

Pure sensory overload in Liverpool

Introduction.



Tate Liverpool

TIME: 3 hours

START: Superlambanana, Tithebarn Street

FINISH: Tate Gallery, Albert Dock

MILES: 2.75 miles

This gem-packed walk through the European Capital of Culture starts with a huge mutant lamb and ends with a lobster telephone. Along the way you will discover multicoloured tentacles, the oldest arts centre in the UK, a plethora of masterpieces by our Modern Masters and an awful lot of luggage.

You can access this walk via your mobile phone on,
www.bbc.co.uk/modernmasters

Or text the code ART WALK to 81010, and you'll receive a link to the Modern Masters mobile site. Texts cost between 12 -15p.

Download the audio version at

www.bbc.co.uk/bbccone/modernmasters/art-walks/birmingham/

This is where the art works resided at the time of writing but if you want to double check that a specific art work will be there when you undertake your walk then phone ahead to the Museums and institutions involved. You'll find links on each of the pages.

1. Tithebarn Street



Superlambanana

Pop Art Mural

Start on the corner of **Tithebarn Street** and **Hatton Garden**, where you will find one of the most popular and instantly recognisable pieces of public art in Liverpool. The truly strange *Superlambanana* (1998) designed by Japanese sculptor Taro Chiezo and built by local artist Andy Small.

Like the work of our Modern Masters, this sculpture was at first considered controversial but is now an important addition to the city's cultural identity. In 2008, as part of Liverpool's Capital Of Culture celebrations, 125 two-metre high replicas were commissioned and distributed across town. Some of these are still around, so keep an eye out for them on this walk.

The sculpture references the city's past, trading lambs and importing bananas while making a statement about the dangers of genetically modified food. The result is a bizarre combination, playful yet serious. It owes a debt to Dali who brought wit and surrealism into mainstream art and made it possible for artists after him to experiment with these concepts.

Now walk a little way along Tithebarn Street, then take the first left down **Cheapside**. The ever-popular *Superlambanana* makes another brief appearance at the end of this street, on the corner of **Dale Street** in a Pop Art-style mural.

2. Mathew Street



Electricity Substation

Now turn right onto **Dale Street** then left into **Sir Thomas Street**. When you reach **Victoria Street** turn right, then second left into **Temple Court**. About halfway down you will see **Mathew Street**, home to The Cavern Club where Brian Epstein first saw The Beatles play. Salvador Dali was also a great admirer of The Beatles, particularly John Lennon. So much so that he kept a photograph of Lennon hanging from a coat hanger on his wall in his New York home.

Before you reach The Cavern Club, you will see what looks like an ordinary electricity substation. Look a little closer. The generators have been painted purple and there are lights flashing on and off.

This was the station that powered The Cavern Club in the Sixties, before it was turned into an artwork in 1998. It's best seen at night when a swirling psychedelic lightshow, featuring a Yellow Submarine which swims amongst the generators, brings the station to life. The piece is influenced by both the Beatles and the Pop Art movement of the Sixties that Andy Warhol pioneered.

Opposite the generator, at number 23, you will see the View Two Gallery. This independent gallery is home to three floors of contemporary art so why not pop in and see what's on display...

Now make your way back past the substation, to the other end of **Mathew Street**.

3. FACT



Tango

Reconciliation

At the end of Mathew Street turn right into **Stanley Street** then right again onto **Whitechapel**. Follow the road and turn left into **School Lane**, where you will find *The Bluecoat*. Built in 1716, this is Britain's oldest arts centre. It has always been at the heart of Liverpool's arts scene and in 1911 became the first place to show paintings by Matisse and Picasso outside of London. As well as housing exhibitions, the centre is home to a working community of artists. Make sure you take a look at the Bluecoat Display Centre at the back of the building, where contemporary craft and design can be found.

Carry on up School Lane until you reach **Hanover Street**, and then turn left and first right into **Wood Street**, noting the 3-D Guinness mural on the wall as you pass. Keep going until you reach **Concert Street**. Here, to your right, you will find *Tango* (1984) by British pop artist Allen Jones. It shows two dancers intertwined in what looks like a collage of metal. Picasso pioneered both collage and a style of sculpture that has allowed subsequent artists to experiment with materials and create sculptures that are more 'fractured', such as this one.

Now look to your left towards **Bold Street** and you will see *Reconciliation* (1990) by Stephen Broadbent. This poignant iron sculpture of two people hugging was made in Belfast, close to the border between Catholic and Protestant communities. Echoes of Matisse's nude paintings and sculptures can be found in the simplified shapes of the embracing figures.

