

The South Bank

WATERLOO | BANKSIDE | SOUTHWARK | BOROUGH | BERMONDSEY

Neighbourhood Top Five

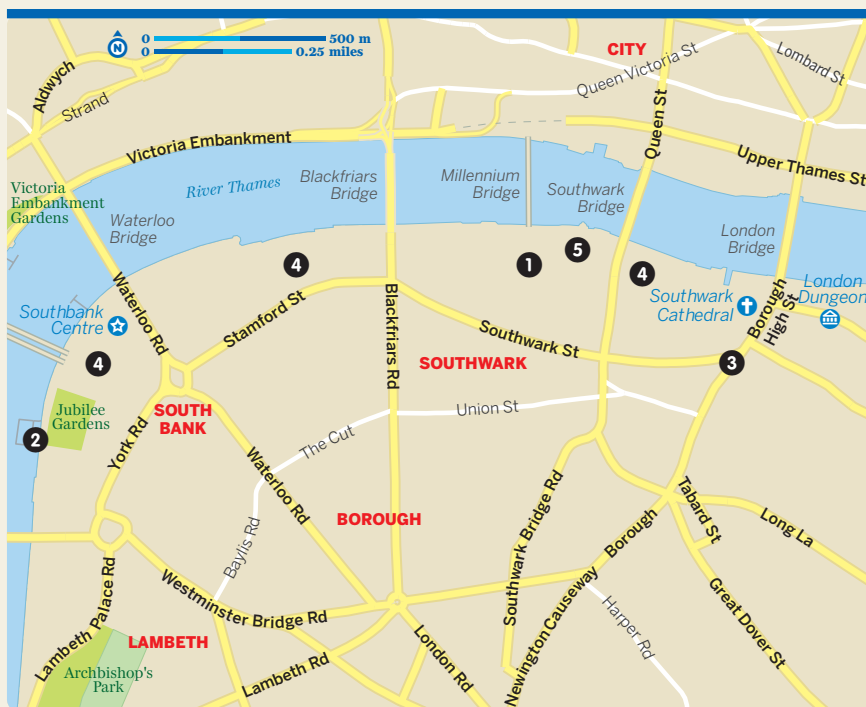
1 Finding out what all the fuss is about, exploring the magnificent modern-art collection at the peerless **Tate Modern** (p164).


2 Revolving in leisurely fashion above London's panoramic cityscape in the iconic **London Eye** (p169).

3 Stimulating your taste buds on a gastronomic tour of discovery at **Borough Market** (p176).

4 Stopping by **Skylon** (p173) or the **Oxo Tower Restaurant & Brasserie** (p173) for riveting views of the Thames and the city, or dropping anchor at the **Anchor Bankside** (p177).

5 Getting a Bard's-eye view of Elizabethan theatrics as a groundling at the magnificent **Shakespeare's Globe** (p168).



For more detail of this area, see Map p436 

Explore: The South Bank

Once neglected beyond its arts venues, the South Bank today 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, busy boutique shopping quarters, a cathedral, one of London's most-visited food markets and a handful of fun diversions for kids and irrepressible kidults. 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** Join locals picking through the gastronomic selection at Borough Market (p176) then take a courtyard seat outside Southwark Cathedral (p172) before a fish-and-chip lunch at Masters Super Fish (p174) or a pint at the galleried George Inn (p177).
- ➔ **Museums** Locals earmark Friday and Saturday late-night opening (till 10pm) at the Tate Modern (p164), when the art crowds have thinned.
- ➔ **Theatre** Londoners applaud Shakespeare's Globe (p168) and seats are stuffed with locals at impressive theatre venues such as the National Theatre (p169), the Old Vic (p180) and the Young Vic (p180).

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 from the West End across Westminster Bridge or any other vehicle and pedestrian bridges.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Jump on a Barclays Bike (p393) 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, with occasional inroads south for shopping, dining and drinking recommendations.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Anchor & Hope (p174)
- ➔ Laughing Gravy (p174)
- ➔ Skylon (p173)
- ➔ Magdalen (p174)

For reviews, see p173 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Rake (p178)
- ➔ George Inn (p177)
- ➔ Anchor Bankside (p177)
- ➔ Scootercaffe (p177)
- ➔ Baltic (p177)

For reviews, see p177 ➔

Best Attractions

- ➔ Tate Modern (p164)
- ➔ London Eye (p169)
- ➔ Borough Market (p176)
- ➔ Shakespeare's Globe (p168)
- ➔ London Bridge Experience & London Tombs (p171)
- ➔ Sea Life London Aquarium (p169)

For reviews, see p169 ➔

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