

City of London

0.5 kilometre



- inner walk 6.5 km
- northern walk 6 km
- full walk 12.5 km
- option via Tower Hill 1.7 km



connection with another walk



pedestrian area



steep steps



walk note



background note (overleaf)



remains of London wall (← if visible)

location of original wall

1 For the complete walk, after passing St Helens the first time cross St Mary Axe and walk around the Gherkin; on the second time turn right along St Mary Axe. There is another option back to Bank/Monument via Tower Hill.

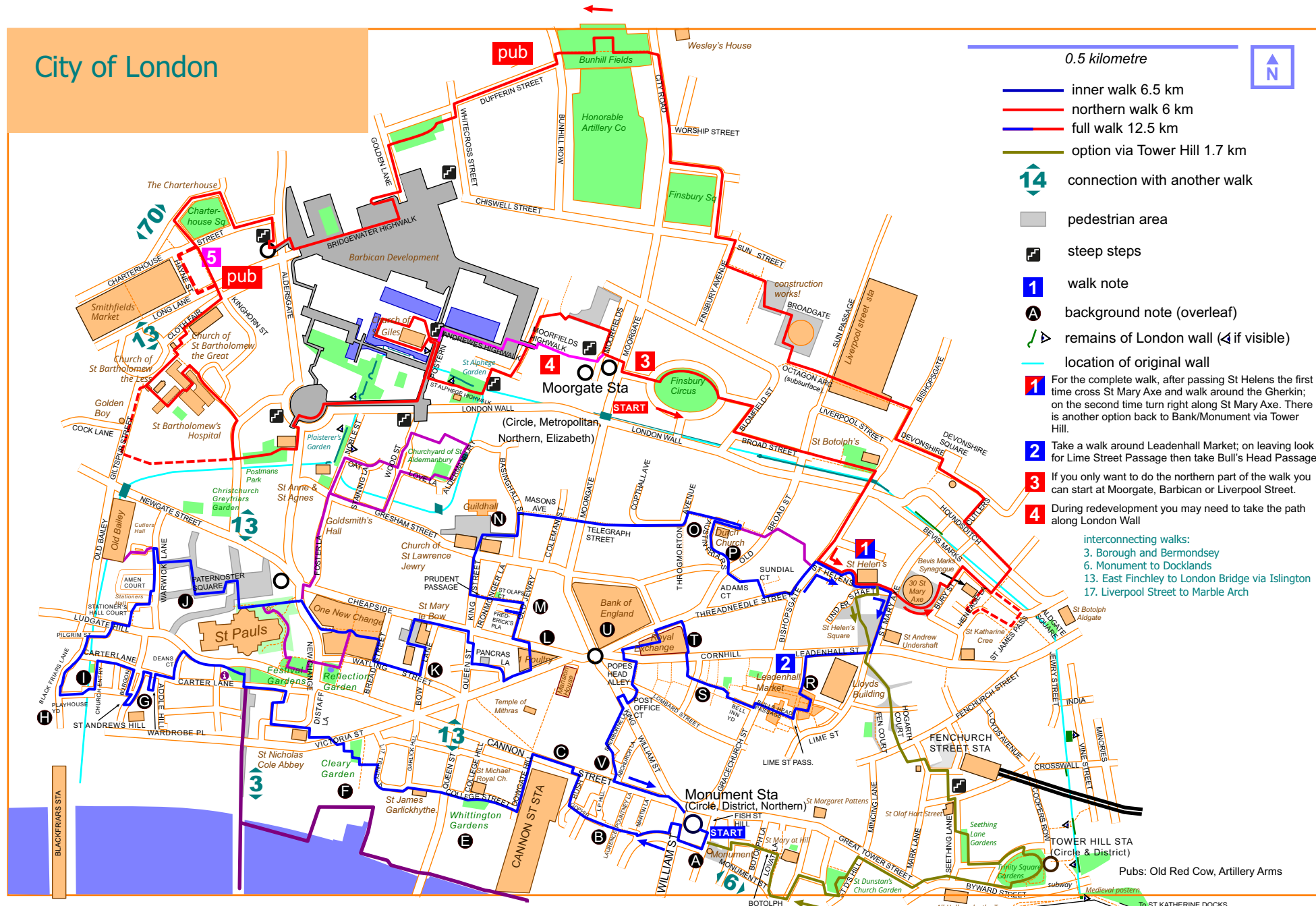
2 Take a walk around Leadenhall Market; on leaving look for Lime Street Passage then take Bull's Head Passage

3 If you only want to do the northern part of the walk you can start at Moorgate, Barbican or Liverpool Street.

4 During redevelopment you may need to take the path along London Wall

interconnecting walks:

- 3.** Borough and Bermondsey
- 6.** Monument to Docklands
- 13.** East Finchley to London Bridge via Islington
- 17.** Liverpool Street to Marble Arch



walk notes

City of London

A circular pavement walk of 6.5 km with an extension of another 6 km. The walk seeks out all the old buildings and alleyways in addition to the normal tourist attractions. Sadly many of these old areas are being demolished to make way for large office blocks, so do the walk before it is too late.

