



City of Bath

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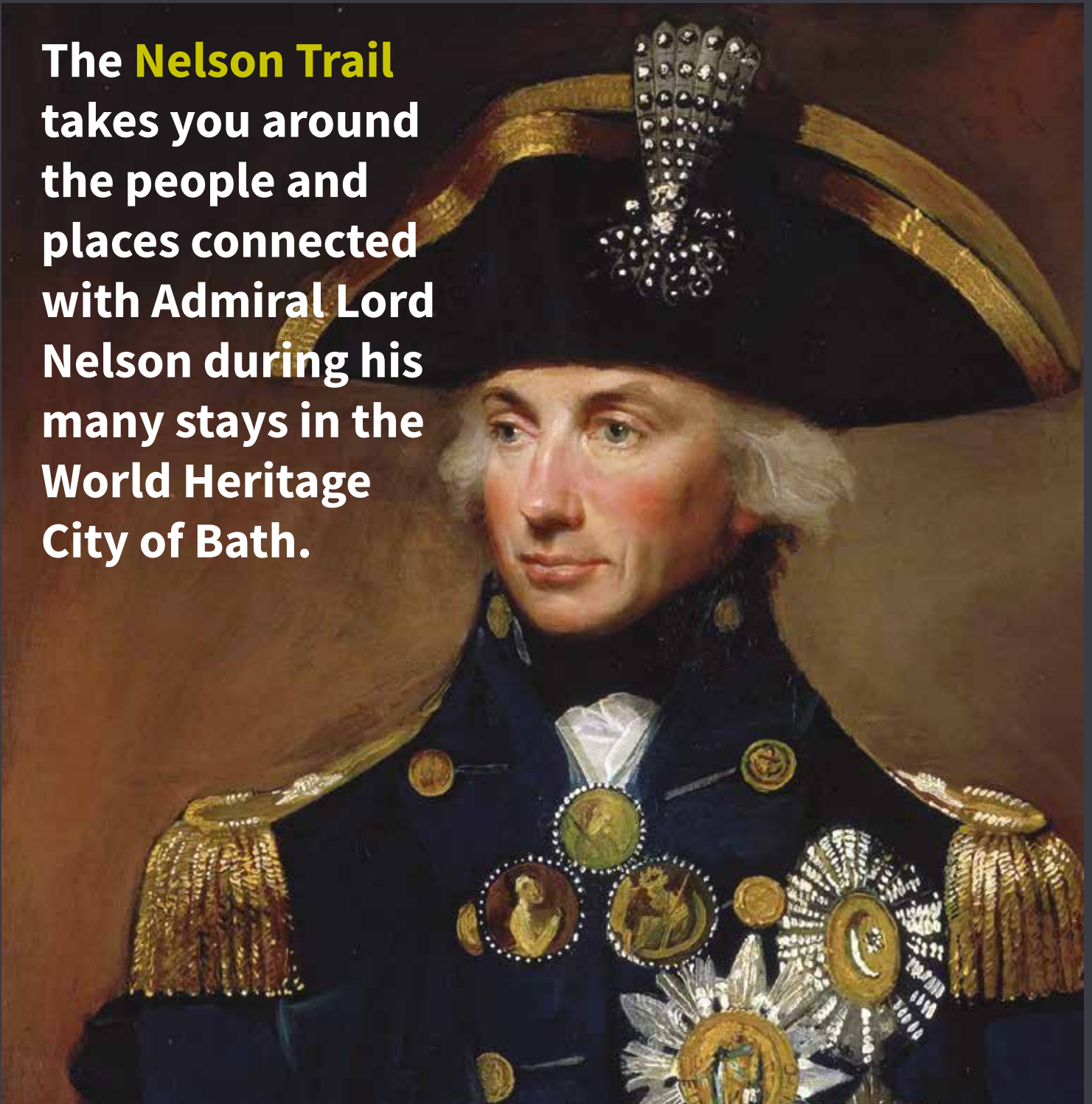
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



City of Bath
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1987

Nelson Trail

The **Nelson Trail** takes you around the people and places connected with Admiral Lord Nelson during his many stays in the World Heritage City of Bath.



