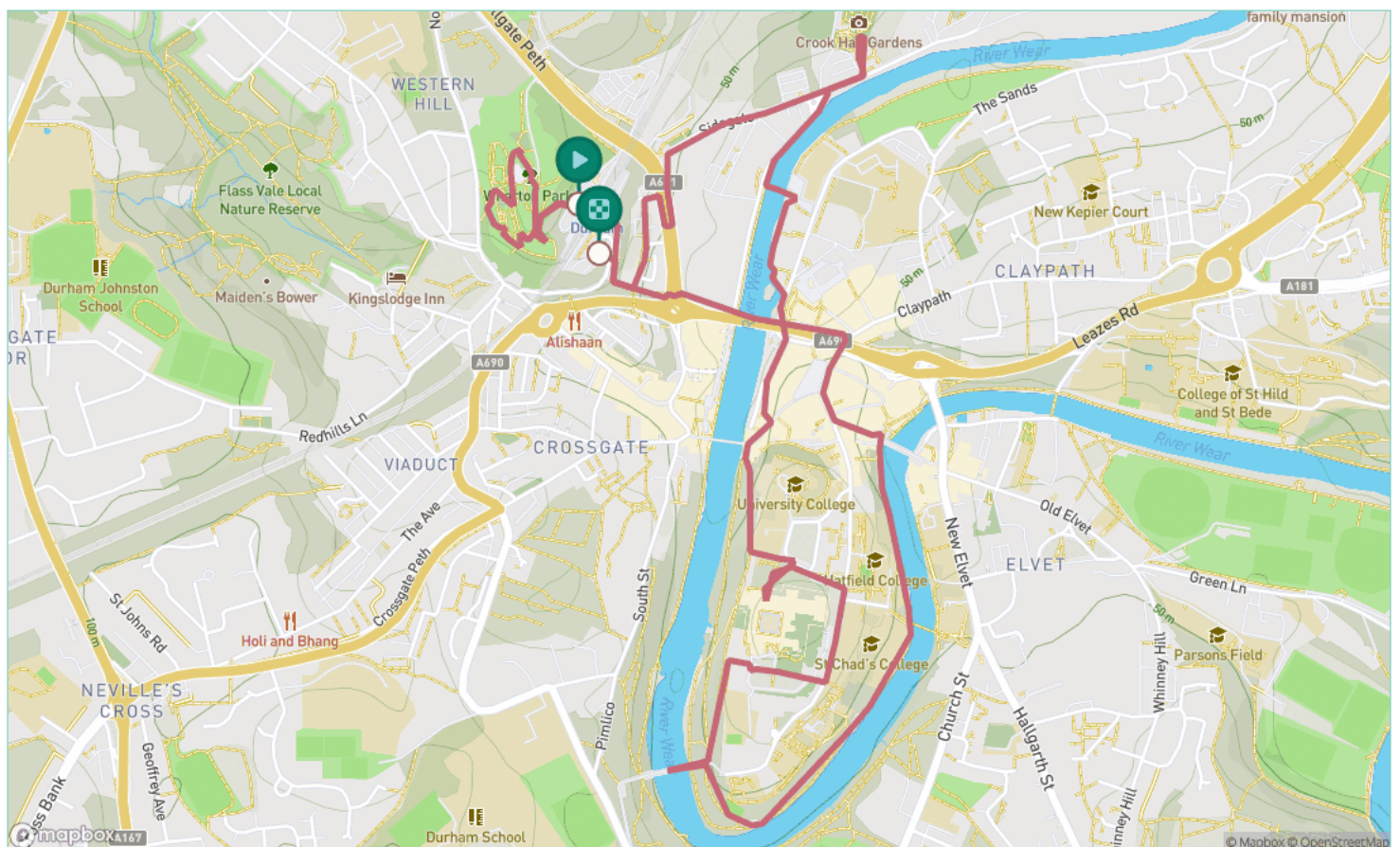
Public transport



History

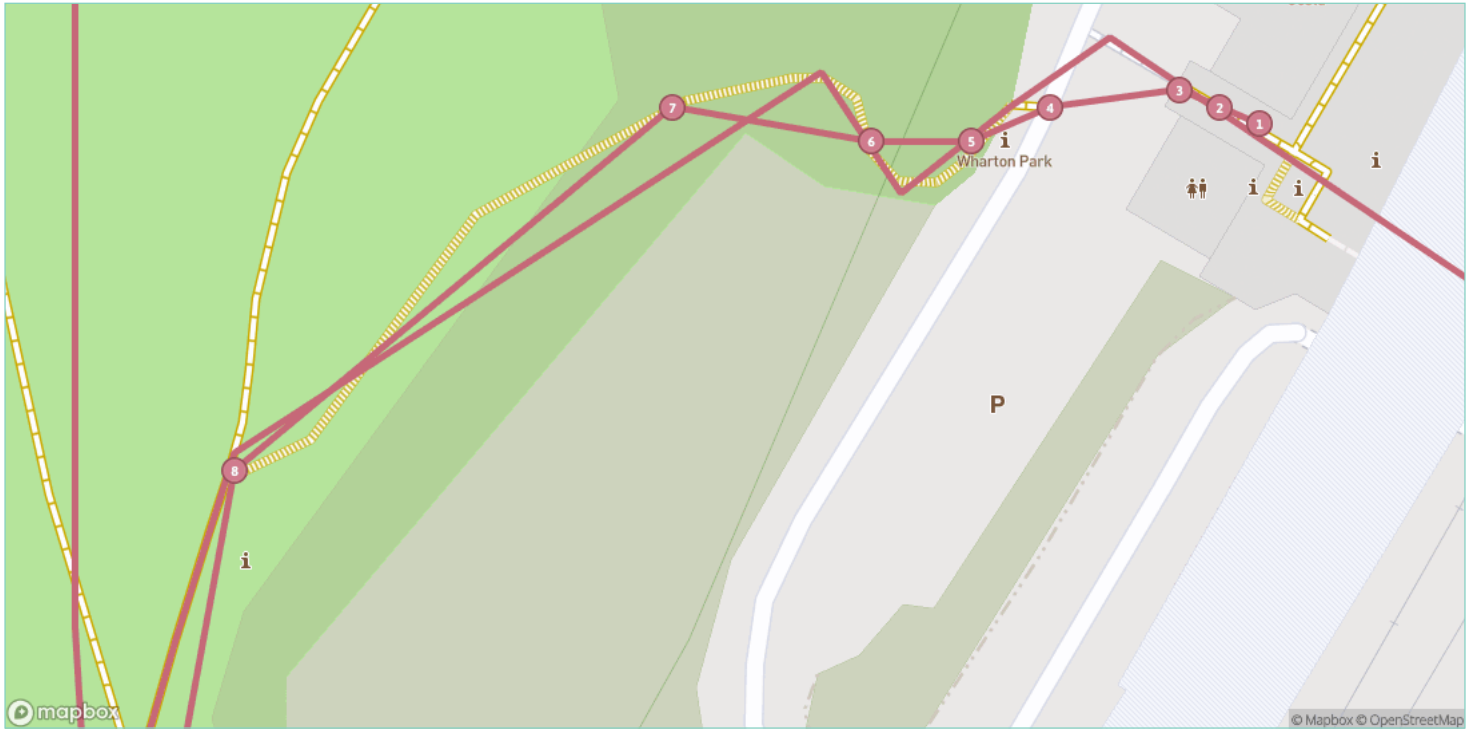


Hilly & steep



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.

