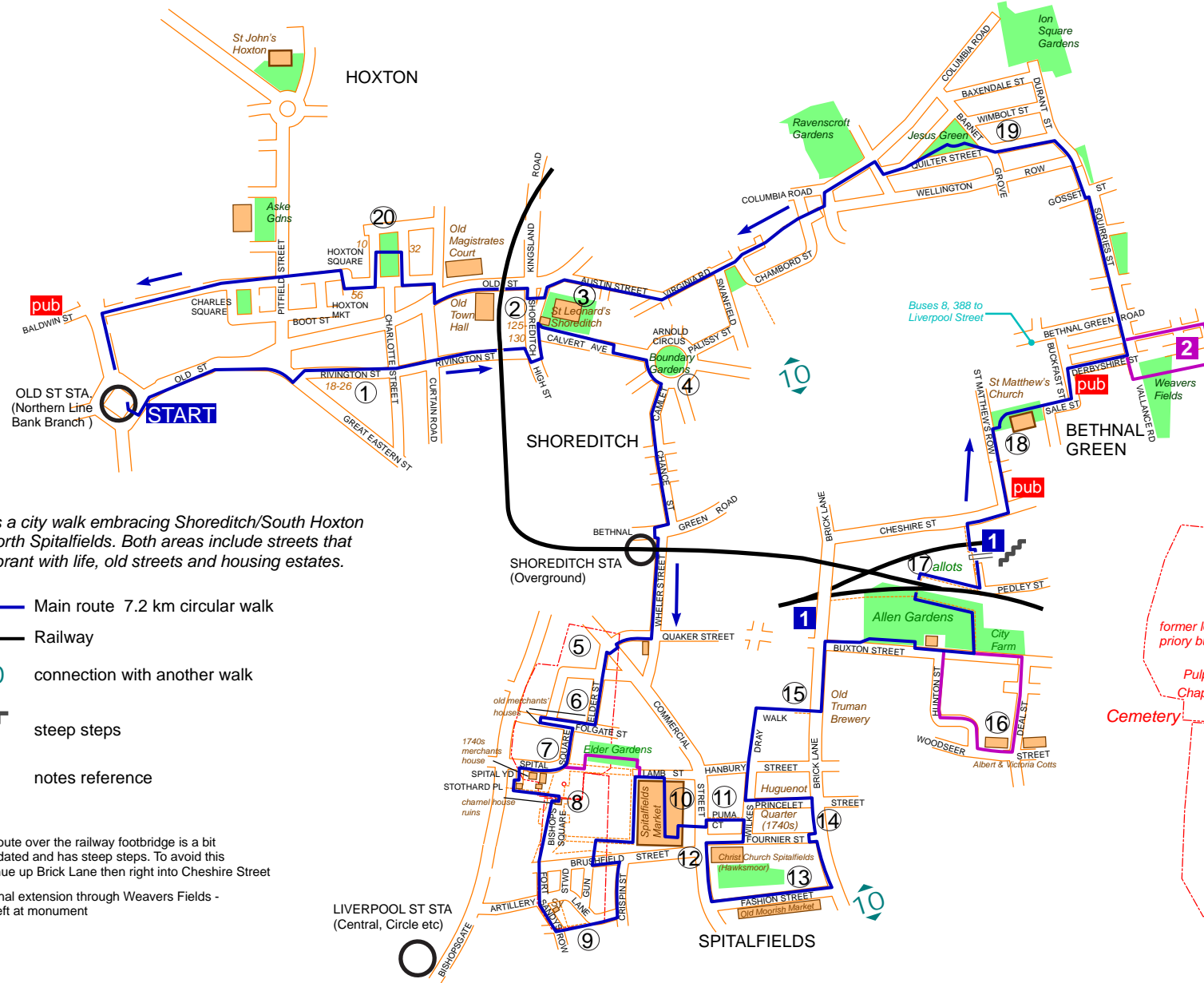


Hoxton Shoreditch Spitalfields Walk

0.5 kilometre



This is a city walk embracing Shoreditch/South Hoxton and north Spitalfields. Both areas include streets that are vibrant with life, old streets and housing estates.

