

1. CENTRAL SQUARE

We begin in Central Square outside **Cardiff Central Station**. The left-hand side of the station buildings (where Marks and Spencer now is) was once the Red Dragon Inn, a popular gay bar in the late-1980s and early 1990s. Harder to imagine, now, are the rows of terraced houses which once filled Central Square, or as it was then known Temperance Town. There is documented evidence of queer hook-ups and queer romance taking place in this part of Cardiff in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

2. CALLAGHAN SQUARE

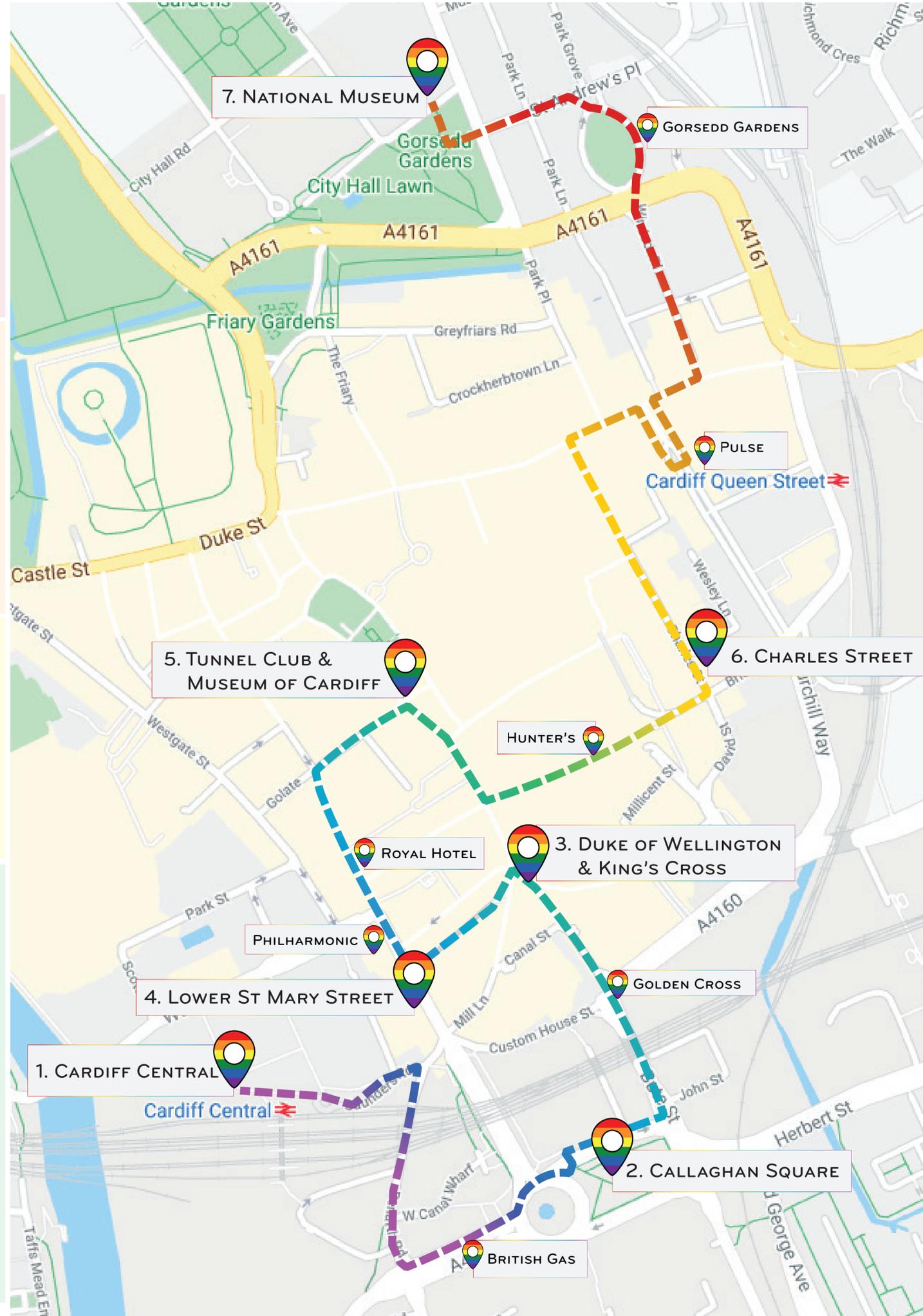
Turning to the right to leave Central Square, we turn right at the junction by the Sleeperz Hotel and along Penarth Road. We shall pause by the British Gas building on West Canal Wharf, which was once the location of the Bristol Hotel. Cardiff has historically had very few LGBTQ+ venues which provided a safe haven for women. The Bristol Hotel was one of the earliest and the most popular. Continue through West Canal Wharf into **Callaghan Square**. It may not look much, now, but Callaghan Square was once home to several pubs friendly to an LGBTQ+ clientele including the Quebec, the Glendower Hotel, the Custom House Hotel, and the Crown Inn. The Quebec was legendary, particularly for fans of the Butetown jazz guitarist Victor Parker.