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Step 1: Welcome to the Big Blooming Walks. We've teamed up with the National Trust to bring you a series of special spring walks celebrating the most beautiful time of year. Get ready to stop and smell the blooms! Let's go.

Step 2: This circular walk starts and ends at Durham train station. Please note that there are lots of steps en route and it's hilly in places. Take your time to explore. You don't need to rush. 🌸

Step 3: Start outside Durham station on the Northbound side.

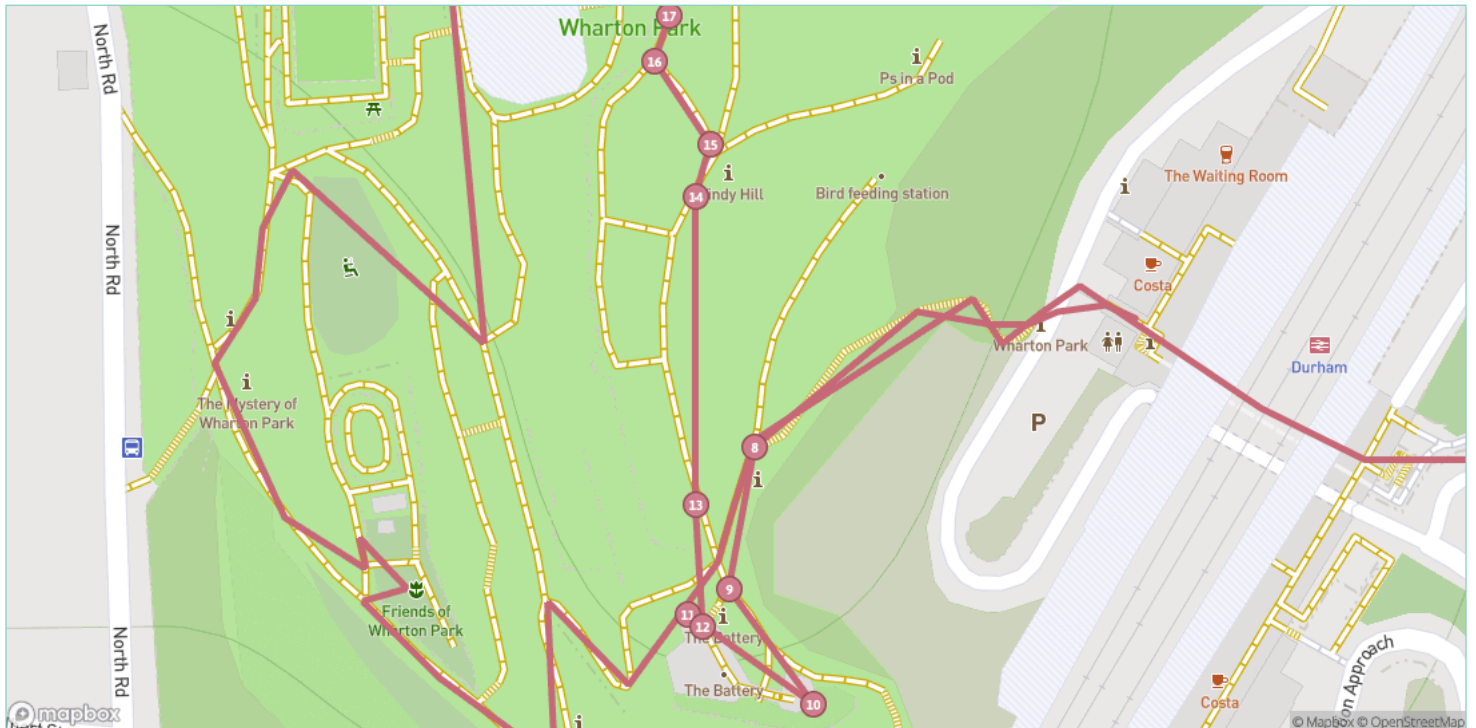
Step 4: Cross over at the zebra crossing and go through the gate to Wharton Park.

Step 5: Go up the steps, there are quite a few!

Step 6: Turn right and continue up the steps.

Step 7: Keep going, it's worth it!

Step 8: At the top, take a second to catch your breath before turning to the left and going towards The Battery.



Step 9: Continue up a few more steps.

Step 10: Once on the Battery viewing platform, continue left where you'll find this amazing viewing tower looking out over the centre of Durham.

Step 11: Turn around and head back the way you came. Make sure to look out for the statue of William Lloyd Wharton, the creator of this park.

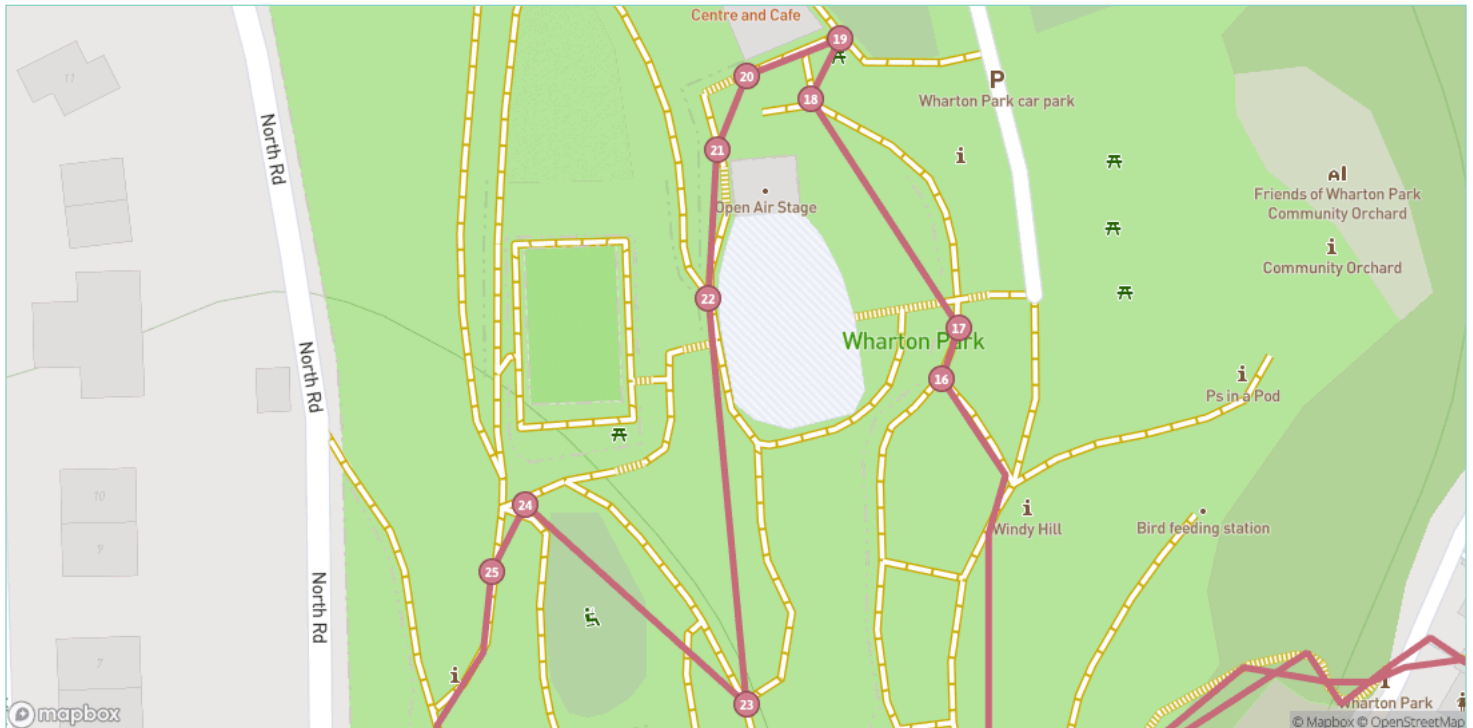
Step 12: Go back down the steps.

