

FREE LONDON GUIDE



London the capital of the United Kingdom and England was founded in the time of the Celts and the Romans. The city which was once known as 'Londinium' has grown to become a cosmopolitan and commercial trade centre. With an area of approximately 720 square miles and a population of over seven million people; it is together with New York and Tokyo, one of the three largest cities in the world.

Vast, vibrant and truly multicultural, London attracts visitors from all corners of the globe - with its rich history, fascinating monuments and modern tourist attractions.

It is also known for being an expensive holiday destination – but this does not need to be the case as London can be a 'great value destination' too. There are hundreds of free things to see and do around the UK's capital city.

This Travelodge city guide will help you to see London for free. Within this guide you will find Information on:

- [Free attractions](#)
- [Free museums](#)
- [Free art galleries](#)
- [The best parks to visit in London – which are free](#)
- [How to explore London on foot for free – self guided walks](#)

To get the most out of your break to London book a Travelodge £29 Saver room which will leave you plenty of pennies to spend on eating out and shopping. To book a Travelodge Saver room just go to www.travelodge.co.uk. A Travelodge family room will cater for two adults and two children or three adults – so there is no excuse not to get away this year with the family, your partner and your friends. By staying with Travelodge you can afford to take more short breaks this year. Wherever you are in the UK you are bound to find a Travelodge hotel close by.



FREE ATTRACTIONS



Changing the Guard - for a display of British pomp and ceremony, watch the Changing the Guard ceremony outside Buckingham Palace at 11am. This is where one member of the Queen's Guards exchanges duty with the previous guard. Both guards are dressed in traditional red tunics and bearskin hats, and the ceremony is set to music.

Nearest tube station: Green Park, Victoria and St James Park.

For further information visit: www.changing-the-guard.com



The ceremony of the keys - a tradition for the past 700 years, this ceremony takes place every evening at the Tower of London. The Chief Yeoman Warder, wearing a long red tunic, Tudor bonnet and carrying a candle, locks up the main gate and delivers the keys to the Resident Governor of the Tower. Tickets are free, but need to be booked up to two months in advance by written application. (There is a fee to visit the Tower of London)

Nearest tube station: Tower Hill

For further information visit:

www.trooping-the-colour.co.uk/keys/index.htm



Big Ben is one of London's best-known landmarks, and looks most spectacular at night when the clock faces are illuminated. You even know when parliament is in session, because a light shines above the clock face. It is located at the north-eastern end of the Palace of Westminster in London and is often extended to refer to the clock or the clock tower as well. Big Ben is the largest four-faced chiming clock and the third-tallest free-standing clock tower in the world. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in May 2009.

Nearest tube station: Westminster

For further information visit:

www.parliament.uk/visiting/visitingandtours/bigben



The Albert Bridge is one of London's most ornate bridges. It is a Grade II listed road bridge over the River Thames in West London, connecting Chelsea on the north bank to Battersea on the south bank. Designed and built by Rowland Mason Ordish in 1873. It has featured in films such as Absolute Beginners, Sliding Doors and Stanley Kubrick's much studied film, A Clockwork Orange.

Nearest tube station: South Kensington.

For further information visit:

www.touruk.co.uk/london_bridges/albert_bridge1.htm



Kings Cross station may be well known to Harry Potter fans as it is where the Hogwarts Express supposedly departs - from platform 9 3/4. There is a sign on the arched wall between Platforms 4 and 5 indicating its location.

Nearest tube station: Kings Cross

For further information visit: www.kingscrossstation.com



Hogarth was a celebrated artist and satirist, whose works, such as *A Harlot's Progress*, *A Rake's Progress* and *Marriage-a-la-Mode*, mocked 18th century society. As the name suggests, **Hogarth's House** is where he lived before he died in 1764, and it's here that you'll find the most extensive collection of his prints on public display.

Nearest tube station: Turnham Green

For further information visit:

www.hounslow.info/arts/hogarthshouse/visit.html



Kenwood House is set in tranquil parkland with panoramic views over London. The house boasts sumptuous interiors and important paintings by many great artists - such as Rembrandt, Turner, Reynolds, Gainsborough and Vermeer. Admire the Suffolk Collection, with its magnificent full-length Elizabethan portraits and stunning costume details. Or take a turn outside, in parkland influenced by the great English landscape gardener, Humphry Repton. There are also lakeside walks and meandering woodland paths to explore and enjoy.

Nearest tube station: Archway and Golders Green,

For further information visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.12783

MUSEUMS



The British Museum's collection of seven million objects representing the rich history of human cultures mirrors the city of London's global variety. In no other museum can the visitor see so clearly the history of what it is to be human.

Nearest tube station: Tottenham Court Road and Goodge Street

Opening Times: 10am to 5pm (Late nights Thurs and Fri)

For further information visit: www.britishmuseum.org



The Museum of London offers an unforgettable journey through the capital's turbulent past. The Museum is currently undergoing a major redevelopment, transforming the way it tells London's story from 1666 to the present day. The new modern London galleries will open in early 2010 but until then you can enjoy the prehistoric Roman and medieval London galleries, as well as events and exhibitions for all ages including London's Burning, a special exhibition which explores the Great Fire of London.

Nearest tube station: Barbican and St Pauls

Opening Times: Mon to Sun: 10am to 6pm

For further information visit: www.museumoflondon.org.uk



The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design. Its permanent collection of over 4 million items spans 5000 years and every continent. It holds items such as costumes, ceramics, prints, photographs and drawings. It also houses the world's largest collection of post classical sculpture.

Nearest tube station: South Kensington

Opening Times: 10am to 5.45pm daily and 10am to 10pm Fri

For further information visit: www.vam.ac.uk



The Science Museum was founded in 1857. It holds over 300,000 items including Stephenson's Rocket, Puffing Billy and a working version of Charles Babbage's Difference Engine (considered by many to be the "first computer".)

It is also renowned for its historic collections, awe-inspiring galleries and inspirational exhibitions.

Nearest tube station: South Kensington

Opening Times: 10am to 6pm every day

For further information visit: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk



The Natural History Museum opened in 1881. It contains over 70 million items within 5 main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Palaeontology and Zoology. The most popular exhibits are the dinosaur skeletons. Many of the items were collected by Darwin himself on his various expeditions. (The new Darwin Centre is scheduled to open on the 15th September 2009)

Nearest tube station: South Kensington
Opening Times: 10am to 5.50pm every day
For further information visit: www.nhm.ac.uk



The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood holds the largest collection of childhood objects in Britain. Items include toys, games, dolls houses, rocking horses, childhood equipment and costumes. It also holds exhibits related to the social history of childhood such as the lives of children during World War II.

Nearest tube station: Bank
Opening Times: Mon to Fri 10am to 5pm
For further information visit: www.bankofengland.co.uk



The Bank of England Museum tells the story of the Bank of England from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the United Kingdom's central bank. Interactive displays, audio-visuals and artifacts help explain its many and varied roles.

Nearest tube station: Bank
Opening Times: Mon to Fri 10am to 5pm
For further information visit: www.bankofengland.co.uk



The National Maritime Museum is situated in the impressive buildings of the former Royal Naval School, part of Maritime Greenwich which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. The Museum comprises of three sites: the Maritime Galleries, the Royal Observatory and the Queen's House.

Together these constitute one museum working to illustrate for everyone the importance of the sea, ships, time and the stars and their relationship with people.

Nearest tube station: Riverboat to Greenwich Pier, train to North Greenwich, DLR to Cutty Sark
Opening Times: Open daily between 10am to 5pm
For further information visit: www.nmm.ac.uk



The Imperial War Museum is housed in a former psychiatric hospital, known as "Bedlam". It includes memorabilia from both world wars. Items range from medals, weapons and ration books through to tanks and a fragment from the Berlin Wall.

Nearest tube station: Lambeth North, Waterloo and Southwark

Opening Times: Open daily between 10am to 6pm

For further information visit: www.nmm.ac.uk



The Geffrye Museum is one of London's best-loved museums. gives a fascinating insight into the domestic lives of the British middle classes from the 1600s to the present day. Explore a series of room sets, complete with furnishing and textiles from each era. The museum itself is located in 18th century almshouses, and also has a famous walled herb garden.

Nearest tube station: Old Street then bus 243 or a 15 minute walk.

Opening times: Tues to Sat 10am to 5pm & Sun / Bank Holiday 12noon to 5pm. Closed Mondays. (There is a £2 charge for adults, children are free)

For further information visit: www.geffrye-museum.org.uk



Sir John Soane was an architect and collector of curios. During his lifetime he amassed some remarkable antiquities from all four corners of the globe. These are now on display in Sir John Soane's Museum, which is his former home – and ves a real insight into the life of this extraordinary gentleman.

Nearest tube station: Holborn

Opening times: Tues to Sat 10am to 5pm

For further information visit: www.soane.org

ART GALLERIES



Tate Modern is the national gallery of international modern art. It's one of the four family of four Tate galleries which display selections from the Tate Collection. Created in the year 2000 from a disused power station in the heart of London, Tate Modern displays the national collection of international modern art.

Nearest tube station: Southwark, Mansion House and St Pauls
Opening Times: Sun / Thurs 10am to 6pm & Fri / Sat 10am to 10pm
For further information visit: www.tate.org.uk/modern



Tate Britain is the world centre for the understanding and enjoyment of British art and works actively to promote interest in British art internationally. The displays at Tate Britain call on the greatest collection of British art in the world to present an unrivalled picture of the development of art in Britain from the time of the Tudor monarchs in the sixteenth century, to the present day.

