

WESTMINSTER LIONS CYCLE RIDE

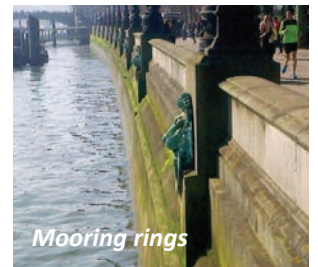
A seven mile ride, best done on a Sunday morning as much of the ride is on major streets, observing a few of Westminster's lions. More can be found in

'London Pride, the 10,000 Lions of London' by Valerie Colin-Russ.



A LION-HEAD MOORING RINGS ALONG THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT.

Designed by the sculptor Gilbert Bayes, the lions are considered to mark the point of a dangerously high tide, 'When the lions drink, London will sink'.



Mooring rings

B SOUTH BANK LION

At the south end of Westminster Bridge, visible from the Victoria Embankment, this 1837 Lion by W.F. Woodington originally stood atop the Red Lion Brewery on the South Bank site. When the brewery was demolished for the 1951 Festival of Britain, the lion was moved to Station Approach Waterloo - British Rail had a Lion logo at this time. In 1966 the lion was moved to its present location, the red paint having been removed to reveal the statue is made from Coade Stone, a tough, artificial stone that several lions on this trip are made from. Mrs Coade's factory was also on the South Bank.



South Bank lion

C ROOF OF OLD HOME OFFICE BUILDING, WHITEHALL (just by the Cenotaph)

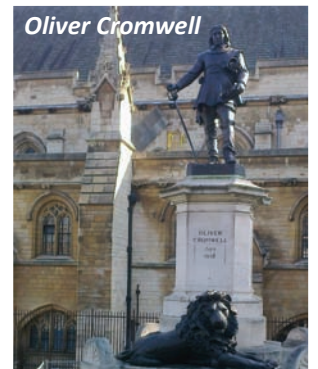
Queen Victoria sits atop the building with a lion to one side and a unicorn to the other

D RED LION PUB

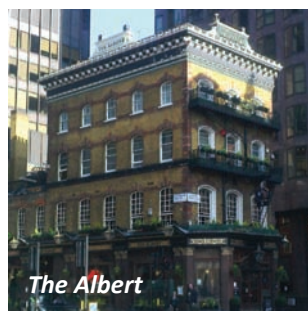
While this building is Victorian there has been a tavern on this site since 1434, though it has not always been the Red Lion.

E HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

According to Valerie Colin-Russ, author of 'London Pride, the 10,000 Lions of London', the Palace of Westminster has 414 lions and lion heads, more than any other London building. It also has a Lion Heart in the form of a statue, a little further along the road, of Richard I, Coeur de Lion, (1157-99), holding a sword aloft while mounted on a horse. The statue of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), by Sir Hamo Thornycroft and erected in 1899, features a lion, seemingly grieving, at the base.



Oliver Cromwell



The Albert

F WESTMINSTER ABBEY LIONS

Four lions are carved at the base of the granite column to the memory of those educated at the Westminster School who died in the Russian (1854-1856) and Indian (1857-1858) wars.

G THE ALBERT

Look along the roof line of this Victorian remnant in a sea of glass office blocks to see a myriad of Lion Heads

H LIONESS CHASING A KUDU, BY JONATHAN KENWORTHY

The sculpture was commissioned by the Duke of Westminster's property company, originally for the lobby of 40 Grosvenor Place which the Duke's property company was renovating. The offices were rented by Enron (before they went spectacularly bust), who liked the offices but didn't want the statue, which was relocated to Upper Grosvenor Garden.



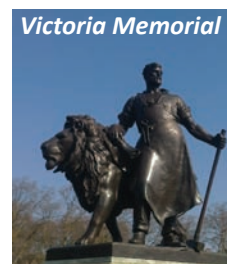
Kenworthy statue

I THE ROYAL MEWS

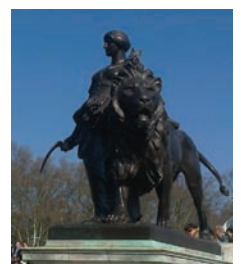
There's a lion on the gateway of the Royal Mews which "provides road transport for The Queen and members of the Royal Family by both horse-drawn carriage and motor car". Royal bicycles are presumably stored elsewhere.

