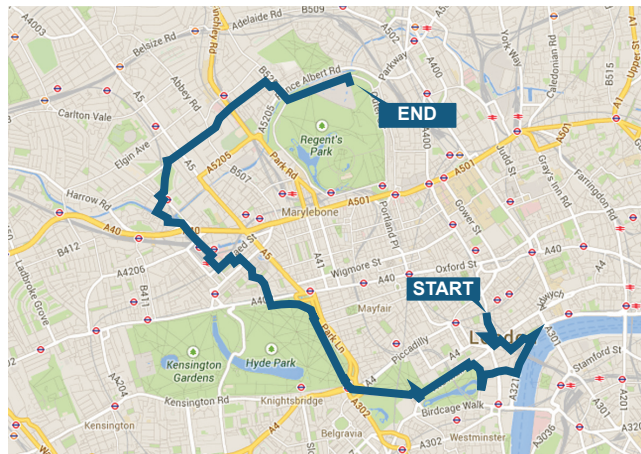


# WESTMINSTER WILDLIFE CYCLE RIDE

*The City of Westminster has wildlife in its parks, canals, and, of course, in London Zoo, but this ride also includes human representations of wildlife, some of real creatures and some of mythical ones. You can try and time your ride to catch the Pelicans being fed in St James's Park between 2:30 and 3:00 pm.*



## **A THE LONDON HIPPODROME**

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 rink 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.



## **B PORCUPINE PUB**

According to a plaque on the pub, *"The Porcupine has occupied the same plot with the same name since 1725"* and has doubtless had its fair share of prickly customers over the centuries.

## **C HENRI ROUSSEAU'S SURPRISED! (1891)**

Inside the free National Gallery (room 45 on level 2) is the first of the jungle scenes on which Rousseau's fame chiefly depends. Exhibited at the Salon des Indépendants in 1891 with the title 'Surpris!'. It was later described by the artist as representing a tiger hunting explorers. Rousseau's paintings were probably inspired by visits to the botanical gardens in Paris and by prints.

## **D HAHN / COCK**

The Fourth Plinth, in the north-west of Trafalgar Square, was originally intended for an equestrian statue but lay empty for many years until, in 1999, it became the setting for a succession of specially commissioned artworks. Hahn / Cock by Katharina Fritsch, one of Germany's leading contemporary artists, will occupy the plinth until early 2015. The startling ultramarine blue cockerel is intended as a comment on the masculinity and public pomp of the square.

## **E LANDSEER'S LIONS AT THE BASE OF NELSON'S COLUMN, TRAFALGAR SQUARE**

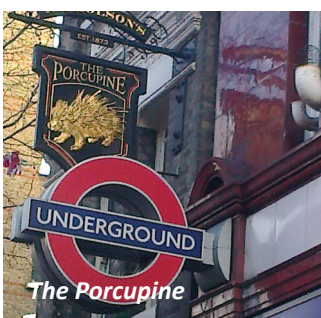
These four superb lions by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, RA (1802-1873) were the second set to have been commissioned. The models showing the designs of the lions commissioned from Thomas Milnes were deemed not suitably impressive. The bronze lions, 20 feet long and 22 feet high, were cast by Baron Marochetti 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.

## **F WINGED SPRINGBOK AT SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE**

The Gilded Winged Springbok over the door is by English sculptor Sir Charles Wheeler (1892 – 1974). The Springbok, an antelope capable of 100kph, was the national symbol of South Africa. The national rugby union team is still known as the Springboks.

## **G IMPERIAL CAMEL CORPS BRIGADE STATUE**

This camel-mounted infantry brigade (1916-1919), with one battalion each from Great Britain and New Zealand and two battalions from Australia, served during the First World War in the Middle East. An Egyptian camel could average 3 to 6 miles an hour while carrying a soldier, his equipment and supplies.





### H SPHINXES AT CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE

The popularly-named Cleopatra's Needle (already over a thousand years old in her lifetime) was presented to the United Kingdom in 1819 by the ruler of Egypt and Sudan. However the British government wouldn't fund the expense of transporting it to London and it wasn't until 1878 that it was finally erected here. The bronze sphinxes 'guarding' the Needle were designed by George John Vulliamy and created at the Ecclestone Iron Works in Pimlico in 1881. Vulliamy, an English architect also designed the Sphinx and camel benches and the dolphin street lamps.