Step 13: Turn left and continue along the path around the top of the park.

Step 14: Pass by these 'Ps in a Pod' sculptures by Louise Plant on the right.

Step 15: Take the path to the right, just before the car park.

Step 16: You'll find the Amphitheatre directly ahead.



Step 17: Turn right and walk around the Amphitheatre.

Step 18: Soon you'll arrive at the Wharton Park Heritage Centre and Cafe.

Step 19: To the right is a playground.

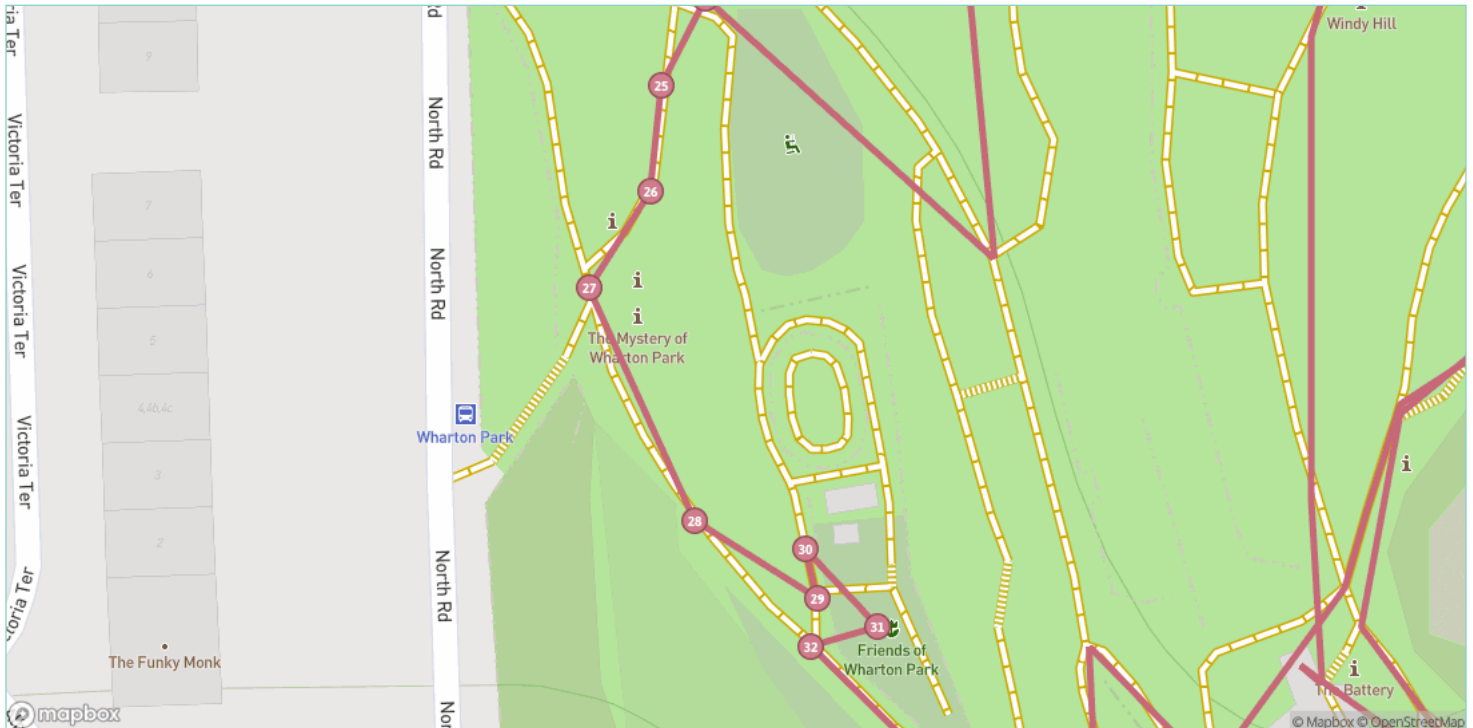
Step 20: Take the steps on the left.

Step 21: Head down towards the bottom of the Amphitheatre which is now on the left.

Step 22: Once at the bottom continue straight ahead.

Step 23: Slightly further along the path, turn right and make a U-turn, heading down the hill.

Step 24: At the bottom of the hill, turn left, with the playground on your left.



Step 25: Continue along the path to the right of the playground.

Step 26: Pass by 'Albert the Good' on the left. This statue is known as the mystery of Wharton Park as its exact origins are unknown.

Step 27: With an entrance to the park on the right, continue ahead.