J VICTORIA MEMORIAL

The four pacing lions, modelled after live ones at London Zoo, are, like the rest of this memorial sculpture, by Thomas Brock. The gift of New Zealand, each lion has an accompanying figure representing Agriculture and Manufacture, Peace and Progress.



Victoria Memorial



K BUCKINGHAM PALACE RAILINGS WITH SEVERAL LIONS

The forecourt of Buckingham Palace (so named in the 1820s) was not created until 1911, when it was added as part of the scheme to commemorate Queen Victoria. The gates and railings were also completed in 1911.

L LION AND UNICORN AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH GATE, HYDE PARK

The gate was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993 to celebrate the 90th birthday of her mother, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Richard Rogers was the architect for the site; the stainless steel and bronze gates, railings and lights were designed and made by Giuseppe Lund; and the centrepiece, with its red lion and white unicorn, was designed by sculptor David Wynn.

The Lion and the Unicorn are heraldic supporters appearing in the full Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom. The lion stands for England and the unicorn for Scotland. The combination dates back to the 1603 accession of James I of England who was already James VI of Scotland.



The traditional legend of enmity between the two heraldic animals is recorded in a nursery rhyme which has a Roud Folk Song Index number of 20170. It is usually given with the lyrics

*The lion and the unicorn
Were fighting for the crown
The lion beat the unicorn
All around the town.
Some gave them white bread,
And some gave them brown;
Some gave them plum cake
and drummed them out of town*



M MARBLE ARCH

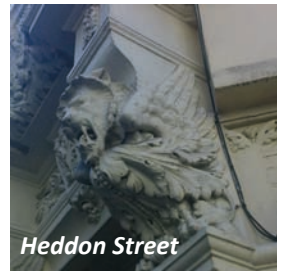
Marble Arch, faced with Carrara marble with embellishments of marble extracted near Seravezza, features a lion in the gate as well as above the gates. It was designed by John Nash in 1827 as the state entrance to the cour d'honneur of Buckingham Palace. When the palace was enlarged, the Arch was moved in 1851 to form a ceremonial entrance to Hyde Park, and then was surrounded by traffic during the widening of Park Lane in the early 1960s.



N OXFORD STREET AT JUNCTIONS WITH STRATFORD PLACE – LYONS REPLACED A LION

NB: Bond Street tube station works mean the remaining lion is not present at the moment. The Earl of Aldborough built a grand residence, Stratford Place, in 1771-4. The entrance was marked on the Oxford Street front by two brick gatehouses crowned by Coade stone lions. In 1915, a huge Lyon's banqueting house was established on Oxford Street, between Stratford Place and Gees Court, replacing the western side of Stratford Place, as well as the lioned gatehouse on this side.

The eastern villa fronting Oxford Street was demolished in 1890, but its gate house survived and is Grade II listed. A stone panel to the Oxford Street elevation depicts an urn and gryphons in relief. The gryphon, or griffin, is a legendary creature with the body, tail, and back legs of a lion; the head and wings of an eagle; and an eagle's talons as its front feet. Part king of the beasts and part king of the birds, Gryphons are known for guarding treasure and priceless possessions.



O LIONS HEADS ON THE PEDIMENT, REGENT STREET

There are lion heads on the other side of the street to spot too!

P WINGED LIONS, HEDDON STREET

Continuing with the Gryphon theme



Q LION WITH BRITANNIA, PICCADILLY CIRCUS

Britannia, sat upon a lion, gazes our across Piccadilly Circus from the former County Fire and Alliance Life Office.



