

# BRUNEL HARBOURSIDE WALK

3 MILES 1.5 HOURS EASY



A short, accessible walk around Bristol harbour, taking in some of Brunel's achievements along the way.

The route should be accessible for most wheelchairs and buggies, but be aware that Brunel Square is cobbled and there are some narrow paths.

**1** Begin the walk on Brunel Square next to **Brunel's SS Great Britain**. Walk past the giant buoy along Gas Ferry Road and turn right to follow the narrow path, following the blue sign labelled 'Harbourside walk'. On reaching the road (*Hanover Place*), turn right past the Bristol Old Vic Scenic Workshop and back towards the harbour, past the Albion Dockyard. Walk around the Marina, continuing to follow signs for 'Harbourside walk' and past the housing development of Baltic Wharf and The Cottage Inn on your left.



SS Great Britain

The **SS Great Britain** was the world's first iron screw-driven steamship, launched in 1843. Today, the SS Great Britain is a visitor attraction.

**Underfall Yard** is crucial to the operation and maintenance of the floating harbour. Brunel advised on improvements to reduce silt (mud) build up. His involvement with Bristol Harbour is explored in the Underfall Yard Visitor Centre, which is free to enter and open Tuesdays to Sundays.

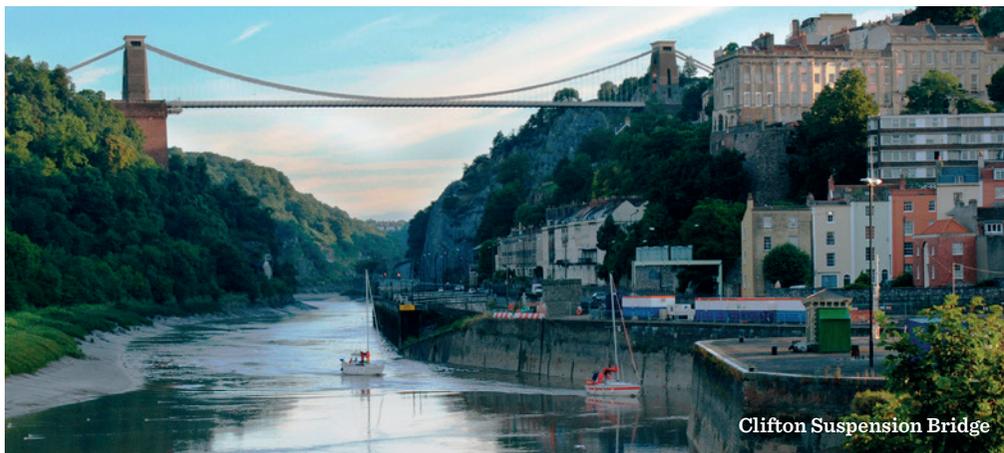


Underfall Yard

**2** Eventually, you will come to the Harbour Master's office and **Underfall Yard** (if the yard is closed, turn left and through the green gate onto Cumberland Road, following *Avon Crescent*). Continue straight through Underfall Yard, taking care as this is a working area. On reaching the red brick building with a tower and chimney (*the Pump Room*), turn right and continue around and past the visitor centre and café. Turn right again and the path will lead you out through the gate onto Nova Scotia Place, where you turn left passing Nova Scotia Hotel. Cross the road (*Merchants Road*) to join a narrow path, which leads to a car park and the lock. Take care at this road crossing as it is on a bend.

**Brunel's Swing Bridge** was designed in 1849 and later informed his design of Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash. You can see the swivel mechanism.

Join the waterside footpath with the harbour on your right and houses on the left, following this path round to the right onto the man-made island and under a grey road bridge (*Plimsoll Bridge*). You will come to Brunel's original hand-powered **tubular swing bridge**, otherwise known as 'Brunel's Other Bridge'.



**3** With the swing bridge on your right, turn left over a grey pedestrian bridge. At the other side of the bridge turn immediately sharp right to then follow the footpath, marked with a blue sign, down the slope. This path leads you to a concrete seating area and viewpoint for the **Clifton Suspension Bridge**. Retrace your steps back to the grey bridge. Continue onto a road (*Brunel Lock Road*) passing the green railed spiral stairs on your left, which takes you back under Plimsoll Bridge. On reaching Merchants Road again turn left to cross over two road bridges.

Brunel's design for the **Clifton Suspension Bridge** was chosen in 1831 through a competition, although the bridge was not completed until after Brunel's death in 1864.

**4** At the end of the second bridge, cross over the road to turn right, following a blue pedestrian sign towards the Pump House. You will continue following this harbourside path for almost a mile. Continuing ahead you will cross a pedestrian bridge. Further on, look out for excellent views of the SS Great Britain across the harbour. On reaching an inlet, follow the blue pedestrian signposts, which take you past the cross-harbour ferry to the SS Great Britain. Continue to follow the harbourside past a large amphitheatre and a row of waterfront bars and cafes.

The **Great Western steamship** was Brunel's first ship, and was launched on 19 July, 1837, from Princes Wharf.

**5** Turn right to cross the pedestrian bridge (*Pero's Bridge*) with horn-shaped structures and then turn right along Narrow Quay. Follow the harbourside path past the Arnolfini as it curves around to Prince Street Bridge. Cross over the bridge onto Wapping Road. On the side of the M Shed, above the L Shed door, you will notice a plaque commemorating the launch of the **Great Western steamship**.



Take your first left onto Princes Wharf, passing the four cranes on the harbourside and the entrance to M Shed, which has items relating to the Great Western. Continue ahead with the harbour on your right, following the railway track. As you walk towards Brunel's Buttery, you will see the masts and rigging for the SS Great Britain further down the harbour where this walk finishes.

Developed in collaboration with:

