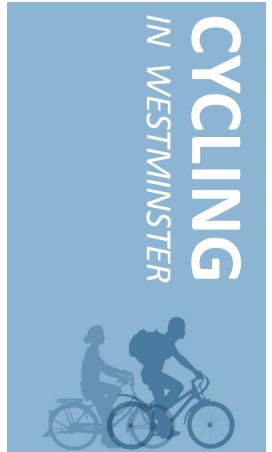


NAIRN'S WESTMINSTER RIDE



Published in 1966, Nairn's London is perhaps the most provocative, inspiring and elegantly written book on London's buildings. Half a century on it has been republished by Penguin. This ride provides a good route to see a selection of the buildings still standing and read some of the best writing.

Buy a copy of Nairn's London to take along. Read what Nairn wrote and decide whether, fifty years on, you agree with him. Expect to see buildings you may have passed hundreds of times but never noticed, and to find yourself looking at London in a sharper and more enquiring way.

PART ONE (3 miles)

A THE RED LION, P78 Duke of York Street (opens 11.30am)

"All around the walls are magnificent cut-glass mirrors, the best in London. And, as the bar space is roughly square, wall after wall after wall is reflected in the real walls."

B PAXTON AND WHITFIELD, P78 Jermyn Street

"Amongst all of West End's tinsel, this is a bit of real gold."

C THE ECONOMIST BUILDING, P80 St James's Street

"This is where the angriest of Britain's young architects were finally given their chance."

D 37 DOVER STREET, P81

"Worth a special visit to see what a man who really knew his stuff could make of three ordinary storeys and three ordinary bays in an ordinary Georgian Street."

E SOHO, P74 Junction of Brewer Street and Rupert Street

"It is the free port that every city must have."

F TOWER OF ST ANNE SOHO, P74 Wardour Street

"Nothing could represent the seamier side of Soho better than this louche presence..."

G THE SALISBURY, P73 St Martin's Lane

"Real West End glitter, with all the stops out."

H GOODWINS COURT, P73

"The view is just blocked by a protruding door, and then steps into a contrast as unexpected as anything in London."

I ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, P70 Trafalgar Square

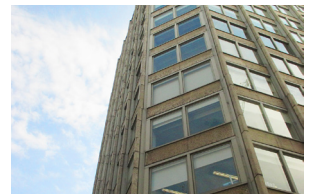
"That the British have a genius for compromise may be a common-place. But to have a genius for anything is very special, and this particular brand is exactly what Gibbs had."



THE RED LION



PAXTON AND WHITFIELD



THE ECONOMIST BUILDING



GOODWINS COURT

NAIRN'S WESTMINSTER RIDE

J NEW ZEALAND HOUSE, P72 Haymarket on the corner with Pall Mall
"Full of small virtues, of the accommodating kind for which one will willingly forgo a large gesture."

K THE TRAVELLERS CLUB AND OTHERS, P68 Pall Mall / Waterloo Place
"What Sir Charles Barry really enjoyed most can be seen by walking up Waterloo Place and looking at the back elevation of The Travellers'."

Return to St James's Square (and maybe a sandwich and a drink in the Red Lion)

PART TWO (8 miles)

L CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, FROM THE MALL, P66
"..this impressionist sweep of columns is one of the traveller's firmest friends in London."

M THE CITADEL, P65 Horse Guards Road
"A wonderful personality, amongst all the overdressed emptiness all around."

N ERMIN'S HOTEL, P62 Caxton Street
"Don't bother to visit southern Europe; come here and suspend belief utterly!"

O BARTON, COWLEY AND LORD NORTH STREET, P58
"A cosy Georgian coverlet to roll up around you"

P ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH, P59 Moreton Street
"Everything is taut, curled in, fighting mad – a superb performance"

Q BELGRAVIA, P125
"Most of it was built and designed by the Cubitts; never shoddy, never unbearable; but never a real spark either."

R THE GRENADIER, P126 Wilton Row
"untouched by half timber, leaded light, chromium plate, of Festival of Britain lettering."

S THE PANTECHNICON, P126 Motcomb Street
"sitting down like a stucco elephant"

T ALBERT GATE HOUSES, P126 Albert Gate
"Utterly symmetrical in effect, yet on a close look completely asymmetrical in detail."

U ROYAL ALBERT HALL, P129
"A mangler of anything but the loudest noises yet a wonderful place which converts each concert or meeting into an occasion."

V ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART, P130, Kensington Gore
"It is the opposite of a firework; it smoulders through to your consciousness with quiet intensity."

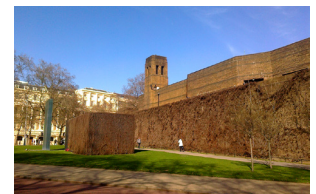
W ALBERT MEMORIAL, P130
"The elephant on one of the corners has a backside just like a businessman scrambling under a restaurant for his cheque-book"

X HYDE PARK CORNER SCREEN, P83
"It must be taken for granted more often than any other building in London..."

