

# LEEDS WATERFRONT WALK

Leeds City Centre from Kirkstall Abbey

We followed the Waterfront Heritage Trail from the Abbey House museum along the canalside, emerging back in Leeds near Granary Wharf. The trail isn't particularly well signposted, although once you get onto the canal path, you can't go wrong. It's hard to believe sometimes that peace and quiet can be found in the middle of such a built-up area.



From the Abbey House museum, cross the road back into the Abbey grounds and proceed to the left towards the tower end of the Abbey. Take the path that leads off up a slight rise, then follow the signs for Abbey Mills. Cross the footbridge and proceed until you emerge onto the roadside. Turn right and cross at the crossing, continuing up the road towards a green bridge over the river. Cross the bridge and proceed on this side of the road until you reach the canal. Proceed to the left, along the canal path, passing marker posts like the one pictured. From the museum to the centre of Leeds is about a 4 mile walk. Continue along the path, passing the pretty marina area with its colourful canal barges, past several locks, including a double lock, until you reach the lock-keeper's house in the wharf area of Leeds and pass the millenium marker post pictured.



Continue through the car park and turn left into the Granary Wharf complex. Walk through the complex, crossing the bridge over the river which runs under the city through the "Dark Arches" - an amazing feat of engineering, even by today's standards. You will emerge onto the roadside under the railway bridges. Turn left and after about 100 yards you will come to an entrance with steps up to Leeds City station.

There are opportunities to see wildlife and waterfowl along the walk, and time to appreciate some of Leeds' industrial heritage, including the museum at Armley Mills, which you will pass about half way. If you want to visit this museum, you need to take the steps leading up from the canal path and walk back across the road bridge. The entrance to the museum is through a car park and down a drive just to the right of the road bridge. Proceed over another bridge to the museum entrance. Armley Mills is also a useful point to break the walk if you wish to catch the bus back to Leeds. Walk through the gardens and cross the bridge into the Warner Village complex. From here you can exit back onto Kirkstall Road to pick up a bus back to the centre of Leeds.

The entire 127 mile canal towpath is walkable, with a wide selection of canalside pubs to choose from along the route, and many sights and attractions located on or close to the canal, including the "Canal Turn" fence at Aintree racecourse and the towering Bingley Five-rise lock system.