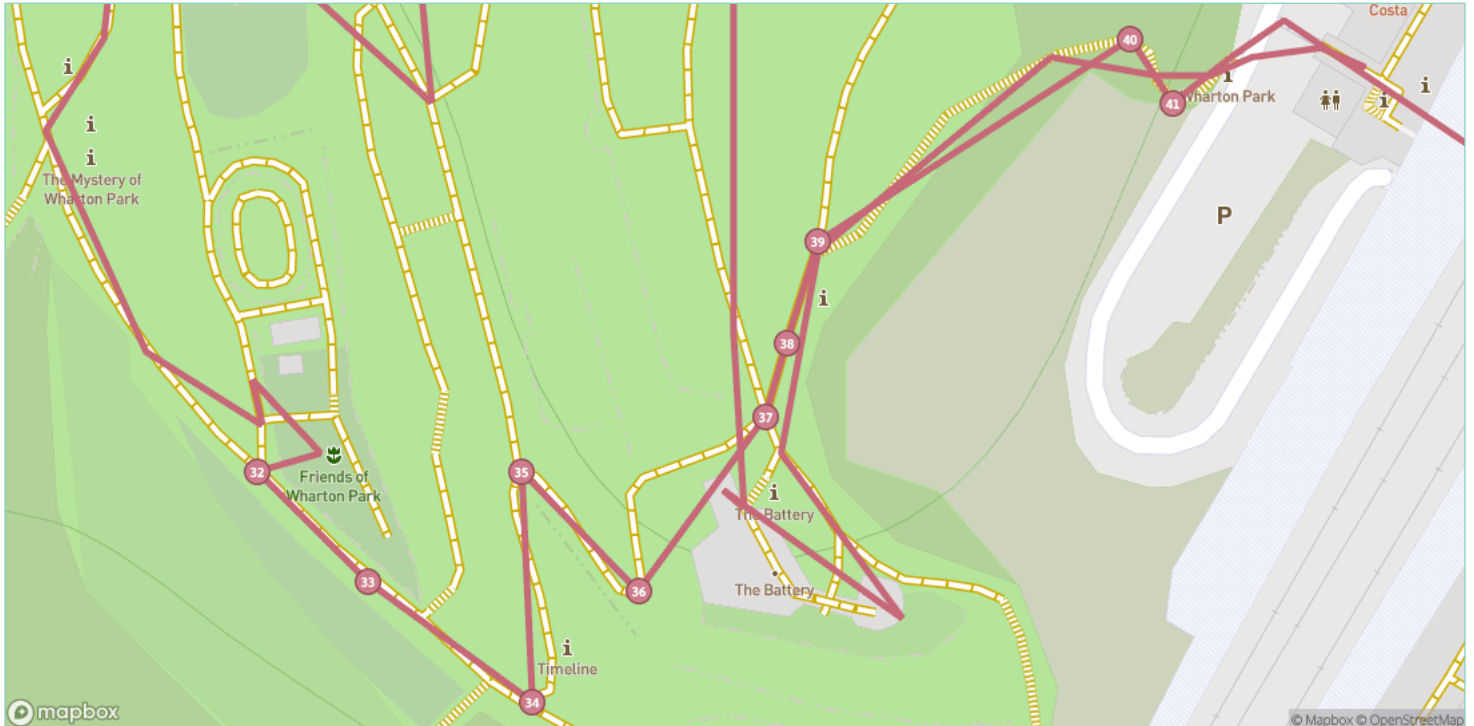
Step 28: Continue up the path as it starts to head uphill.

Step 29: On the left you'll find this delightful community garden.

Step 30: There's a welcoming entrance to the left.

Step 31: This small and delightful spot is a real positive and well worth a visit en route.

Step 32: Head back to the main path.



Step 33: Continue left up the hill.

Step 34: Take the path on the left.

Step 35: Then on the right.

Step 36: Continue as it bends around to the left as the William Lloyd Wharton statue appears on the brow of the hill.

Step 37: You're finally back at the top of the hill.

Step 38: Make sure to enjoy all the flowers planted in the grounds.

Step 39: Head back to the stairs and continue down to the station.

Step 40: It's much easier going down than going up, but still be careful. Pop the phone away and hold onto the handrail!



Step 41: Continue towards the gate.

Step 42: Once through the gate, don't forget to close it. Cross over the road at the zebra crossing.

Step 43: Turn left and then right and head back into the station.

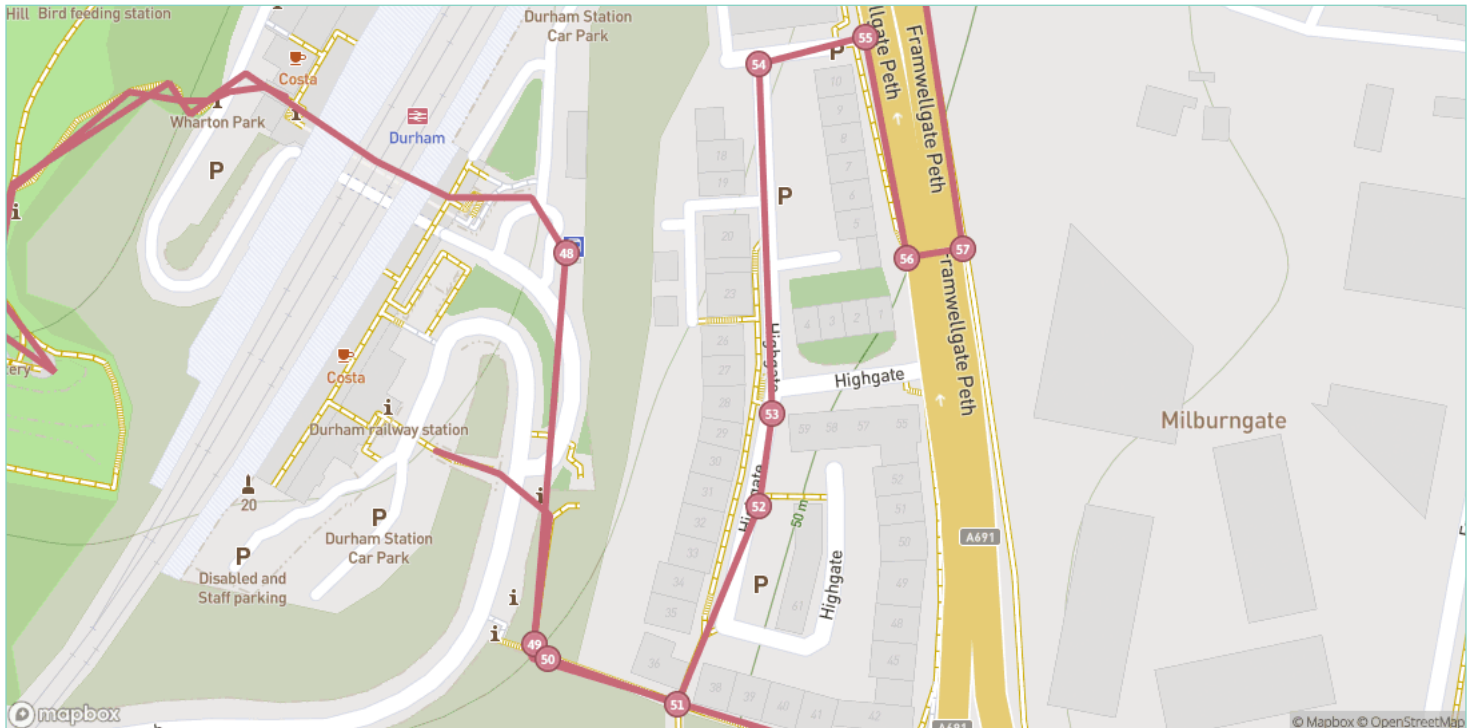
Step 44: Once in the station, turn right and head down the stairs towards Platform 1 and the Way Out.

Step 45: Once down the stairs, continue along the underpass.

Step 46: Turn left once out of the underpass.

Step 47: Then turn right and cross over the road at this bus stop.

Step 48: Turn right on the other side and start to head down the hill, away from the station.



Step 49: A little further along, turn left and head towards this small path which leads to some steps.

Step 50: Continue down these steps.

Step 51: Halfway down the steps, turn left in this gap between the houses.

