

# Gloucester Docks: New life on the waterfront

In its heyday, Gloucester Docks was a major gateway for water-bourne traffic heading to the heavily industrialised Midlands, and beyond. Lined with handsome Victorian warehouses, Britain's most inland port is well situated between the city centre and 'Gloucester Quays' shopping quarter.

Having hit hard times, a major restoration has successfully reversed fortunes, turning the Docks into a popular waterside destination, one that rivals Gloucester Cathedral as the city's primary draw.

Visitors can now meander around a remarkably intact example of a Victorian port, but with lively new restaurants, cafés and bars. Striking public art, seamless shared surfaces, bespoke seating and new lighting make it an attractive place to spend time, from day to night. The area is now much better connected to the wider city.

More visitors to the area has boosted the local economy and led to an increase in inward investment.



**Client**  
South West Regional Development Agency

**Location**  
Gloucester

**Partners**  
Gloucester Heritage and Urban Regeneration Company,  
Gloucester City Council, Arup, Cyril Sweett

**Services Used**  
Landscape Architecture

**Area**  
51 ha

<sup>1</sup> Wolfgang Buttress's 'Candle' forms a new landmark that signifies the revitalised dockside from the city centre

All photography:  
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<sup>1</sup> Wolfgang Buttress's  
'Candle' sculpture

<sup>2,3</sup> Revitalised dock with an  
emphasis on creating an  
attractive and comfortable  
'people place'

All photography:  
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