



### The burial place of Ignatius Sancho

Ignatius Sancho was one of London's most celebrated African residents. He wrote plays, poetry, music and a book. His *Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho* was published in 1782,

two years after the author's death. It became an immediate best seller and was reprinted five times to deal with the demand.



Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

Sancho was born on a slave ship and came to England as a servant, where he lived for 49 years. The Duke of Montagu spotted him, helping Sancho in his efforts to educate himself. After the duke died, Sancho became a butler to the Duchess of Montagu. On her death he was left an annuity of £30.

He married a West Indian woman and together they ran a grocer's shop at number 19, Charles Street, Westminster. Sancho mixed with some of the most famous people of the time and his writing was used in the campaign against the slave trade. He was buried at St Margaret's church in Broadway, Westminster. There is a small green there today, with some information about Sancho on a board.

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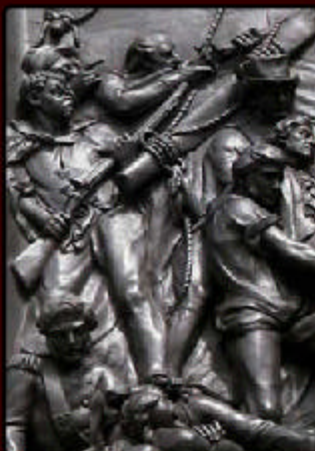
### The Houses of Parliament

Inside the Royal Gallery of the Houses of Parliament, there are two large frescoes painted by Daniel Maclise between 1859 and 1864. One of the frescoes is of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. On the other wall of the gallery is a fresco of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

In the Trafalgar fresco, there are two Black figures. On the left is a Black man who is tending to the wounded on HMS *Victory* while close to Nelson is another Black man pointing out a target to a sharpshooter, possibly the same sniper who had just shot Vice Admiral Nelson. Is this the same Black man who appears on Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square? (see Nelson's Column)

There is a replica of this painting on display at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool (see Liverpool).

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### Nelson's Column

This is a unique place to find evidence of the Black and Asian presence in British history. African, Caribbean and Asian sailors have made an important contribution to Britain's rich maritime history. Many Black and Asian men have served in the armed forces, fighting and dying in many of Britain's most celebrated military victories.

The Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805 was Britain's most famous naval victory but it resulted in the death of many including Vice Admiral Nelson. The Nelson monument was erected to commemorate this event but did you know that the crew of Nelson's ship, HMS *Victory*, was multinational, with crew members from Britain, India, America, the West Indies, Malta, Italy and Africa?

On the left of the sculpture at the foot of the column, you can see a sailor, of African appearance and holding a rifle, next to the dying Nelson.



### St Martin-in-the-Fields

It is hard to imagine now but before Trafalgar Square was built, fields, mews and stables covered the area. Later coffee shops existed here, where Asians and Africans were bought and sold.



### Westminster Abbey

Inside the Abbey lie some of Britain's most famous and celebrated figures. There are memorials here to Thomas Clarkson, who founded the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1787; Granville Sharp, who defended Black slaves and servants in court and helped define Britain's position on slavery in the famous 'Somerset' case of 1772; and William Wilberforce MP, who argued in Parliament from 1791 to 1807 for the abolition of Britain's slave trade and from 1807 to 1833 for the abolition of slavery itself.



### East India House Leadenhall Street.

On this site stood the headquarters of the East India Company. The company was set up in 1600, in the reign of Elizabeth I, to expand Britain's trade in spices and other goods with the Indian subcontinent.

The company's influence in India grew spectacularly and even the British government found it difficult to control its activities.

Investors and employees of the company could become wealthy very quickly and lived luxurious lifestyles.

Many brought Asian servants back to Britain with them after working in India with the company and ships from India worked by Lascar seamen brought Asians to live in London and other places.



### The *Yorkshire Stingo* public house



Courtesy of Westminster City Archive

In the 1780s, Indian seamen (Lascars), who had been employed by the East India Company to serve on ships bringing goods from India, were often left stranded in London and other ports without any means of support. By 1785, there were so many left destitute, begging and dying on the streets of London, that some philanthropists organised 'Subscribers for the relief of the distressed Blacks' to help them. The scope of the subscription was widened to include Black and Asian people and became known as the 'Committee for the Relief of the Black Poor'. It was this body that launched a scheme to relocate as many of the capital's Black and Asian poor to a settlement in Sierra Leone.

Whilst awaiting resettlement, Black and Asian people assembled every Saturday at two locations to receive their six pennies a day subscription. One place was the *White Raven* public house in Mile End, the other being the *Yorkshire Stingo* public house in Lisson Green, Paddington. It is possible that hundreds of the Black poor visited these premises every Saturday.

