

Key Information

Start: Putney Slipway, Putney Embankment, Putney, SW15 1JW
Finish: Shadwell Basin, St Katherine's and Wapping, London, E1W 3TD

Time: 3-5 hours
Distance: 10 miles
OS Map: Explorer 161 London South & 173 London North



For more information scan the QR code or <https://bit.ly/2LFYMt4>

This is a busy and tidal part of the River Thames. You must visit boatingonthethames.co.uk to check tide times and safety advice before undertaking this trail.

Journey into the deepest heart of ghoulish London on this heavily haunted trail!

1. Put in at the Putney public slipway and turn right, towards the centre of London. As you depart Putney be sure to wave to the ghost said to stroll the bridge here.

2. At around 2 miles spot Chelsea Creek and harbour on your left. with Battersea to the right. Look out for the period building of Old Battersea House, an Elizabethan Duke is said to reside here, often reclining in his favourite 15th century armchair.

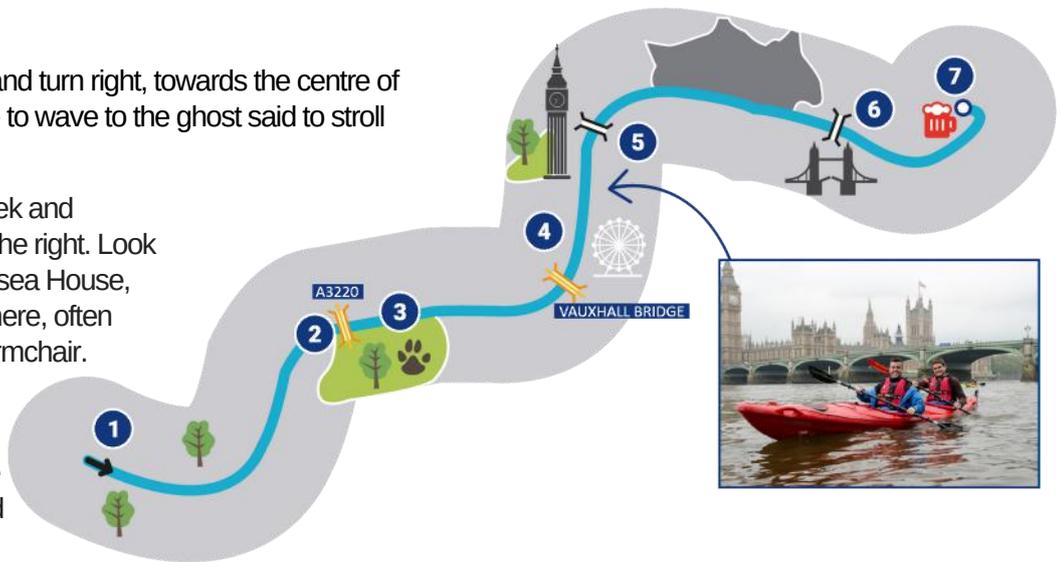
3. 3 miles in Battersea Park is but looking to your left you may spot the ghostly shade of a black bear. The banks of the river here were once used for bear baiting & one unfortunate soul is still said to rear up and roar to passing boats.

4. At 4.6 miles pass under Vauxhall Bridge with the distinctive MI6 building beside the river on the right. Continuing under Lambeth Bridge you may be joined by a ghostly barge which floats from the Palace here to the Tower of London. On board are a crew dressed in monks robes, taking Anne Boleyn to her execution.

5. Wave for the tourists as you pass under Westminster Bridge. This is a very busy part of the river, be aware of other users. Drink in the sights of London before you reach HMS Belfast moored opposite the Tower of London at just under 8 miles. One ghostly serving member of the crew never leaves this ship - the ships cat. He patrols the decks but visitors who have bent to stroke him as he brushes their legs realise there's nothing there at all.

6. The Tower of London is packed to the rafters with the ghosts of its grisly past. Look to the windows for the pale faces of two young Princes who disappeared in mysterious circumstances when imprisoned here by their uncle in 1483. Young Prince Edward was technically King but his uncle Richard III took over and is believed to have the boys murdered in order to retain his crown.

Pass under Tower Bridge and past St Katherine's docks. Rounding a left hand bend in the river, you are beside Wapping with its riverside public houses and steps down to the Thames.



Find out more information at: gopaddling.info

7. Not long before your finish point you'll see the Town of Ramsgate public house to your left. Do you spot the phantom of Geoffreys, the infamous Hanging Judge, attempting to escape? He was arrested on the steps outside this pub that lead down to the Thames, dressed as a sailor and trying to flee the country. His spirit remains trapped on these stairs, reportedly seen by river police in recent years.

Passing the Prospect of Whitby public house you are reaching the end of your journey. Your get out is on the left, onto a ramped pontoon, just beyond the curved walkway carrying the Thames Walkway around Shadwell Basin.

The Thames is home to over 125 different types of fish, and since efforts to improve the water quality in the 1960's there have been seals, porpoise, and even seahorses spotted there! What might you find!?

The Battersea Peace Pagoda was built by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order as part of the 1984 peace year. It is one of 80 around the world and that promote world peace and unity.

The massive London Eye was originally built as a temporary attraction to celebrate the millennium, but proved so popular it was made permanent! With over 3.75 million people a year going for a spin, the 135m tall wheel is London's most popular paid attraction!

If you look carefully you may see the Traitors Gate, where the Tudors took prisoners into the Tower of London by barge.

Towering over the rest of London, the Shard is the tallest building in the UK at 309.7m high! It has 306 flights of stairs and the 11,000 glass panels that make the facade would cover 8 football pitches!

For more information about British Canoeing visit: britishcanoeing.org.uk

For more information about getting started in paddling visit: gopaddling.info

Our members and the wider paddling community can get in touch with us at: T. 0300 0119 500

It is important to choose trails which sit within your paddling ability and that you do appropriate research before choosing to paddle one. If you are considering paddling on the Thames visit boatingonthames.co.uk first for the latest safety advice and waterway rules and regulations.

Licence

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe. Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

Paddle Responsibly. Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterways in this trail are managed by the Port of London Authority (PLA) and require paddlers to hold a licence. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual licence for this waterway - please take your membership card with you as this acts as your licence.

Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

**New to
paddling?**

Check out the
Paddle Awards!