Y 26 ST JAMES'S PLACE AND SPENCER HOUSE, P69
"The two palaces, 1750 and 1960, stare out at the park, totally dissimilar, yet now as inseparable as Guinness and oysters."



CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE



THE CITADEL



ST JAMES THE LESS



THE PANTECHNICON



ROYAL ALBERT HALL



ALBERT MEMORIAL



HYDE PARK CORNER SCREEN

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

! As London is constantly changing, check road signs and adapt route as necessary.



L Left **SO** Straight on **X** Cross Roads **LHS** Left Hand Side **RAB** Roundabout
R Right **T** T Junction **TL** Traffic Lights **RHS** Right Hand Side

PART ONE (3 miles)

START: St James's Square ● cycle hire docking station
Cycle around the Square
L onto Duke of York st
Stop on LHS near the top outside

A THE RED LION, P78 Duke of York Street (opens 11.30am)

L into Jermyn St and stop on LHS outside

B PAXTON AND WHITFIELD, P78 Jermyn Street

1st L into Duke St, St James's
R @ T into King St
R @ T into St James's
Stop on LHS by Park Pl, opposite

C THE ECONOMIST BUILDING, P80 St James's Street

1st L into Bennett St
SO @ TL into Dover Street, stop by

D 37 DOVER STREET, P81

Walk back and L into Stafford St
L @ Xrds into Albermarle St and remount
R @ T into Grafton St
Follow R into Old Bond St
1st L into Burlington Gdns, becomes Vigo St
SO @ TL across Regent St into Glasshouse St
SO into Brewer St
Stop near Rupert St (on RHS)

E SOHO, P74 Junction of Brewer Street and Rupert Street

R @ T into Wardour St and dismount
Walk down to

F TOWER OF ST ANNE SOHO, P74 Wardour Street

Cycle back up Wardour St and 1st R into Old Compton St
4th R into Moor St
R @ T onto Charing Cross Rd
SO @ TL then 1st L into Lichfield St
R @ T into West St
R @ T into Upper St Martin's Ln
SO @ TL into St Martin's Ln
Stop opposite

G THE SALISBURY, P73 St Martin's Lane

On your left is a narrow arch with a couple of steps into

H GOODWINS COURT, P73

Cycle down St Martin's Lane
R @ T into St Martin's Pl
L @ T into A400 St Martin's Pl and stop outside

I ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, P70 Trafalgar Square

Cycle around Trafalgar Sq (or walk across it) and take the L after Admiralty Arch into Cockspur St
L @ TL onto Pall Mall and immed stop opposite

J NEW ZEALAND HOUSE, P72 Haymarket on the corner with Pall Mall

Continue along Pall Mall and 1st L into Waterloo Pl, around the end and back up, stopping on LHS after the Cycle Hire docking station. Look left at the second bldg. along

K THE TRAVELLERS CLUB AND OTHERS, P68 Pall Mall / Waterloo Place

SO @ TL into Waterloo Pl, stop and look back at the clubs
Continue up Waterloo Pl, 1st L into Charles II St
SO to St James's Square docking station (and maybe a sandwich and a drink in the Red Lion)

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

! As London is constantly changing, check road signs and adapt route as necessary.



PART TWO (8 miles)

Go **straight down** from the ● docking station, St James's Sq
R @ T into Pall Mall
1st L into Marlborough Rd
L just before **TL** onto cycle track alongside the Mall
Stop on LHS at the bottom of Duke of York Steps

L **CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, FROM THE MALL, P66**
 and
M **THE CITADEL, P65** Horse Guards Road

Cross over to Horse Guards Rd
R and immed L at T into Storey's Gate
3rd R into Tothill St
2nd L into Broadway
1st R into Caxton St, **R** into entrance for

N **ST ERMIN'S HOTEL, P62** Caxton Street

Walk back along Caxton St, **R** into Broadway and remount
L into Victoria St
1st R into Perkin's Rents
Immed L into Abbey Orchard St
R @ T into Great Smith St
1st L into Little Smith St
L @ T into Tufton St
1st R into

O **BARTON, COWLEY AND LORD NORTH STREET, P58**

SO St John Smith Sq into Dean Bradley St
SO @ Xrds to Dean Ryle St, becomes John Islip St
R @ TL into A202 Victoria Bridge Rd
Immed L
Stop on LHS at blocked street with statue of roller skating girl

and walk into
 Moreton St
1st R alley to

P **ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH, P59** Moreton Street

Continue along Moreton St
R @ 2nd Xrds into Belgrave Rd

Q **BELGRAVIA, P125**

Continue up Belgrave Rd into Eccleston St, passing Warwick Sq, Chester Sq, Eaton Sq, into Belgrave Sq and follow **R**
L into Wilton Cres
1st R into Wilton Row

