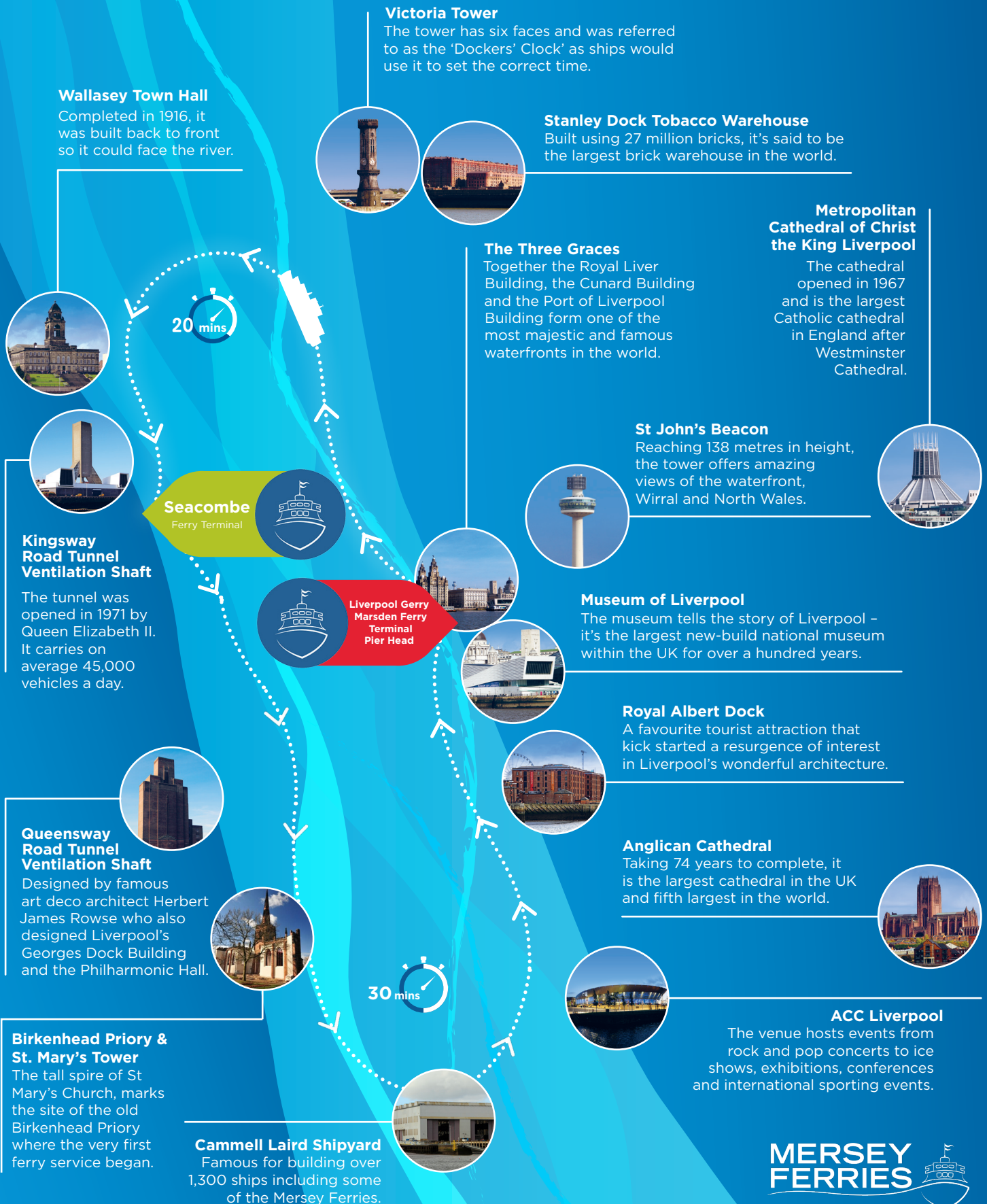




Make the most of your River Explorer Cruise with Mersey Ferries!

Welcome aboard one of the most famous ferries in the world.

Keep your eyes peeled whilst sailing past Liverpool and Wirral's world-famous waterfronts. Look out for some of our most famous landmarks along the way.



There's been a Ferry across the Mersey for more than 800 years providing a link between Liverpool and the Wirral shorelines.

On your journey today you will see one of the world's great waterfronts from the deck of the Mersey Ferry. All you need to do is sit back, relax and take in the views.

Over the years the Mersey Ferries have not only provided transport for visitors and the people of Merseyside, they have also played their part during both world wars. In the First World War, two of the Wallasey ferries, the Iris and the Daffodil were commandeered by the government and used as landing craft for the Royal Marines in a daring raid on the port of Zeebrugge in April 1918. Both of the ferries were badly damaged by artillery and machine gun fire but managed to escape and limp back to Dover. Because of their work, King George V allowed the vessels to use the word 'Royal' in their name, and after extensive refitting, they resumed their peacetime activities as the 'Royal Daffodil' and the 'Royal Iris'.

Mersey Ferries currently has two vessels in service, which were both originally built in the late 1950s. The Snowdrop (Dazzle Ferry) was named the Woodchurch and the Royal Iris of The Mersey was named the Mountwood. One of these two vessels is in operation each day.

Did you know...



During 1953 the Mersey Ferries carried almost 3 million people to the popular seaside destination of New Brighton.

The service was granted a Royal Charter by Edward III in 1330.



Famous people who have travelled on the Mersey Ferries include Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Philip, Princess Anne, Margaret Thatcher, King George V and Queen Mary. The Beatles and Gerry & The Pacemakers also performed on the ferry.

Between high and low tide, the river Mersey can rise and fall by over nine metres.



In 1985 Gerry Marsden was awarded freedom of the Ferries and to date is still the only person who holds the prestigious title.

Each ferry holds 35 tons of fuel in its tanks and burns a ton in 12 hours; so a Mersey Ferry could travel across the Atlantic Ocean to New York without needing to refuel.



Dazzle Ferry

One of our most colourful attractions is our stunning Dazzle Ferry, created by Sir Peter Blake, as part of the First World War commemorations. Sir Peter Blake is most famous for The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover.

The eye-catching dazzle design is in honour of the patterns that were first used on vessels in the First World War. They worked by 'baffling the eye' and making the ships difficult to target. Each ship's pattern used unique colour and monochrome designs - to avoid making classes of vessels recognisable to enemy U-boats and aircraft.

The Dazzle Ferry, called 'Everybody Razzle Dazzle', is the only operating dazzle ship in the UK. Taking a River Explorer Cruise aboard the Dazzle Ferry is the best way to appreciate it in all its glory whilst learning more about the dazzle history through the exhibition panels on board.



Over 100 years of Mersey memories...



1918

As a result of the Iris and Daffodil taking part in the Zeebrugge raid during the First World War, they were both awarded the title of 'Royal' ferries.

1947

The Mersey Ferries were the first in the world to install a radar system for safe navigation in fog.



1964

Gerry Marsden recorded 'Ferry Cross The Mersey'.



1951

The first diesel powered ferry was introduced.

2009

New Pier Head Ferry Terminal opens for visitors.



2022

Pier Head Ferry Terminal was officially renamed Liverpool Gerry Marsden Ferry Terminal.

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