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### London's first Indian restaurant

The Hindoostanee Coffee House at number 34, George Street near the fashionable Portman Square, was London's first Indian restaurant opened in 1810, by Sake Dean Mahomed. The restaurant was aimed at London's many Anglo-Indians and offered authentic Indian dishes in an oriental setting.

Mahomed came from a wealthy family in Bihar, India but embarked upon a military career with the East India Company. After a long career in the army, he moved to Ireland where he lived for many years. Mahomed later moved to England, working in a vapour bath where he introduced the Indian treatment 'champi' or 'shampooing'.

In 1794, he wrote a book entitled *The Travels of Dean Mahomet*. He later moved to Brighton to set up his own vapour bath establishment and wrote a book on the art of shampooing in 1822. He died in 1851 and was buried in St Nicholas' churchyard in Brighton.

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## Corn Street

Corn Street was the hub of Bristol's trade with the rest of the world. Trading, insurance, banking and the provision of loans all took place in this street.



Number 56, Corn Street is a coffee shop which has been in existence for over 200 years. Bristol's merchants preferred to do their trading in coffee houses such as this.



Close by is the Corn Exchange, where merchants traded their goods. Above the three doors of the hall are emblems representing trade with Asia, Africa and America.



In the same street is a plaque commemorating the Old Bank founded by Africa traders. This bank merged with others and eventually became the National Westminster Bank, which is now part of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

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## Pero's Bridge

In 1999 this footbridge was opened in the docks area of Bristol. It was named after an African slave who was purchased in Nevis in the West Indies by the plantation owner John Pinney, who named him Pero Jones.

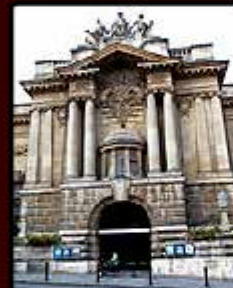
Pinney brought Pero back with him when he moved to England in 1783. Pero lived, worked and died in Bristol.

This bridge is one of the few public monuments to the Black and Asian presence in the whole of Britain.

## Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery and the Wills Memorial Building



These buildings were the gift of the Wills family to the people of Bristol.



The Wills family had become wealthy through the tobacco industry, which was slave-produced. They later became opponents of the slave trade and supporters of local charities.

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### Pier Head



By the late 18th century, Britain accounted for half the world's transatlantic slave voyages, with Liverpool accounting for 60% of Britain's share. During the 18th century, Liverpool's population had grown from just 5,000 to 78,000. This dramatic growth was achieved on the back of Liverpool's involvement in the slave trade.

It is said that in the docks area of Liverpool, ships trading with Africa, the Caribbean and America would berth three to four deep along the quays. Today, the Albert Dock is home to the Merseyside Maritime Museum, which houses the transatlantic slave gallery. Running parallel to Pier Head is the Strand, formerly known as the Goree Piazza. Goree is named after the island off the coast of Senegal, West Africa, which was used as a base to trade for slaves.

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### Martin's Bank Water Street

This building was built in 1927 as the headquarters of Martin's Bank. The origins of this bank lie in the establishment of Heywood's Bank, formed by Benjamin and Arthur Heywood, who became wealthy through the slave trade and set up the bank to enable others to do so as well. Heywood's Bank was incorporated into the Bank of Liverpool, which was incorporated into Martin's Bank before being incorporated, in turn, into Barclay's Bank.

The establishment of finance institutions, which still exist today, is one of slavery's lasting legacies.

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### Roscoe Memorial Gardens

This small park off Mount Pleasant is the burial site of William Roscoe, who founded a branch of the Anti-Slavery Society in Liverpool. He was a committed campaigner against the trade using his position as MP for Liverpool to help abolish slavery.

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### The Town Hall Water Street

The Town Hall was built in 1795 and if you look up at the friezes around the outside of the building you will see African faces, elephants, crocodiles and lions representing Liverpool's African trading links.

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### The Walker Art Gallery

This art gallery, built between 1874 and 1877, has on display several paintings featuring the Black presence. These include *The Hunted Slaves* by Richard Ansell, painted in 1861 and *The Family of Sir William Young* by Johann Zoffany, painted about 1770, which features a young, Black servant boy. There is also a painting of William Roscoe, the anti-slavery campaigner who was MP for Liverpool.

The gallery also displays *The Death of Nelson* by Daniel Maclise, painted between 1859 and 1864. It is a replica of a fresco that is in the Royal Gallery of the Houses of Parliament (see London) and features a Black sailor pointing out a sniper at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Is this the same Black sailor who appears in the sculpture at the foot of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London?