

Longer Walking Trail

An interesting circular walk starting and finishing at Laura Place. The walk takes in Pulteney Bridge, Walcot Street, Kensington Meadows, Grosvenor Bridge and Cleveland Pools.

Safety

Wear appropriate footwear due to uneven surfaces.
Take extra care when walking across busy roads and next to waterways.
Note the riverside footpath can get muddy!



Time

1 hour 45 minutes | 4.8 km

Plus stops for points of interest

Online Map (Google)

tinyurl.com/walktrail

Going

Mostly flat with a couple of climbs and three flights of steps

- 1) one ascent at the end of the riverside path
- 2) one descent from the canal (no handrail)
- 3) a fairly steep descent from the footbridge over the railway. The walking surfaces are mostly pavements and tarmac or gravel paths.

Please Note

Whilst restoration work is underway there will be no entry to the Pools site until we open in Summer 2022.

Let's Go!

2 Continue into **Bridge Street**.

Can you spot the statue of Queen Victoria perched on the building to your left? In 1830 the eleven-year-old Princess Victoria came to Bath to officially open Royal Victoria Park. The story goes that during the visit she overheard a local resident make a comment about the thickness of her ankles, and as a result she never returned to the city.

3 Turn right into **Northgate Street**.

Note the church of St. Michael's Without on the left. 'Why "Without"?' you might wonder. Well, this was quite simply because the church stood outside the walls of the old medieval city – without rather than within.

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1 From **Laura Place**, go into **Argyle Street** and then across **Pulteney Bridge**.

Did you know... Pulteney Bridge is famous for being one of only four bridges in the world to have buildings on both sides of the bridge as well as across its full span. Designed by Robert Adam and finished in 1774, the original bridge was damaged by floods towards the end of the 18th century and then rebuilt in much the same style. The bridge is Grade 1 listed - how cool is that!



Do you know where the other three similar bridges are?



4 Continue straight ahead, past the Podium shopping centre, into **Walcot Street**.

On the right-hand side, just past the Hilton Hotel, can you spot the old building with the unusual arched windows? Built in 1855, this was the Bath Corn Market, once used to store grain and as slaughterhouses. Until the early 1970s, Bath had a cattle market which was held where the car park is today.

Walcot Street, has been regarded as the artisan quarter of the city since Roman times!

Archaeological excavations show an ancient settlement that would have included shops, accommodation and workshops – similar to the Walcot Street of today.

It was the Saxons who named the street 'Walcot', meaning 'the place of strangers', because of the cosmopolitan nature of the area. In the Middle Ages, the area became like a small village outside the city walls, with St Swithin's church at its centre.

And what about that red-brick-fronted building in Beehive Yard? Well, this was once the base of the Bath Electric Tramways Company. Hard to imagine that the city once boasted a thriving tram network. One for your trivia quiz: the last tram ran at midnight on 6 May 1939.



© Bath & North East Somerset Council

The Tramshed, post the demise of the trams



Ladymead House

5 Continue along Walcot Street.

How many of these can you spot?

- The ornate **Ladymead Fountain**. On the opposite side of the road – an early example of a free public drinking fountain.
- The carved text '**Penitentiary Chapel**', on Ladymead House. This was once a refuge where women were required to take in washing and ironing in return for a roof over their heads.



- **Walcot Chapel**, at Walcot Gate. This was the mortuary chapel for the cemetery associated with the nearby St Swithin's Church.

6 Carry on to the top of the hill to join the main road.

Near the top of the hill, the large church on the opposite side of the road is St Swithin's. Jane Austen's parents were married here in 1764 and her father, George, was rector for a time, and is buried in the church. In 1797 the anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce, who once lived in Great Pulteney Street, was married here. This site has been a place of worship since the 10th century.

Hedgemoor Park lies over on the left-hand side when you reach the mini roundabout. 273 houses once stood here. Unfortunately, the site was prone to frequent landslips, and 135 of the houses were destroyed following a major slip in 1881. Two years later, after another slip, the Council decided to evacuate residents and demolish the remaining buildings.

7 Go down the other side of the hill, past the well-known Bath furniture shop TR Hayes, into Nelson Place East and then Cleveland Terrace.

You will notice the imposing front of Walcot Methodist Chapel on the right-hand side. Designed by the Reverend William Jenkins, the church opened in May 1816. The chapel once had its own Wesleyan school – can you spot the separate entrances for boys and girls at the side of the building?

8 Carefully cross **Cleveland Place** at the pedestrian crossings, and continue straight ahead into **Cleveland Place East/ London Road**. Continue ahead passing **Canton Place, Walcot Terrace and Walcot Buildings**.

9 Keep straight ahead, eventually passing **Bedford Street** and then **Weymouth Street**, both on your right.

The building that was the Walcot parish workhouse for the poor is set back on the right-hand side (behind Hobson's Choice). The workhouse later became an Industrial School where children from poorer backgrounds could learn a trade. An enlightened overseer, William Sutcliffe, introduced music training and the school went on to form a band that regularly played at the Pools.

10 Continue over the pedestrian crossings at the entrance to **Morrisons supermarket**. Enter **Kensington Place**, the narrow road with metal railings that runs parallel to the main road.

In Kensington Place, look for Kensington Chapel. This 18th century building, now Grade II listed, was built by the famous architect John Palmer in 1795. It was one of only two churches in the whole of England without their own parish. Grosvenor College was located a little further along the main road. Boys from the college used the Cleveland Pools on a regular basis under the supervision of their headmaster, the Reverend Daniel Race Godfrey – who bought and then refurbished the Pools in 1827.



Can you spot this?...