R THEATRE ROYAL AND HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

A lion to the left and a lion to the right, as both Royally named theatres, unsurprisingly, feature Royal Crests

S WATERLOO PLACE

Colin Campbell, 1st Baron Clyde (1792 –1863) was a British Army officer who served in the Peninsular War, the War of 1812, the First Opium War, the Second Anglo-Sikh War and the Crimean War, where, in 1854, he repulsed the Russian attack on Balaclava. In 1857, at an early stage in the Indian Mutiny, Campbell was made Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in India and after a year-long campaign India was brought under British control.

The statue of Campbell by Carlo Marochetti was erected in Waterloo Place in London in 1867. Britannia, who sits on the British lion, rests her sword against the lion's flank and extends a symbol of peace.

T LANDSEER'S LIONS AT THE BASE OF NELSON'S COLUMN, TRAFALGAR SQUARE

These four superb lions by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, RA (1802-1873) were the second set to have been commissioned as the models showing the designs of the lions commissioned from Thomas Milnes were deemed not suitably impressive. The bronze lions, 20 feet long and 22 feet high, were cast by Baron Marochetti and finally placed in position in 1867. The industrialist Titus Salt commissioned the original lions, in stone, for his village, Saltaire, where they remain today.

U ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS LION

The present church was designed by James Gibbs and completed in 1726, though there has been a church on this site since Norman times.



V THE LONDON HIPPODROME LION

A lion and unicorn can be seen on the roof line, but the Hippodrome is a place where real lions could be seen. It was designed by architect Frank Matcham for Music Hall entrepreneur Edward Moss as a hippodrome for circus and variety performances, giving its first Circus show in 1900. Metal caging protected the audiences from the animals, but at the climax of the show the caging would sink from view and the circus ring would drop, to reveal a huge water tank covering the area of the circus ring. The stage curtains would open to reveal a jungle scene, with an enormous waterfall most of the height of the proscenium arch. At the top of it elephants would appear and then slide down into the tank.

W YORK WATERGATE LIONS

London's oldest outdoor lions in their original position are at the Watergate entrance to the site of York House, long since demolished. Dating back to 1626, they show where the Thames used to flow, before Bazalgette built the Embankment to incorporate sewers, the Metropolitan District Railway and the road.

You have now returned to the starting point of the ride. If you wish to carry on and are in need of a cup of tea, continue to