Carry on up **Wood Street** and at number 88 you will see the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology. Founded in 1989, FACT's mission is to inspire and promote the artistic significance of film, video and new media. Back in the Sixties Andy Warhol became one of the first to exhibit video as a work of art, today it is a firmly established artistic medium that continues to push boundaries.

4. Metropolitan Cathedral



Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Carry on up **Wood Street** until you reach **Berry Street**. Cross the road and walk up around the Liverpool landmark St Luke's Church, onto **Leece Street**, which soon becomes **Hardman Street**. When you reach **Hope Street** look to your left and you will see the impressive Metropolitan Cathedral, designed by Frederick Gibberd and opened in 1967.

Gibberd was heavily influenced by the great 20th-century architect Le Corbusier, who believed that simple, 'primitive' shapes could evoke a primeval response in people. Clearly, so did Gibberd. Corbusier shared this notion with his great friend Picasso, whose work, particularly Cubism, he cited as a huge influence. Picasso even visited Le Corbusier on the building projects he was managing in southern France and guided the hand of this great architect.

The striking relief sculpture on the front of the building is by William Mitchell, who also designed the panels on either side of the entrance. Like Picasso, Mitchell is inspired by the so-called 'primitive' art of ancient cultures. You will see more of Mitchell's work as you turn right into **Hope Street**, heading away from the cathedral. The bold panels on Federation House, next to the Philharmonic Hall, were also designed by him.

5. Hope Street



A Case History

Superlambanana

Continue down **Hope Street**, and past two large brass columns. This is the *Sheppard-Worlock Statue* (2008) by Stephen Broadbent. It's a memorial to two former Liverpool bishops who helped to heal sectarian divides in the city.

At number 60, outside a restaurant, you will pass another Superlambanana.

Keep walking and you will see piles of packing cases seemingly dumped on the pavement. This is John King's 1998 sculpture, *A Case History*. Various items of luggage, cast in concrete, are stacked on the side of the road. The labels on the suitcases refer to notable individuals and institutions linked with Liverpool. It's the sight of familiar objects in unexpected surroundings, a favourite surrealist trick used by Salvador Dalí and it gives this sculpture its particular allure.

Turn right at the packing cases and head down **Mount Street**, which then turns into **Knights Street**. Keep going until you reach **Berry Street** where you will turn left and then right into **Duke Street**. On the corner, note *Banksy's White Rat Cat* stencil, which appeared on the side of a disused pub in 2004. Banksy's visual commentaries on modern life, his use of celebrity images and pop culture follows in the footsteps of Andy Warhol, whose own genre-busting works challenged concepts of what art could and should be.

6. Wolstenholme Square



Penelope

The Pillar of Friendship

Take the first right into **Colquitt Street** followed by the first left into **Parr Street**. Walk along **Parr Street** and you will eventually reach **Wolstenholme Square**, although you will be able to see the huge sculpture that sits in the square long before you get there. Cuban sculptor Jorge Pardo's monumental *Penelope* (2004) with its brightly coloured tentacles is one of the largest sculptures in the city. It transforms the landscape, like a surreal sci-fi nightmare, and makes you think about the space in a different way. This changing of space through the use of bold colour and simple shapes was pioneered by Matisse, particularly with the cut-outs which he produced near the end of his life.

Carry on down **Gradwell Street** and turn left onto **Hanover Street**. Cross over to the John Lewis department store where you will find *The Pillar Of Friendship*. This was constructed in 2007 by 300 blacksmiths from around the world, who worked together to forge the 15 metal sections, each exploring the theme of 'friendship'. The metal work designs combine abstract shapes in vibrant colours, simplified figures and flattened planes - the legacy of two of our Modern Masters: Matisse and Picasso.

