

London, Sugar & Slavery

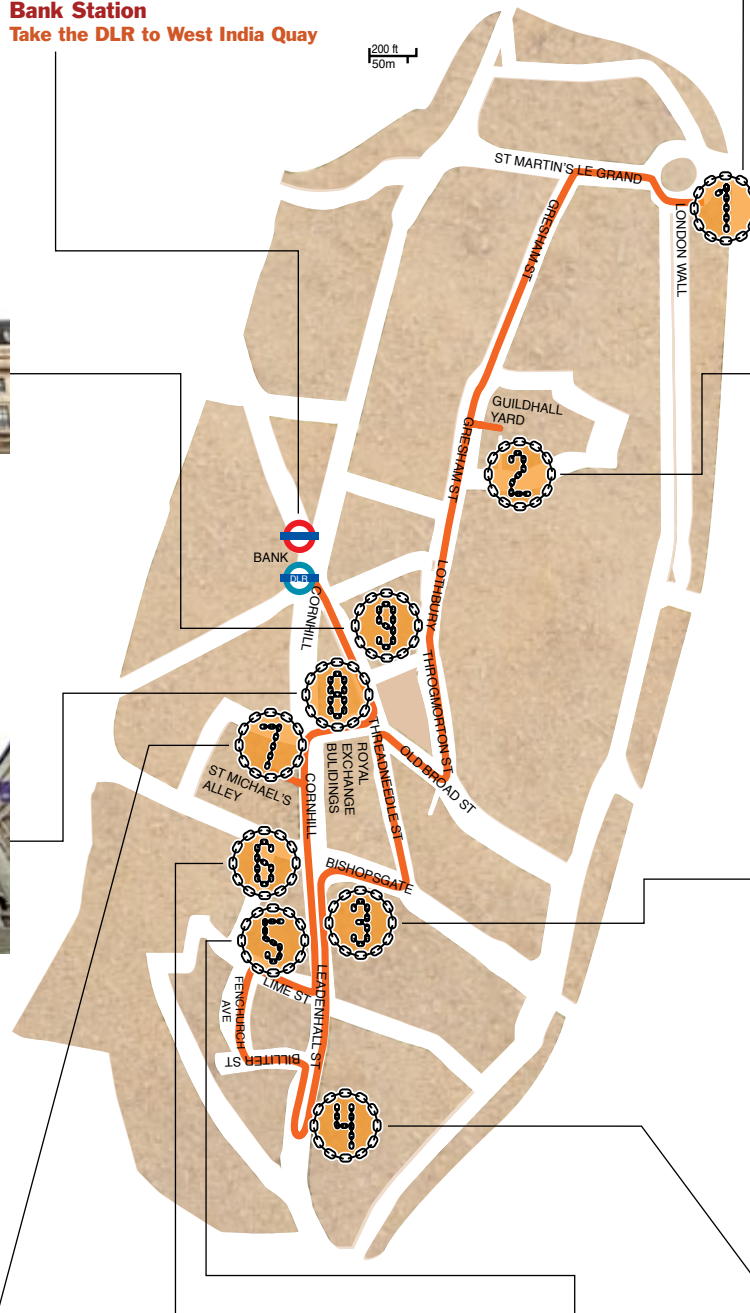
Revealing our city's untold history, a short walk that shows some of the city of London's connections to transatlantic enslavement.

Produced by Museum in Docklands

Bank Station

Take the DLR to West India Quay

200 ft
50m



1. The Museum Of London



2. Guildhall

The Guildhall is the headquarters of the Corporation of London, the body which governs the City of London. During the 18th and early-19th centuries shareholders in the Royal African Company included many of the city hierarchy. Sir William Beckford, who was Lord Mayor twice, owned slave plantations in Jamaica. There is a statue of him in the Guildhall.



3. South Sea House

South Sea House was the headquarters of the South Sea Company. The company is mainly associated with the 'South Sea Bubble'. This was probably the first major financial scam. Despite this the South Sea Company played an important part in London's role as a slave trading port. Between 1713-1736 the company dispatched 115 slave trading ships to the West Coast of Africa.



9. Bank Of England

The Bank of England was set up in 1694, to centralise and create a viable financial system for England's expanding transatlantic economy. As a result it was instrumental in the funding of plantation slavery, the slave trade and financing the British in European wars for dominance in the Caribbean.



8. Royal Exchange

The Royal Exchange was the building in which London's merchant met to transact business. The building played a vital role in London's slave and West India trading activities. It provided a focus not only for the trading of commodities, but also for finding shippers, insurance underwriters, financiers etc.



7. Jamaica Coffee House, Number 12, St Michael's Alley

The Jamaica coffee house was established on the site of London's first coffee house. It was used as a meeting place for slave traders and West India merchants. It was also used as a venue for advertising the sale of enslaved persons and rewards for the recapture of people who had run-away.



6. East India Company, East India House, Leadenhall Street

This is the site of East India House, the headquarters of the East India Company. The company was set up in 1600, to trade with the Indian subcontinent. The company traded in slaves through the island of Madagascar. Furthermore many of the goods used in the slave trade in Africa came from India.



5. Lloyd's of London, Royal Exchange

The organisation of a business in insuring ships evolved from Edward Lloyd's Coffee House in Lombard Street in 1688. The coffee house was used by many different people, including marine underwriters, who would insure all manner of ships, including those engaged in the slave and West India trades.



4. Royal African Company, Africa House, 44-46 Leadenhall Street

This site in Leadenhall Street was the headquarters of the Royal African Company. The company was granted a monopoly over the slave trade on the west coast of Africa by the crown. Under the Royal African Company, London's slave trading activities escalated to industrial proportions and enormous profits were made by those involved.