### I ROYAL AIR FORCE EAGLE

The Royal Air Force adopted the eagle as the centre point of its badge in 1918 and it remains there to this day. The Royal Air Force Memorial was erected in 1923 in memory of the casualties in World War I, with the gilded eagle sculpted by Sir William Reid Dick.

### J CHINTHE

The Chinthe is a mythical creature, half lion, half dragon, that protects the entrances of pagodas and temples in Burma. The Chindit Special Forces (the name derived from the Chinthe) served in Burma in World War II, deep behind enemy line. For months on end they lived and fought in the jungles of Japanese occupied Burma, totally relying on airdrops for their supplies.

### K HORSE GUARDS

Mounted sentries (who change every hour) are on duty each day from 10am until 4pm. The official ceremonial entrance to St James's and Buckingham Palace is headquarters to the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, which consists of a Squadron of The Life Guards, who wear red tunics and white plumed helmets, and a Squadron of The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons) with blue tunics and red plumed helmets. A royal guard has been kept here since 1660.

### L A SCOOP OF PELICANS

The first pelican to grace the Royal Parks was a gift from the Russian Ambassador to King Charles II in 1664. There are currently five Eastern (or Great) Pelicans and one South American White Pelican in the park, which are fed here between 2.30 and 3pm. Three new Pelicans arrived in 2012, a gift from the City of Prague, joining Louis, Vaclav and Gargi who are all over 20 years old.

Pelicans have the second largest wingspan of all living birds (up to 3m, second only to the albatross) and have enormous bills that can measure up to 47cm. A pelican can eat 2kg of fish a day. The collective noun for a group of pelicans is a scoop.

If you walk north around the lake a little, a sign near the café helps you identify some of the many other species of birds in St James's Park

### M 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 an accompanying figure representing Agriculture and Manufacture, Peace and Progress.

### N TOUCAN AND PEGASUS

First came the Zebra (1949), followed in time by the Pelican, the Toucan, the Pegasus, and the Puffin! They are, of course, different designs of pedestrian crossing points: the Pelican (PEdestrian LIght CONtrolled) is increasingly being superseded by the Puffin (PeDESTrian User-FRIENDly INTelligent) crossing. Hyde Park Corner has the Toucan (Two, pedestrians and cyclists, can cross) and the Pegasus (for horse-riders).

### O 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*







### **P ANIMALS IN WAR MEMORIAL**

This monument is a tribute to all the animals that served, suffered and died alongside the British, Commonwealth and Allied forces in the wars and conflicts of the 20th century. It was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal in November 2004, the 90th anniversary of the start of World War I.

Eight million horses and countless mules and donkeys died in the First World War. They were used to transport ammunition and supplies to the front and many died, not only from the horrors of shellfire but also in terrible weather and appalling conditions.

### **Q PADDINGTON BEAR**

Paddington Bear was found, following his arrival from Peru, by Mr and Mrs Brown in Paddington Station. To commemorate this there is a life-sized bronze statue of Paddington in the station. Designed by the sculpture Marcus Cornish, the statue was unveiled by Paddington Bear author Michael Bond on 24th February 2000.



### **R SKULLCAP AND MARSH WOUNDWORT**

Opened in 1801, the 14-mile long Paddington Arm connects Paddington to the main Grand Union Canal near Hayes and is an important wildlife corridor. It enables some interesting and attractive wetland plants such as skullcap and marsh woundwort, to disperse into the city centre; it supports a small range of nesting wildfowl and a reasonable variety of fish, damselflies and dragonflies.

### **S ZEBRAS AND GIRAFFES**

Without paying to go into London Zoo, you can get a good view of the Giraffes and, normally, the Zebras, from the road. As well as a long neck, Giraffes also have very long (up to 45 cms /1 ½ ft), black tongues.

### **T PENGUINS**

Penguin Beach, England's biggest penguin pool, opened in 2011 and houses colonies of Humboldt and Macaroni penguins.

