

Developers, discovering the Old Dock wall beneath its foundations, set about preserving and making it publicly accessible as a reminder of just how far the city of Liverpool has come.

The portion of the Old Dock on view tells stories from Liverpool's past, not only as an emerging maritime port but also of the engineering feat that it took to build it. Its walls, constructed from hand-made brick, rise more than 20 feet from the bed of the Pool.

Visitors, tracing a path from Merseyside Maritime Museum, will see the original tide marks highlighted on the approach to Liverpool ONE. These show the extent of land that was reclaimed in the construction of the docks.

Merseyside Maritime Museum

While the origins of Liverpool as a seafaring city are told through the Old Dock Experience, a visit to Merseyside Maritime Museum puts it in a wider context. Interactive exhibits, models and displays show how Liverpool grew to become one of the world's greatest ports.

The museum focuses on some of the key moments in Liverpool's maritime history, including the importance of the docks in World War II, the Titanic, Forgotten Empress and Lusitania tragedies and Liverpool as a gateway to the new world.

Merseyside Maritime Museum is open daily 10am-5pm. Free entry.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
www.liverpool-one.com

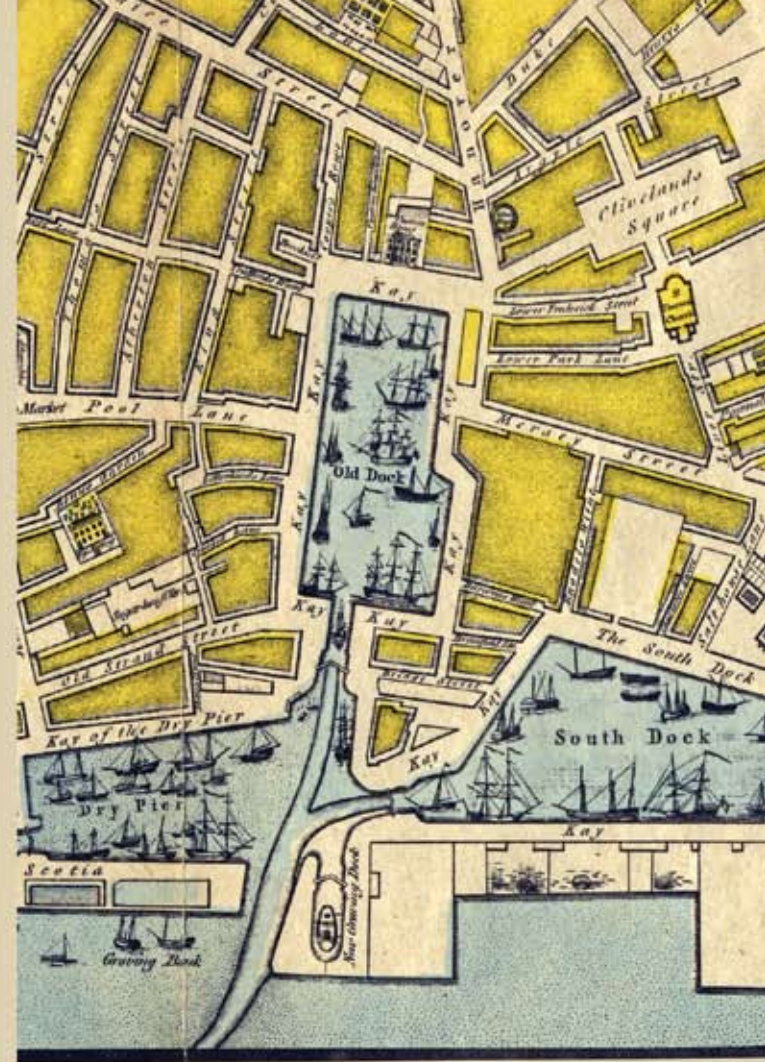


Image credits:

Front: Eyes Map of Liverpool 1765 (detail)

Inside: Eyes Map of Liverpool 1785 (detail)

Opposite: Old Dock and Custom House 1750 (detail)

