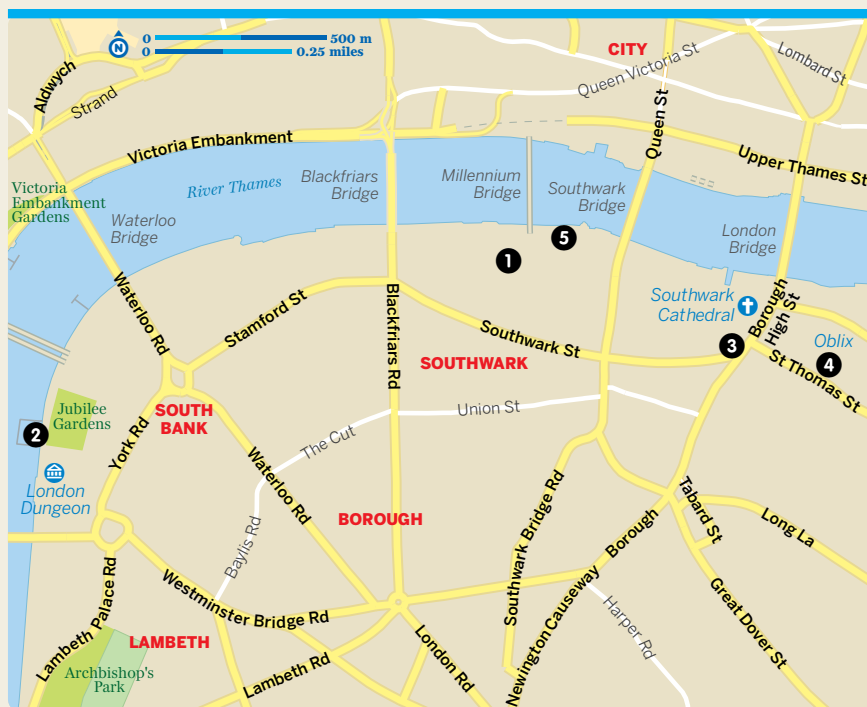


The South Bank

WATERLOO | BANKSIDE & SOUTHWARK | LONDON BRIDGE | BERMONDSEY | ROTHERHITHE

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Finding out what all the fuss is about by exploring the magnificent modern-art collection at the peerless **Tate Modern** (p158).
- ➋ Stimulating your taste buds on a gastronomic tour of discovery at **Borough Market** (p162).
- ➌ Sipping a coffee or cocktail at **Oblix** (p170) in the Shard for riveting views of the city.
- ➍ Getting a Bard's-eye view of Elizabethan theatrics at the magnificent **Shakespeare's Globe** (p160).



For more detail of this area see Map p420 ➔

Explore: The South Bank

Once neglected beyond its arts venues, the South Bank has transformed into one of London's must-see neighbourhoods. A roll call of riverside sights stretches along the Thames, commencing with the London Eye, running past the cultural enclave of the Southbank Centre and on to the Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge and Shakespeare's Globe. It continues: waterside pubs, a cathedral, one of London's most-visited food markets, London's tallest building, a handful of fun diversions for kids and irrepressible kidults and the increasingly hip neighbourhood of Bermondsey. A stunning panorama unfolds on the far side of the Thames, as head-swivelling architecture rises up on either bank.

The drawcard sights stretch west-east in a manageable riverside melange, so doing it on foot is the best way. Located roughly halfway between the London Eye and Tower Bridge, the Tate Modern is by far the most time-intensive sight, and can easily hollow out a day's sight-seeing; two to three days for the South Bank is optimum but if you're in a rush, one day may do for a (frazzling) whistle-stop look at the main sights.

Local Life

- **Hang-outs** Cool Londoners love Maltby Street Market (p173) for its gourmet sandwiches, crazy cocktails and rollicking atmosphere.
- **Museums** Locals earmark Friday and Saturday late-night opening (till 10pm) at the Tate Modern (p158), when the art crowds have thinned.
- **Artisan food & drink** Be it for their next dinner party or just a treat, Londoners love buying delicious products at Borough Market (p162), trying English wines at the Wine Pantry (p170) or craft beers from the Bermondsey Beer Mile (p171).

Getting There & Away

- **Underground** The South Bank is lashed into the tube system by stations at Waterloo, Southwark, London Bridge and Bermondsey, all on the Jubilee Line; the Northern Line runs through London Bridge and Waterloo (the Bakerloo line runs through the latter).
- **On Foot** Cross to South Bank from the City over Tower Bridge or the Millennium Bridge, or from the West End across Waterloo Bridge. Each offers sublime views of the city.
- **Bicycle** Jump on a Santander Bike and wheel it!
- **Bus** The Riverside RV1 runs around the South Bank and Bankside, linking all the main sights (running between Covent Garden and Tower Gateway).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To collect the main sights, trace the Silver Jubilee Walk and the South Bank section of the Thames Path along the southern riverbank, but do venture further inland for the best eating and drinking.

Best Places to Eat

- Arabica Bar & Kitchen (p167)
- Union Street Cafe (p167)
- Skylon (p167)
- Baltic (p167)
- Watch House (p167)

For reviews, see p166 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Wine Pantry
- Scootercaffe (p169)
- 40 Maltby Street (p170)
- Oblix (p170)
- Mayflower (p170)

For reviews, see p169 ➡

Best Theatres

- Shakespeare's Globe & Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (p171)
- National Theatre (p171)
- Young Vic (p172)
- Old Vic (p172)

For reviews, see p171 ➡