- Main route 7.2 km circular walk
- Railway
- 10 connection with another walk
- ▬ steep steps
- 5 notes reference

- 1 The route over the railway footbridge is a bit dilapidated and has steep steps. To avoid this continue up Brick Lane then right into Cheshire Street
- 2 Optional extension through Weavers Fields - turn left at monument

Former Liberty of Norton Folgate

former location of priory buildings

Pulpit Cross Chapel

Cemetery

Former precinct of Priory of St Mary Spital

Former Liberty of the Old Artillery Ground

Pubs: The Old Fountain, Baldwin Street, also consider Carpenters Arms 73 Cheshire Street or Kings Arms Buckfast Street

Walk Notes for Shoreditch Spitalfields Walk

Street Art

One of the pleasing things which characterises this walk is the amount of street art, ever changing

1. Rivington Street/Charlotte Road

is home to a significant number of buildings from the 19th century furniture and printing trade, many of which have now been repurposed into media workshops, showrooms, art galleries, bookshops, comedy clubs including Comedy Café, giving the place a real buzz. The purpose-built 1897 workshops of 18-26 Rivington Street are listed as the most consistent run of small workshops from the furniture manufacturing era surviving in the South Shoreditch area, at that time hub of the furniture trade. The workshops were of a relatively high standard, which explains their survival where many of this building type have been demolished. In 1899, all the premises were being used by cabinet or chair makers or French polishers primarily as subcontractors to wholesale dealers.

2. 125–130 Shoreditch High Street

was a purpose-built foundry and showroom from about 1880.

3. St Leonards church

has been in existence since Anglo-Saxon times. The present building designed by George Dance the Elder was erected in the eighteenth century. It was the only church he designed and built from an original design. However, this new church caused a scandal when first opened. It was very unlike the chunky and ornate Hawksmoor style so popular in the late Baroque period. The slender columns and subtle colonnades, and bright windows were an innovation that was hard to accept as a church. Luckily tastes have changed and now it is seen as a national treasure. It is, with its Clerk's House, the oldest building in Shoreditch.

4. The Boundary Estate

was Britain's first council estate, raised from the rubble of one of London's most notorious slums, the Old Nichol. Despite the intention for the estate to house the 'deserving poor', only 11 of the original Old Nichol residents were amongst the 5,100 housed. It is used as a back-drop in period movies.

<https://boundarylaundrette.wordpress.com/boundary-estate-a-history/>



5. Norton Folgate

Stepping carefully across Commercial Street, built in 1870 to provide access to the docks, we step into what was until 1911 the Liberty of Norton Folgate. The Manor of Norton Folgate went back to medieval times. (from Saxon Foldweg, a main road and north tun, that is, the dwelling place north from Bishopsgate) The Augustinian Priory and Hospital, St. Mary's Spittel was founded in 1197 and rented lands from the Manor. This was one of the most significant hospitals in the country until taken apart on the orders of Henry VIII in 1539. On dissolution the main part of the precinct formed an extra-parochial liberty of 9 acres (in Whitechapel district) and as a liberty it was outside the influence of the church. As in other liberties the inhabitants of Norton Folgate were not always wholly law-abiding. A considerable amount of disorderliness and numerous trivial offences are recorded in the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century court rolls; indulgence in the inflammatory game of 'cosh' appears to have been one of the most popular pastimes and thieves could prey upon travellers along Bishopsgate Street.

6. Elder Street/Folgate Street

Stepping into Elder Street is like stepping back in time. The building of Elder Street probably began in 1722. The original inhabitants of both streets were probably less wealthy than those of Spital Square and included a joiner, a calendar, a weaver, a silk thrower, a leather cutter, a mason. In the 1740's and 1750's a number of the residents were presented before the manorial court for keeping hogs. 18 Folgate Street is the museum of Dennis Severs. The end of Folgate Street meets Norton Folgate High Street and was one of two gateways to the Priory.

7. Spital Square

The other main entrance to the priory was at the end of Spital Square. Part of the precinct on dissolution became known as Spital Yard and subsequently housed a mansion called Spittle House, (on the site of the present La Chapelle restaurant). Spital Square was laid out there in cruciform in the 1720s/30s. Number 37 is the only remaining Georgian house south of the Square. It was rescued by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), founded by William Morris. 37 Spital Square was built to house a wealthy Huguenot silk weaver, Peter Ogier III, the scion of a rich French Huguenot family in 1740. The south transept of the Priory Church lies beneath it. The basement of the house also includes a stone corbel, probably from the Priory, and the foundations are made from re-used medieval stonework. The La Chapelle building was built as part of The Central Foundation School for Girls in 1890, architects T. Chatfield Clarke and Son. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol27/pp55-73>



Chapel and pulpit cross clearly shown

8. Charnel House

Turning south, at the end of the cul de sac named Spital Yard is an older house which was the birthplace of the mother of John Wesley in 1669. Note the ground level! South of Spital Square was the cemetery. Until as late as Samuel Pepys time, sermons were given from a pulpit-cross, still marked on the Ogilby Morgan map of 1676 (see below). Below the level of the Bishops Square under glass lie the ruins of a charnel house. The cemetery contained a chapel dedicated to St Mary Magdalene and St Edmund the Bishop dating from the early 1300s. The exterior walls were decorated with knapped flints, faced in Kentish Ragstone upon a base of Caen Stone with use of green Reigate Stone for corner stones. A twelfth century denticulated Romanesque buttress was brought from an earlier building. The chapel's crypt was used for storing bones until the priory/hospital closed in 1539. It was then converted into a family home until demolished in the 1700s for the development of Spital Square.