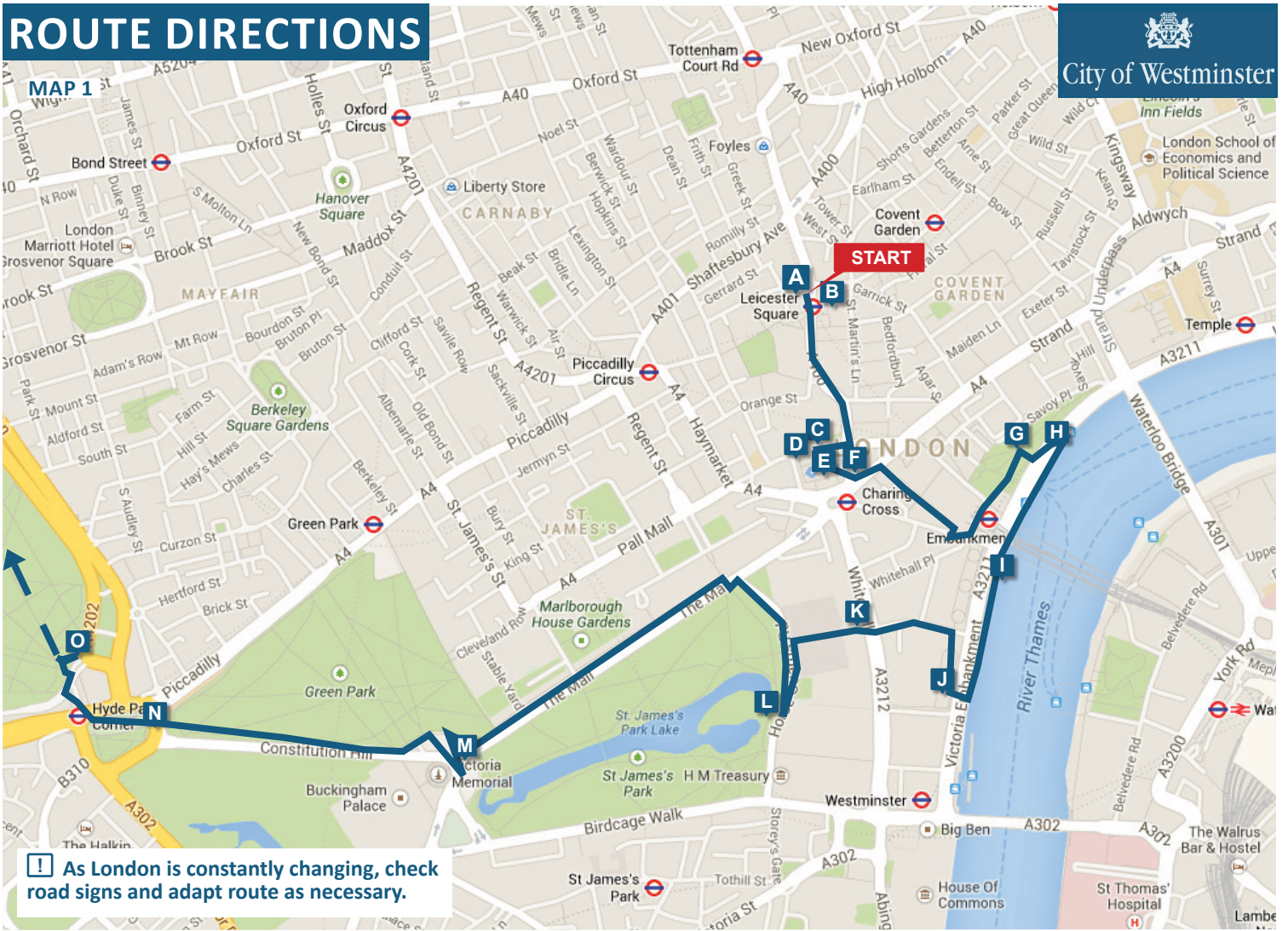
Macaroni penguins can be found from the Subantarctic to the Antarctic Peninsula. One of six species of crested penguin, it has a distinctive yellow crest. The face and upperparts are black and sharply delineated from the white underparts.

Humboldt penguins are medium-sized birds that breed in coastal Peru and Chile. The penguin is named after the cold water current it swims in, which is itself named after Alexander von Humboldt, an explorer. They have a black head with a white border that runs from behind the eye, around the black ear-coverts and chin, and joins at the throat. They have blackish-grey upperparts and whitish underparts, with a black breast-band that extends down the flanks to the thigh.