This page: Map of Liverpool circa 1650

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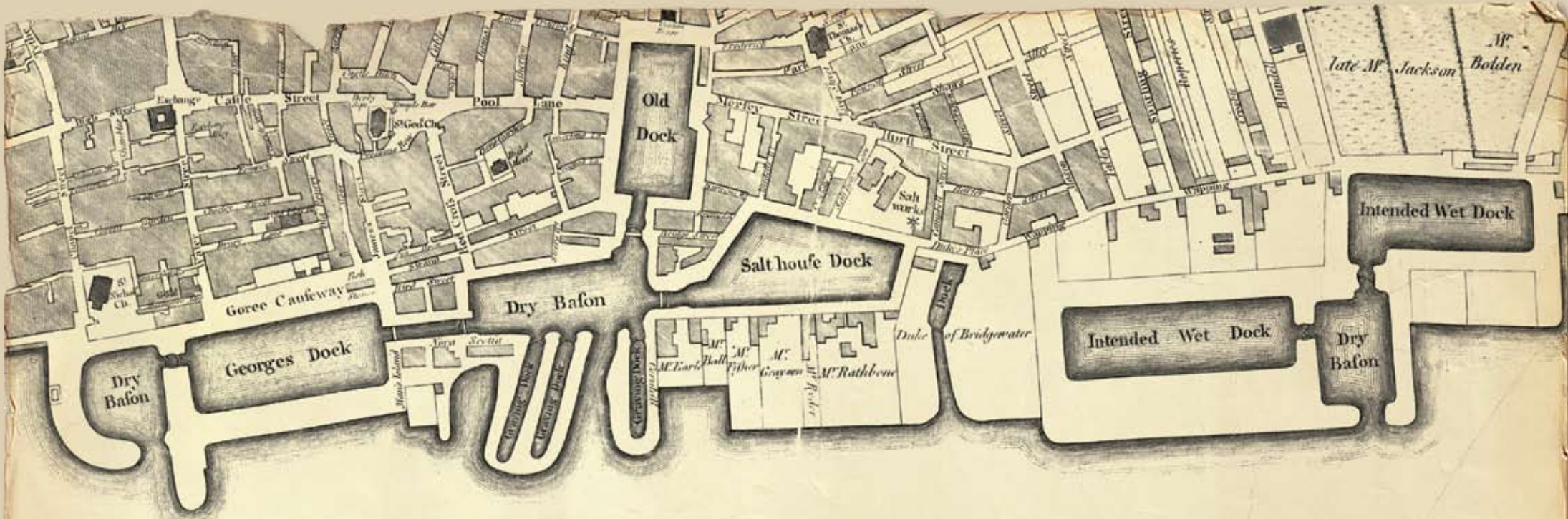
THE OLD DOCK EXPERIENCE



LIVERPOOL ONE
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NATIONAL MUSEUMS LIVERPOOL



THE OLD DOCK EXPERIENCE

For a revealing glimpse into Liverpool's past, book a place on this free, hour long guided tour. Starting from the Merseyside Maritime Museum at the Albert Dock, they take place at the following times:

Public tours
Tuesdays 11am, 1pm, 2.30pm

School tours
Wednesdays 10.30am, 12pm

Places are limited. Booking essential:
 telephone 0151 478 4296.

Travel back in time to the heart of the city on the Old Dock Experience. Hidden beneath Liverpool ONE the Old Dock is the world's first commercial enclosed wet dock, unearthed in 2001 by archaeological excavations.

Before it opened in 1715, it could take up to two weeks to unload ships due to the huge tidal range of the Mersey. The innovative design of the dock, which had gates to trap the water inside, meant that unloading could happen any time irrespective of tidal conditions.

The port prospered, to the point that after 85 years, the Old Dock was considered too small to deal with the amount of maritime traffic. More docks were built further out on the river, ending the need entirely for the Old Dock.

In 1811 the Old Dock was filled in and in 1826 the Customs House built in its place. Along with Chavasse Park, it was severely bomb damaged during World War II and its ruins demolished soon after.



An office block replaced it until 1999, when it too was demolished leaving waste ground. In 2004 the site became part of Grosvenor's Paradise Project, the initiative that would see the multi-million pound regeneration of the area through Liverpool ONE.