The walk starts at the Monument and takes back streets to St Paul's cathedral. Look at the numerous wall mounted crests of the city guilds and the parish boundaries as you walk and pause for a moment in some of the tiny gardens along the way. Crossing Ludgate Hill affords a fine view of the portico of St Paul's. A little later the walk crosses the new Paternoster Square, a fine development incorporating Temple Bar. Cutting through the new shopping centre brings you Watling Street, the ancient Roman way and Bow Lane.

The short walk passes, in order, the Monument, Laurence Pountney, The London Stone, College Street, Whittington Garden, Cleary Garden, Old Change Court, St Paul's, Carter Street, Wardrobe Place, Church Entry, Ireland Yard, Ludgate Hill, Amen Court, Old Bailey, Paternoster Square, One New Exchange, Watling Street, Bow Lane, Bow Church Yard, No 1 Poultry, Old Jewry, St Olave's Court, St Lawrence Jewry, Guild Hall, Mason's Avenue, Copthall Avenue, Austin Friars, Dutch Church, Adams Court, St Helens Church, Swiss Re building, Lloyds Building, Leadenhall Market, Jamaica Wine House, Royal Exchange, Bank, Post Office Court, Abchurch Yard.

The longer walk adds Bishops Gate, St Botolphs passage, Finsbury Circus, the Barbican, St Giles Church, the old Roman Wall, Postman's Park, St Bartholomew the Great, Cloth Fair, Charterhouse, Bunhill Fields, Broadgate, Devonshire Row & Square, Bevis Marks Synagogue.

A The Monument and St Magnus Church

The Monument was built between 1671 and 1677

to commemorate the Great Fire of London and to celebrate the rebuilding of the City. As part of the rebuilding, it was decided to erect a permanent memorial of the Great Fire near the place where it began. Sir Christopher Wren, Surveyor General to King Charles II and the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, and his friend and colleague, Dr Robert Hooke, provided the design, including use as a laboratory.

On Fish Street Hill, looking right towards the river, can be seen the church of St Magnus the Martyr, Wren's most expensive church. You are now on the original approach to London Bridge (before it was rebuilt upstream) and the front of the church heralded the start of the bridge.

B St Laurence Pountney

The church of St Laurence was not rebuilt after the fire, and has the suffix Pountney after Pultney, an early Lord Mayor who endowed a college there. 7a Laurence Pountney Hill is a rare surviving 17th-century merchant's house. The house is built on quite extensive medieval remains, including a massive retaining wall for the former churchyard of St Laurence Pountney. It fronts onto Laurence Pountney Lane.

The lower part of the (largely medieval) north wall of the present building appears to be resting on a Roman wall: like its medieval successor, the Roman wall was principally built from ragstone blocks but (unlike the medieval wall) it was bonded with a characteristically Roman pink-hued mortar.

C The London Stone

We have to turn up hill to pass the station, which gives us an opportunity to see the London Stone, behind a grating on the wall opposite the front of the station. The origins are uncertain; it is thought to have been a Roman milestone, the one from which all distances in Britain were measured.

D Whittington Garden

The Whittington Garden is named after the Lord

Mayor 'Dick' Whittington who was buried in St Michael Paternoster Royal Church, which he had rebuilt at his own expense in 1409. This church was destroyed in the Great Fire of London and rebuilt by Wren by 1694, its steeple erected in 1713. The Wren church is set back from the main road behind Whittington Garden. In Roman times the site of the gardens was on the riverbank and the church is also known as the seafarer's church. The Corporation of London acquired the site in 1955.

E Cleary Garden

Cleary Garden is a modern terraced garden sloping down alongside Huggin Hill to the east, a series of steps leading to the different levels, each of which represents an era of London's history. The lowest level represents Roman, then medieval, the Fire, Victorian and Modern at street level.

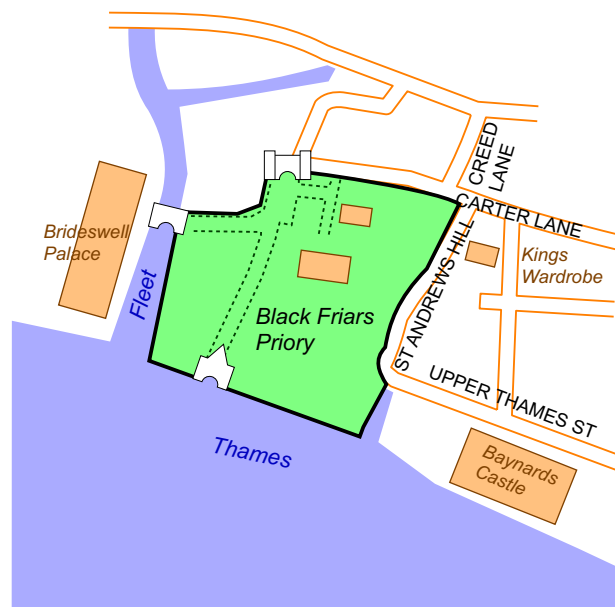
Joseph Brandis, member of the Cordwainers Company, created the original garden on the bomb-site, collecting mud from river banks and bringing soil from his Walthamstow garden.