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 by the entrance to  
**A THE LONDON HIPPODROME** Cranbourn St, Leicester Sq, WC2H 7JH. If you plan to use a TfL Hire Cycle, wait until after Trafalgar Sq to pick it up.  
 Opposite The London Hippodrome, on Charing Cross Rd  
**B PORCUPINE PUB**  
 Cycle or walk down Charing Cross Rd to Trafalgar Sq for  
**C HENRI ROUSSEAU'S SURPRISED!** (1891) in the National Gallery (free admittance)  
**D HAHN / COCK** (on the Fourth Plinth until early 2015)  
**E LANDSEER'S LIONS** at the base of Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square  
 Cross St Martin's Pl to  
**F WINGED SPRINGBOK/GAZELLE** at South Africa House, to the south of St Martin in the Fields  
 Cross Strand to Craven St (TfL Hire Bikes Docking Station)  
 Cycle down Craven St  
**L @ T** into Northumberland Ave  
 Immed **L** into Embankment Place  
 Enter park at end and walk to  
**G IMPERIAL CAMEL CORPS BRIGADE STATUE** near a café  
 Take exit by café to Victoria Embankment and cross at Zebra to  
**H SPHINX**  
 Cycle west on Victoria Embankment to  
**I ROYAL AIR FORCE EAGLE** on a tall column on **LHS**  
 Continue along Victoria Embankment to end of gardens, by Richmond Terr, and cross into them  
**J CHINTHE ATOP THE CHINDIT SPECIAL FORCES STATUE**

Exit park onto Horse Guards Av and cycle **left** towards Whitehall.  
**K Cross to HORSE GUARDS**  
 Walk through Horse Guards Parade  
**L** into Horse Guards Rd  
 Stop by lake on **RHS**, looking for  
**L PELICANS**  
 Cycle back up Horse Guards Rd  
**SO @** the Mall to use the cycle path towards Buckingham Palace, outside which is the  
**M VICTORIA MEMORIAL**  
 Cycle up cycle path in Green Park beside Constitution Hill  
 At Hyde Pk Corner use the  
**N TOUCAN AND PEGASUS CROSSING**  
 To pass through the Wellington Arch and into Hyde Park  
**R @ T**  
 Stop by  
**O LION AND UNICORN** at the Queen Elizabeth Gate, Hyde Park