Nearest tube station: Pimlico, Vauxhall and Westminster
Opening times: 10am to 5.50pm
For further information visit: www.tate.org.uk/britain



The National Gallery, established in 1824, contains over 2,000 paintings, from the Early Renaissance to the Post-Impression periods. It includes pieces by a number of famous artists such as Botticelli, da Vinci, Raphael, Monet, Cezanne, van Gogh and Britain's John Constable.

Nearest tube station: Charing Cross, Embankment and Leicester Square
Opening Times: Daily 10am to 6pm, Fridays 10am to 9pm
For further information visit: www.nationalgallery.org.uk



and Anne Bronte.

The National Portrait Gallery houses around 10,000 portraits of famous British people throughout history and still living. It opened to the public in 1856. Famous portraits include one of the best known paintings of William Shakespeare, a self portrait of William Hogarth and Branwell Bronte's famous painting of his three sisters, Charlotte, Emily

Nearest tube stations: Charing Cross, Embankment and Leicester Square

Opening times: Daily 10am to 6pm & 9pm Thurs and Fri

For further information visit: www.npg.org.uk



The Photographers' Gallery was the first independent gallery in Britain devoted to photography. It was established in 1971 and its photos are displayed in a series of themed galleries.

Nearest tube station: Leicester Square

Opening times: Mon closed, Tues, Wed & Sat 11am to 6pm, Thurs, Fri 11am to 8pm & Sun 12:00 noon to 6pm

For further information visit: www.photonet.org.uk



The Whitechapel Art Gallery houses temporary exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. It also hosts free film screenings, poetry readings and music.

Nearest tube station: Aldgate East

Opening times: Mon closed, 11am to 6pm daily except Thurs 11am to 9pm

For further information visit: www.whitechapelgallery.org

PARKS



Green Park offers a convenient cut through from Buckingham Palace to St James and Piccadilly. Unlike many of the other royal parks in central London, Green Park has no lakes - rather, it is a number of meadows. It was established as an enclosed park by Henry VIII in the sixteenth century.

Nearest tube station: Green Park

For further information visit: www.royalparks.org.uk



Hyde Park - one of London's finest historic landscapes covering 142 hectares (350 acres). There is something for everyone in Hyde Park. With over 4,000 trees, a lake, a meadow, horse rides and more it is easy to forget you're in the middle of London.

Nearest tube station: Hyde Park Corner, Knightsbridge, Queensway and Marble Arch

For further information visit: www.royalparks.org.uk



Regents Park was designed by John Nash in 1818 as part of a wider plan for the area, and was opened to the general public in 1845. It is not only used for general relaxation but is also the venue for many organised amateur sports such as tennis, cricket and hockey, and there is boating on the lake and there is boating on the lake.

Nearest tube station: Regents Park, Baker Street, Great Portland Street

For further information visit: www.royalparks.org.uk



Greenwich Park is the oldest enclosed royal park and a former hunting park for royalty. It is also home of the Royal Observatory, from where time is measured. The annual London marathon commences from the common at the top of the park each April. There is a large grassland enclosure, covering almost 13 acres which serves as a sanctuary for deer, foxes and birds.

Nearest tube station: Greenwich (BR), Cutty Sark (DLR)

For further information visit: www.royalparks.org.uk



Kensington Gardens is planted with formal avenues of magnificent trees and ornamental flower beds. It is a perfect setting for Kensington Palace, peaceful Italian Gardens, the Albert Memorial, Peter Pan statue and the Serpentine Gallery. The park is the setting of J M Barrie's book, Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, and more recently is known for being the home of Diana, Princess of Wales prior to her death.

Nearest tube station: South Kensington

For further information visit: www.royalparks.org.uk



Hampstead Heath is only four miles from Trafalgar Square and has about 800 acres of lovely countryside. It is rich in flora and fauna. The landscape has woodland, meadows, heathland and many ponds along its valleys and features such as hedgerows and ancient trees provide links with the past. Kingfishers, reed warblers and all three species of British woodpecker breed, over 300 species of fungi have grown here and many species of bats are here. The area is composed of East Heath, Kenwood House, Golders Hill Heath Extension, Sandy Heath, the Hill Garden and Pergola and West Heath

Nearest tube station: Hampstead, Belsize Park

For further information visit: www.hampsteadheath.net

EXPLORE LONDON ON FOOT

Listed below are details of self-guided walks ([The Royal Walk](#), [The Cultural Walk](#) and [The City Walk](#)) you can do on your own in order to see London on a budget.

THE ROYAL WALK

This is a circular walk, starting and ending at Westminster tube station.

On arrival at Westminster tube station, walk towards Westminster Bridge, stopping at the first traffic lights on the corner (at the junction of Victoria Embankment and Bridge Street). Behind you is Portcullis House, and in front of you, Victoria Embankment.



Portcullis House and Victoria Embankment - The building on the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment is Portcullis House. Opened in 2000, it hosts the offices for British Members of Parliament. There is an underground walkway leading from the building through to the Palace of Westminster.

Victoria Embankment, the road running alongside the Thames from Westminster to Blackfriars, was completed in 1870 and is a classic example of Victorian construction and design. It was the first electrically illuminated street in London.

One of three main embankments in London, it involved reclaiming much of the river bank as a form of flood defence. However, the idea of building embankments wasn't unique to the Victorians - everyone from the Romans through to Christopher Wren had earlier proposed them.

Facing the Thames, cross Victoria Embankment. Go down the steps directly after the statue of Boadicea (another example of Victorian England, unveiled in 1902) on the opposite corner. Stop next to the green turret at the bottom of the steps, overlooking the Thames.



The Westminister Tide Recorder - The turret in front of you is called the Westminister tide recorder. It measures the depth of the Thames at this point. You can climb up the rails on the side of the turret and look inside to see the computerised depth reading.

The Thames is the second oldest place name in England. For 400 years, it was the busiest road in England, like the Grand Canal in Venice, as the easiest way to cross London was by boat. In fact, until the 1750's, there was only one bridge across the Thames within central London: London Bridge.

Look across the river to the wall on the opposite side. You will see a number of lions' heads facing the river, with mooring rings hanging from their mouths. They are part of London's flood warning system and every policeman on duty near the river keeps an eye on them.

Although the Thames Barrier has reduced the risk, the phrase "When the lions drink, London's in danger" is still true. If the water reaches the lions' mouths, the Thames is at danger level and the tube system and all Thames tunnels would be closed.

Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament - The correct name for the Houses of Parliament is the Palace of Westminster, which was built in 1040 by Edward the Confessor and was the main Royal residence in London until Henry VIII moved to Whitehall.



The present building dates from the 1800's and took 20 years to complete. It was built by Charles Barry, who is buried in Westminster Abbey.

It is the largest Gothic building in the world - there are over 1,000 rooms and two miles of corridors in it. In the centre stands Westminster Hall, the only part of the original building that survives. Many great treason trials have taken place in Westminster. In 1305, Braveheart was sentenced to death here and in 1606 Guy Fawkes, the man who tried to blow up Parliament, met a similar fate. It is possible to visit the public gallery of the Houses of Parliament for free (although you will have to pass security checks and may have to queue a while).

Though many people think Big Ben is the name of the tower with the famous clock face, it is actually the name of the bell within it. Big Ben is named after the Commissioner of Works, Sir Benjamin Hall, who was in charge of construction of the clock. He was heavily criticised by politicians over the problems he had in building it.

The bell's familiar ring is caused by a crack which appeared in 1859, within a few months of the bell being installed. The bell was re-cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry Company but soon cracked again. It has never been repaired.

When the light above Big Ben is illuminated, Parliament is sitting.

With your back to Big Ben, stop and face the square.



Parliament Square was built in 1868, and rebuilt in the 1940's. Diagonally opposite you, on the corner of the square on the opposite side of the road, you will see a statue of **Sir Winston Churchill**. He was Britain's prime minister during World War 2 and the London Blitz, when many parts of London were destroyed by bombing.

He led Britain's war effort from the Cabinet War Rooms, which are nearby and open to the public. They are now also home to the Churchill Museum (admission charge.)

Continue past the gates to the Houses of Parliament and turn right at the next traffic lights, crossing St Margaret Street. After crossing the road, you may wish to instead turn left to visit the Jewel Tower, a few yards down St Margaret Street. The Jewel Tower was built by Edward III in 1365 to house his personal treasure, and is one of only two remaining buildings from the original Palace of Westminster. It now contains an exhibition on Parliament Past and Present, for which there is an admission charge.

Otherwise, walk along Victoria Street to the entrance to Westminster Abbey, passing St Margaret's Church on your left. Stop, facing the entrance to Westminster Abbey, in a small car park area next to the Abbey Bookshop.

Westminster Abbey was built by Edward the Confessor, and William the Conqueror was crowned in it on Christmas Day 1066. Thousands of people are buried, or have their ashes interred, in it. Many others have plaques. Those buried in the Abbey include: Royalty - Henry III, Mary Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I, James I, Charles II
Politicians - Pitt the Younger, Pitt the Elder, Chamberlain, Gladstone. * Poets and Writers - Chaucer, Jonson, Browning, Tennyson
In 1997, the funeral service for Diana, Princess of Wales was held at the Abbey (Though she is not buried in the Abbey.)



One person buried in the Abbey has three separate monuments. He was John Broughton, a famous eighteenth century boxer who invented boxing gloves. He also became a Yeoman of the Guard and a verger of the Abbey.