Step 52: It opens up onto Highgate, a residential street lined with blossom trees.

Step 53: Continue along Highgate, crossing over this side road.

Step 54: At the end of Highgate, turn right and walk towards the main road, along the path on the left.

Step 55: Once on the main road, turn right and head down the road a little. Look out for a traffic island.

Step 56: At the central island, very carefully cross over the road. Cars drive fast here, so please take extra care. ⚠️



Step 57: Once over the road, turn left and head back up the road.

Step 58: Then turn right and walk down this small side road on the right hand side.

Step 59: At the bottom of the side road turn right to walk along this lovely cobbled street called Sidegate.

Step 60: At the bottom it turns into a tarmac road, even though it's quiet, take care as it's a shared-use road.

Step 61: Continue on the road, with a car park on the left.

Step 62: Cross over to the left hand side, onto the pavement and continue along Frankland Lane.

Step 63: Further along Frankland Lane you'll find Crook Hall Gardens and Cafe. The cafe is free to enter.

Step 64: These lovely gardens are looked after by the National Trust, so include an entrance fee unless you're a member. Visit for blooms galore.



Step 65: Head into Crook Hall, follow along the main path with the maze on the right.

Step 66: At the top of the path on the left hand side, you'll find Crook Hall, with this beautiful magnolia in front.

Step 67: Built in the 1300s, Crook Hall has grown from medieval hall to Jacobean manor to Georgian townhouse. It was once visited by poet William Wordsworth and poet and novelist, Walter Scott.

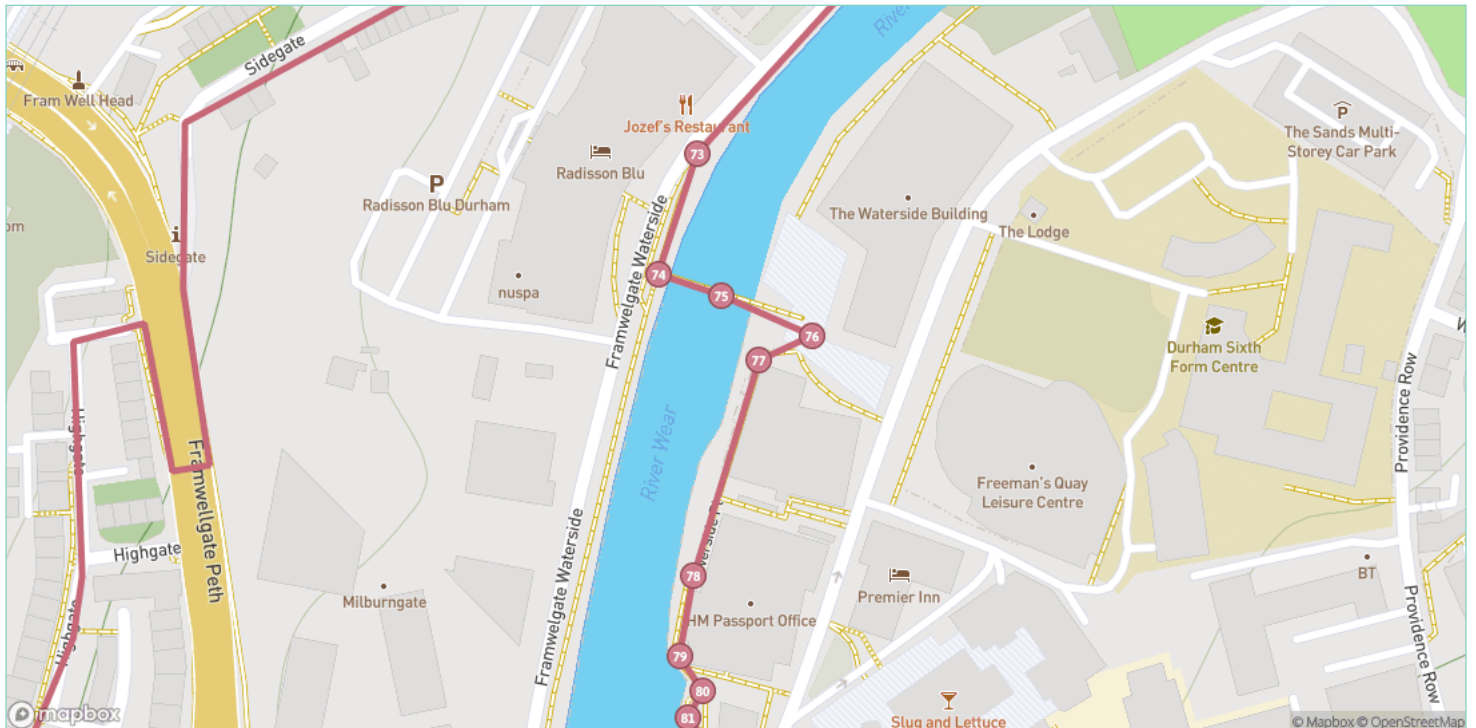
Step 68: Please explore all the wonderful parts of these special gardens, before returning past the maze and through the exit.

Step 69: When back outside, go down the steps, turn right and head back along Frankland Lane.

Step 70: Just before the roundabout, cross over the road on the left.

Step 71: After crossing, turn right and continue along the footway.

Step 72: The River Wear is on the left.



Step 73: Take the path onto the bridge on the left.

Step 74: Turn left to cross over The Pennyferry Bridge. Named after a historic penny ferry that once carried locals across the Wear, for a penny!

Step 75: Enjoy the views up the River Wear which travels 60 miles from its source in the Pennines to the North Sea at Sunderland.

Step 76: Once over the bridge, turn right and look for the start of the river path, under this fun angloise lamp.

Step 77: Continue along this path as it bends to the left...

Step 78: ...and then cuts around this tree.

Step 79: Look out for the weir on the Wear on the right. Enjoy the sound of the running water.

Step 80: As the path turns to the left you'll reach a nice seating area. Fancy trying out a 5 minute blossom meditation? Tap 'Read More' below.