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Revealing our city's untold history, a short walk that shows the West India Docks connections to transatlantic enslavement.

Produced by Museum in Docklands



1. West India Dock

The dock basins and warehouses of the West India Docks were opened in 1802. The dock was built to secure the profits from slave plantations in the Caribbean. It was the first enclosed dock built on the Thames for the purpose of cargo handling. The docks were the physical manifestation of London's corner of the Triangle trade. The Dock was used by at least 22 known slave trading vessels between 1802 and 1807.



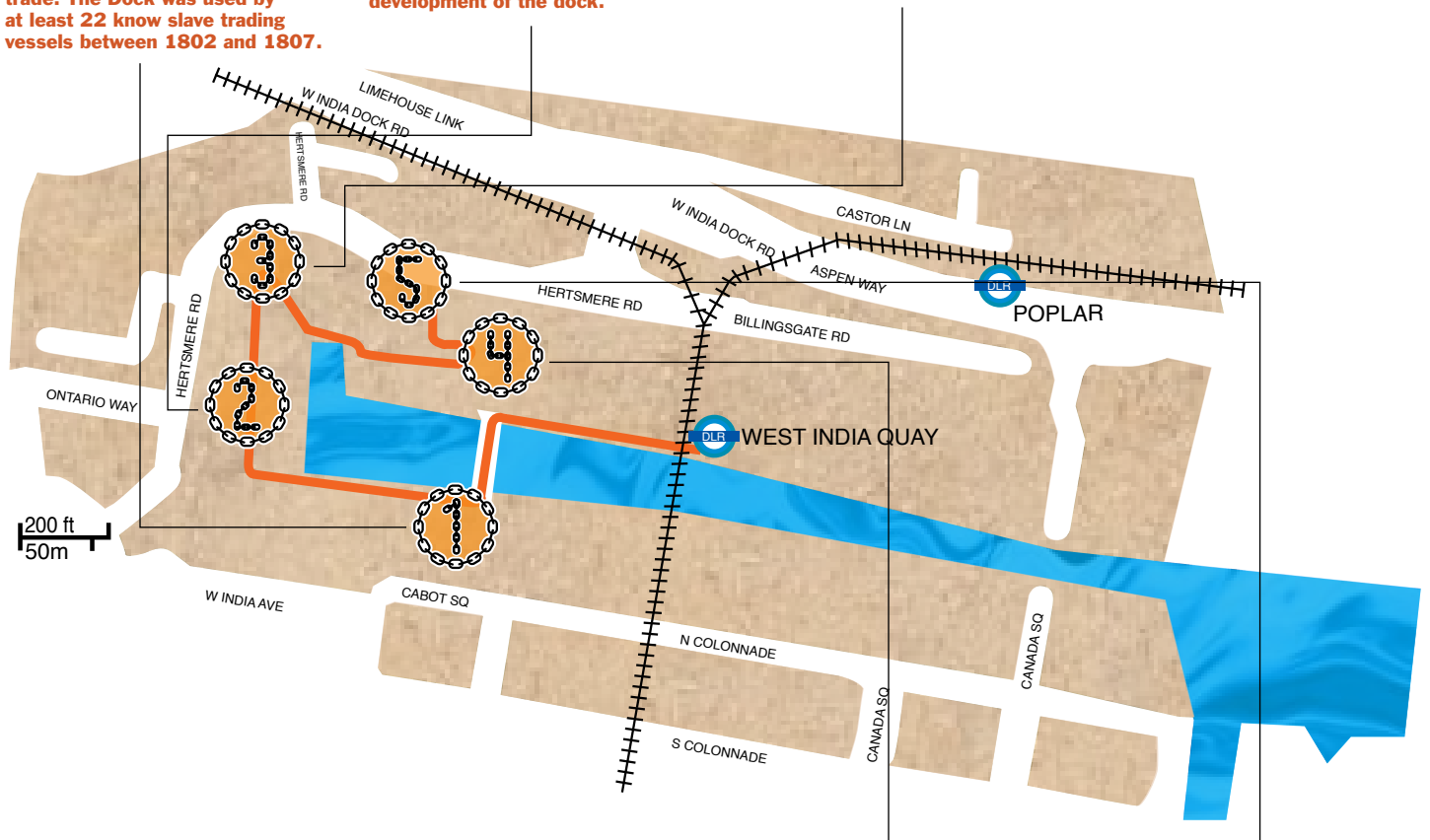
2. Hibbert Gate, West India Docks

This site is a replica of the gate of the West India Dock, which opened in 1802. Above the gate is a model of the Hibberts, a ship which traded from this dock, mainly to Jamaica. The Hibberts was named after the slave owner George Hibbert, who was instrumental in the development of the dock.



3. Building Plaque, West India Dock

This is the huge foundation stone of the West India Dock. The dock was built as a result of a campaign initiated by London's Committee of West India Merchants and Planters - which included many of London's slave traders and others profiting from slavery.



4. Statue of Robert Milligan, West India merchant and Chairman of the West India Docks.

Robert Milligan (c1746–1809) was the son of a plantation owning family in the Caribbean. He was a member of the Committee of West India Merchants and Planters. The Committee raised the capital that funded the building of the West India Docks.



5. Museum In Docklands

This site is the Museum in Docklands. The museum is situated within Warehouse No. 1, one of two surviving warehouses of the West India Dock, which opened in 1802. Originally nine Georgian warehouses were erected on the North Quay by the West India Dock Company to store sugar.