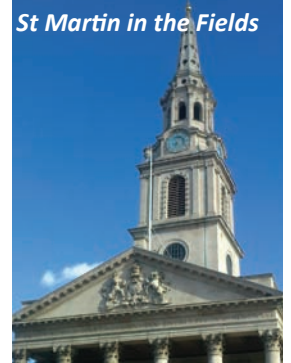


X TWININGS TEA LION

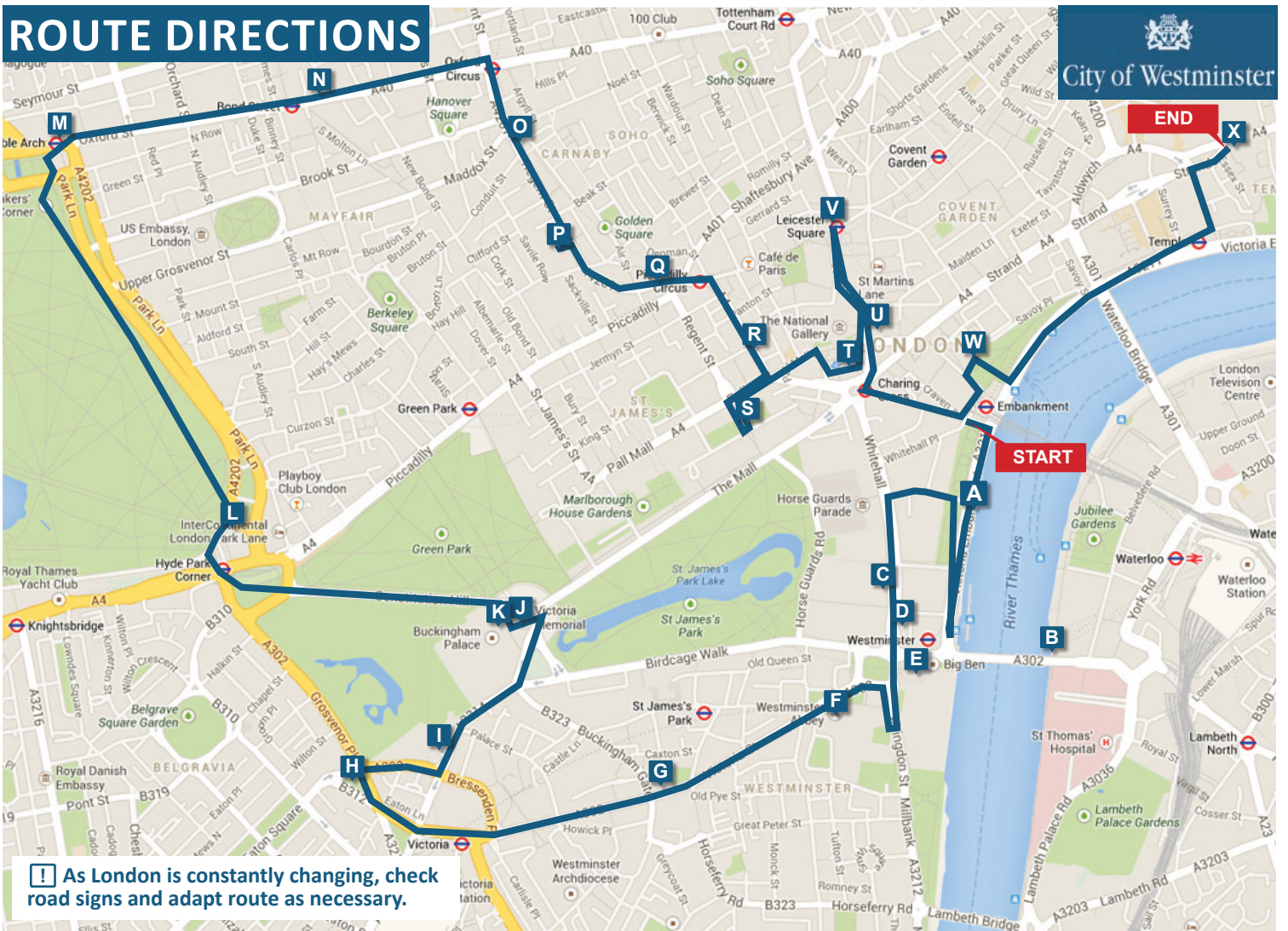
Twining's on the Strand was founded by Thomas Twining (1675-1741) when he purchased the original Tom's Coffee House at the back of the site in 1706. He then introduced tea and in 1717 opened the Golden Lyon on the site, to sell both tea and coffee. In 1787 his grandson Richard Twining (1749-1824) built the handsome doorway incorporating his Grandfather's Golden Lyon symbol and two Chinese figures. Twining's is believed to be the oldest company to have traded continuously on the same site with the same family since its foundation.

In addition to the Twining's shop is a small museum at the rear, containing tea-related paraphernalia collected over the course of 300 years sales to the public.

END



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
- R Right T T Junction TL Traffic Lights RHS Right Hand Side

The ride starts from the **Barclay's Hire docking station on Northumberland Avenue, opposite Embankment Place.**
 Cycle towards the river
R onto Victoria Embankment
Stop on L by Royal Air Force Memorial (gold eagle) and look over the wall
A LION-HEAD MOORING RINGS adorn both the Victoria and Albert embankments.
Continue along the Victoria Embankment
Stop on L just before the bridge, and look across the bridge to the Lambeth side for the
B SOUTH BANK COADE STONE LION
Cross Victoria Embankment and cycle back
L@TL into Horse Guards Avenue
L@TL into Whitehall
Stop on L by the Cenotaph and look across the road and up to the
C ROOF OF OLD HOME OFFICE BUILDING, WHITEHALL
Continue along Whitehall, past the
D RED LION PUB
 Move to the second lane to go **SO@TL** across Parliament Square to Abingdon Street
Stop on LHS outside the Houses of Parliament by the statue of Oliver Cromwell
E HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, OLIVER CROMWELL
 A little further along is the statue of Richard Coeur de Lion
Walk back to Parliament Square and walk across towards Westminster Abbey.
Walk or cycle along to the front of Westminster Abby on Broad Sanctuary
F WESTMINSTER ABBEY LIONS
Continue SO@TL into Victoria Street
Stop after second set of TL, at the junction with Buckingham Gate, and look up to the roof of
G THE ALBERT, LION HEADS