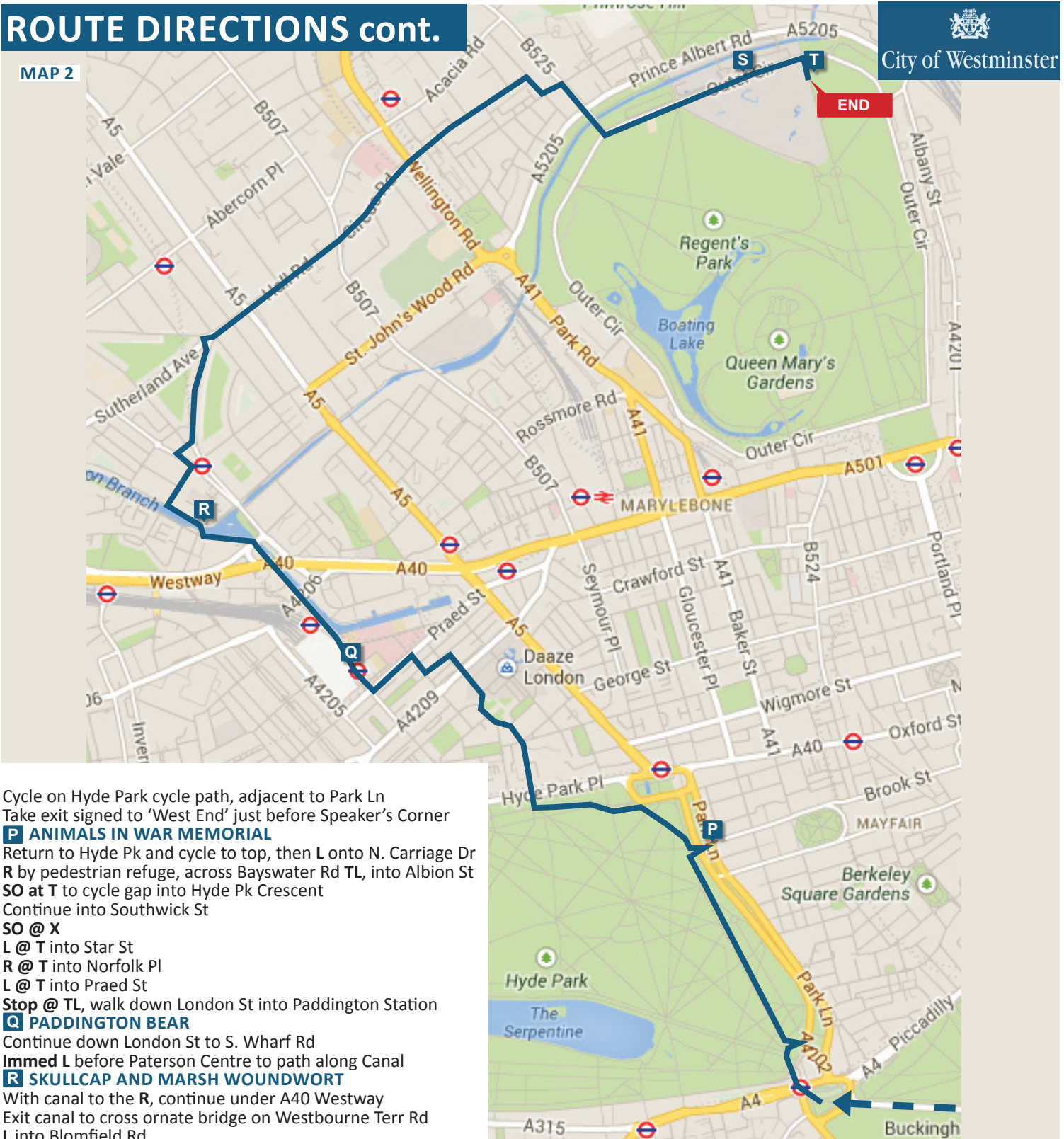


# ROUTE DIRECTIONS cont.



City of Westminster

MAP 2



Cycle on Hyde Park cycle path, adjacent to Park Ln  
 Take exit signed to 'West End' just before Speaker's Corner  
**P ANIMALS IN WAR MEMORIAL**  
 Return to Hyde Pk and cycle to top, then L onto N. Carriage Dr  
**R** by pedestrian refuge, across Bayswater Rd **TL**, into Albion St  
**SO** at **T** to cycle gap into Hyde Pk Crescent  
 Continue into Southwick St  
**SO @ X**  
**L @ T** into Star St  
**R @ T** into Norfolk Pl  
**L @ T** into Praed St  
**Stop @ TL**, walk down London St into Paddington Station  
**Q PADDINGTON BEAR**  
 Continue down London St to S. Wharf Rd  
**Immed L** before Paterson Centre to path along Canal  
**R SKULLCAP AND MARSH WOUNDWORT**  
 With canal to the **R**, continue under A40 Westway  
 Exit canal to cross ornate bridge on Westbourne Terr Rd  
**L** into Blomfield Rd  
**R** into Clifton Villas  
**L @ RAB** into Warwick Ave  
**Immed R, then L @ T** into Warrington Cres  
**R @ RAB** into Sutherland Ave, then Hall Rd, Circus Rd, St John's  
 Wd Terr,  
 Crossing **SO @ TL** over A5 then over A41  
**R @ T** into Townsend Rd  
**L @ Corner** through cycle gap L into Allitsen Rd  
**R @ X** into Avenue Rd  
**SO @ TL** into Regents Pk  
**L @ T** into Outer Circle  
 Stop outside zoo on **LHS** by  
**S ZEBRAS AND GIRAFFES**

Continue along Outer Circle to end of Zoo  
**R** by Pelican crossing into Broad Walk,  
 Stop on **RHS** to see  
**T PENGUINS**

**END OF RIDE**

Route researched and created by Charlie Holland for Cycle Confident  
[www.cycleconfident.com](http://www.cycleconfident.com)