National Portrait Gallery

Welcome to our St James's Walking Tour, one of a series of walks that aims to take you on a journey through central London to discover some of the most pioneering and inspirational women in British history.

Each stop is illustrated with portraits from the National Portrait Gallery collection, and you can either read or listen to our tour as you walk at this address:

npg.org.uk/stjamess-walkingtour

This route should take roughly 1 hour 45 minutes.



Nurse Edith Cavell (1865-1915), St Martin's Place

The First World War nurse who gave her life to help allied soldiers escape.



Engineer Dame Ann Dowling (b.1952), RAE, Carlton House Terrace The first female president of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Piccadilly Circus



St James's Park

Politician Nancy Astor (1879-1964), 4 St James's Square The first woman to sit in British parliament.



Artist Alison Lapper (b.1965), Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square The British artist born without arms and with shortened legs who, at 8-months pregnant, was sculpted in marble by Marc Quinn.



Painter and Educator Maria Cosway (1760-1838), 80-81 Pall Mall 18th and 19th century artist and a pioneer of women's education in Italy.



The Two Marys: Mary Beale (1633-1699) and Mary Delany (1700-1788), St James's Church, Piccadilly Memorials to the 17th century portrait painter and the 18th century artist of 1000 'paper mosaiks'.



Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst (1858–1928), Trafalgar Square Suffragette, founder of the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union), and fighter of VOTES FOR WOMEN!



Royal Mistress Nell Gwyn (1651?-1687), 79 Pall Mall 17th century actor and the most popular of Charles II's mistresses.



Royal Academicians: Angelica Kauffmann (1741–1807) and Mary Moser (1744–1819), Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House The only two women founders of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1768.



Pocahontas (c.1596-1617), Banqueting House, Whitehall The famous 17th century Powhatan woman forced into English culture to ensure colonial peace.



St James's Palace formerly St James's Hospital This was a women's leper colony in the 12th century.



Miniature painting: Sarah Biffin (1784 - 1850)

An artist who painted miniatures with her mouth, having been born without arms or legs.



The Women of World War II monument (2005), Whitehall Remembering 7 million women who contributed to the war effort by working in hundreds of vital jobs.



Architect Dame Jane Drew (1911–1996), 12 King Street Modern architect Jane Drew opened a women-only architect firm during the Second World War.



The Lady's Comet Hunter: Caroline Lucretia Herschel (1750–1848), Royal Astronomical Society, Piccadilly

A celebrated astronomer who discovered several comets.



The Lady with the Lamp: Florence Nightingale (1820–1910), **Waterloo Place**

Reformer of hospital nursing during the 19th century by introducing improved sanitation.



Computing Pioneer Ada Lovelace (1815-1852), 12 St James's Square 19th century computing pioneer who was responsible for detailing the first computer program.



A Hollywood Star: Anna May Wong (1905–1961), Piccadilly Circus The famous actor and one of Hollywood's first Asian-American stars of silent movies.



Dorothy Hodgkin (1910-1994) and Elsie Widdowson (1906-2000), **Royal Society**

The first and only woman to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Adviser for the government on WWII rationing.



At the wax-workshop: Patience Lovell Wright (1725-1786), St James's Square

Famous wax sculptor who produced portraits out of wax before Madame Tussaud.