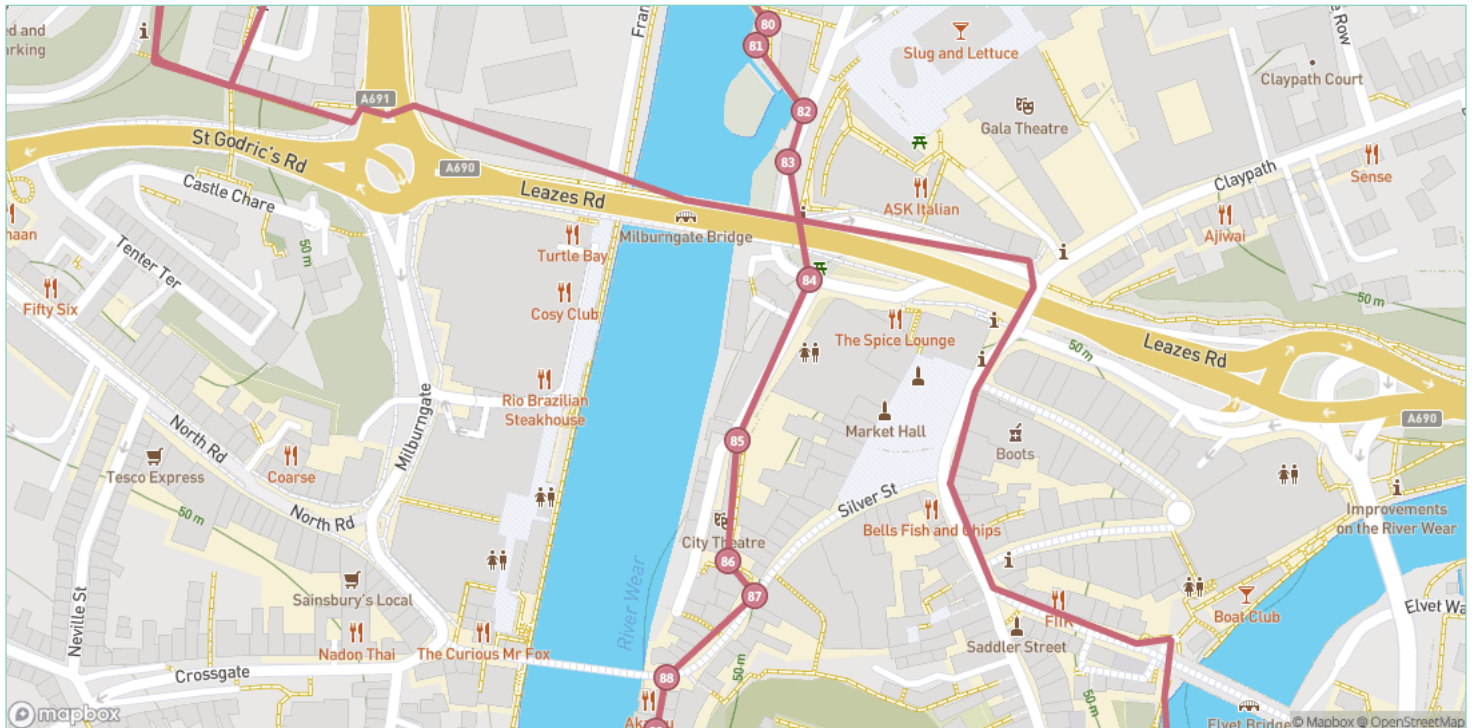
Take a breather in blossom

Take a seat on a bench or sit on the grass and enjoy a little breather amidst the blossom. Grab your headphones and try this short guided 5 minute blossom meditation.

If you've never tried meditation before, this is the perfect way to start. Adding just 5 minutes of mindfulness to your day can help slow things down and boost your mood.

Blossom Meditation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=-fKmb7a4YNEU>



Step 81: At this spot you'll also find a viewing platform with great views over the river. The weir also acts as a salmon and trout leap and counter!

Step 88: Continue down Silver Street, then turn left and go down these small steps, between shops, just before the bridge on the right.

Step 82: Continue left along the pavement.

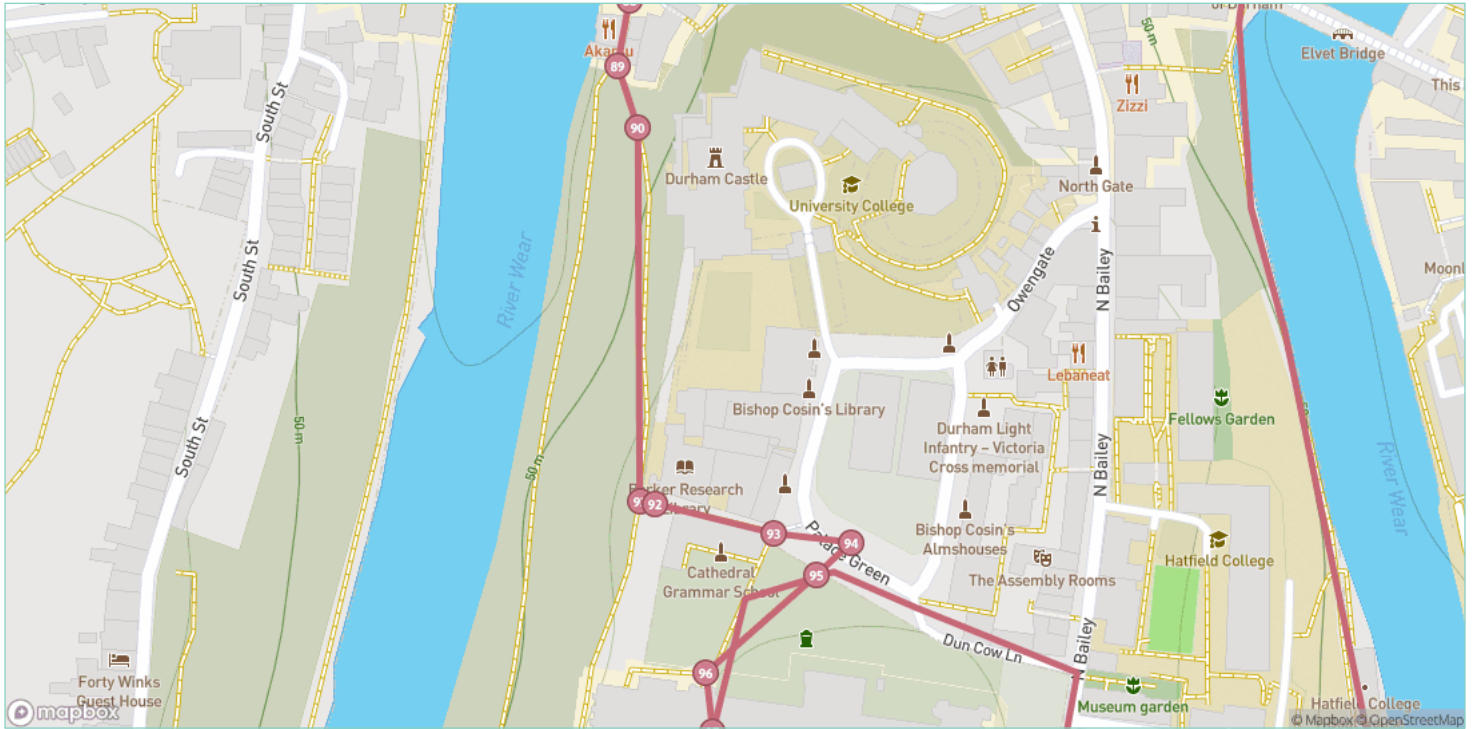
Step 83: Continue past this sculpture of a Heron on the right.

Step 84: After passing under Milburngate Bridge, turn right onto Back Silver Street.

Step 85: Then look out for this small path on the left, that cuts between the houses.

Step 86: At the top of this path, turn left and go up these steps.

Step 87: Once at the top, turn right onto the pedestrianised Silver Street.



Step 89: Once down the steps and out the alleyway, turn left and head up the path signposted for the Cathedral and Castle.