The last burial in the Abbey was in 1906; since then, only ashes have been accepted. Ben Jonson, the poet, is buried upright. (There is an admission charge to visit the Abbey unless you are attending a service there).

With your back to Westminster Abbey, continue a short distance along Broad Sanctuary and cross the first traffic lights on your right. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing on Tothill Street and continue along Storey's Gate, passing the Methodist Central Hall on your left and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on your right.

Cross Matthew Parker Street and, soon after, Lewisham Street (passing the UK's European Commission offices on your left) and continue to the next road on your left, which is Old Queen Street. Turn left at Old Queen Street and walk to the end of it.

At the end of Old Queen Street, turn left and then almost immediately turn right, down Queen Anne's Gate. As you walk along this road, admire the many buildings on either side, dating from the 1700's. The old headquarters of the Secret Service, where James Bond would have worked, used to be at no 21 and the buildings on either side of it. At the junction on Queen Anne's Gate, just after no. 34a, turn right to Birdcage Walk.

Cross the road to enter St James's park and follow the path in front of you through the park until you come to a footbridge. Cross the footbridge and turn left, following another path, with the pond on your left. Near the end of this path, you will come to a concession stand at the junction with another path. Turn right at the concession stand and continue along this path a short distance to the road.

At the road, turn left and walk towards Buckingham Palace, stopping in front of it.



Buckingham Palace - The home of the Queen, Buckingham Palace was built in 1703. The present building is the third on the site. Around 300 people work there.

Look at the flag pole on top of the Palace. When the Queen is in residence, the Royal Standard flag is raised. A soldier is responsible for taking it down the moment the Queen leaves.

Though the Palace is generally not open to the public, during summer you can visit its State Apartments (admission charge) and see the Queen's large garden and collection of artwork.

You can however see the Changing of the Guard for free at 11.30 am every morning during summer and every second morning during winter.

(To get a less crowded view of the guards as they march past you, stand anywhere along the Mall between the Palace and Horse Guards.)

The large memorial in front of Buckingham Palace is called the Queen Victoria Memorial. Unveiled in 1911, the statue of the seated Victoria is 13 feet tall, yet was made from a single block of marble.

Next to Buckingham Palace, on your left as you face the Memorial, is Green Park, made into a royal park by Charles II. It is likely to have been a burial site for lepers from the hospital of St James, which is supposedly why there are few flowers in the park.

The park was a popular place for duels during the eighteenth century.

Did You Know? Right beside Green Park tube station at the top of the park, there is a sunken area. This was once a reservoir in which Benjamin Franklin demonstrated to the Royal Navy the technique of pouring oil on troubled waters. The Navy went on to use this technique with great success on the Channel waters. The first cup of tea drunk in England was drunk in the Palace gardens in 1663.

The balcony from which the Royal family waves to the crowds is actually at the back of the building.

With your back to Buckingham Palace, walk around the left hand side of the Queen Victoria Memorial, the large monument in front of you.

Directly on the other side of the monument you will see a pink road leading down to Admiralty Arch, a set of arches crossing the road at the other end. This road is called The Mall. The reason it is pink is due to the material used to make the surface safer for the horses of the Household Cavalry, not to indicate that it leads to the palace. Walk along it a short distance until you reach Queen's Walk, a path running off to your left along the edge of the park, beside a building (Lancaster House).

Follow Queen's Walk, where Charlie Chaplin made his first appearance on film (back in 1896 as a seven year old boy), until you see a small alleyway on your right. Turn right and follow this alleyway around to Cleveland Row. Walk along Cleveland Row and stop in front of St James' Palace on your right. This is where the London apartments of Princes Charles, William and Harry are.



St James' Palace was built by Henry VIII and though it is no longer used for official royal purposes, it has had a long association with royalty throughout its history. Queen Elizabeth and her successor, James I, both held court here. Charles I also spent his last night here before his execution in Whitehall. And Queen Victoria was married here. The only surviving part of the original building is the gatehouse.

As you commence your walk along St James Street, look for a small archway on your right, at the side of the Berry Bros and Rudd wine store (No. 3). This archway leads into Pickering Place, which was the location of the Texan Republic's embassy until the state joined the US union in 1845. It was also where the last duel in England was fought.

Also in this area are 'grace and favour' houses and flats. They belong to the Crown and are leased to the Queen's upper servants, the lord chamberlain, private secretary and ladies in waiting at very low rents while they are working for her.

Walk up the hill along St James Street until you reach Jermyn Street on your right. Turn down Jermyn Street and walk along it until you reach Duke Street. Stop at the corner, looking along Jermyn Street.



Jermyn Street was named after Henry Jermyn, courtier to the mother of King Charles II. The street was completed in the 1680's but nothing now remains of the original buildings except for St James' Church at the far end towards Regent Street. However, there are some delightful arcades and stores in this street including

Piccadilly Arcade, an elegant arcade filled with traditional old stores

Davidoff, the London store for the famous cigar makers from Russia

Turnbull and Asser, the famous shirt makers, who have had a shop in this street since 1885

Wiltons, the famous fish and game restaurant that has been in St James since 1742

Floris, established in 1730 and selling fine old-fashioned scent and lotions

Paxton & Whitfield, established in 1797, and selling fine cheeses, hams, pates and chutneys

Bates, the gentlemen's hatter

Herbie Frogg, a store for men's clothing

Geo.F.Trumper, a barber and royal hairdresser, established in 1875

Piccadilly market (Open from 10am, Thursday to Saturday and FREE). Set in the grounds of St James' Church, the market includes a peaceful garden with park benches for resting on or perhaps eating your lunch

Either turn left at Duke Street or cut through Piccadilly Arcade if it is open and walk up to Piccadilly. Turn right and stop in front of Fortnum and Mason's department store. Piccadilly also marks the half-way point in this walk, and is therefore a good place to stop for a rest in one of the many coffee shops in the area.

You might also wish to extend your walk slightly and cross Piccadilly, then turn left and visit Burlington Arcade (not open on Sundays). The arcade was built in 1819 and typifies Mayfair tradition and luxury. Look for the beakles in their top hats. Their duty is to ensure the dignity of the Arcade is not disturbed by people whistling, running or singing. After visiting Burlington Arcade, return to the entrance to Fortnum and Mason, to continue your walk.

Piccadilly, and Fortnum and Mason

Piccadilly is named after a draper named Robert Baker who became wealthy during the reign of Charles I by selling stiff ruffled collars called pickadils. He used his money to build a big house in the area. Londoners, who didn't like his act of flamboyance, called his house Piccadilly Hall.



As you wander along Piccadilly, you will pass some wonderful British hotels and stores, many of which have been granted royal warrants. One such store is **Fortnum and Mason**. Established in 1705, this wonderful store has been on Piccadilly since 1756, and the store staff still wear tailcoats. Go inside and wander around, especially on the ground floor. The store sells excellent tea and chocolates, and has an elegant cafe.

Also above the entrance to the store, you will see a clock. The two founders of Fortnum and Mason are represented by the figures beside the clock, who come out and bow to each other on the hour. Mr Fortnum wears the red coat that indicates he was a footman in the Royal Household. He went into partnership with Mr Mason, a grocer.

Either go through Fortnum and Mason and exit back onto Jermyn Street, or go back down Duke Street, retracing your steps.

Continue along Jermyn Street, passing St James' Church on your left, until you reach the junction with Regent Street. At Regent Street, turn left and walk up the hill towards Piccadilly Circus. At the first traffic lights, cross Regent Street and stop in front of Eros, the statue in the centre of the circus.



Piccadilly Circus originally a crossroad of Piccadilly and Regent Street, the circus took on its present appearance in the late 1800's when Shaftesbury Avenue was connected to it.

One of central London's busiest traffic junctions, it features the Statue of Eros (erected in 1893) in the centre and the enormous illuminated advertising signs overlooking it. The

famous English chef, Marco Pierre White, has his restaurant inside the Criterion Hotel, which is behind Eros.

(The statue of Eros has pointed in three different directions since being erected, but never in the direction to which it was intended: facing Shaftesbury Avenue).

Walk past the Criterion Hotel and Theatre (behind Eros), then turn right at Haymarket. Walk along Haymarket, passing Burberrys on your left, and turn left at the end, along Cockspur Street. Walk along Cockspur Street, past the National Gallery Sainsbury wing, and stop in front of the National Gallery, the large white building on your left overlooking Trafalgar Square.



Trafalgar Square commemorates England's victory over France in 1805. In the centre of the square stands Nelson's Column, at 170 feet tall. Buildings surrounding the Square include South Africa House, Canada House, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery (both FREE admission) and St Martin-in-the-Fields church.

Pigeon-feeding is a popular pass-time for tourists to the Square even though it is no longer permitted.

Even back in the eleventh century, the square was a traffic junction. And until 2000, the square had never been completed. While on the right hand side of it (in front of the National Gallery) there was a statue of George IV on horseback, until recently no statue had been placed on the corresponding plinth on the opposite corner.

In front of Nelson's Column, on a traffic island at the top of Whitehall, which also marks the site of the old Charing Cross, stands a statue of Charles I on horseback. It was deliberately positioned here by his son, Charles II, to look down Whitehall to the spot where his father had been executed (in front of Banqueting House.)

Walk across Trafalgar Square, passing around the left hand side of Nelson's Column. Cross the first pedestrian lights, then turn right and cross again at the next lights, which lead to the island in the centre of the road.

Pause next to the statue of Charles I on horseback. The road directly in front of you, in the direction the statue faces, is Whitehall.