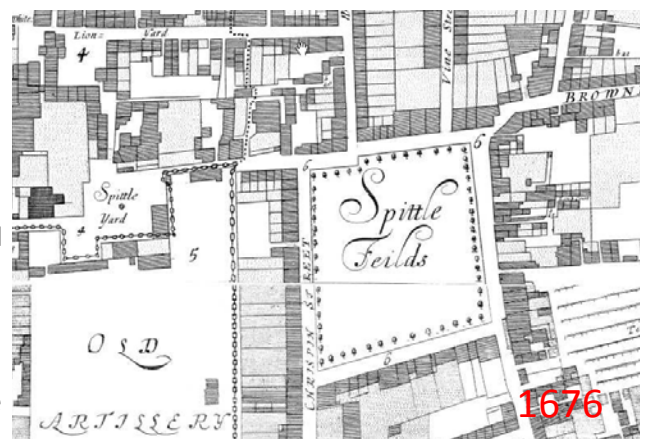
<http://spitalfieldslife.com/2015/07/01/inside-spitalfields-oldest-building/>

9. Artillery Passage

marks the southern boundary of the other, southern, liberty formed from the precinct of the Priory of St. Mary Spital, the Old Artillery Ground. Shortly before dissolution the land was leased by the Priory for artillery practice and that use was continued under the ownership of the Crown as a self-governing ex-parochial *Liberty* along similar lines to its northern neighbour. The area was initially used for military purposes by the 'Gunners of the Tower' for the exercise of "great and small artillery", for the use of 'The Fraternity or Guild of Artillery of Longbows, Crossbows and Handguns', also known as 'The Fraternity of St George'. In 1658 the Honourable Artillery Company moved to a new Artillery Ground in Bunhill Fields. In 1681 the Old Artillery Ground was sold off with license to build houses. The Liberty was merged with the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney in 1900.

10. Spitalfields Market

East of the Old Artillery ground was Spittle Fields. In 1682 King Charles II granted John Balch a Royal Charter giving him the right to hold a market on Thursdays and Saturdays in or near Spital Square. In 1876, a former market porter called Robert Horner bought a short lease on the market and started work on a new market building, which was completed in 1893 at a cost of £80,000. In 1920, the City of London acquired direct control of the market, extending the original buildings some eight years later. With no room for the expansion it so badly needed, the market was forced to move and in 1991 it opened its doors at a new location in Leyton.



11. Puma Court

east of Spitalfields market, has almshouses 'for the poor inhabitants of the Liberty of Norton Folgate,' built in 1860 to replace those of 1728.

12. Christ Church Spitalfields

In 1711, Parliament came up with the Fifty New Churches Act to be funded by taxes on coal coming into London's ports. One of these churches was Christ Church in Spitalfields. Each of the fifty churches had to have a spire high enough to dwarf any non-conformist places of worship that might spring up in the area around them. At this stage, Spitalfields was classified as a hamlet and had to be given parish status before a church could be built in the area. Work started on the church in 1714 and was completed in 1729. Its surveyor was Nicholas Hawksmoor. As a large church for the area with a relatively small congregation, it has since developed a reputation as a classical music venue, art gallery and concert hall.

13. Fashion Street Moorish Arcade

The name Fashion Street is a corruption of Fossan Street and along with Brick Lane is one of the earliest names in the area. As time rolled on, skilful Jewish tailors grew to dominate Spitalfields' textile industry. In an attempt at rejuvenation in 1905, entrepreneurs Abraham and Woolf Davis constructed an unusual Moorish-style red-brick retail arcade with characteristic horseshoe arches. Unlike the nearby thriving Spitalfields Traders Market, Fashion Street's market shut down only four short years after opening, and the abandoned buildings lay disused for decades until being restored in 2003 for business use. Now epitomising its name, Fashion Street now houses some of the most respected players in the contemporary textile industry, such as Istituto Marangoni, the leading fashion and design school in Europe and FM Model Agency, and Illustrated London News.