Continue along Victoria Street
Bear slightly right just before Victoria Station, continuing along Victoria Street
SO@TL crossing Buckingham Palace Road
SO@TL, immediately after, crossing Grosvenor Gardens.
Stop on Left and **cross** into Upper Grosvenor Garden
H LIONESS CHASING A KUDU, BY JONATHAN KENWORTHY
Walk across the Garden to Hobart Place and remount in Advanced Stop Line
Cycle across Grosvenor Gardens @TL into Lower Grosvenor Place
Bear L@TL into Buckingham Palace Road
Stop on LHS outside
I THE ROYAL MEWS
Continue along Buckingham Palace Road
L into Buckingham Gate
Stop on LHS outside Buckingham Palace
J VICTORIA MEMORIAL
K BUCKINGHAM PALACE RAILINGS
Walk across the front of Buckingham Palace, over Constitution Hill, and **take the cycle path** alongside Constitution Hill to and through the Wellington Arch on Hyde Park Corner, and across into Hyde Park
R on South Carriage Drive
Stop by
L THE QUEEN ELIZABETH GATE, HYDE PARK (Lion and Unicorn)
Turn back and take the cycle track to the R, heading in Hyde Park alongside Park Lane to the top.
 Just after Speakers' Corner, **bear right** and use the Toucan crossings to reach
M MARBLE ARCH
Go through Marble Arch and **cross** the Toucans, to the right hand side, to enter Oxford Street
Continue past Selfridges, through two sets of TL
L by Bond Street Station into Stratford Place
N OXFORD STREET AT JUNCTIONS WITH STRATFORD PLACE – LYONS REPLACED A LION

ROUTE DIRECTIONS cont.

L out of Stratford Place onto Oxford Street

R@TL by Oxford Circus tube into Regent Street

Stop on LHS just past Little Argyle Street

Q LIONS HEADS ON THE PEDIMENT, REGENT STREET

Continue along Regent Street

Stop on L by Mappin and Webb

Walk across road into Heddon Street, and along to the corner

P WINGED LIONS, HEDDON STREET

Walk back along Heddon Street and cross Regent Street

Continue along Regent Street, SO across Shaftesbury Avenue @ Piccadilly Circus

Stop on LHS, where safe, and look back and up at

Q LION WITH BRITANNIA, PICCADILLY CIRCUS

R into Haymarket looking to L and R for

R THEATRE ROYAL AND HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Towards the bottom of Haymarket move to right hand lanes

R into Pall Mall

L into

S WATERLOO PLACE

Cycle up Waterloo Place

R into Pall Mall and along to Trafalgar Square

T LANDSEER'S LIONS AT THE BASE OF NELSON'S COLUMN, TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Walk across Trafalgar Square and remount opposite

U ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS LION

Cycle up St Martin's Place into Charing Cross Road

Stop on L just past Leicester Square tube

Walk across Charing Cross Road and look back up at

V THE LONDON HIPPODROME LION

Cycle back down to Trafalgar Square

2nd L into Northumberland Avenue

L just before end into Embankment Place

L into Villiers Street

Walk into Victoria Embankment Gardens

On the northern edge are

W YORK WATERGATE LIONS

Walk to the Victoria Embankment

Cycle L along the Victoria Embankment, under Waterloo Bridge

L into Temple Place

L into Arundel Street

Stop at top and walk R along Strand to

X TWININGS TEA LION