7. Tate Liverpool



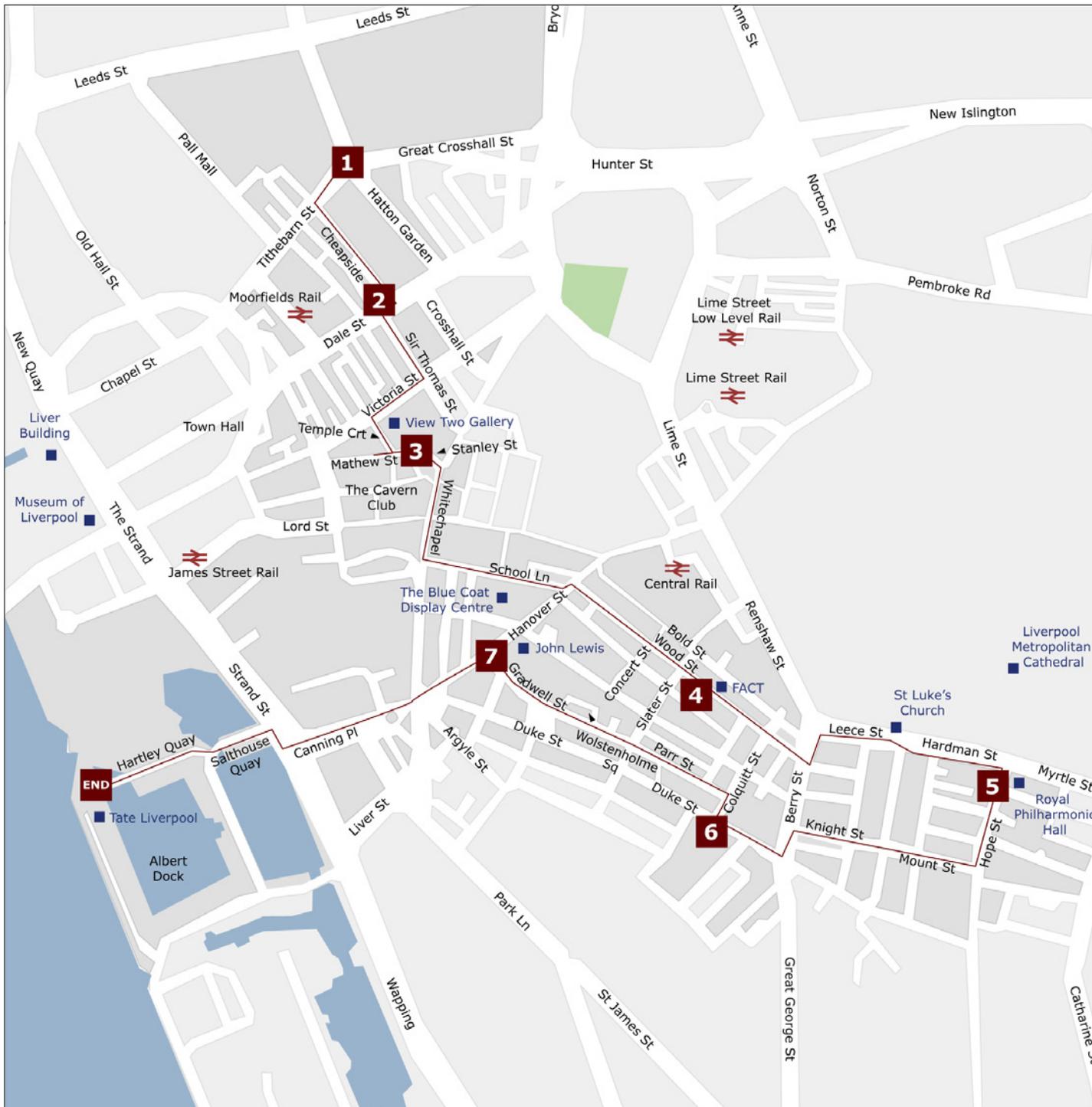
Tate Liverpool

Now make your way down towards the river via **Canning Place**. Then cross over and walk towards **Albert Dock**. To the right you will see the combination of old and new on Liverpool's waterfront skyline: the bold, geometric Museum of Liverpool nestling next to the famous Liver Building.

As you head to the waterfront, just beyond the statue of Billy Fury, you will find Tony Cragg's sculpture *Raleigh* (1986). Cragg makes his works from found objects, which he then manipulates. This is his response to Liverpool and his childhood memories of it, using materials that have actually played a part in its construction and heritage. Picasso was among the first to do this, revising the whole course of sculpture from a medium based on modelling or carving to one that could be 'built' out of various found materials. Dali also made use of found objects, using them in odd, humorous and sometimes alarming combinations to ignite hidden emotions in the viewer.

Now loop back to the Tate Liverpool. It houses an ever-changing display of modern and contemporary art, including works by all our Modern Masters. The greatest of these currently include Dali's famous *Lobster Telephone*, Matisse's bronze relief called *Back II*, Warhol's iconic Soup Can, Picasso's Seated Woman in Chemise and also his *Weeping Woman*. From painting and sculpture to minimalist art and video, the legacy of these artists is still clear to see at Tate Liverpool, so go and explore their influences through the works of major artists who followed in their footsteps, such as Jeff Koons, Anthony Caro, Mark Rothko and Barbara Hepworth.

If you've enjoyed this walk then try one of our other Art Walks around the UK.



Liverpool Map

Route:

TIME: 3 hours

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MILES: 2.75 miles

Key:

- : Walk
- : Step
- : Landmark
- ⇄ : Underground Station

Steps:

- 1 Tithebarn Street
- 2 Mathew Street
- 3 FACT
- 4 Metropolitan Cathedral
- 5 Hope Street
- 6 Wolstenholme Square
- 7 Tate Liverpool