

There's another side to London.  
 Beyond the jurisdiction of The City.  
 Undiscovered by outsiders.  
 Loved by insiders.  
 An ever-changing place...  
 That teases our wildside and thrills our artside.  
 Blurs our workside into our playside.  
 Where we live on the brightside.  
 And explore our darkside.  
 Hidden in plain sight, this is Bankside.  
*London's other side.*

# WILD SIDE

## Walk on the wide side

Bankside was a natural landing place for dissenters and free thinkers. Its anarchic past is etched in the area's medieval network of streets.

The remains of Winchester Palace, once one of the largest and most important buildings in medieval London, can be seen on Clink Street. The powerful Bishop of Winchester resided here and under his jurisdiction was the Liberty of the Clink.



Crossbones Graveyard



Winchester Palace

Theatres, bear baiting, and brothels were all permitted in Bankside. The brothels or 'stews' on Maiden Lane (now Park Street) were infamous. Prostitutes were known as 'Winchester Geese', licensed by the Bishop of Winchester. Many were buried in unconsecrated graves within what is now Crossbones Graveyard on Redcross Way, a garden of remembrance for the 'outcast dead'.

Southwark Cathedral has stood above a chaotic Bankside for centuries. It was Shakespeare's local parish church and his brother Edmund is buried here. Seek out the stained-glass window depicting characters from the Bard's most loved plays.

Throughout history, Bankside has been on the other side of London's mainstream. 16th century 'Banksyde' was outside the walls of the city, making it a natural landing place for outsiders and free thinkers. It became notorious as London's rowdy pleasure quarter full of theatres, brothels and gambling dens.

Today, rich in art, entertainment and culture, Bankside has a bold and independent spirit shaped by its past – an 'otherness' that inspires creative thinking.

## Satisfy your curious side

Mighty Victorian rail viaducts form a spine running through Bankside and have been part of the areas heritage for over 150 years, harking back to a time when the rapid spread of railways happened nationwide.

The Low Line utilises these arches and tunnels to connect diverse communities and places whilst providing a unique walking experience through Bankside.



Low Line

# CURIOUS SIDE



Old Union Yard Arches

The first new sections of the Low Line opened at Old Union Yard Arches and Flat Iron Square and complement established hubs located at Borough Market, Maltby Street Market, and Spa Terminus.

Look out for the blue Low Line markers and follow the route.

## Indulge your drama side

Theatre is a huge part of Bankside's heritage and it remains prominent in the fabric of the area today. In the 16th century, English playing companies began constructing purpose-built playhouses. This phenomenon brought Bankside's greatest export: the work of William Shakespeare.



Shakespeare's Globe

The Rose was the first theatre to open in 1587 and its success spurred others. The Swan arrived in 1595 and the Globe theatre relocated from Shoreditch in 1599. At the Globe, Shakespeare produced some of his most famous plays until it burned down in 1613. Look out for the bronze plaque on Park Street that marks its original location.

# DRAMA SIDE

## Thrill your art side

Bankside is one of London's leading cultural quarters, evolving from a diverse and authentic heritage. When Tate Modern opened in 2000 it marked a creative renaissance and it has become the world's most visited art gallery. See the latest blockbuster exhibitions, free displays, and city vistas from the 360-degree viewing platform.

Bankside Gallery also sits on the riverside and is free to enter – a home for artists specialising in contemporary water-based media and original print.



Bankside Gallery

Just down the street is The Rose Playhouse. In 1989 the foundations of The Rose were discovered. Essential to Bankside's theatre history, it is now part archaeological site and performance space. Explore the site on Saturdays between March and December, and look online for the performance schedule.

The faithful reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe on the riverside shows outdoor performances from April to October, with standing tickets available from just £5, before moving into the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse for the winter months. The exhibition can be experienced all year round.

Full programmes for Union Theatre, Bunker Theatre, Cervantes, and renowned Menier Chocolate Factory, can be found online.



Tate Modern

Delve further into the backstreets and find newly commissioned works at Jerwood Space. Disciplines vary from sculpture, digital to performance.

Menier Gallery also hosts an ever-changing programme of contemporary exhibitions. The space is a chance to see inside the historic Menier Chocolate Factory.

# ART SIDE

## Tempt your hungry side

With Borough Market at its core, Bankside is a haven for food lovers. Borough Market is one of London's oldest food markets, in existence for a thousand years, and today it is globally renowned for its exceptional produce.

Grab a pitstop lunch or peruse the abundant cheese, cured meats and bread stalls – traditional British sitting alongside regional specialities from around the world.



Borough Market

# HUNGRY SIDE



Flat Iron Square

The Market is surrounded by shops selling artisan goods, and traditional pubs specialising in craft beer and real ales.

Southwark Street also offers an abundance of options from relaxed brunch spots to evening dining.

Flat Iron Square is home to an array of street food trucks and outdoor seating, or head to Union Yard Arches on Union Street for more upscale dining.

# PAST SIDE



Tate Modern

Beyond the riverside, look up and you'll see the architecture reveals layers of Bankside's industrial past. Bankside Power Station (now Tate Modern) holds a commanding place on the riverside. On Southwark Street you'll find three former warehouses; the Hop Exchange, the Menier Chocolate Factory and the Metal Box Factory.

Victorian design and innovation are celebrated in the mighty rail viaducts and at The Kirkaldy Testing Museum – purpose built for a machine to test the strength of materials. Fading ghost signs throughout the area are another visible insight into the area's commercial heritage.

On Bear Gardens, just off the riverside, you'll see a slab of flint called The Ferryman's Seat. It harks back to when the River Thames was heaving with boat traffic and ferrymen were in high demand taking City-dwellers back and forth. The street itself, Bear Gardens, is reflective of a time when bear-baiting pits were found throughout Bankside.



Ghost Sign

# THIRSTY SIDE

## Quench your thirsty side.

Bankside's brewing heritage is all around us. Barclay and Perkins Anchor Brewery, which uniquely took its water direct from the Thames, became the largest in the world by the early 19th century, later merging with its rival brewer Courage in 1955. The Courage brewery ghost sign can still be seen on Park Street.



The Distillery Bar

Today, you can grab a cosy pint in several historic sites that still exist such as The Anchor and The George Inn – a National Trust site which is the last remaining galleried inn in London.



The George Inn

Revellers would have frequented Bankside's rowdy taverns and coaching inns. The old inns and yards by Borough High Street once housed notorious establishments like The Tabard.

Bankside and beer go hand in hand, but there are also plenty of wine bars in addition to its pubs. Enjoy cocktails in late night bars or hotel lounges, soak up the atmosphere amongst the railway arches at Flat Iron Square and Union Yard arches, or for a caffeine fix, find charming independent coffee houses tucked away on Union Street and around Borough Market.

For a full list of where to eat and drink visit: [banksidelondon.co.uk](http://banksidelondon.co.uk)

## Getting Here

Bankside is easily accessible by train, tube, boat or bus. London Bridge, Southwark, Borough, and Blackfriars stations are all close by. For the scenic route take a MBNA Thames Clipper to Bankside Pier.



Millennium Bridge



Great Suffolk Street

Bankside is served by lots of bridges so you can easily walk from the north of the river, over Millennium Bridge for example.

To plan your journey visit [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)

# OTHER SIDE

# BANKSIDE OTHER SIDE: LONDON'S A GUIDE TO



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#LondonsOtherSide

**Find out more**  
To find out where to eat, drink, and stay, and what events are on in Bankside, go to [banksidelondon.co.uk](http://banksidelondon.co.uk)