Walk along Whitehall, passing Banqueting House on your left, until you reach Horse Guards on your right. Stop at Horse Guards, then continue to the gates of Downing Street, a short distance further along Whitehall, on the right, and stop again.

Whitehall and Number Ten Downing Street - The first main building on this walk along Whitehall is Banqueting House, on your left. It was built in 1622 and is the only remaining part of the Palace of Whitehall. The Palace of Whitehall was originally built as York Place in 1245, and renamed as Whitehall by Henry VIII in 1529, when it was confiscated from Cardinal Wolsey. Charles I was beheaded on a stage in front of it in 1649.



The majority of buildings along Whitehall belong to Government departments. They include, on your left just after Banqueting House, the Ministry of Defence,

which is the only Government office with its own chapel. On your right, just after Horse Guards, you will pass both the Foreign Office and Treasury.

Horse Guards, on your right just after Banqueting House, is Whitehall's biggest tourist attraction. The Life Guards (in red) and the Blues and Royals (in blue) have been here since Tudor times.

Through the courtyard you will see Horse Guards Parade. A great tournament was held here in 1540 by Henry VIII and knights from all over Europe attended. The Trooping of the Colour, where the Queen inspects her troops just as monarchs before her have done for hundreds of years, is held here every year on the Queen's official birthday, which is the 3rd Saturday in June (her real birthday is April 21).

Downing Street is named after Sir George Downing, the second graduate of Harvard College, who bought the land and built the houses in 1680.

Number 10 has been the official residence of the Prime Minister since 1732. There is no general public access to it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer traditionally lives next door, in number eleven.

However, when Labour came to power in 1997, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown (who became Prime Minister in 2007) swapped residences to enable the Blair family to have more room. This had never happened before.

You have now completed this walk .Continue along Whitehall to Parliament Square and turn left. Walk along Bridge Street, back to your starting point outside Westminster tube station.

From this point, you could cross Westminster Bridge and turn left to begin the cultural walk from in front of the London Eye.

THE CULTURAL WALK

The walk starts from Waterloo station and ends at London Bridge station

On arrival at Waterloo station, go upstairs to the main station concourse. In the northern corner, take exit 6 – towards the London Eye. Follow the footbridge, passing through an archway marked “Shell Centre” and continue to the end of the footbridge. You should see the London Eye ahead of you on your left.

At the end of the footbridge, walk across the park to the London Eye. Continue past it and stop, overlooking the river. Look to your left towards Westminster Bridge.

Waterloo Station, Westminster Bridge and the London Eye

Waterloo station was opened in 1848. Little of the original station survives except the roof over platforms 18 - 21, which date from 1885. The current buildings date from 1922.



The main pedestrian entrance arch serves as a memorial to staff killed during world war one and during the blitz the station was hit 50 times yet it still remained operational throughout. It was the terminal for London's Eurostar service to the continent until 2008, when the terminal moved to St Pancras in north London.

The current **Westminster Bridge** was opened in 1862 to replace an earlier bridge which dated from 1750. There had been a ford at low tide here since Roman times and many historians believe that the Romans used to wade cross the river near this point. They think the actual crossing point was on the other side of Westminster Bridge, in front of St Thomas' Hospital. In 1909, the remains of a Roman boat were discovered nearby.

A popular tourist attraction in London, the **London Eye** is a ferris wheel with large pods, allowing riders to see great views of London.

County Hall, the large "Edwardian style" building overlooking the Thames near the London Eye, was opened in 1922. Though now housing a hotel, a Dali museum (Dali Universe), the Saatchi Gallery and the London Aquarium, it was the home of London government until 1986.

Walk away from Westminster Bridge, past the London Eye and along the riverfront towards Waterloo Bridge. Just before Waterloo Bridge, stop and face the Royal Festival Hall.



The South Bank Centre was built between 1951 and 1976 by the London County Council for the Festival of Britain in an attempt to revitalise the area. It comprises a number of buildings linked by overhead walkways.

These buildings include the Royal Festival Hall (built on the site of the Red Lion brewery), Queen Elizabeth Hall, the

Hayward Gallery and the National Film Theatre. The Royal Festival Hall was the first post-war building to receive a Grade I Listing.

The world renowned **National Theatre** is also based here. Although many performances charge admission, there are often free exhibitions and events happening in the foyers of the various buildings within the centre.

This part of the walk follows the Silver Jubilee walkway, which is a circular walking trail extending from Buckingham Palace in the west to the British Library in the north, St Katherine's Dock (near the Tower of London) in the east and along the south bank. It was originally created in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Continue past the Royal Festival Hall and under Waterloo Bridge, passing the National Film Theatre and National Theatre. Walk along the riverside until you reach Gabriel's Wharf, just before the OXO Tower.

Waterloo Bridge, Gabriels Wharf and the OXO Tower



The **original bridge** on this site was opened in 1817 and was named to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's famous victory over Bonaparte. The bridge fell into ruin and was closed in 1923 before being re-built, mostly by women (as many men were fighting in Europe), during the war years. It was re-opened in 1945.

London Television Centre, the tall white building you will pass just before Gabriel's Wharf, is home to London Weekend Television and London Studios, where a number of programmes are filmed.

Gabriel's Wharf is a crafts market, converted from a number of old garages. It is part of the Coin Street community area.

The **OXO Tower** was originally built as a power station in the 1900's to supply electricity to the Post Office, and in the 1920's it was converted into a meat packing factory. The factory's most famous products were OXO stock cubes and powder, which you can still buy today.

If you look to the top of the tower you will see the letters O-X-O made out of glass bricks. This was because during the Second World War, there was a night-time ban on advertising and the only way the designers could avoid the ban was by including the advertising within the building's design.

(This area is called Lambeth. Before the nineteenth century, it was mainly a marshland but during that century it became one of the worst slum areas of London as many of the city's factory workers took up residence there).

Continue past the OXO Tower. You will eventually pass Doggett's pub and go through the Blackfriars Underpass. At the other side of the underpass, go through the metal gates and continue along the narrow path, passing through a large Victorian archway tunnel. Walk along the other side of the tunnel and stop just after the Founders Arms pub on your left.

Doggett's Pub and Blackfriars Bridge



Doggett's Coat and Badge Pub is named after the famous Doggett's Coat and Badge race which runs from Tower Bridge to Chelsea. Started in 1715 and held annually in July, it is the oldest and longest single skulls race in the world. Racers are apprentice Thames Watermen and the prize is still a silk lined coat and badge. The winner is entitled to escort the Queen on the Thames.

Blackfriars Bridge was opened in 1899 by Queen Victoria, who was so unpopular at the time that she was heckled by the crowds at the opening. The bridge replaced an earlier one that was built in 1769. This bridge was originally named after William Pitt, the Tory Prime Minister. However, the title was so unpopular that its name was soon changed to that of the Black Friars, an order of monks that settled in London in 1279.

Parallel to the bridge ran a rail bridge and you can still see the remains of it - the red columns in the river and the insignia of the railway company. The Founders Arms is so named because it was built on the site of the foundry where all the iron work for St Paul's was forged.

During Victorian times, London's foundries cast everything from locomotives to bridges and machine tools. However, their main focus was on the production of domestic and architectural items such as pavement lights and street furniture.

Look around as you wander along and you are likely to see evidence of their work.

Just after the Founders Arms pub, you will see Tate Modern ahead of you on your right, and on your left, a footbridge across the river. Walk along to the front of Tate Modern and stop.

The Tate Modern, Millennium Bridge and Southwark



The **Tate Modern** opened in May 2000 in the old Bankside Power Station, which was built in 1963 and generated power until 1981. Gas and electricity had actually been generated on or near the site for over a century - it provided the first public supply of electricity for the City of London,

It is the UK's largest museum of modern art and its permanent collection includes works by Picasso, Warhol and Dali. Admission is free except to special exhibitions.

You can also catch a boat from here to visit its sister gallery, Tate Britain, on Millbank.

The **Millennium Bridge**, the first new footbridge to be built across the Thames for over 100 years, crosses the river in front of the Tate Modern. This footbridge became known locally as the "Wobbly Bridge" when it was first opened in May 2000 as it was closed again a few weeks later due to its instability. It finally opened again in March 2002.

From this point on, you are now in the oldest borough of London, Southwark. Southwark was settled by the Romans on the south side of London Bridge and

from the Middle Ages it attracted the "undesirables", those who were not welcome in the City (across the river).

The area along the riverfront is known as Bankside, which was London's "Red Light District" during medieval times. It was the location for medieval brothels, tanning shops, Elizabethan and Jacobean bear and bull rings and theatres, notably Shakespeare's Globe. During these times, the area stank of open sewers and outbreaks of plague were very common.

Southwark was the home of many people whose names you are likely to recognise from history including Dickens, Chaucer, Keats, Thomas Beckett, Charles Babbage and Michael Faraday.

Continue past the Tate Modern and soon you will see an alleyway on your right called Cardinal Cap Alley. Continue past the alleyway to the Globe Theatre and Exhibition Centre, stopping in front of the iron gates.

Cardinal Cap Alley and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre



Cardinal Cap Alley dates from 1360 and marks the beginning of the area where most of Bankside's medieval brothels were. The alley once led to an inn and brothel named the Cardinal's Hat. No. 49, known as Cardinal Wharf, is the oldest house on Bankside. Though there is a plaque on the building proclaiming the fact that Wren lived here when rebuilding St Pauls, this seems unlikely as the building dates from the 18th century.

Largely thanks to the efforts of the American filmmaker, Sam Wanamaker, the new **Globe theatre** was opened to the public in 1997. It has been re-built as close as possible to the original theatre's design, from the thatched roof to the wooden bench seating.