3. DUKE OF WELLINGTON & KING'S CROSS

Keep going forward to the end of Callaghan Square and turn left on Bute Street. We continue towards the **Golden Cross**, the grand old duchess of LGBTQ+ Cardiff. If you are thirsty by this point in the tour, why not call in and admire the ... tiles! Walk up to the Hayes, where you will see the Cardiff Central library on your left and further ahead the Duke of Wellington. Opposite is now rather blandly named The Corner House but historically this was the King's Cross, Cardiff's best loved LGBTQ+ pub. Everyone went here! And not just because it was conveniently located next to Chippy Lane!

4. LOWER ST MARY STREET

From Hayes Place we turn left to Mill Lane and walk pass the Corner House to reach Bill's. Here is the entrance of the Wyndham Arcade on the right. Enter the arcade and walk to the opposite exit where we will reach St Mary Street. We can now pause by the Dirty Martini bar for the best view of this section of the tour. On the right hand-side of St Mary Street, you can see a row of former pubs and hotels, including the **Peppermint Lounge**. This is the heart of historic queer Cardiff with venues such as the Blue Anchor, the Royal Oak, the pioneering nightclub Sir's, and Sam's Bar/The Terminus (which are the former names of the present-day Peppermint Lounge). We continue up St Mary Street to the **Philharmonic Bar**. In this row of buildings was the city's first sex shop, an early gay-friendly bar, and a Victorian dance hall where, in the absence of women, men contentedly danced with other men. At the corner, we reach the Prince of Wales, a striking architectural survival (part of it was once a church) and a former 'blue' cinema. Cross the road and come to rest outside the **Royal Hotel**. Next door, **Mary's** continues the tradition of a queer venue in this part of Cardiff.



5. TUNNEL CLUB & THE MUSEUM OF CARDIFF

Continue along St Mary Street until you reach the junction with Wharton Street. Turn into Wharton Street until you reach Bakers Row. Here was the famous Tunnel Club, beloved of local and visitor alike in the 1980s – including Lily Savage. Continue on to the Hayes. As Wharton Street emerges into the Hayes, you are confronted with the impressive Old Library building, which was once home to Cardiff Public Library and Museum. In the Victorian and Edwardian period, this was a popular spot for reading and for meeting. All the latest 'art' books from London were on the shelves here! These days, the building houses the **Museum of Cardiff** (formerly Cardiff Story) and has one or two items of importance to the LGBTQ+ history of our city, including a key to get into Sir's!

6. CHARLES STREET

Keep walking down the Hayes and enter the St David's shopping centre on left via the entrance opposite the Royal Arcade. Head towards the exit on the opposite side of the building (emerging near the David Bowie-esque lightning landmark). On your way through, you will pass the site of Hunter's, a popular venue in the early 1980s and the successor to the Showbiz Club. On exiting the shopping centre, head towards **Charles Street** (the Job Centre Plus building is on the corner). Head to number 58, this was formerly the Rights and Information Bureau. Follow Charles Street until you emerge onto Queen Street. Turn right and pause at the corner of Churchill Way. Here you can see **Pulse**. Continue on Queen Street until you reach Windsor Place. This will take you past the former Dubrovnik Restaurant, perhaps the only Cardiff eaterie ever recorded in Gay News (!), and Main Stage. Continue across the main road into St Andrew's Crescent. Turn left at St Andrew's Place towards the Gorsedd Gardens and the National Museum.

7. NATIONAL MUSEUM

We end our tour here at the National Museum. On a typical August bank holiday the gardens and the plaza outside are home to Pride Cymru's Big Weekend. In January 1988, this was also the location of Wales's largest anti-Section 28 protest. The National Museum is a treasure trove of LGBTQ+ art! Incidentally, if you were to walk along Park Place from the Student's Union back towards Queen Street, you would replicate part of the original Pride Marches through the city (which began in 1985). These days they end at the National Museum, as we have.

CHECK THE LOST LGBT CARDIFF INTERACTIVE MAP AND DESCRIPTIONS OF LOCATIONS AT: WWW.PRIDECYMRU.COM/PROJECT/LOST-LGBT-CARDIFF

