

Waterloo bridge

Waterloo Bridge is a road and foot traffic bridge crossing the River Thames in London, between Blackfriars Bridge and Hungerford Bridge. Its name commemorates the victory of the British, Dutch and Prussians at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Thanks to its location at a strategic bend in the river, the views from the bridge (of Westminster, the South Bank and the London Eye to the west, and of the City of London and Canary Wharf to the east) are widely held to be the finest from any spot in London at ground level.

First bridge

The first bridge on the site was designed in 1809–10 by John Rennie for the Strand Bridge Company and opened in 1817 as a toll bridge. The granite bridge[2] had nine arches, each of 120 feet (36.6 m) span, separated by double Doric stone columns, and was 2,456 feet (748.6 m) long, including approaches—1,240 feet (378.0 m) between abutments—and 42 feet (12.8 m) wide between the parapets. Before its opening it was known as the Strand Bridge.

During the 1840s the bridge gained a reputation as a popular place for suicide attempts.





Second bridge

In the 1930s London County Council decided to demolish the bridge and replace it with a new structure designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The engineers were Ernest Buckton and John Cuerel of Rendel Palmer & Tritton. The project was placed on hold due to the Second World War.

Construction of the new Waterloo bridge began in 1942, designed by G. Scott, and lasted only three years, despite the difficulties. There were not enough men, and all the burdens of construction fell on women's shoulders, for which Waterloo is often called the ladies ' bridge. Perhaps partly due to the female energy this time the bridge came out not only beautiful, but also functional. It became another magnificent bridge of London, created for the rapid crossing of the Thames

Interesting fact

1. In addition to lovers, romantics and aesthetes, Waterloo from the beginning attracted those who decided to voluntarily say goodbye to life. In 1840 15 percent of suicides in the city occurred in Waterloo
2. In 1841, there was a tragic case with the American trickster Samuel Scott. Posing as an escapee from the gallows, he was preparing to jump spectacularly into the river, but accidentally and unexpectedly hung in the noose. Those present thought it was part of a trick, and took the American out of the noose very late.
3. World cinema also did not ignore the Waterloo bridge. In 1940, when Europe was already engulfed by the flames of world war II, a film with Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor was released. Telling about the love of a ballerina and an English officer, whose acquaintance happened on Waterloo bridge during the bombing of the First world war, the film made more than one generation empathize. Glorifying the bridge, the painting was included in the list of "501 paintings you should see".