This self guided walking tour starts at the **Visit Bath Information Centre, 2 Terrace Walk, Bath, BA1 1LN**. You will be following the numbers on the map overleaf. Face away from the Information Centre, towards Parade Gardens and walk to your right to:

1 Pierrepont Street

No. 2 “Nelson House” (see plaque next to entrance door). Nelson lodged here at the home of apothecary Nicholas Spry. His first visit was in 1781 when invalided back from Nicaragua, sick with fever (which may have been malaria) and paralysis; his treatment required massage, drinking the ‘waters’, bathing and a large pill. No. 2 is one of only three buildings in Bath where Nelson actually stayed that still exist today. On the other side of the road is **No 9** – Reverend Edmund Nelson, Nelson’s father, lodged here in 1781. Now retrace your steps along Pierrepont Street and turn left under the colonnaded arch into Old Orchard Street, walk 50 yards to:

2 The Masonic Hall

Plaque on wall commemorating site of the original Theatre Royal (the first theatre outside London to be granted a “Royal Patent”). It was managed by John Palmer, the Comptroller General of the UK Post Office, Mayor of Bath (1796 & 1809) and Bath’s Member of Parliament (1801-1807). Nelson attended the theatre as Palmer’s guest in 1798, having the use of Palmer’s private box. Much more can be found on John Palmer in the Bath Postal Museum at 27 Northgate Street, on the corner with Broad Street. Walk onwards, turn right at Cambridge House into Henry Street and right again into the enclosed passageway by M&S, at the end turn left, then right through the archway into Abbey Green:

3 The Crystal Palace Pub

Now occupies the site of No 10 & 11 Abbey Green, where Nelson and his wife Frances (née Nisbet), known as Fanny, lodged during his last visit in 1798. On the opposite side of the Green is **No. 1**, home of Admiral Samuel Barrington, a close friend of both Nelson and his wife from their time in the West Indies. Horatio and Fanny would have known the same London Plane tree still occupying the middle of the Green. Leave Abbey Green with the pub on your left and walk across York Street into Kingston Parade.

4 Bath Abbey

The Abbey Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Bath, commonly known as Bath Abbey, is an Anglican parish church and a former Benedictine monastery. Stand back and admire the remarkable West Front, with its huge entrance doors and the ‘Jacob’s Ladders’ of angels going up and down from Heaven. The Abbey has been rebuilt twice



since it was the site of the coronation of Edgar (reigned 975-959 as King of England). Edgar was the first monarch to be *crowned* as king in AD973. The Abbey houses a large number of memorial plaques, some are dedicated to many of Nelson’s colleagues, both Naval and Civilian. With the Abbey West Front behind you walk towards the far left-hand corner of Abbey Churchyard, going past:

5 The Pump Room

Often frequented by Edmund Nelson during the winter season, as part of his annual recuperation. Almost everyone in Society came at some time to drink the Bath ‘waters’ and to bathe in the adjoining King’s Bath, all part of the “Bath Cure” and to enjoy the well-known social scene. After the Pump Room, go under the colonnaded archway, turn left into Stall Street until you spot the UNESCO World Heritage emblem in the paving underfoot. In 1987, UNESCO inscribed the City of Bath as a World Heritage Site, making it one of only two European cities similarly inscribed in its entirety; the other city being Venice. Turn right into Bath Street, passing the Cross Bath on your right and then turn right into the passageway (originally called ‘Nowhere Lane’) with the Chapel of St John’s Hospital on your right. At the end of the passageway turn right and walk along Westgate Buildings, keeping to the right-hand side, go straight ahead over pedestrian junction, uphill, leaving Sainsbury’s on your left. Continue 120 yards, passing the current Theatre Royal, and turn left into Beauford Square, where



[hand] bells were rung and speeches made on the day of Nelson’s funeral. Continue, bearing left, to Monmouth Street, turn right by the Griffin Inn, then left at traffic lights into Charles Street. Cross at pedestrian-controlled lights to:

6 Charles Street

No. 22 Nelson’s father and sister Susannah moved here briefly in 1797 to make more room in No. 17 New King Street for Nelson’s return to Bath to be reunited with his wife after four years at sea. During that time he had lost the sight of his right eye in Calvi, Corsica, been created a “Knight of the Honourable Order of The Bath” (for his actions at the Battle of Cape St Vincent) and suffered the loss of his right arm at Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Next, turn into:

7 New King Street

No. 17 The only home Nelson and Fanny shared in ten years of marriage, which they rented from 1794 to 1797. Fanny later stayed at **No. 10** after Nelson’s death at Trafalgar in 1805. **No. 19 New King Street**, home of Sir William Herschel, appointed the King’s Astronomer in 1782, a composer and musician; the planet Uranus was discovered from the back garden of this house, now the Herschel Museum of Astronomy. Retrace your steps to Charles Street and turn left, uphill, continue over traffic lights into Chapel Row and:

8 Chapel Row – Chapel of St Mary

Now demolished – was a private chapel built in 1735 by the famous architect John Wood the Elder. It was this Chapel’s weather vane to which Nelson directed Fanny to determine if he had yet sailed, as departure would usually be delayed by South Westerly winds. Continue along Chapel Row, look for the plaque about the Chapel on your left as you turn into:

Please turn over

Left: Bath Abbey West Front, c. 1920. © Bath in Time.

Above: Theatre Royal, Old Orchard Street, Bath, c. 1804. © Bath in Time.

9 Queen Square

Admiral Viscount Samuel Hood (1724-1813) (Nelson's commander in the West Indies and in the Mediterranean) and his wife lodged at No. 5. Hood entertained Fanny here, and introduced her to Nelson's colleagues, many of whom are commemorated with plaques in Bath Abbey. **No. 14** – Surgeon Nicolls lived here and dressed Nelson's arm after the amputation in 1797. Nicolls was Surgeon to Bath General Hospital and also attended Nelson's sister Anne. **Nos. 16-18** – Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. Its extensive museum collection holds a small phial of the alcohol used to preserve Nelson's body on its return to England after his death at the Battle of Trafalgar. Within the Elwin Room are four ceiling paintings of classical gods by Andrea Casali, originally in the dining room of William Beckford's Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire, where Nelson and the Hamiltons were entertained in 1800. **No. 23** – Admiral Sir William Hargood (plaque in Bath Abbey) who had known Nelson from his time as a midshipman when Nelson was Third Lieutenant in the Bristol in 1778, attended his wedding and escorted his body home after Trafalgar. Leave Queen Square by top right-hand corner turning left into:

10 Gay Street

Look out on both sides of the road as Gay Street is numbered sequentially, up one side and down the other: **No. 2** – Admiral Sir Edward Berry (1768-1831) – Lieutenant onboard Nelson's ship at the Battle of Cape St Vincent; Nelson's Flag Captain on Vanguard at the Battle of the Nile and; Captain of Agamemnon at the Battle of Trafalgar. Personal friend to both Nelson and Fanny. Berry died here in 1831 and is buried at nearby St Swithun's, Walcot. **No. 8** – Dr. Francis Woodward (Portrait in the Guildhall), treated Nelson in Bath when invalidated from Nicaragua in 1781. **No. 14** – Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney (1718-1792) stayed here after his famous victory at the Battle of the Saintes in the Caribbean. **No. 15** – Joseph Haydn, who wrote "Nelson's Mass", stayed here whilst visiting the Maestro of Bath, Venanzio Rauzzini, the Director of Concerts at the New Assembly Rooms. **No. 27** – Dr. William Falconer lodged here before moving to No. 29 The Circus. **No. 34** – Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun, a French portrait painter patronized by Marie Antoinette, met Nelson and the Hamiltons in Naples. Painted Emma Hamilton (who scandalously became Nelson's mistress) as "Bacchante", which Nelson later owned. Sir William Hamilton initially gave Nelson an enamel miniature of the painting as a token of their friendship. At the top of Gay Street, walk into:

11 Circus (formerly The King's Circus)

Numbered sequentially, starting on your left as you enter Circus: **No. 15** – Admiral Sir Richard Hussey Bickerton (1760-1832) (Memorial Bath Abbey) friend of Nelson from the West Indies. Second-in-Command to Nelson in the Mediterranean in 1803. His wife was a close friend of Fanny. **No. 28** – Admiral James Richard Dacres (1749-1810) in Barfleur at the Battle of Cape St Vincent 1797. **No. 29** – Dr. William Falconer (see also 27 Gay St) physician at Bath Mineral Hospital and Founder of the Bath and West Agricultural Society. Responsible for planting the London Plane trees on Circus Green, previously paved throughout. Exit The Circus into:

12 Bennett Street

No. 2 Nelson's wife, Fanny, and his father, Edmund, were lodging here in 1797 when news was announced of Nelson's exploits at the Battle of Cape St Vincent. Subsequently, the rowdy crowd outside was asked to "pipe down" as Nelson's father was trying to sleep. Fanny also lodged here in 1810 and around the corner in No. 8 Russel Street in 1810 and 1815. **No. 19** – Admiral Arthur Phillip (1738-1814) First Governor of Australia (plaque in Bath Abbey) Buried at Bathampton. Armillary Sphere sundial memorial within the Assembly Rooms garden, visible from adjacent Saville Row. Cross over Bennett Street and walk back to:

13 The Assembly Rooms

Designed by John Wood the Younger in 1769, opened in 1771 to become the hub of fashionable society – used for many musical events, balls, gaming and soirees, attended by Fanny and many Naval Officers when visiting Bath. In 1799, the Maestro of Bath, Venanzio Rauzzini, presented a "Grand Battle Piece" commemorating Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile; 1,300 attended. Nelson's sister Anne, aged 23, after attending a ball here, caught a chill and died two weeks later. She is buried at St. Swithun's Church, Bathford. Today, the nine great 18th century chandeliers are worth a look, as is the internationally famous Fashion Museum. Go past the main entrance to the Assembly Rooms and turn left into Alfred Street, continue to the junction with Lansdown Road. Carefully cross over into Hay Hill, then walk down to The Paragon, descend the short pedestrian ramp and cross to the opposite side of the road, turn right and look for:

14 Bladud Buildings

No. 6 Consulting Rooms of Dr. William Falconer (also see 27 Gay Street and 29 Circus). Nelson consulted Falconer in 1797 for treatment of complications following the amputation of his arm. As a mark of his appreciation and friendship, Nelson gave Dr. Falconer an engraved print of his full-length portrait, painted in 1797 by Lemuel Abbott (original portrait now in the National Portrait Gallery, situated just behind Trafalgar Square in London). Cross over Broad Street along George Street, and turn left into:

15 Milsom Street

No. 16 Admiral Viscount Samuel Hood and Lady Hood lodged here in 1795 (see also 5 Queen Square). Continue along Milsom Street, noting the entrance to The Octagon Chapel (next to No. 46). Sir William Herschel, the astronomer and musician (see 19, New King Street), was the organist here. Emerging from this chapel, Nelson's wife was congratulated on his success at the Battle of Cape St Vincent by Martha Le Marchant, the wife of Admiral Sir James Saumarez, (1757-1836). Continue down Milsom Street, passing Green Street, and bear left into New Bond Street crossing to right side, walk to the end and turn right into Northgate Street, just as it becomes High Street, cross straight over to the opposite side, and turn back and look above the shop windows of jewellers, Mallory, "Watchmaker to the Admiralty", cross over street to see:

16 Guildhall

Following his success at the Battle of Cape St Vincent, Nelson was given the "Freedom of the City of Bath". Today, the Guildhall houses some Nelson memorabilia including a marble bust by the Austrian Sculptors, Thaller & Ranson, 1800 and a portrait of Dr. Woodward, Nelson's doctor. The adjoining Victoria Art Gallery (entrance by the traffic lights in Bridge Street to the left of the Guildhall) has Nelson-related pictures and sculptures, which can be seen on request. Leave the Gallery, carefully cross over to view the Robert Adam designed Pulteney Bridge, completed in 1774, and the 'horseshoe' weir on the River Avon, walk along Grand Parade past the entrance to Bath Markets and the former Empire Hotel (requisitioned by The Admiralty during WWII) and round the corner into:

17 Orange Grove

Site of the Milliners shop known as "Watson's". Arcania still sells hats here. Nelson's sister Susannah was apprenticed at Watson's until a legacy from her maternal uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling (who had earlier helped Nelson into the Navy as a Midshipman) enabled her to stop working and enter polite society. Walk along, overlooking Parade Gardens, and you are back at your starting point.