Step 90: Continue up the path with Durham Castle visible above and to the left.

Step 91: At the top of the path, you get a great view of the Cathedral Tower.

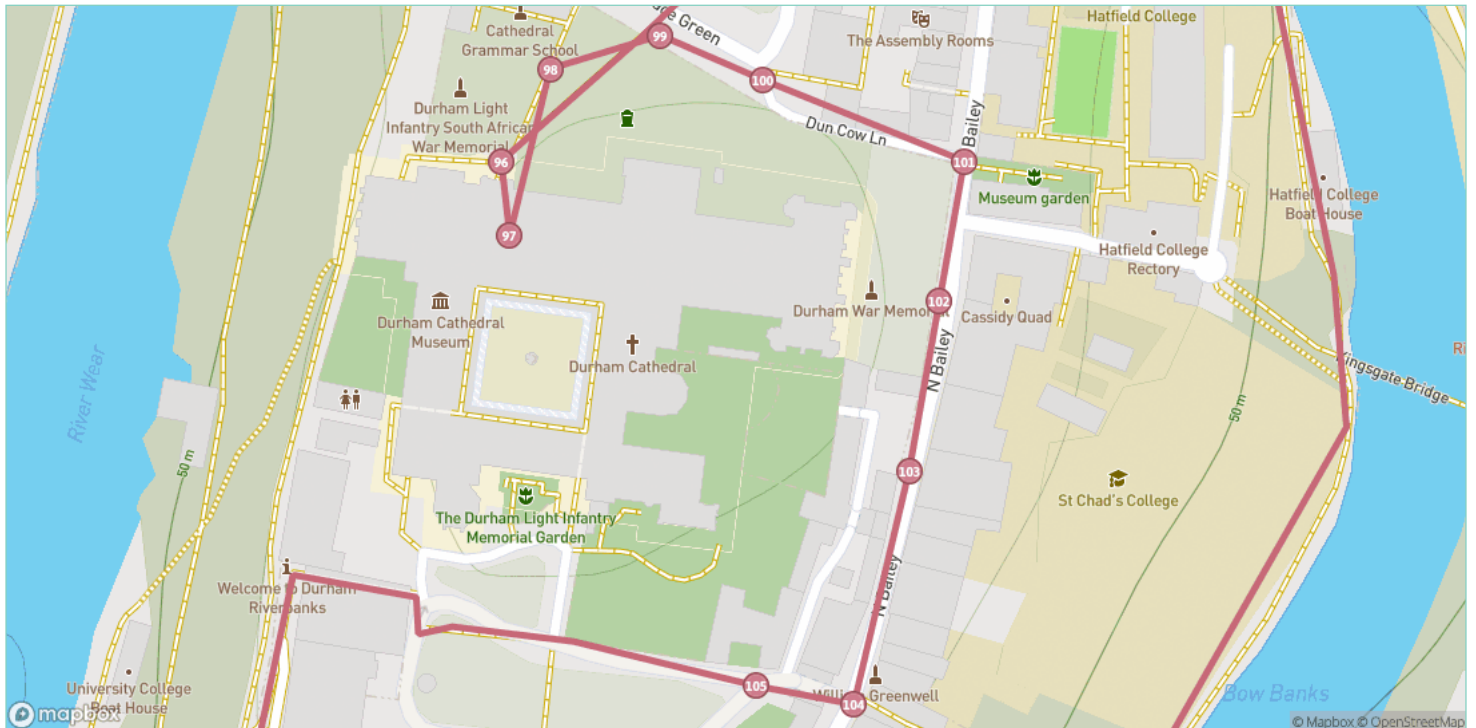
Step 92: Turn left and head along this path between the buildings.

Step 93: At the end of the path, it opens up onto Palace Green.

Step 94: To the left is Durham Castle, with a row of blossom trees in front.

Step 95: And to the right is Durham Cathedral, the grounds in front include some blossoming fruit trees.

Step 96: This is one of England's greatest cathedrals and has stood on this riverside peninsula for over 900 years. It's free to enter.



Step 97: We recommend you check out the inside of the Cathedral which is spectacular. It's well worth a visit.

Step 98: When you're ready, head back out and along the same path through the grounds.

Step 99: Once back in Palace Green, turn right and head along the pavement.

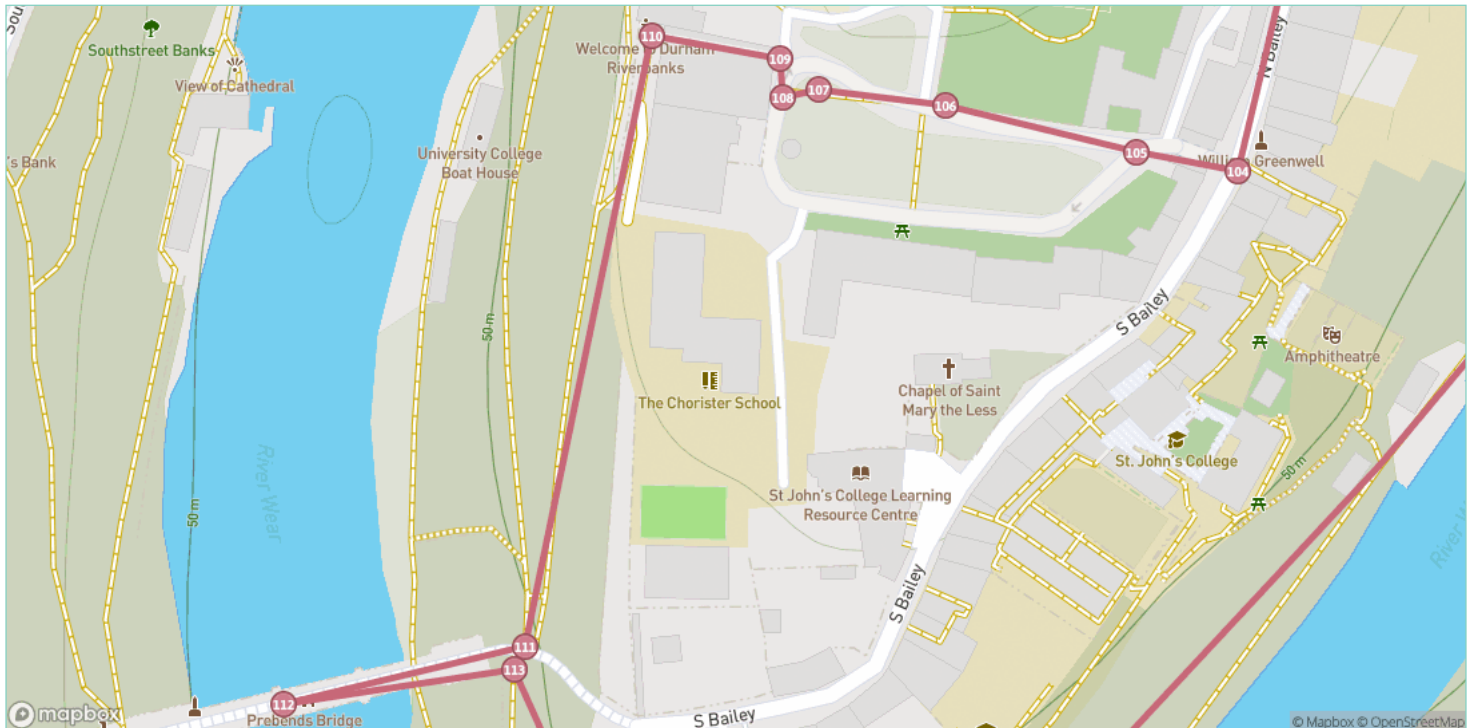
Step 100: Take the small Dun Cow Lane directly ahead. Mind out for the bollard.

