



What you see on Curzon Street is the surviving entrance building to the station which opened on 24th June 1838. It was the terminus for the

London and Birmingham Railway. It's amongst the world's oldest surviving pieces of monumental railway architecture. The design is Roman inspired. Look at the lovely pillars; and if you look closely above the main doors, you'll see the arms of the London and Birmingham Railway. In the original design, this building was flanked by two arches leading into the station – one for first class passengers, the other... well you know!



Curzon Street

It took 20,000 men nearly five years to build. They say that to build the entire railway, workers shifted more material than the ancient Egyptians did when they constructed the pyramids.

It's often said that Birmingham has more miles of canal than Venice and it's easy to see why! Canals are an integral part of the city and its history. As we've seen, trading helped make Birmingham a powerhouse of production for the world, but being in the middle of the country, it wasn't always easy to transport goods.

We are not far from China Town. Birmingham has been home to Chinese people for many years, especially since the 1960s when families came from Hong Kong. And Chinatown is a great place to eat and soak up the Chinese culture – especially at Chinese New year where celebrations and processions take place in an explosion of sound and colour.



Gas Street Basin

**End
Tony Wilson Place**

Imagine what life was like in 1909. Factories were springing up, bringing Birmingham's industrial landscape to life and with it the need to transport goods to other parts of the country or to ports to be carried to other countries.

Passengers were also increasing in number, with people travelling for work and pleasure. The railway had never so busy. The train operator, Great Western Railway, already had a station at Snow Hill but its tunnel wasn't big enough – and so Moor Street was built to bridge the gap. Nothing ever stays still on or indeed around a railway, as we will see...



Few places are more famous or busier in Birmingham than the Bullring Shopping Centre. And it's here we start our walk - by an iconic iron bull sculpture – sometimes known as Brummie the Bull! It was designed by Laurence Broderick and is a popular place for selfies. Looking around, with its sweeping architecture and modern shops, the Bullring might seem brand new – but its history stretches a long way back...



**Start
The Bullring**



Birmingham is known as Britain's second city, but in terms of its history, it's second to none. In its time, it's been called the "Workshop of the World", with factories here producing almost everything you can think of – from chocolate and coins to gems and guns, sending them to every corner of the world.

On this walk, we're going to take a look at Birmingham's proud commercial history and also explore how immigration has made the city one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse in the world. And there will be some cool buildings to check out too along the way.