The original Globe Theatre was built not far from this site, in 1598. Shakespeare and his fellow actors brought it over from the other side of the Thames (Shoreditch) in pieces and reassembled it on bankside since land rent was cheaper.

Many of Shakespeare's most famous plays were performed in the original theatre on bankside, including Julius Caesar (believed to be the first play performed here), Henry V, Hamlet and Macbeth. The plays attracted lively audiences and Elizabeth I was often amongst them.

In 1613, during a performance of Henry VIII, the theatre's thatch caught fire during the firing of a real cannon. The theatre burnt down within half an hour and was re-built the following year. In the 1640's it was finally closed down and demolished by the Puritans.

The iron gates which lead into the new theatre's grounds contain sculptures of many animals from Shakespeare's various plays.

Continue past the Globe Theatre until you reach the second turning on your right, called Bear Gardens. It is a small alleyway between two restaurants. Stop at the corner, facing the peculiar looking seat embedded into the wall of the restaurant opposite you.

Ferryman's Seat and Bear Gardens



The stone seat embedded into the wall of the Riverside House offices in Bear Gardens is called a **wherryman's seat**.

These seats were once common sights along the Thames and were the resting places for the Thames boatmen, who waited to ferry theatregoer's home in their passenger boats or "wherries". This one is believed to be the only remaining example.

About half way down **Bear Gardens**, on the left, stood the Davies Amphitheatre, the last bear-baiting pit on Bankside. Bear-baiting was popular in Tudor times and was a more profitable occupation than running a theatre. This bear-baiting pit was banned in 1642 and sadly all the bears were destroyed.

Walk along Bear Gardens to the junction of Park Street. At Park Street, turn left, passing the site of the Rose Theatre on your left. Continue along Park street, passing under Southwark Bridge, and almost immediately you should see the Financial Times building on your left. Stop in front of the apartments directly opposite the Financial Times building.

Sites of The Original Rose and Globe Theatres



Southwark Bridge was originally built in 1819 and re-built in 1921.

The **Rose Theatre**, the first of the Bankside theatres, was built in 1587 above an old rose garden. From 1592, the Rose became very popular and many acting companies performed on its stage, including Lord Strange's Men (probably including Shakespeare as an actor) from 1592 to 1593. The theatre's leading actor was Edward Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College in south London.

During the plague of 1593 in which nearly 11,000 Londoners died, the Rose closed down for a time and the theatre was finally abandoned in 1605 when its lease ran out. However, in 1989 the remains of the building were discovered and you are able to see them as part of a small exhibition on the site.

The foundations of the **Original Globe Theatre** are preserved under a small block of apartments called Old Theatre Court, opposite the Financial Times building. They were only discovered in 1989 and although you can't see them, you can read about what life was like in the area during Shakespeare's day and about his theatre.

Continue along Park Street. Turn left at the end and stop at the raised seating area overlooking the river in front of the Anchor Tavern.

The Anchor Tavern



Park Street was originally called Maiden Lane because it was a red light area at the time it was created. The **Anchor Tavern** was built in 1775 on the site of a much older inn from which Samuel Pepys watched the Great Fire of London across the river. The first of the Bishop's licensed brothels, Le Castell upon the Hoop, also stood on this site and the four iron posts in front of the tavern mark the medieval boundary of the Bishop's domain.

One of the final scenes in Mission Impossible (the movie with Tom Cruise) was filmed here.

Cannon Street railway bridge was built in 1863 to carry the South Eastern Railway across the river. **Vinopolis**, opened in 1999 opposite the Anchor Tavern, is dedicated to the world's major wine producing regions. It is located only 100 metres from the remains of a Roman wine store that was created over 2,000 years ago.

The **Southwark Tourist Centre**, situated in Vinopolis, is worth a visit as they have lots of maps and information on the surrounding area.

Six of London's bridges can be seen from the Anchor Tavern.

Between Southwark Bridge and the Cannon Street railway bridge, the riverboat "Marchioness" was hit by a dredger in August, 1989. The boat sank within 2 minutes and 51 people drowned. There is a memorial in Southwark Cathedral to those who died.

Continue past Vinopolis along Clink Street, passing the Clink Prison exhibition, and stop in front of the remains of Winchester Palace on your right

Winchester Palace and the Clink Prison



Winchester Palace was the London home of the bishops of Winchester from the 1140s until 1626. The Bishop owned most of the land in Bankside and licensed the area's brothels in 1161 as the area was outside the control of the City of London (the prostitutes were known as Winchester Geese.)

The only remaining part of the palace is the Rose Window.

First mentioned in 1509, the **Clink prison** began as a small prison attached to the palace and was used merely to maintain order in the Bishop's brothels. It existed as a prison until 1745 and was destroyed in 1780, to be replaced by Victorian warehouses.

However, it soon became useful for other purposes. During the early years, religious prisoners were held in it prior to being burnt at the stake or hanged and during later years it became a debtor's prison. Prisoners were not fed by the wardens while in jail: they had to beg passers-by for food.

The prison lay partly below the level of the Thames and between the river and a sewer, and conditions were therefore particularly bad, especially during high tide. You can tour the Clink museum and see examples of crime and punishment, though nothing of the original prison remains.

St Mary Overie Wharf, a small creek which commemorates the earlier name of the nearby Cathedral, is possibly the tideway mentioned in the Domesday Book, where ships moored.

At **Pickford's Wharf**, the ship you see ahead of you in dry dock is a replica of the Golden Hinde, Sir Francis Drake's famous ship that took him on his voyage around the world in 1577 - 1580.

Continue to the end of Clink Street, passing the Golden Hinde on your left. At the small junction turn right and follow the path to the left, leading into the grounds of Southwark Cathedral.

Southwark Cathedral and London Bridge



There has been a church on the site of **Southwark Cathedral** for over one thousand years and the current building is the oldest building in Southwark.

The original church was founded by St Swithun in 860 and in the twelfth century it was known as the Church of St Mary Overie ("Overie" meaning "over the water"). Inside the church there are two rounded Norman arches that survived the fire of 1213.

In 1616, when most of London's theatres were in its vicinity, the then chaplain denounced those who "dishonour God by penning and acting in plays". Ironically, William Shakespeare's brother, Edmund, who was an actor, is buried in the church. And there is a statue of Shakespeare alongside a tablet dedicated to Sam Wanamaker, founder of the present Globe theatre.

The church became a Cathedral in 1905.

Until 1750, **London Bridge** (next to the Cathedral) was the only bridge over the river. The original bridge was built by the Romans as a bridge of boats and this was replaced by various wooden bridges that were in use until 1176, when a stone bridge was built on the site.

The stone bridge was in use for over 600 years and became one of the wonders of the medieval world as it spanned what was at the time a fierce tidal river. The bridge had houses (up to seven floors high), shops and a church on it, similar to the Ponte Vecchio in Florence.

The stone bridge was replaced in 1831 by a granite bridge as it was becoming a hazard to boats navigating the river. This bridge was in turn replaced by the present, less spectacular bridge which was opened in 1973, and the granite bridge was reconstructed in Arizona, USA. (Legend has it that the Americans who bought it thought it was Tower Bridge.)

During medieval times, the decapitated heads of "traitors", including in 1305, the head of Braveheart (William Wallace) were displayed on spikes on the gates at either end of London Bridge.

And John Harvard (after whom Harvard College in Boston, America, was founded) was christened in Southwark Cathedral in 1607 and lived in Southwark until he emigrated to America in 1637. His father was a butcher in Borough High Street.

Exit the grounds of Southwark Cathedral. You should see the area of Borough market directly in front of you.



Borough market was established on its current site in 1754 by an Act of Parliament, but historians believe that there has been a market in this area since pre-Roman times. Records from 1014 list the market as selling fish, grain and cattle, as well as fruit and vegetables, and attracting traders from all over Europe.

These days the market still focuses on the sale of wholesale fruit and vegetables and is busiest between 2am and 9am each morning as hoteliers and greengrocers buy their goods from traders. However, there is now also a popular gourmet food market open to the public, selling fresh produce including fish, meats, vegetables, ciders, cheeses, breads, coffees, cakes and patisseries.

The public market is open Thursday - Saturday from morning to mid afternoon.

Continue through the market area to Borough High Street.

At Borough High Street, turn right and stop at the traffic lights at the junction with Southwark Street.

Borough High Street and the Hop Exchange



Borough High Street lies on the site of a Roman road, dissecting an area which became an important medieval borough. This area has the longest known history of any part of London apart from the City (on the other side of the river).

As you wander along it, look for the typically medieval alleys running off the high street between narrow houses. For centuries, this area was the last resting point for travellers heading across London Bridge to the City and so, as you might expect, it was lined with inns.

"The Borough", as it is traditionally known, was the first borough in London, apart from the City, to send representatives to Parliament. They sent their first member there in 1295.

Look down Southwark Street on your right, to the blue-fronted building just after the Southwark Tavern. This is the **Hop Exchange**, one of London's few surviving Victorian exchanges. It was established in Southwark in 1866. The building had a glass roof so that hops could be examined under natural light.

Southwark Fair was held every September from 1462 in and around Borough High Street near St George's Church. It was a colourful occasion filled with dancing monkeys, weight lifters, street artists and circus performers.

However, as no large open spaces existed, booths and shows were held in the surrounding streets, courts and inn-yards, leading to complaints from local shopkeepers. These complaints, together with the rising levels of petty crime and prostitution, eventually caused the fair to be closed in 1763.