14. Princelet Street/Fournier Street (Princes Street/Church Street)

In 17th century, Huguenot weavers moved into Spitalfields to escape from persecution in France. Spitalfields was ideal for the Huguenots who needed to work outside the jurisdiction and restrictions of the city's guilds. As the Huguenots built Spitalfields into a centre of silk weaving excellence, the area became more developed and more housing was constructed. The houses inhabited by the weavers had wide latticed windows in the upper storeys, to light the looms. The weavers also supplied London with singing-birds, and half the linnets, woodlarks, goldfinches, and greenfinches sold in the metropolis.

Irish weavers joined the Huguenots, but both groups were finding it hard to compete with cheap French imports. In 1769, unrest boiled over, leading to the Spitalfields Riots. By the 19th century, most of the area's traditional industries, including silk weaving, had moved elsewhere, although the area still produced some textiles. With the decline of local industry Spitalfields became poverty-stricken, over populated and with little work. The grand houses that the Huguenots had built became slums. By the late 19th century, many people considered the area to be the most criminal in all of London.

The Irish were followed by East European Jews escaping the Polish pogroms and harsh conditions in Russia; as well as entrepreneurial Jews from the Netherlands. From the 1880s to 1970s Spitalfields was overwhelmingly Jewish and probably one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe with over 40 Synagogues.

By the 20th century, Spitalfields became the home of many immigrants from Bangladesh, many of whom ultimately made their homes in and around the nearby Brick Lane. The area is now partly dominated by office blocks, although some of the old houses remain and are being renovated

15. Truman's Brewery

The landmark Truman's Brewery opened in 1669 in Brick Lane. By 1789 a 30-year-old Quaker businessman, Sampson Hanbury, had purchased a share and came to live in the brewer's house. Hanbury, was a member of an extensive network of Quaker merchants, bankers and brewers. For a brief time in the 1800s it was the biggest brewery in the world - it sent Imperial Stout to the Russian court and IPA to the British Raj. It remained resolutely independent until succumbing to the merger mania of the 1980s. In 1989 the brewery and pubs were sold and Truman's closed its doors.

16. Victoria and Albert cottages

The Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes purchased the site for Victoria and Albert Cottages in 1850; Albert cottages were built in 1857-58, and were followed by Victoria Cottages in 1864. These small cottages (now listed), of a kind more commonly found in the north of England, were intended for artisan families unable to afford the higher rents of the larger family units in those dwellings that were beginning to be built by philanthropic housing bodies at this time. They now afford a rare insight into the sort of cottage accommodation once common, but now scarce, in the East End.

17. Nomadic Community Gardens

This community based on transportable 'allotments' and artworks has survived another year here . They identify spaces in local areas that are unused or awaiting development and with the correct permission install a garden practically overnight. Then move on when development there begins.

18. St Matthews Church Bethnal Green

Having previously rejected a Hawksmoor design, the parish of Bethnal Green commissioned George Dance the Elder to design a smaller and more reasonable church. The building was completed and dedicated in 1746. In the blitz the church was left as a roofless shell. In 1957 it was decided to rebuild the church and Antony Lewis was appointed architect and the present church was re-consecrated in 1961.

On the corner is the Watch House, originally a look-out for grave-robbers and later used as a fire station.

19. The Jesus Hospital Estate

was established as a charity in 1679 by a Hertfordshire man called James Ravenscoft who bequeathed to the charity some farmland in Bethnal Green. In 1822 the charity decided to create new homes. Sadly the houses were so dreadful that they all had to be pulled down and rebuilt 40 years later. The Charity trustees, including Reverend Elwin and solicitor Quilter, recruited Joseph Baxendale, civil engineer and former CEO of Pickfords, and Richard Durant, one of the few landed gentry with a concern for the working class and others and together they created the estate we see today.

20. Hoxton Square

The Hoxton area was laid out to a formal street pattern. Hoxton Square was laid out shortly after 1683. Hoxton Market was simply called the Market Place; the market has since moved to Hoxton Street. Hoxton and Charles Squares were the most fashionable residential areas in the parish of Shoreditch. One of the earliest Academies (1669) was in Hoxton Square. Outside the jurisdiction of the City, Hoxton remained mainly rural except for the brickfields until the coming of the Regents Canal. Hoxton was also known for its 'lunatic' asylums and its places of entertainment. Georgian buildings can still be seen: No. 32 Hoxton Square is late seventeenth century or early 18th and is a rare survival; no. 10 was the vicarage; no. 56 is early to mid 19th century on a possibly earlier house.



reconstruction showing charnel house and pulpit cross