




**WALKING
WESTON'S
HISTORY**

A TOUR OF WESTON'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS



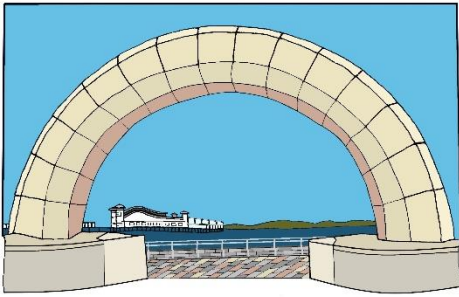
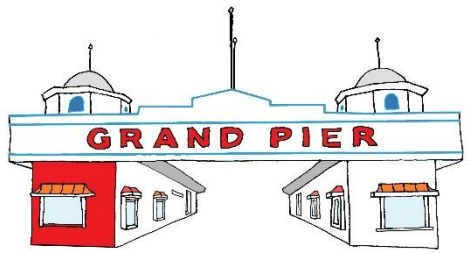
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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Winter Gardens Pavilion | 11 Mayor's Parlour |
| 2 Royal Hotel | 12 Jill's Garden |
| 3 Old Thatched Cottage | 13 Playhouse Theatre |
| 4 Weston Arch | 14 Weston Mercury |
| 5 Royal Crescent | 15 Constitutional Club |
| 6 St. John's Church | 16 Queen Alexandra Hospital buildings |
| 7 Oriel Terrace |  Weston Museum |
| 8 School of Science and Art | 17 North Star locomotive replica |
| 9 Blakehay Theatre | 18 Tavern Inn The Town |
| 10 War Memorial | |

This route is just under two miles long and is mostly on level ground.

Allow around an hour for your walk.

**For more information visit
www.westonmuseum.org**

Starting at the Grand Pier, walk with the sea on your left along the promenade.

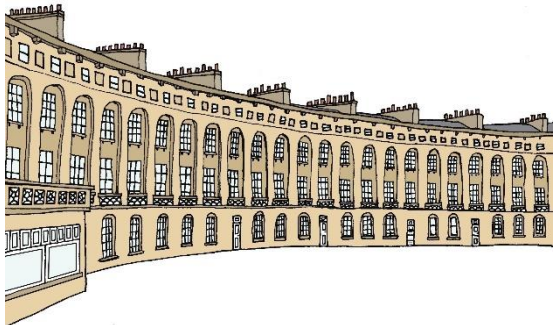


Follow the promenade until you reach the Weston Arch (4). Designed by Royal Academy artist John Maine, this granite structure was built in 2010.

Cross the road using the traffic lights under the arch and walk down the narrow road heading inland.

Turn right and keep going until you get to a fork in the road. Take the left fork and climb a short, steep hill until you reach a junction. Be careful of traffic on these narrow lanes.

Looking to your right you will now have an excellent view of the Royal Crescent (5), constructed by developer Henry Davies in 1847 to accommodate wealthy visitors to Weston.



Taking care, head across the road and uphill past the crescent. Follow the pavement around to the right until you find yourself opposite a church with its bell tower facing the road.

This is St. John's Church (6), cross the road here and take a closer look. St. John's is the original parish church of Weston. Although rebuilt in 1824, the church's history stretches back as far as 1226.

Continue down the hill. On your right you will see the grand and imposing Oriel Terrace (7). Now, carry on until you see a sign for Lovers Walk on your left.



Looking to your right you will see a beautifully ornate building which once housed the School of Science and Art (8). The renowned graphic artist Alfred Leete trained here.

Turn left and head down Lovers Walk toward Grove Park.

As you emerge on to the street you will find the park on your left and the Blakehay Theatre (9) on your right. Originally a Baptist church, this arts centre is supported by Weston Town Council.

Enter Grove Park and follow the path that runs along its left edge. Archaeological evidence has shown this area to be the site of the earliest settlement in what is now Weston-super-Mare.

Walk on until you are level with the War Memorial (10). Dedicated to the dead of both World Wars, this memorial features a statue of Victory by the artist Alfred Drury. After recent restoration work, she once again holds an olive branch to symbolise peace.



Nearby is a grey stone building, head towards it.



Opposite the Mayor's Parlour is Jill's Garden (12), created by the BBC's Ground Force team in 2001 as a memorial to the journalist Jill Dando. Take some time and explore this tranquil spot.

After leaving the garden, head down the path toward the bandstand and exit the park through the gates on the far side.

Walk down the road in front of you and stop to look at the Playhouse Theatre (13). Converted from a market hall in 1946, the original theatre burned down in 1964. It was rebuilt and reopened in its present form in 1969.

Continue through a pedestrian area until you reach a set of traffic lights. Cross the road, turn left and walk inland along the street.

Before long you will pass the offices of the Weston Mercury (14), our local newspaper. This stunning building was designed by celebrated local architect Hans Price.

On the corner opposite the Mercury you will see another Hans Price building housing the Constitutional Club (15). Look for the figure above the doorway.



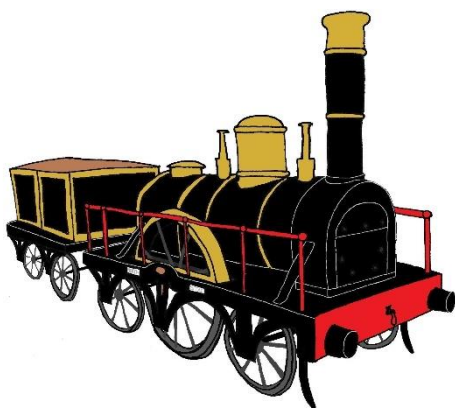
Keep following the road, crossing straight over at the first set of traffic lights you come to and then turning right at the second set.

As you walk down Alfred Street, across the road you will see the buildings that once housed the Queen Alexandra Hospital (16). Opened in 1927 by the future King George VI, it served the people of Weston until 1986.

Continue down the street and take the second road on your right. This is Burlington Street where, just beyond Clara's Cottage, Weston Museum can be found in the grand structure that was once home to the Weston-super-Mare Gaslight Company. Admission is free, so please come in and look around. Opening times can be found on our website.

Once you've taken in the exhibits at the museum (and perhaps had a bite to eat and something to drink in our cafe.) there is more to see on the route back to the seafront.

Head left out of the museum, left again, and carry on to the end of the street. Ahead of you are the gardens of Alexandra Parade. Here you can see a replica of an early steam locomotive, The North Star. This was the site of Weston's first railway station (17), opened in 1841.



Turn right and continue past the Tavern Inn The Town (18). This building originally served visitors as the Railway Hotel.

Keep walking and you will soon spot the Silica (or 'the carrot' as it's known locally). This area is known as Big Lamp Corner for a streetlight that once stood here.

The entrance to the Grand Pier can now be seen at the end of the street, head towards it.

Walking down this street of bars, restaurants and amusement arcades you are now in the heart of Weston's tourist industry. Catering to the needs of visitors has a long history in our town. If you turn left as you reach the end of the street you will see the clock marking the building that was once the Grand Central Hotel (19).

This tour of some historic landmarks is now complete, but there is much more to see in and around Weston.