Cross twice at the traffic lights, firstly across Southwark Street and again across Borough High Street. Turn right and walk along Borough High Street, passing the George Inn on your left. Cross Borough High Street again at the next set of traffic lights then continue on for a few metres, turning left along Union Street.

Continue along Union Street to the junction with Redcross Way.

The George Inn and Cross Bones Graveyard



The **George Inn**, in George Inn Yard just to your left off Borough High Street, is London's only surviving galleried coaching inn. The present building, though only a section of the original, dates from 1676.

Before the Globe opened in 1599, plays were performed in the courtyard and it is believed that Shakespeare himself performed from the back of a cart here. It was re-built after a fire in 1676.

Talbot Yard was the location of one of the most famous inns on Borough High Street, called the Tabard Inn, which stood here until destroyed by fire in 1676. This was the inn where Chaucer's pilgrims gathered at the beginning of the *Canterbury Tales* and it was the inn keeper who suggested that each pilgrim told a story in order to pass the time on their journey. In the seventeenth century, the name of the inn was changed to the Talbot.

Cross Bones graveyard was the final resting place for many of Bankside's medieval prostitutes, commonly known as "Winchester Geese". The site itself has now become a shrine to the nameless poor of London.

Stow, in his *Survey of London* in 1603, describes the burial site as being appointed to single women forbidden the rites of the church so long as they continued a sinful life. However, by Victorian times, when the area was stricken by poverty and disease, the site was used as a pauper's burial ground.

Recent archaeological digs for the Jubilee Line extension have uncovered evidence of a highly overcrowded graveyard where bodies are piled up on top of each other and tests have shown that many of the bodies are women and children with diseases ranging from smallpox and TB to vitamin D deficiency.

The graveyard was finally closed in 1853 on the grounds that it was 'completely overcharged with dead' and that further burials were 'inconsistent with a due regard for the public health and public decency'.

There are over 140 burial grounds in London. These include the "Magnificent Seven": Nunhead, Brompton, Kensal Green, West Norwood, Tower Hamlets, Highgate and Abney Park. [Read more](#) about them.

Retrace your route back to Borough High Street, turn right and continue until you reach St George the Martyr Church, opposite Borough station

"Little Dorritt's" Church - St George the Martyr Church, built in 1122 and re-built in 1736, is known locally as "Little Dorritt's Church" as it features in Charles Dickens' novel, *Little Dorritt*. Born in nearby Marshalsea Prison, the fictional Little Dorritt sleeps in the church when she is locked out of it one night. It is also where she is married at the end of the novel.

In addition to the Clink prison on Bankside, there were once three other prisons on Borough High Street, located in the area on your left between Newcomen Street and St George's church. The original site of Marshalsea prison, which opened in the fourteenth century and closed in 1849, is on Mermaid Court, immediately on your left after you cross Newcomen Street.

Marshalsea is probably the best known of the three as it was where Dickens' father was imprisoned for 3 months in 1824 for debt. While he was in prison, his wife and Dickens' younger siblings also lived with him. Dickens himself lived in nearby Lant Street and so was able to join them for meals.

Today, nothing remains of the King's Bench and White Lion prisons and only one wall of Marshalsea prison can still be seen (in the grounds of St George the Martyr Church.)

Turn left along Tabard Street, the road just before the church, and take a short diversion into the grounds of the church, through the gates on the left, to see the remains of Marshalsea prison. Exiting the grounds, turn left and shortly, turn left again along Long Lane.

Turn left at Crosby Row, and at the end, walk through the grounds of Guys' Hospital, directly in front of you. As you exit the grounds on the other side, turn left along St Thomas Street.

Stop in front of the Old Operating Theatre, on your right.



Guys' Hospital and the Old Operating Theatre

Two of London's major hospitals, St Thomas' and Guy's, originated in St Thomas Street. St Thomas' Hospital was founded here in the thirteenth century, before being moved to its present location opposite the Houses of Parliament at Westminster in 1865 to make room for the railway station at London Bridge.

Nothing remains of the old hospital except a Georgian doorway (opposite Keats House and between two small courtyards fronting onto the road) and the old operating theatre, at 9a St Thomas Street.

Visit the **old operating theatre** and you will see one of London's most bizarre secrets: the only surviving 19th century surgical theatre (in use from 1821 to 1862), complete with wooden operating table, blood box and tiered stands where spectators watched surgery being performed without anaesthetic.

Guys' Hospital was built here in 1721. It is named after Thomas Guy, a wealthy publisher and printer who left a large endowment to help establish it. Its famous medical students include John Keats, the poet, who lived at 28 St Thomas Street, and Richard Bright and Thomas Addison, both remembered for the diseases they diagnosed.

The first complete English Bible produced in England has on its title page "Imprinted in Southwark at St Thomas' Hospital". It was printed in 1537 and was dedicated to Henry VIII.

You have now completed this walk. Continue to the end of St Thomas Street and turn left to London Bridge tube station. From this point, you could turn right at St Thomas Street, cross London Bridge and turn right at Monument Street to begin the city walk from Monument tube station.

THE CITY WALK

Starts from Monument station and ends at Tower Hill station (or at St Pauls station)

On arrival at Monument station, take the exit marked Fish Street Hill and The Monument and at street level, turn right. Stop in front of the large "monument" ahead of you.

Monument and the Great Fire of London



The **Monument** stands as a memorial to the Great Fire of London.

It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and completed in 1677. It is the tallest single stone column in the world and contains a spiral staircase leading to a viewing platform from which you can see some remarkable views of the city. Sadly, until 1842 (when the viewing platform was railed in) the monument was a favourite place for suicides.

The **Great Fire of London** started at 2am on September 2nd 1666 in a bakery in **Pudding Lane**, the distance in height eastward from the Monument (202 feet.) The fire burned for three days and spread over almost 500 acres, northeast as far as St Bart's hospital.

The final toll was 9 lives lost (officially) and 87 churches and 13,200 houses destroyed. As the fire started in Pudding Lane and ended at Pie Corner, some Londoners considered the fire to be divine retribution for their gluttony. The plinth used to have an inscription in Latin blaming the fire on the Roman Catholics but this was removed in 1830.

Continue along Monument Street, passing the Monument on your right, until you reach the junction with Pudding Lane. Turn right and walk down Pudding Lane, then right again at the end into Lower Thames Street.

Cross the road at the lights in front of St Magnus the Martyr church and walk left along Lower Thames Street until you reach a pathway just after a building marked St Magnus House / No 3 Lower Thames Street. Follow this path to the riverfront and turn left.

Stop in front of the glass fronted building with gold-coloured fish ornaments on its roof (Old Billingsgate Fish Market).

Old Billingsgate Fish Market, Custom House and St Magnus the Martyr Church



In front of you is the site of the **old Billingsgate Fish Market**, which existed here in the Middle Ages. The market moved to a new site on the Isle of Dogs in 1982 and today the building is used as a stock market.

To the right of it is **Custom House**. In 979, King Ethelred levied the first known customs duty in England, but it wasn't until 1275 that the first custom house was built, just east of the present site. Since then, Custom House has been responsible for collecting taxes on all goods imported into London. The church you passed is **St Magnus the Martyr church**. This church was founded around 1067 and stood at the foot of the old London Bridge. (In the churchyard lie some of the old stones from the bridge). As such, it was an important meeting place in medieval times. The original church burnt down during the Great Fire and was re-built by Wren in 1676.

Just after the old Fish Market building, turn left along Old Billingsgate Walk then left again at the end, along Lower Thames Street. Walk back to the pedestrian crossing in front of the church and cross the road, then turn left and walk up Fish Street Hill, passing Monument on your right.

At the top of Fish Street Hill, turn left along Eastcheap and follow it until you see a pedestrian underpass (also marked Underground). Take the first set of stairs and at the bottom turn right, then go straight ahead, following the signs to Cannon Street.

Take the Cannon Street exit, and at street level turn left along Cannon Street until you reach Laurence Pountney Hill (the third turning on your left). Turn down Laurence Pountney Hill and just after Suffolk Lane, see the two merchants' houses at number 1 and 2 (on your right), which were built in 1703.

Return to Cannon Street, cross the road, turn right then shortly turn left along Abchurch Lane to the junction with King William Street.

At King William Street turn left and continue until you reach Mansion House Place, just after traffic lights. Follow this lane straight ahead then veer right, opposite a small churchyard. Stop at the end of the lane, where it joins Walbrook Street, in front of the church.

Mansion House and St Stephen Walbrook Church



As you walked along Mansion House Place, you passed along the side of **Mansion House**, which is a combination of palace, town hall and law court complete with its own lock-up. Its prime role is as the official residence of the City's Lord Mayor, who holds office for a one year term. The building was designed in the 1700's. The church in front of you is **St Stephen Walbrook**, another church founded in the eleventh century, which was burnt down in the Great Fire and re-built by Wren. This church was also the birthplace of the Samaritans, in 1953.

The City is the oldest part of London and was already 1,000 years old when the Tower of London was built. It is uniquely independent from both Westminster and the Crown, has its own local government, the Corporation of London, and today is

mainly a financial centre. It also has its own police force which is independent of the Metropolitan police, whose jurisdiction nevertheless surrounds the City.

Turn left down Walbrook Street. Follow it across Cannon Street (where it leads into Dowgate Hill) and take the second turning on your right, along College Street.

Shortly after, turn right again and walk up College Hill, passing the sites where Dick Whittington was buried (now a church) and where he lived (now buildings at numbers 19-20.)

