



A winter wander around Weston-super-Mare



Stunning Victorian architecture can be spotted all around Weston-super-Mare's town centre.

Take this short walk – developed in partnership with Weston Civic Society and the Health Walks initiative – to spot some of the highlights.

This is the first in a series of walks to explore Weston's history, as part of the Heritage Action Zone project.



Walk information

Distance:
about 1.4 miles

Difficulty:
easy – a level walk on pavements. Wheelchair, pushchair and dog friendly

Duration:
about 90 minutes at a leisurely pace

How to get there

By car: Weston train station car park

By bus: 3, 20, 103, 7, 105 (Town Hall) 16 (Station Road)

By train: Weston-super-Mare train station

Begin the walk at the Grade II-listed Weston-super-Mare train station – opened in 1884 on a new loop which replaced the 1841 branch line. Brunel's Grade II-listed signal box is in the adjacent car park as a reminder of this previous trackway.

From the station, go over the zebra crossing onto Station Road, past a row of 1930s Art Deco houses on your left, and past local architect Hans Fowler Price's French-style depository, now Nightingale's storage facility.

Behind the 20-metre Pennant and Ham stone tower of Victoria Methodist Church is the 190-year-old Whitecross Lodge, former home of Richard Parsley who built Weston's first hotel.

You then pass the 1934 former magistrates' court, most recently used as a television drama location.

At the roundabout look left towards Walliscote Primary School, built in

1897 by Hans Price as Weston's first 'board school'.

Turn right past the Italianate Town Hall, opened in 1859, extended by Price in 1897, further extended in 'Post Office Georgian' in 1927, and the brick wing added in 1980.

Walking towards Regent Street you pass The Centre, a row of recently repainted Art Deco shops and apartments, finishing with Cecil Howitt's modernist 1935 Odeon cinema.

Opposite the Odeon, is Alexandra Parade, an elongated open space previously known as The Plantation.

This is where Weston's first train station opened in 1841. The scale replica locomotive North Star, installed in 2006, commemorates the 200th anniversary of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's birth.

The original train station is now the Tavern Inn the Town pub.

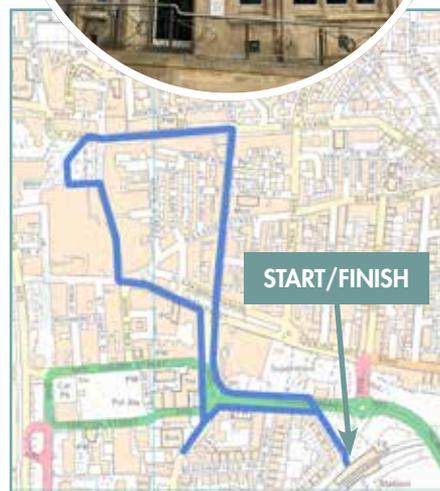


What is an Historic Action Zone?

The history and heritage of Weston-super-Mare is being preserved and enhanced thanks to the town being awarded Heritage Action Zone status by Historic England.



North Somerset Council successfully bid for £600,000 of funding which will be used over the next three years to develop initiatives which will help encourage people to understand more about the historic gems in the town.



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From here head towards Big Lamp Corner and Silica, a piece of public art designed by Wolfgang Buttress in 2006.

From here you can see several impressive buildings, particularly Costa Coffee (can you spot the elephants?) and HSBC bank.

As you walk along High Street, look up above shop level at the variety of windows, carvings and other details.

At the far end, the newly refurbished Italian Gardens provides a spot to sit and relax among the classical balustrading, fountains and lawns.

Spot the 1807 Royal and the Imperial (formerly Bath) – Weston's first two hotels. Also SASS bar, an 1860s former bank in Florentine palazzo style; the new University Centre at the Winter Gardens; and the 1992 Sovereign Shopping Centre.

Turn right into Waterloo Street and the Boulevard. The Mercury office and adjacent buildings, together with the Constitutional Club (former Masonic Lodge of St Kew), and row of shops, are all by Hans Price in the 1880s.

Turn next right into Orchard Street, a busy road of independent businesses including a chocolatier, florist, Asian and East European food stores and restaurants, crafts shops and dress shops. In adjacent Burlington Street is Weston Museum, refurbished and reopened last year. The independent retailers extend into Meadow Street as well.

At the end of Orchard Street you will find yourself back in Alexandra Parade, where you can retrace your steps back to the train station.

A more detailed version of this walk is available as a PDF. Visit www.discovernorthsomerset.co.uk