11 Turn right into **Meadows Lane** and walk through to **Kensington Meadows**, then bear half right across to the far corner of the Meadows.

Kensington Meadows were once hay meadows and a flood-plain, until the enterprising architect John Eveleigh started developing the area into an elegant pleasure garden. Unfortunately, the war with Napoleon's armies led to a serious shortage of cash and the failure of the scheme.

12 Next to the pedestrian entrance to Morrisons car park, walk down a short slope to the **Riverside Walk**, bear left onto the riverside path – ignore the path ahead of you.

13 Walk along the tree-lined **riverside path**, with the river on your right.

Keep an eye out for the **Cleveland Pools** on the opposite side of the river. Why not share your photos, with the Cleveland Pools in the background, by using the hashtag **#ClevelandPoolsBath**. Tag us in to give us permission to share your shot. This area is designated as a nature reserve. You may spot a kingfisher or, if you are really lucky, an otter!

14 At the end of the **Riverside Walk**, go up the steps and then turn right.



© Bath & North East Somerset Council

The original Grosvenor Bridge

18 Continue up the pathway, past the Undercliff Urban Farm, until you reach the **canal** – ignore the path to the right.

19 Turn right onto the **canal towpath** and continue for about 50 metres.

20 Just before the information plaque headed Welcome to Cleveland Pools, turn right and go down a **flight of steps**.

Welcome to CLEVELAND POOLS

The UK's oldest lido!



15 After about 50 metres, turn right onto **Grosvenor Bridge**.

Look out for the two information panels near the centre of the bridge. The original bridge, built in 1830, was an ornate suspension bridge – what a shame it's not still there.

16 Walk under the **railway bridge**.

17 Emerging from the bridge, immediately bear **right** up the pathway – ignore the steps straight ahead.

Can you spot the remains of buildings on the left as you start to walk up the path? These were the **Folly Inn and Brewery** but the buildings were destroyed in 1942 by a German bomber. Before the first Grosvenor Bridge was built, a toll-free ferry linked the pub to the pleasure garden on the opposite side of the river.



© Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Folly Inn and Brewery
Watercolour by Samuel Poole, 1929.

21 Turn left onto the **footbridge** over the railway and go down into Hampton Row.

22 Walk up **Hampton Row**, and after about 100 metres arrive at your destination, the Cleveland Pools – the entrance is on the right.

Leaving CLEVELAND POOLS

23 Leaving **Cleveland Pools**, turn right.

24 Then turn right into **Rockliffe Avenue**.



Colour in
CAPT. EVANS

26 Walk straight ahead into **Rockliffe Road**.

27 Continue straight ahead into **Powlett Road**.

28 Go round a **left-hand bend** then go through a pedestrian walkway on the right-hand side after a block of flats.



© Bath Records Office

Cleveland Pools 1910

25 Pass the entrance to The Bathwick Boatman **Riverside Restaurant** (and the Victorian Bath Boating Station) on your right.

The early decades of the Victorian era saw the expansion of the use of rivers for pleasure boating. The Bath Boating Station, just 180 metres downstream from the Cleveland Pools, organised regattas and other events.

Captain Evans, the Pools manager in this period, was an expert in the art of escapology, and frequently performed at these events. He would be thrown into the river 'helplessly' bound in chains and then, after a long interval, he would miraculously appear on the bank dressed in a change of clothes and reading a newspaper!



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29 Cross **Bathwick Street** at the Pelican Crossing.

30 Go left and then turn right into **Daniel Street**.

31 At the end of Daniel Street, cross the road into **Henrietta Park**.

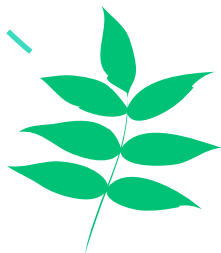
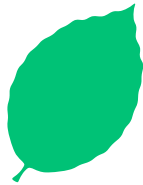


Henrietta Park



Horse chestnut

Beech



Ash

Challenge

Explore the park and tick the names of these more common trees when you spot them. (It will be harder in the winter months!)



Hawthorn



Scots Pine



Copper Beech



Yew



Rowan

Henrietta Park, on the Bathwick Estate, opened in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and was given by Captain Francis Forester to the Corporation of Bath on the understanding that it would never be built on. If you're feeling a little bit tired, go and find the King George V Memorial Garden which is a lovely tranquil place to rest and relax.



Katsura (Tricky to spot!)



Oak

32 Leave Henrietta Park at the entrance **behind the toilet block**.



33 Turn right into **Henrietta Mews**.

34 Walk under the **archway** and then turn left into **Henrietta St.**

As you leave the archway, look immediately to the right-hand side and spot the two entrances to what was once Laura Chapel. The chapel was completed in 1796 and had space for a thousand people. Unusually, it had a grand interior, and even had fireplaces to keep the congregation warm. It was eventually demolished in 1900.

Jane Austen mentioned regularly attending a chapel in Bath, and it is possible that this was the one, as it was the chapel nearest to her home at Sydney Place.



© Bath & North East Somerset Council

Laura Place

35 Arrive back at **Laura Place** to complete your walking tour.

But before you go on your way, just one last point of interest: can you spot the postbox which is unusually hexagonal in shape?

Known as a 'Penfold hexagonal', this design was the standard from 1866 until 1879, when it was discontinued as letters had a tendency to get stuck in the corners! It is one of only two of these Victorian postboxes left in Bath. Do you know where the other one is?



We hope you've enjoyed our walking trail and learned some interesting facts about Bath!



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Answers

Bridges: Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Italy. Krämerbrücke, Erfurt, Germany. Rialto Bridge, Venice, Italy

Victorian postbox is close by at the junction of Great Pulteney Street and Edward Street