Just after the junction with Cloak Lane, turn left along Cannon Street, cross the road, continue left and turn right along Bow Lane, which is a small laneway just after a large junction. Follow Bow Lane and turn left at the junction with Cheapside. Soon after, you will see St Mary-le-Bow Church on your left.

Dick Whittington, Cockneys and Roman Roads



Dick Whittington, born in 1358, is one of the most famous Londoners who ever lived. Many people think of him as having walked to London with his cat, and though there is evidence that he did walk to London from the countryside, is it uncertain whether he actually had a cat or not.

He was Lord Mayor four times between 1397 and 1419 and during his terms of office he built public drinking fountains and conveniences, acts which made him popular. On his death, he left his fortune to various charities, to rebuild Newgate Prison and to construct a wing at St Thomas' Hospital across the river for unmarried mothers.

He lived in a house at 19-20 College Hill and was buried (in 1423) in the predecessor of **St Michael Paternoster church**. Both the original church and Whittington's grave were destroyed in the Great Fire of London.

***St Mary-Le-Bow Church** was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It used to house the Great Bell of Bow, of the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons", and it is claimed that when Whittington ran away from London he heard the bells ringing out and returned to the city.*

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, published in 1898, includes an epitaph to Whittington that it claims was also destroyed in the Great Fire. The epitaph contains many facts that were wrong. For example, that he served as mayor only 3 times and that he was knighted.

It also claims that he had a cat, but in fact there is no record of this until it was mentioned in a ballad in 1605, almost 200 years after his death. However, in 1949 the mummified remains of a 14th century cat were discovered near where Whittington lived, so the legend lives on.

What is more likely is that Whittington did have a cat but it was not of the feline variety. Instead, it was the name of his boat that he used for bringing coal from Newcastle to London.

Continue along Cheapside, turn left along Bread Street, then right along Watling Street. At the end, cross the road (called New Change), and you will see St Paul's Cathedral ahead of you.

St Paul's Cathedral



Watling Street is one of the oldest roads in London. It marks the path of the original Roman road from Dover to Kent and the border with Wales.

Bread Street was where (in Norman times) one of the few brothels in the city existed. There was also a prison here. Famous people born in this area include John Milton and Governor Arthur Philip, the first governor of Australia.

St Paul's was founded in 604. However, the present building, the fifth on the site, dates from 1675. It is the second largest cathedral in the world, after St Peter's in Rome.

Construction did not start until 10 years after the Great Fire, which destroyed the previous structure. This earlier building, begun in 1087, took 200 years to build and was even bigger than the present building, which took 35 years to complete.

The cathedral is the most famous work from London's greatest architect, Sir Christopher Wren (who is buried in it.) However, the building is not exactly to the Royal-approved design. Wren submitted 3 different designs for it before his 4th version was eventually agreed. He then assembled large screens around the construction site to hide development, and proceeded to build the cathedral to a design different again from that which had been approved.

In 1981, the wedding of Charles and Diana took place here. Other famous people who are buried in St Paul's include Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington, whose monument took 56 years to complete.

In front of the cathedral there are some wooden posts representing the last City toll gate, built in the thirteenth century. They mark the old route to Cheapside. The "gate" is now opened only during ceremonial occasions.

Until 1911, St Paul's Churchyard was the centre of the London book trade, and had been so since before printing arrived in England in 1476.

All new books had to be registered at the nearby Stationer's Hall, the livery hall of the Stationer's and Newspaper Maker's Company, which controlled the printing and publishing trades.

St Pauls marks the halfway point on this walk and you can end it here at nearby St Pauls station. To do so, continue past the front of the cathedral and turn right, following the signs.

To continue the walk, go past the front of the cathedral then turn up Ava Maria Lane (which becomes Warwick Lane), passing through Paternoster Square, where the London Stock Exchange is located. At the end of Warwick Lane, turn left along Newgate Street, then right at the junction with Giltspur Street. (On your left at this junction is Old Bailey and the site of Newgate prison, on the corner.)

Walk along Giltspur Street and stop at the junction with Cock Lane, on the left.

Newgate Prison, Old Bailey, the Fat Boy and St Bart's Hospital



Newgate Prison had stood on the corner of Old Bailey and Newgate Street since the 12th century. It was destroyed during the Great Fire of London and re-built only to be finally demolished in 1902.

It was not a pleasant place to be imprisoned within: there was no ventilation and little water and it was ruled by highly corrupt prison guards (who made fortunes charging prisoners for "privileges" such as being freed from shackles.) One of the gates from Newgate prison is on display at the Museum of London.

Old Bailey is the name by which most people know the Central Criminal Court, which is just down from the corner with Newgate Street.

The first court house on this site was built in 1539 and the current buildings, which include at their base, stones from Newgate prison, date from 1907. The buildings were badly damaged during the Blitz in 1942 and bombed by the IRA in 1973.

The court is reserved for trying the most serious crimes such as murder, and famous trials that have been held here include those of Oscar Wilde (1895), Dr Crippen (1910) and the Yorkshire Ripper (1981). You can view details of all criminal trials held at the Old Bailey between 1674 and 1834 on their web site.

The church you passed on the corner with Giltspur Street is **St Sepulchure's**. Prisoners from Newgate Prison used to pray here around their open coffins on the morning of their execution. Anatomy teachers used to buy bodies stolen from here to use in training their students.

Embedded in the side of the building on the corner of **Cock Lane** is the famous statue of the **Golden Boy of Pye Corner**, commonly known as "the fat boy". This statue marks the spot where the Great Fire of London ended. In 1241, Cock Lane (owned by St Paul's Cathedral) became the place where City prostitutes were exiled.

Next door to this building is the headquarters of City and Guilds, an educational institute established through funding from a group of livery companies, which initially started as guilds.

Across the road and along to your left, you will see **St Bart's Hospital**. Bart's (as it is commonly known) was founded in 1123 by an Augustinian monk and was repaired in 1421 by Whittington. It is the oldest hospital in London and the oldest charitable organisation in London still on its original site.

For those familiar with the Doctor in the House films and novels, the hospital was used as the model for St Swithin's.

The City is home to 94 different livery companies, some with names of trades hardly heard of these days, such as Girdlers, Scriveners, Cutlers, Coopers, Salters, Apothecaries, Cordwainers, Bowyers, Carmen, Fishmongers and Skinners. These companies were established as trade guilds in the 12th century

and grew rapidly during medieval times to help manage the business of the city.

Originally, each guild fulfilled a range of needs for its members such as ensuring "fair value" through controlling who could work in its trade, setting the prices and wages to be paid to members and ensuring decent working conditions, welfare rights and burials.

Today, guilds are still being established to support newer trades and professions, such as marketing. However these days they mainly serve as private educational and charitable organisations, often giving awards and grants to help train people in the industries from which they originally emerged. The wealthier guilds have even funded the creation of university departments and entire colleges.

Guild members eventually became known as liverymen because they wore a distinctive livery or uniform. All liverymen still receive the Freedom of the City.

Continue along Giltspur Street, then around a roundabout, until you reach Smithfield Street, to your left. Across the road you will see Smithfield Central Market. Continue past it and walk down a road called Little Britain.

Follow it to the junction with Montague Street and at the junction, turn right. Cross another road called Little Britain and walk along King Edward Street a short distance until you reach a set of gates on your left, leading into a small park.

Enter the park.

Smithfield Market and Postman's Park



Smithfield market is London's largest meat market, employing over 3,000 people. It has its own police force and early opening pub. During the Middle Ages, it traded in live horses, pigs and cattle.

As a convenient open space near the city walls, the area was also used in medieval times for tournaments, fairs and, for over 400 years, executions. Wat Tyler, leader of the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, was executed nearby, along with many witches and heretics, who were burned, roasted or boiled alive.

William Wallace, also known as Braveheart, was hung, drawn and quartered at this site (his head being displayed on a spike on London Bridge.)

Postmans Park is famous for its hero's wall. The wall contains plaques to those Londoners, mostly ordinary citizens and sometimes children, who died while performing acts of bravery in the 1800's.

The park sits beside the church of **St Botolph -without-Aldersgate**, where John Wesley converted to Methodism.

For centuries, the main means of trade in London was through markets. In the Middle Ages, when there were few permanent shops, the rights to hold markets were so valuable that the king, Edward III, granted the City an exclusive charter to do so within a seven-mile radius.

London's original market was in Cheapside and its oldest surviving market is Borough market, on the southern side of London Bridge. Other early London markets include Smithfield and Leadenhall.

Continue through the park, exiting beside the church. Turn left and cross the road, then turn left again. Soon you will see signs pointing to the Museum of London, and some escalators on your right.

Go up the escalators and follow the signs to the Museum of London, along the walkway. Pass the entrance to the museum and continue right, along Bastion Highwalk, until you see part of the old City wall and the Barbican area on your left. Stop, overlooking part of the London Wall.

London Wall, Barbican Centre and St Giles Church



The **Barbican Centre** was built in the 1960's and 70's by the City after the area was devastated during the Blitz in the second world war. It is both residential and commercial and includes exhibition halls, libraries and the **Museum of London**. It is also home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The area was settled by the Romans and the name "Barbican" means fortified watch tower. There was one nearby at Cripplegate, one of the gates in the Roman wall.

St Giles without Cripplegate church was founded in the eleventh century. It was rebuilt in 1545 and was visited by Shakespeare. Oliver Cromwell was married in St Giles church in 1620 and in 1674 John Milton was buried in it. Whittington built a water fountain in the shape of a bear's head in the churchyard wall.

The church suffered almost total devastation during an air raid in the Second World War. Of the present building built in the 16th century, only the tower and walls remain.