Step 101: At the bottom of the lane, turn right onto North Bailey Road.

Step 102: Look to the right for a spectacular round window in the Cathedral with a war memorial in front.

Step 103: Continue along North Bailey, carefully crossing to the pavement on the left hand side.

Step 104: Head under this archway on the right.



Step 105: It opens up onto this lovely square full of blossom trees.

Step 106: Walk along the pavement on the right hand side.

Step 107: Look right for views over to the Cathedral.

Step 108: Don't miss this stunning magnolia tree inside the grounds of a school on the left.

Step 109: Go through this undercover archway path, at the top right of the square.

Step 110: Once you're out of the alleyway, turn left and head down the path.

Step 111: At the bottom of the path, you'll reach Prebends Bridge.

Step 112: We are not going this way, but we wanted to show you the view from the bridge. ♡



Step 113: Retrace your steps to the end of the bridge and take the path on the right, going down towards the river.

Step 114: Pass by a tennis court on the left.

Step 115: You'll find The Count's House which looks like a tiny Greek temple at the bottom of the hill.

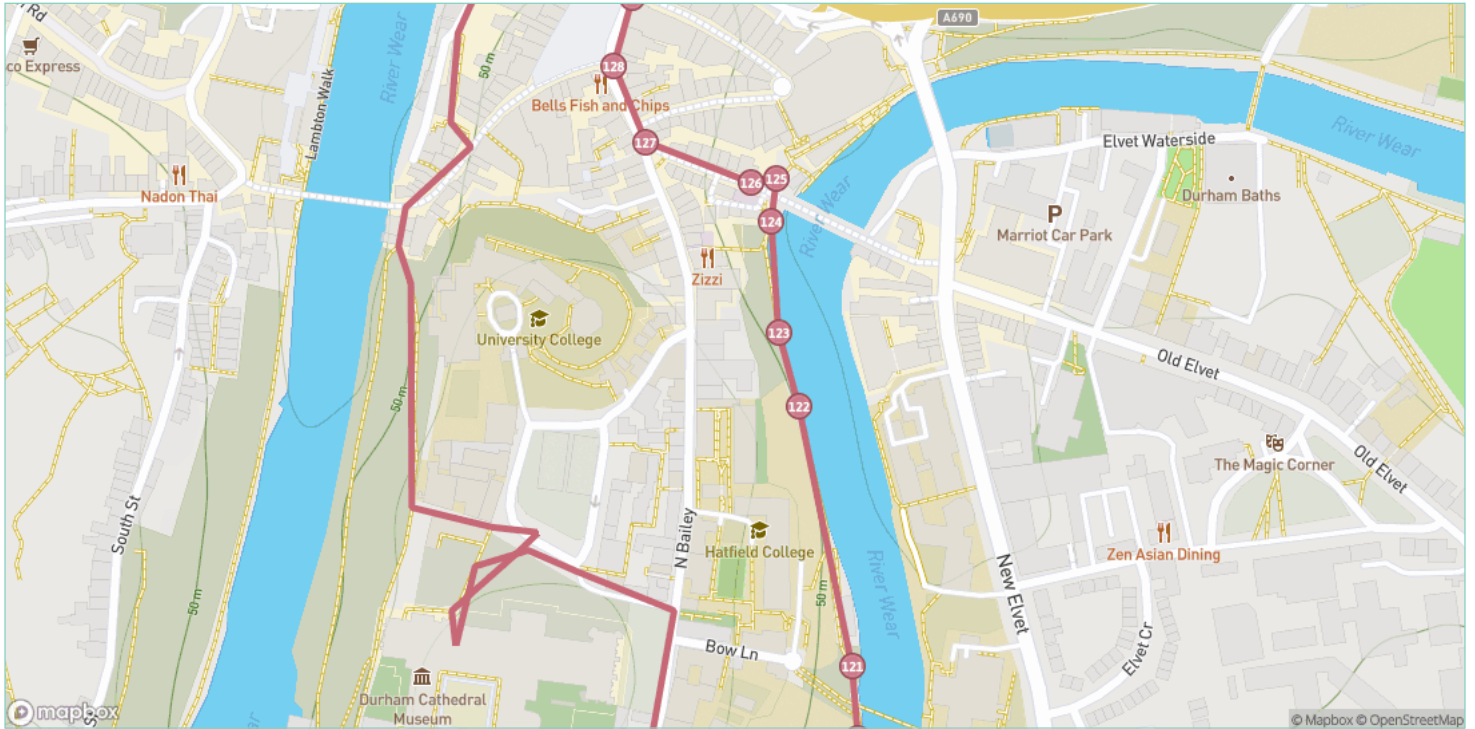
Step 116: The Count's House is a folly named after a Polish entertainer Count Joseph Boruwlaski, who stood 3ft 3in tall. He performed for royalty across Europe including Marie Antoinette, before settling in his beloved city, Durham.

Step 117: Turn left and continue along the path with the river now alongside on the right.

Step 118: Can you spot the church on the other side of the river?

Step 119: Look out for rowers on the river. You won't miss the trainer on the path shouting instructions as they row by.

Step 120: Continue under Kingsgate Bridge which was designed by Ove Arup, engineer of the Sydney Opera House.



Step 121: Continue along the path.

Step 122: Be careful as the path drops down here and is quite steep. The stunning Elvet Bridge will soon come into view.

Step 123: Medieval Elvet Bridge was once a bustling street lined with shops, chapels and a prison. Today it's a peaceful pedestrian crossing.

Step 124: Go under the bridge on the left hand side.

Step 125: Then go up the bridge steps on the left.

Step 126: Once at the top, continue right along the pedestrianised Elvet Bridge.

Step 127: Turn right and continue along Saddler Street. Be mindful of traffic.

Step 128: The street opens up onto Durham City Market Place. There is a market here every Thursday and Saturday.



Step 129: Keep to the right hand side and walk down past the market place, then carefully cross over to the left hand side.

Step 130: Go over the bridge, then cross over Leazes Road North. Take note of the signage.

Step 131: Turn left and walk down Leazes Road North.

Step 132: Then head over Milburngate Bridge on the right hand side.

Step 133: There's a final chance to have a look at the Wear.

Step 134: Cross over Framwellgate Peth at the pedestrian crossing.

Step 135: At the second set of lights, cross over to the opposite side.

Step 136: Then turn left and look out for some steps on the right.