R **THE GRENADIER, P126** Wilton Row

Return down Wilton Row
R @ T into Wilton Cres
R into Motcomb St, stop by (on RHS)

S **THE PANTECHNICON, P126** Motcomb Street

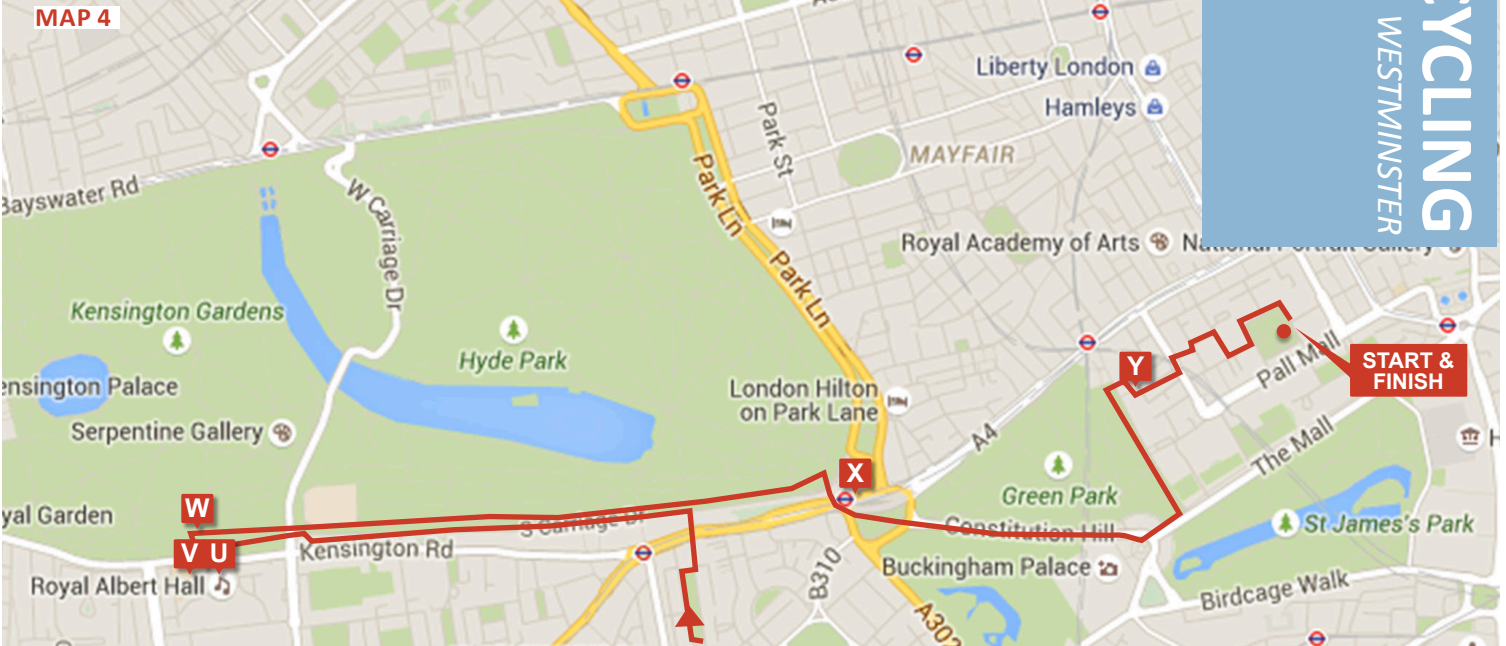
R @ T into Lowndes Sq and **follow around** to last exit
L to William St.
SO @ TL to

T **ALBERT GATE HOUSES, P126** Albert Gate

L into **S** Carriage Drive
SO @ TL past Ennismore Gdns
Before next TL, exit road **R** onto Cycle Track

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

1 As London is constantly changing, check road signs and adapt route as necessary.



PART TWO (8 miles) continued

SO @ Toucan to S Carriage Dr and stop opposite

U ROYAL ALBERT HALL, P129

V ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART, P130 Kensington Gore

W ALBERT MEMORIAL, P130

Return along S Carriage Drive towards Hyde Pk Corner and stop by

X HYDE PARK CORNER SCREEN, P83

Cross to Wellington Arch and on to the **cycle track** in Green Pk alongside Constitution Hill. **Follow cycle track** alongside the Mall and **immed L** at end of Green Pk
Dismount and walk where signed.
On **RHS**

Y 26 ST JAMES'S PLACE AND SPENCER HOUSE, P69

Shortly after, on **RHS** is an alley way to **walk through** to St James's Place

L @ T onto St James's St

1st R into Ryder St

R @ T into Bury St

L @ T into King St

L @ T into St James's Sq and follow around to docking station.

END

Route researched and created by Charlie Holland for Cycle Confident
www.cycleconfident.com