

# Hull Maritime Volunteer Julie Corbett experiences the Maritime City Trail

A volunteer leads every Maritime Tour, all are white badge tour guides accredited by the Institute of Tourism Guiding. Each volunteer adds their own research to the tour.

**Allow:** The free tours take place on Thursdays and Saturdays (subject to volunteer availability) starting from the Museum Quarter Gardens on High Street. Full tours run in the morning and take up to 2 1/2 hours. Short tours run in the afternoon and take up to 1 1/2 hours

## Accessibility:

Full route is 2.4 km with an ascent of 8.95 m. The route is level except where building works are being carried out and the guides can vary their route to meet your needs

## Trail hack #1:

The shorter Sunday tours will give you a taste of maritime history with less walking.

## Trail hack #2:

Keep your eyes peeled for both great statues and fish sculptures on this route.

## A guided walk through Hull's maritime heritage

Our starting point is the Museum Quarter gardens on High Street and a careful walk down a narrow, cobbled staithe to the River Hull. And here, from this modest, muddy brown river our guides tell the beginning of Hull's maritime story when late in the 12th century monks from Meaux began exporting wool overseas. I can remember this part of the river in the 1970's being full of barges, enough of them that you could walk across their decks, riverside to riverside.

The tour continues with the surprise of a bridge painted colourful greens and representations of Venn diagrams. John Venn the mathematician was born in Hull.

From here we walk into legendary tales; HMS Bounty built at nearby Blaydes shipyard, the ill-fated whaler Diana and even the fictional Robinson Crusoe who sailed from Hull.

The dry docks and riverfront transforming into a permanent museum and home for the Arctic Corsair, one of Hull's locally built sidewinder trawlers.

We arrive in Queen's Gardens. From this former dock you see the Guildhall with its Time Ball on top of the tower. Our guide explains the intriguing 'Solar Gate' sculpture by Tonkin Liu and how it works.

We cross over to Princes Quay passing the Maritime Museum (currently closed for refurbishment) and walk towards the Humber. I almost missed at our feet a reminder of Hull's rich fishing heritage, zander, flying fish and herring, sculptures of the self-guided Fish Trail.

We head towards the Humber. What a brilliant view from the Murdoch Connection Bridge, the marina, a fantastic backdrop for (another) photo. This is where the Spurn Lightship will return to a special berth after its restoration.

Just before the end of our tour we stop at my own favourite spot. The swirly part where the two rivers, Hull and Humber meet and mix. The ebb and flow. We continue walking and finish the tour at the newest bridge over the River Hull, Scale Lane Bridge, returning again to Hull's first harbour.



## KEY:

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Hull and East Riding Museum              | 8 Maritime Museum                       | 13 Spurn Lightship Temporary Location |
| 2 Chapel Lane Staithe River Hull Boardwalk | 9 Monument Bridge/ Beverley Gate        | 14 Humber Street                      |
| 3 Wilberforce House                        | <b>END OF SHORT TOUR</b>                |                                       |
| 4 Blaydes House                            | 10 Trinity House Princes Dock Side      | 15 The Deep From Stage@TheDock        |
| 5 North End Shipyard                       | 11 Princes Dock Near Murdoch Connection | 16 Tidal Surge Barrier                |
| 6 Queens Gardens                           | 12 Hull Marina                          | 17 Scale Lane Bridge                  |
| 7 Queens Gardens 2: Guildhall/Time Ball    |   | <b>END OF FULL TOUR</b>               |