

Self-Guided City of London & Southwark Walking Tour



Distance: 4 miles
Duration: 2.5 hours

Tube Stations

- A - Aldgate
- B - Bank
- CS - Cannon Street
- LB - London Bridge
- M - Monument
- MH - Mansion House
- SP - St Paul's
- TH - Tower Hill
- WC - Public Toilets



- AH - All Hallows by the Tower
- BE - Bank of England
- BM - Borough Market
- CH - City Hall
- FD - Financial District
- HB - HMS Belfast
- HG - Hay's Galleria
- LM - Leadenhall Market
- LW - London Wall
- M - Monument
- MB - Millenium Bridge
- MH - Mansion House
- RE - Royal Exchange
- SC - Southwark Cathedral
- SG - Shakespeare's Globe
- SK - Saint Katharine Docks
- SM - St Mary-le-Bow
- SP - St Paul's Cathedral
- TB - Tower Bridge
- TC - The Clink
- TL - Tower of London
- TM - Tate Modern
- TS - The Shard
- WT - Walkie-Talkie

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Small-group day trips & extended tours from London

AH - All Hallows by the Tower

The oldest church in the City of London, founded in 675AD and a Saxon arch still remains. All Hallows means 'All Saints'; It was here that John Quincy Adams was married, William Penn baptised and from the church tower that Samuel Pepys watched the Great Fire.

BE - Bank of England

The central bank of the UK. Established in 1694, most modern central banks around the world are based on this one. The Bank of England controls monetary policy and maintains financial stability. It issues banknotes and houses the nations' gold reserves.

BM - Borough Market

One of the largest and oldest food markets in London. The current structure was built in 1850, however the market dates back to at least the 12th century.

CH - City Hall

HQ of the Greater London Authority and office of the Mayor of London. Designed by Norman Foster and opened in 2002. The unique design has earned the building numerous nicknames, including 'The Onion'.

FD - Financial District

The centre of London's modern financial district. Look out for iconic structures: The Gherkin, the Lloyds Building, The Cheesegrater, Tower 42 and Twentytwo.

HB - HMS Belfast

Commissioned in 1939, its guns have a 26-mile range. This retired cruiser saw action in the Korean War and was used in the D-Day landings in Normandy. Now a museum.

HG - Hay's Galleria

Re-developed former warehouse of Hay's Wharf. During its 19th century peak, 80% of all dry produce imported into London came through here, including tea.

LM - Leadenhall Market

One of London's oldest markets, established in 1321. Set in the centre of the location of Roman London, the market was originally for meat and poultry and is now home to a selection of boutique restaurants and bars.

LW - London Wall

Also called the 'Roman Wall', built between 190-225AD. A defensive wall built around Roman settlement Londinium.

M - Monument

The monument to commemorate the Great Fire of London (see more below). Stands 202ft tall, and lies 202ft west of the exact location in Pudding Lane where the fire began.

MB - Millennium Bridge

Steel suspension bridge, opened in 2000. Immediately nick-named 'Wobbly Bridge' after pedestrians felt significant swaying on the opening day. Closed for two years to undergo repairs in order to stabilise the bridge.

SG - Shakespeare's Globe

Opened in 1997, this is a reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre. It is set 230 metres from the site of the Elizabethan theatre which dated to 1599, but was accidentally burned down in 1613, re-built, then later demolished. Today the Globe is a functioning theatre, with an audience capacity of 1,400.

SK - St Katharine Docks

A former commercial docks that was part of the Port of London between 1828 and 1968. Takes its name from the 12th century hospital of the same name. The area has seen much development and now features housing, offices, restaurants and a yachting marina.

TB - Tower Bridge

Constructed in the late 1800's, this Bascule bridge takes its name from the adjacent Tower of London. Designed by Horace Jones and engineered by Sir John Barry, it takes around 90 seconds for the bridge to lift. The bridge was built with two lifting 'leaves' to allow cargo ships access into the Pool of London. Lifting used to require 80 men, but is now operated electrically. Boats exceeding 30ft wishing to pass must provide 24 hours notice, and Tower Bridge lifts around 800 times a year. Bridge lifting schedule available online via the Tower Bridge website.

TC - The Clink

Notorious prison established in the 12th century which closed in 1780. The sound of metal doors bolting has seen the word 'clink' become slang for prison.

TL - Tower of London

Founded by William the Conqueror in 1066, 'Her Majesty's Royal Palace & Fortress' was built to intimidate and inspire Londoners. The oldest section is the central 'White Tower', dating to 1078, with the site expanded several times in the 12th & 13th centuries. The Tower is home to the Yeomen Warriors (Beefeaters) and the Crown Jewels, but was previously a site of execution, including for Lady Jane Grey, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard.

TM - Tate Modern

One of Britain's most visited art galleries, welcoming over 5 million people per year. Formerly Bankside Power station, the building was converted into a gallery of modern art and opened in 2000. Free to enter.

TS - The Shard

Standing 1,016ft/309m, the Shard is the tallest building in western Europe. Designed by Renzo Piano, there are 72 habitable stories comprising offices, apartments and a hotel. Took three years to construct, using 95% recycled construction materials, and modelled on a shard of glass.

WT - Walkie-Talkie

Real name '20 Fenchurch St' but nicknamed 'The Walkie-Talkie' due to its unique shape. Standing 160m tall, the skyscraper is home to offices and the top three floors are the 'Sky Garden', a free to enter public viewing area. To visit the Sky Garden book in advance.

The City of London

A city within it's own right, the City of London is set on the location of the original Roman settlement of Londinium. Known locally as 'The City' or 'Square Mile', its population of 7,000 makes it the second smallest city in Britain. Today the area is a major financial centre, home to the HQ's of many major banks and corporations.

The Great Fire - 1666

The Great Fire tore through the City of London from Sunday 2nd to Wednesday 5th September 1666. The fire destroyed 13,000 houses and 87 churches, but there are only 6 verified deaths. It started at Thomas Farriner's bakery, located on Pudding Lane.

The Blitz - 1940-41

The intensive 8-month bombing campaign of Britain by Germany during WWII. From the German word 'Blitzkrieg' meaning 'lightning war'. The Blitz began in London on 7th September 1940 and continued for 57 consecutive nights. It is estimated that in total, one third of London was destroyed.

MH - Mansion House

Official residence of the Lord Mayor of London since construction was completed in 1752. This Grade 1 listed building hosts City of London official functions.

RE - Royal Exchange

Founded in 1565 by Thomas Gresham as a centre of commerce in the City. The building was destroyed by fire twice, but today is a luxury retail centre comprising shops and restaurants.

SC - Southwark Cathedral

A place of worship for 1000 years, but only consecrated as a cathedral in 1905 following the creation of the Church of England Diocese of Southwark. Set adjacent to London Bridge.

SM - St Mary-le-Bow

First mentioned in 1091, the church was re-built after the Great Fire & designed by Christopher Wren. Legend says true Londoners, or 'Cockneys', must be born within the sounds of the Bow Bells, the bells of this church.

SP - St Paul's Cathedral

Set on the highest point in the City of London, Ludgate Hill, St Paul's is the 4th church built on this site, the first dating to 604AD. The current cathedral, designed by Christopher Wren, was built in the late 17th century, after much of the previous structure was destroyed by the Great Fire. The iconic dome is one of the highest in the world and the top of the spire reaches 365ft. St Paul's survived the Blitz and has hosted many significant occasions & events.