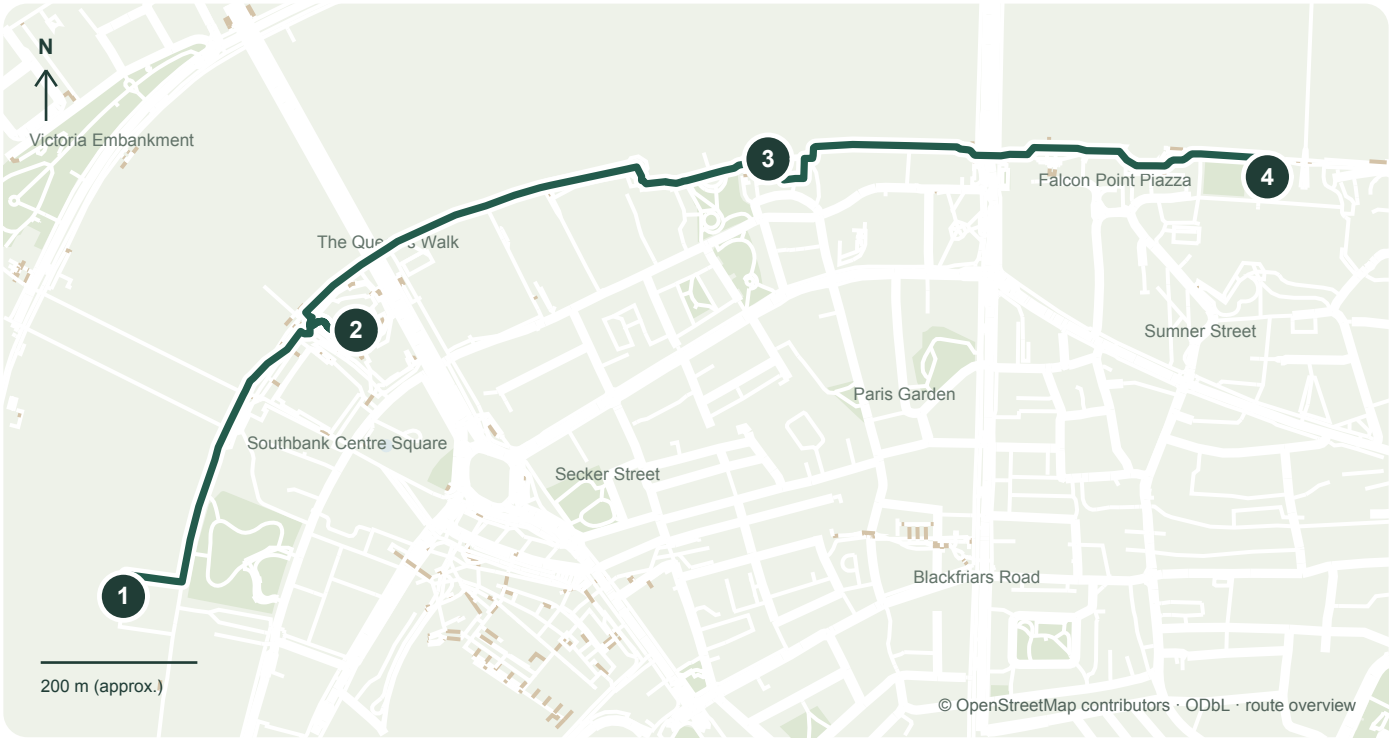
A FIRST WALK · FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

South Bank: a walk beside the Thames

Follow the south side of the Thames from the London Eye to Tate Modern. The route uses riverside public space, with pauses at the Southbank Centre and the Oxo Tower area rather than ticketed attractions.

2.05 km / 4 stops / 55-80 min with pauses / one way



1. London Eye riverside path

2. Southbank Centre riverside

3. Oxo Tower riverside

4. Tate Modern riverside

Start & finish

Begin on the riverside path beside the London Eye. Finish outside Tate Modern on Bankside. Waterloo and the stations around Bankside require separate approach or return walks.

Make it shorter

Finish by the Southbank Centre and return toward the London Eye. This gives a short riverside outing without the longer Bankside section.

Desk-reviewed 30 October 2026. Not field-tested. Follow current local signs.

Look closer at each stop

01 London Eye riverside path

Begin beside the wheel, outside its queueing areas. Look across the Thames and notice how the river creates a wide view through a densely built city.

Next: 553 m to stop 2. Route includes The Queen's Walk.

02 Southbank Centre riverside

The riverside setting joins performance buildings, terraces and public circulation. Look at how people use the space without needing to enter a venue.

Next: 750 m to stop 3. Route includes The Queen's Walk.

03 Oxo Tower riverside

Pause outside the riverside building and look at the tower’s lettering. Compare the smaller architectural details here with the large wheel at the start.

Next: 745 m to stop 4. Route includes The Queen's Walk.

04 Tate Modern riverside

Finish outside the former power-station building. The tall chimney and nearby Millennium Bridge make a useful final comparison of solid masonry and slender structure.

Underfoot & access

Mostly paved riverside paths with crowds, occasional ramps or steps and temporary diversions. River crossings are not required. Follow signed pedestrian detours if any promenade section is closed.

Before you go

The Eye, galleries, performances and restaurants have their own booking or opening arrangements. This walk focuses on the exterior riverside setting. Expect wind and rain beside the river.

Sources & route review

Visit London: South Bank and Waterloo

Map: OpenStreetMap / Valhalla pedestrian routing. Distances follow the mapped line; suggested visit times include pauses and are editorial estimates, not a timed on-site walk.