

## River Cruise, 1983 Transcript

0:28

There's surely no more pleasurable way to see London than by cruising on the River Thames

0:43

The Thames gave birth to London and for 2,000 years it has been a main artery

0:48

and source of Britain's prosperity. The Thames has dictated the flow of the

0:53

Capitals history. The century's each making their own unique contribution to

0:58

its course and never more so than at the palace of Hampton Court, arguably the

1:03

greatest house in England

1:19

Started by Cardinal Wolsey in 1514, it was later seized by Henry VIII and

1:25

subsequently became the home of several monarchs. It was open to the public by

1:30

Queen Victoria in the early years of her reign

1:53

Five miles downstream of Hampton Court and the full two centuries later on

1:58

Cardinal Wolsey. Alexander Pope laid aside his writing to advise on the

2:03

layout of Marble Hill House at Twickenham

2:10

A perfect example of a Palladian Villa it was built for Henrietta Howard

2:15

mistress of George II and later Countess of Suffolk. During the summer

2:20

the house forms a back cloth to open air Shakespearean drama. Beautifully restored

2:26

to its original appearance by the Greater London Council, Marble Hill House

2:30

is once more a splendidly stately reminder of the 18th century

2:46

Further north the GLC manages the Ilveagh Bequest Kenwood. Major symphony concerts

2:55

are performed at Kenwood lakeside and music and poetry recitals are held

2:59

inside the orangery. Part of Hampstead Heath this fine example of an

3:05

eighteenth century English home contains a valuable collection of old master paintings

3:35

Returning to the river we can now see the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew  
3:59  
The world's largest museum of living plants  
4:11  
From the hot houses at Kew rubber trees were cultivated and distributed throughout  
the world  
4:27  
Tropical jungles, temperate zones and even a touch of the Orient.  
4:34  
There's a whole world of plants waiting to be explored  
5:06  
Past Putney and Fulham the river flows on growing even wider  
5:29  
The Thames at Chelsea plays host to a colony of houseboats permanently moored  
5:33  
only the span of Albert Bridge away from Battersea Park  
5:52  
Pleasure craft of every description use the river some taking visitors pass the  
5:57  
impressive structure of Battersea Power Station  
6:07  
From Battersea to Westminster  
6:14  
Perhaps we should be striking a more serious note as we pass on either side  
6:18  
the seats of national and regional government. But let's turn our attention  
6:24  
instead to the excitement of the GLC South Bank. Here on South Bank Weekend  
6:30  
galeone vessels from Italy's four maritime cities raced from Blackfriars to  
Westminster  
6:45  
The new Festival Pier has given riverside access to the South Bank for the first time  
in 30 years  
7:14  
Throughout the summer the GLC stages many events  
7:18  
large and small which make the South Bank a centre of fun for all the family  
7:50  
There's more live music in the Royal Festival Hall than at any other venue in the  
world  
8:08  
There are places to eat and drink catering for every taste  
8:14  
Shops to browse around and free exhibitions  
8:31  
and summer on the South Bank ends in spectacular style  
9:24

Across the river from the Festival Hall it's but a short walk to the edge of Covent Garden

9:32

Imaginatively restored by the GLC Covent Garden now houses a large

9:37

variety of cafes, shops and wine bars

9:44

For Londoners and visitors alike it is now

9:47

as much a rendezvous as it was back in the days of Johnson and Boswell

10:00

Further downstream is the Tower of London where visitors were not always quite so eager

10:04

to leave their boats

10:08

In Tudor times it was the most feared prison in the land

10:21

At the Tower we begin the last leg of our journey down the Thames heading out

10:26

towards the massive Victorian structure of Tower Bridge

10:31

Opened in 1894, Tower Bridge is too many people, the most spectacular and the most famous landmark in London

10:38

In years of old this was the Port of London known to the sailors of

10:43

every nation on earth and a major shipbuilding center.

10:47

Today its wharfs stand largely deserted but with the help of the GLC St. Katharine's Dock has been

10:54

transformed into an attractive marina

11:14

Some five miles downstream is Greenwich Reach and the splendor of the National

11:19

Maritime Museum and the Royal Naval College it's seagoing tradition

11:23

emphasised by the slim stark lines of the Cutty Sark

11:29

Built by Inigo Jones in the early 17th century Greenwich is classical

11:33

architecture at its grandest. Overlooking Greenwich from Blackheath stands Rangers House

11:40

Built in 1690 it was adapted by the GLC in 1974 to accommodate the

11:46

Suffolk Collection of portrait paintings

11:56

From historic Greenwich a short 25 minute trip takes us to Woolage Reach

12:00

and London's newest and most dramatic attraction

12:06

The GLC Thames Barrier

12:10

The world's largest movable flood barrier it is a monument to British ingenuity and skill

12:24

It was conceived, designed and built by British engineers to protect

12:29

London from disastrous flooding. Its stainless steel roofs rival Tower Bridge

12:35

as a pictorial symbol of London

12:41

Adjacent to the barrier the GLC is constructing

12:44

the Thames Barrier Centre, which will cater for the tens of thousands of

12:48

visitors arriving by road, rail or river

12:54

The Thames Barrier marks a fitting climax to our Thames journey a new and

13:01

exciting landmark for the four million visitors to explore London from the

13:05

River Thames each year.