

LONDON

A PICTORIAL CELEBRATION

Sketchbook

With
easy walks
to all the
famous
landmarks



Jim Wilson

LONDON

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Jim Watson



SURVIVAL BOOKS • LONDON • ENGLAND



Harley Street doorway

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Chelsea Hospital



CENTRAL LONDON

The city centre can be loosely defined as the area bordered by Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and Cambridge Circus. Shaftsbury Avenue – theatreland's main artery – and Charing Cross road – noted for bookshops – are usually busy but Trafalgar and Leicester Squares are both good places to walk around, seeing the sights and soaking up the lively atmosphere. Charing Cross is considered to be the centre of London, from where all distances are measured.



TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Conceived by John Nash and mostly constructed during the 1830s, Trafalgar Square is London's main venue for rallies, outdoor public meetings and celebrations. The square was once famous for its feral pigeons and feeding them was an essential part of the London experience, but with modern 'Health and Safety' concerns, the pigeons – a flock of around 35,000 – were successfully banished using a variety of deterrents including a ban on feeding and the introduction of trained falcons. The result is a much cleaner and more pleasant area to enjoy.

Sir Charles James Napier statue (1855). When Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone expressed a desire to see the two statues of the generals in the square replaced by ones of 'people Londoners would know'.

Fourth plinth



National Gallery Designed in Neo-Classical style by William Wilkins and built in 1833-7. Houses a collection of over 2,300 Western European paintings from the 13th century Early Renaissance to the 19th century Impressionists.

South Africa House Built in the 1930s on the site of a derelict hotel. Was a target for protests against racial segregation during the 1980s. In 2001, Nelson Mandela appeared on the balcony to mark the seventh anniversary of the end of the Apartheid system.

Nelson's Column dominates the square and commemorates Admiral Lord Nelson, Britain's most famous sea lord who died heroically during his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Dating from 1843, the 151ft (46m) high column of Dartmoor granite is guarded by Edward Landseer's four bronze lions – much-loved, especially by climbing children – which were added 25 years later, due it is said to the artist's difficulty in creating a satisfactory lion likeness. It was worth the wait.

Four bronze panels Cast from captured French guns, depicting Nelson's four great victories.