Ancient London was transformed by the Romans into a typical Roman city (known as Londinium) in the first century AD. Though perhaps hard to imagine today, the city stretched from the Tower of London to Aldgate and west beyond St Paul's. It contained many buildings such as a basilica and forum, as well as an amphitheatre (which stood on the current site of Guildhall).

To protect themselves, the Romans built a wall around their city in 200 AD. You can still see parts of this wall throughout the present city. The wall stretched for 2 miles and stood 18ft high, enclosing occupants and allowing access only through six gates, including Bishopsgate, Aldgate and Newgate.

When the Romans left London in 410 AD, the Anglo-Saxons continued to live within the boundaries of the city and built new structures on top of the wall. You can see the different levels of construction in remaining parts of it. The Roman-built sections often have layers of red tiles within them, which were used to strengthen the wall.

Continue along the walkway, which becomes covered for a short time and passes some restaurants and shops. Almost immediately you emerge into open space, turn left and go down the stairs signposted to Wood Street. Cross at the pedestrian lights and turn left across London Wall.

Turn right, down Wood Street and then left along Love Lane. After a short distance, turn right along Aldermanbury and follow it to the end.

At the end of the road, on the left hand corner, there is a building with vehicle barriers leading into a courtyard. Next to the barriers is a pedestrian passageway. Follow the passageway between the building and the back of a church (on your right) into the courtyard.

Guildhall and St Lawrence Jewry Church



Guildhall is home to the Corporation of London, the body responsible for governing the City. It has been the "centre" of local government for the City for over 800 years.

Every year the Lord Mayor hosts an annual dinner here, attended by politicians and leaders of industry, at which the Prime Minister normally makes a state-of-the-nation speech.

In Roman times, there was an amphitheatre on this site. It is indicated by a black circle set into the courtyard floor.

The fifteenth century Great Hall was one of the few buildings in the City not to have been totally destroyed during either the Great Fire or the Blitz, though it did suffer substantial damage and has been twice restored. The stained glass windows of the Great Hall show all the mayors of London, including Whittington (several times.)

You can visit Guildhall and see the Great Hall. It is partly concealed from the road by other Corporation of London offices which collectively are known as the Guildhall offices. (Love Lane was a medieval red light area).

St Lawrence Jewry Church, which backs onto the Guildhall courtyard, is so named because during medieval times it stood in the Jewish quarter of the City. It is now the official church of the Corporation of London.

(Lots of City place names provide clues about the types of "business" conducted in the city in days of old.)

These include Garlick Hill (where garlic was once sold), Bread Street (where bread was baked), Milk Street (where milk was sold), Love Lane and Cock Lane (where the city's brothels were) and Poultry (where those who sold chickens used to live).

Exit the courtyard via the path beside the church (not the path you entered by), and turn left along Gresham Street. Cross the main junction with Moorgate and continue ahead along Lothbury, passing Tokenhouse Yard on your left.

Turn right at Bartholomew Lane and stop at the junction with Threadneedle Street.

Bank of England



The building on the corner of Threadneedle Street is the **Bank of England**. The bank was established in 1694 to raise money for war and moved to its present location in 1734. It is commonly known as "the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street". The underground vaults still hold Britain's gold reserves.

Having had a number of different roles throughout history, it now acts as the Government's and banker's bank and as the issuer of British currency.

In the 1990's, it was assigned responsibility for setting interest rates for Britain: a role previously reserved for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In 1836 a man found a route from the sewer into the Bullion room of the Bank. Instead of using this to his advantage, he alerted authorities and was later rewarded for his honesty.

From the late 17th to the 19th century the Bank issued lottery tickets as a way of raising money to meet state expenditure. Now, the Government runs a National Lottery to help fund the Arts and community projects.

Tokenhouse Yard, which you passed, is where in the 1600's, tokens were minted and issued whenever coins were in short supply.

Until a few decades ago, the City's pre-eminence as a world financial centre derived almost entirely from its position as the capital of a great trading nation whose empire spanned the world. Sterling, backed by gold, was the main trading currency in the nineteenth century and accounted for a quarter of world trade as recently as 1939.

After the two world wars, the strength of the empire started to fade. However, despite this, the City continues to be home to various financial markets including euromarkets, and more than 500 foreign banks have offices here. It is also one of the world's leading insurance centres and the leader of the international gold market: "the London gold fixing" is still a pricing benchmark used throughout the world.

Turn left along Threadneedle Street and follow it to the end. Turn right along Bishopsgate and immediately cross the road. Continue right and cross the junction with Leadenhall Street, then soon after, turn left into Leadenhall Market.

Walk straight ahead through the market, exiting to another public road, and after a short distance, turn left along Lime Street. Stop at the end where it meets Leadenhall Street.

Leadenhall Market, Lloyd's of London and "the Gherkin"



Leadenhall market was the most important medieval market in London. It began by selling poultry and grain. The current market buildings date from 1881 though there has been a food market on this site since 1300. The location was originally the site of the Roman forum.

Lloyd's business was originally started in Edward Lloyd's coffee house in Tower Street in the 1680's, where ship owners would meet wealthy merchants to negotiate insurance cover for their ships.

Because no individual merchant would be willing to cover all the risk of a ship on their own, brokers established themselves as intermediaries, organising groups of underwriters to spread the risk. In the 1770's, Lloyd's expanded to take on other risks in addition to shipping. The company is now a world famous insurance market.

The current Lloyds of London building was built between 1978 and 1986 and is one of the most significant buildings of post-war Britain. The most striking feature is that all its services (plumbing, heating, lift shafts) are exposed on the outside of the building, which is particularly remarkable to observe at night.

One traditional feature of the building is the Lutine Bell, rescued from a ship that sank in 1800 with a cargo of gold. The bell is sounded to indicate significant events, such as when the Titanic sank.

Diagonally opposite the Lloyd's Building and behind a church you will see a new building that because of its design, is known by Londoners as "**the gherkin**". It was designed by Norman Foster and sits on the site of the old Baltic Exchange, which was destroyed by the IRA in the 1990's.

Turn right along Leadenhall Street, which becomes Aldgate. Continue along Aldgate, which in turn becomes Aldgate High Street, until you reach the Hoop and Grapes pub, on your right.



Hoop and Grapes Pub

The oldest surviving pub in London is the Hoop and Grapes pub in Aldgate High Street, whose foundations date from the 13th century. The present building was built in the 1600s and it was one of the few to survive the Great Fire.

The cellar supposedly has a tunnel, now sealed off, leading to the Tower of London.

Before 1830, London's pubs looked like ordinary houses, usually identified only by signs hanging in front of them. Most had a series of small rooms with fireplaces and wooden benches and customers were served at tables.

However, after beer duty was abolished in 1830 (to encourage people to reduce their gin intake), many new pubs opened and they became more like the taverns around today, with bars and elaborate furnishings.

Re-trace your steps back along Aldgate High Street, which becomes Aldgate, and continue ahead along Fenchurch Street. Follow Fenchurch Street and turn left down Fenchurch Place.

Just after passing Fenchurch Street station on your left, go down some steps marked New London Street. Stop at the end of this short road, facing a church.

St Olave's

The church in front of you is St Olave's. It dates from the fifteenth century, and survived the Great Fire mainly due to the efforts of the writer Samuel Pepys, who lived and worked nearby. He had the surrounding wooden buildings destroyed before the fire could reach them.

Pepys is buried in the nave of the church beside his wife. Other burials include Mother Goose, who was interred in 1586, and Mary Ramsey, the woman who it is claimed brought the plague to London in 1665.

The church was named St Ghastly Grim by Dickens in his story, *The Uncommercial Traveller*, because of the spikes and stone skulls overlooking its churchyard. The churchyard also has a watch house from which bodysnatchers were chased away.

Turn left along Hart Street then right, down Seething Lane and shortly left along Pepys Street. Turn right along Savage Gardens and follow it to the end, emerging opposite a small park (Trinity Square Gardens).

Walk through the gardens to the raised area in front of the exit to Tower Hill tube station and stop, facing the Tower of London.

Tower of London and Tower Bridge



Pepys lived in **Seething Lane**, where he wrote most of his famous diary. It provides the best record known of life in 17th century London.

The **Tower of London** is the most popular tourist attraction in London and one of the greatest examples of Norman architecture anywhere in the world. It is steeped in both history and scandal.

It was begun by William I around 1066 and built deliberately just outside the City boundary to warn potential troublemakers. It was then extended by a number of monarchs until Edward I, and has been a palace, prison, menagerie, place of execution and stronghold for the crown jewels.

Famous occupants have included Sir Francis Drake, Anne Boleyn (executed by sword), Sir Walter Raleigh and Rudolph Hess during the Second World War.

The tower is protected by forty Yeoman Warders (Beefeaters) and eight flightless ravens, whose departure, legend claims, would indicate the downfall of England. The Beefeaters live on site and their dogs and cats are buried in a pet cemetery within the moat of the Tower.

The small "exits" at the bottom of the tower are medieval drainage outlets.

There is an admission charge and often a long queue to visit the Tower. But you can see parts of it for free at night by getting tickets in advance to the ancient Ceremony of the Keys.

Tower Bridge was built in 1894 and needs to be raised to enable tall ships to pass under it. Until 1976, this was performed by steam-driven Victorian hydraulic machines. It is often mistakenly thought to be London Bridge by tourists. You can travel to the top of Tower Bridge and also see the Victorian engine room. (Admission charge).

You have now completed this walk - follow the signs to Tower Hill tube station.