The Nelson Trail finishes here. We hope you have enjoyed your walk around the city of Bath, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (www.bathworldheritage.org.uk). As you have seen, Bath is a city that was very much part of the life and times of Britain's most famous naval hero. Please send any feedback or helpful suggestions to whsef@bptrust.org.uk. Thank you.



Beckford's Tower
1825-6 (2 miles)

Museum
of Bath
at Work

St
Swithin's
Church

Rivers Street

Museum
of Bath
Architecture

Lansdown Hill

Paragon

Bennett Street

Hay Hill

Assembly
Rooms

Alfred Street

To Royal
Crescent

King's
Circus

Georgian
Garden

Gay Street

George Street

Bladud Bldgs

Great
Pulteney
Street

Laura Place

Gravel Walk

Jane
Austen
Centre

Milson Street

Bath
Postal
Museum

Pulteney
Bridge

Bath Royal
Literary and
Scientific
Institution

Queen
Square

General
Wolfe's
House

River Avon

Victoria
Art Gallery

Guildhall

Orange
Grove

Parade
Gardens

New King Street

Herschel
Museum of
Astronomy

Charles Street

Chapel Row

Beauford
Square

Theatre
Royal

Northgate St

Pump
Room and
Roman
Baths

Abbey

Start and
finish point
Sally
Lunn's

North
Parade

New King Street

Westgate Buildings

Cross
Bath

Bath St

St John's
Hospital

Thermae
Bath Spa

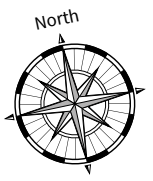
Crystal Palace
Public House

Masonic Hall

South
Parade

 Viewpoint

 Visitor Information Centre



Scale 1:5000

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Bus
Station

Railway
Station

The Nelson Trail

Admiral Lord Nelson is our country's greatest-ever naval hero, who gave his life when commanding the British Navy fleet in defeating the combined French and Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. King George III was on the throne of Great Britain in 1781, when the 22 year old Captain Horatio Nelson first came to Bath to recover from a bout of fever, on the advice of his father Edmund who was himself a regular visitor. Nelson was to return on many other occasions over the next 18 years.

At that time, Bath was one of the largest English cities, with a resident population of around 30,000. The city constantly played host to the cream of society, including naval officers on leave or in retirement. Fine architecture, balls, parties, gambling, luxury shopping and recitals were on offer to the fashionable visitors, as well as the famously curative mineral waters.

Almost everyone had heard of the famous but mystical healing properties of Bath's thermal spring waters, and Nelson believed the stories implicitly. Accordingly, the Bath Journal of 22nd January 1781 proclaimed Nelson's arrival in the town in its customary roll-call of visiting dignitaries.



Unveiling a bronze plaque to Admiral Lord Nelson
2, Pierrepont Street, Bath in 1900
© Bath in Time.



Fancy Ball at the Upper Rooms, Bath by Robert Isaac Cruikshank, 1825
Courtesy of the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath and North East Somerset.

This trail leaflet is funded by the Nelson Society and Bath's World Heritage Enhancement Fund, a partnership between The City of Bath UNESCO World Heritage Advisory Board, Bath Preservation Trust and Bath and North East Somerset Council. Much of the background information to create this Walking Tour comes from the original research of Nelson Society past Chairman Louis Hodgkin and the publication *Bath and Admiral Nelson* which is available at Visit Bath or direct order from the Society.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



For further information

Bath World Heritage

www.bathworldheritage.org.uk

The Nelson Society

www.nelson-society.com

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

whc.unesco.org

Bath & North East Somerset Council

www.bathnes.gov.uk

Bath Preservation Trust

www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

Please send us your feedback:

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