Northumberland Avenue

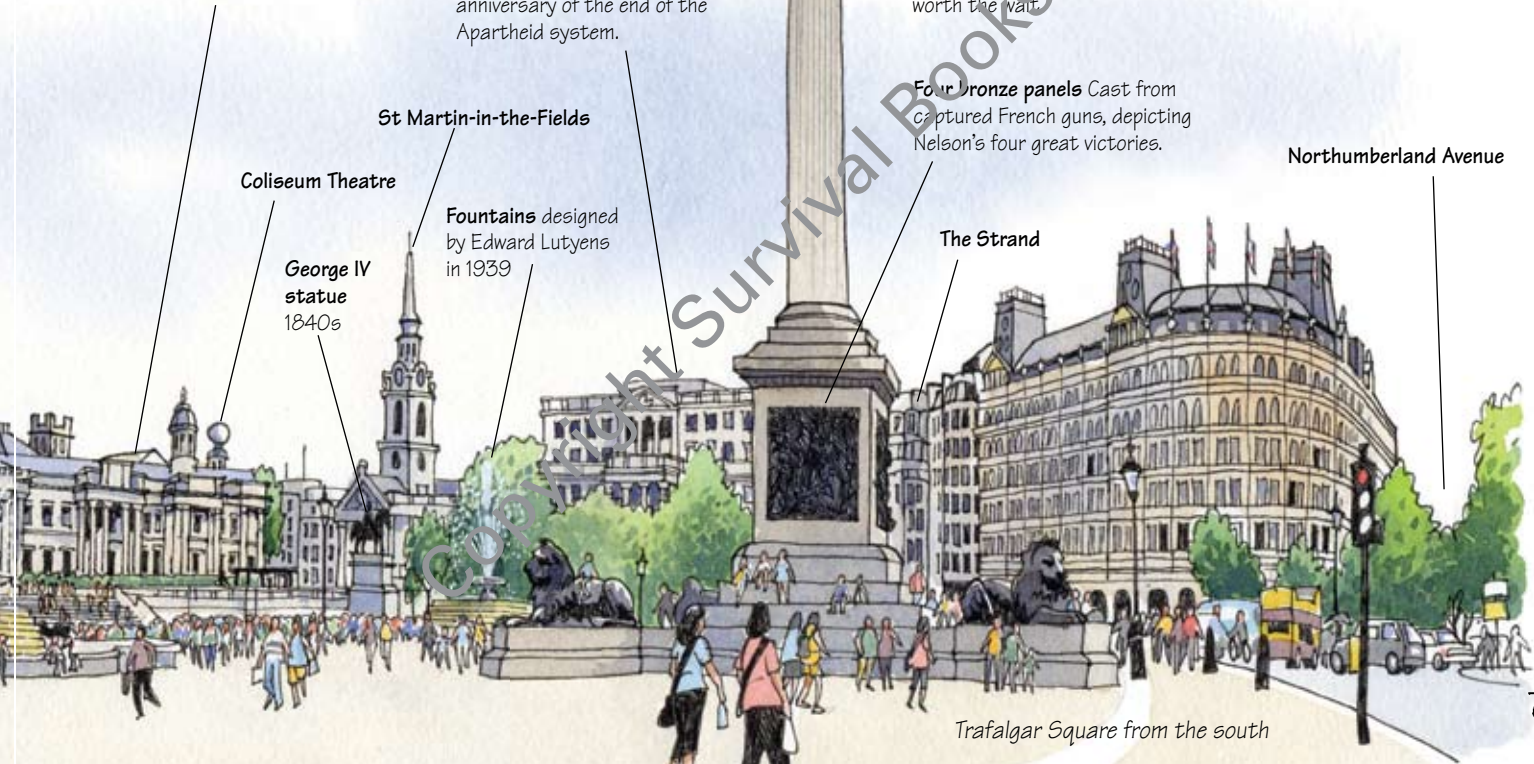
The Strand

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Coliseum Theatre

Fountains designed by Edward Lutyens in 1939

George IV statue 1840s



Trafalgar Square from the south

The mistress of Charles II, Nell Gwynne, is buried at St Martin's, along with the artists William Hogarth and Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the cabinet-maker Thomas Chippendale.



St Martin-in-the-Fields

Admiralty Arch

King Edward VII commissioned Admiralty Arch in memory of his mother, Queen Victoria. Completed in 1912, it's yet another office block – now used by the government – but it effectively cuts off busy Trafalgar Square from the more courtly part of London. Traffic can only use the two outer arches, the central one being reserved for royal processions.

St Martin-in-the-Fields dates to 1726, designed by James Gibbs on the site of an 11th century church. With its rectangular design, portico and baroque steeple, it inspired the design of many colonial churches in America.

Latin inscription 'In the tenth year of King Edward VII, to Queen Victoria, from her most grateful citizens, 1910'.



The fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square was intended for an equestrian statue of William IV but that was cancelled when the money couldn't be raised, due in part to the king's unpopularity. It's now used to exhibit a series of temporary – and often controversial – works of contemporary art.

Nelson's Ship in a Bottle by Yinka Shonibare occupied the site from May 2010. With sails painted with the artist's trademark patterns, the replica of Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, was constructed in a perspex bottle large enough for assemblers to work inside.

Horatio Nelson (1758-1805) was born in Norfolk, England to a clerical family, the sixth of eleven children. He rose rapidly through the Royal Navy ranks and became famous for his exploits during the Napoleonic Wars, losing both his right arm and one of his eyes.

He led a controversial private life, beginning a notorious affair with Emma, Lady Hamilton, while both were married, which continued until his death.

His misfortune with physical injuries continued in the afterlife when his statue was struck by lightning in the 1880s, damaging the left arm. It was repaired in a £420,000 restoration of the column in 2006.



Nelson

The 18ft (5.5m) high sandstone statue of Nelson, designed by E.H. Bailey, faces south looking towards the Admiralty and Portsmouth where Nelson's & the Royal Navy Flagship HMS Victory is docked. The Mall is on his right flank, where Nelson's ships are represented on the top of each flagpole.

At the south-east side of the square stands a former police box (left), once the smallest in Britain. It was stone-built to last in 1826 and had a phone line installed in 1926, but is no longer in use.