F Wardrobe Place

The King's Wardrobe was a 14th-century house sold to King Edward III shortly after the death of its owner in 1359. It served primarily as a storehouse for the King's State and ceremonial robes. The Royal Wardrobe was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666 and was not rebuilt on the same site. It is remembered in the name of the nearby church, St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.

G Blackfriars Priory

the Dominicans only arrived in England in 1221 Originally settling in Holborn the friars moved here in 1276 under the reign and patronage of Edward I when the Archbishop of Canterbury obtained the land from the mayor, crucially within the city walls. In 1529 it found itself at the very centre of the country's impending religious change by hosting the divorce hearing between Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. It was dissolved in 1538. In 1550 the



precinct was granted to Sir Thomas Cawarden, the Master of the Revels, who largely demolished the buildings on the site. The old refectory was turned into a theatre - Blackfriars Theatre - giving name to Playhouse Yard.

● Church Entry

The Priory church, initially used as the parish church from 1544, was demolished in 1550 and subsequent complaints by local inhabitants deprived of a place of worship led to the building of St Ann Blackfriars in 1597. It was built on the site known as Ireland Yard, once part of the Provincial's Hall of the Priory. Part of the site of the nave of the Friary church became the burial ground of St Ann, the site now known as Church Entry. St Ann's burned down in the Great Fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt, the parish amalgamating with that of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe and the church site became a burial ground. The two churchyards closed in 1849 and were later laid out as public

gardens, largely paved, both raised and containing a number of tombstones.

● Temple Bar

Temple Bar is the only surviving gateway to the City of London, where it once stood at the junction where the Strand meets Fleet Street for more than 200 years. The old gate survived the Great Fire of 1666, but had fallen into disrepair. Under the orders of Charles II a new Temple Bar was designed by Christopher Wren and rebuilt with highly prized Portland stone. During the eighteenth century Temple Bar was used to display the heads of traitors on iron spikes which protruded from the top of the main arch. In 1878-80 to solve traffic problems, the bar was dismantled brick by brick and moved to Theobald's Park. In 2004 it was painstakingly rebuilt at Paternoster Square.

Ⓚ Watling Street, Bow Lane

The Roman road Watling Street ran from Dover to London and onward via St. Albans (Verulamium) to Wroxeter. The name came from a group of Anglo-Saxon settlers who called Verulamium by the name of Wætlingaceaster.

The name Bow Lane came from the church, not the other way round but was not used for the lane until the middle of the sixteenth century. Prior to being called Bow Lane, the lower part was called Cordwainer Street with the upper part approaching Cheapside was Hosier Lane.

● No 1 Poultry

No 1 Poultry was James Stirling's last completed building, and was the focus of a preservation battle involving some of the world's best-known architects. Designed by Stirling in 1985 but not completed until 1997 – five years after his death – No 1 Poultry has finally been granted listed status (Grade 2*) as an "unsurpassed example of commercial postmodernism".

● Old Jewry

The Old Jewry was a Jewish ghetto in twelfth and

thirteenth centuries in London. On old Jewry Street once stood the Great Synagogue, the centre of religious life for the Jewish population of medieval London. Following difficulties within the population, the Great Synagogue was closed in 1272. Shortly after its closure, Edward I's Edict of Expulsion (1290) resulted in the expulsion of Jews from England until the mid-seventeenth century.

● Guild Hall

The Guild Hall was built over the Roman Amphitheatre, the location of which is marked on the paving with an ellipse. It is possible to see some of the remains in the basement via the Guild Hall Gallery. Completed in 1440, the Guild Hall is the only non-ecclesiastical stone building in the City to have survived through to the present day. The present grand entrance (the east wing of the south front), was added in 1788 by George Dance and restored in 1910.

● Austin Friars

Austin Friars, was an Augustinian friary in the City of London from its foundation, probably in the 1260s, until its dissolution in November 1538. It covered an area of about 5.5 acres. A large part of the friary precinct was occupied by gardens that provided vegetables, fruit and medicinal herbs.

● Dutch Church

When The priory was dissolved in November 1538. The City of London attempted to buy the church of the friary from the Crown in 1539 and again in 1546 but was rebuffed. In 1550, London's community of "Germans and other strangers" was granted the use of the friary church's nave; the rest of the church was used as a storehouse, with the monuments sold for £100 and the lead stripped from the roof. The choir, tower and transepts were demolished in 1600. The nave became the first official nonconformist chapel in England. The mostly Dutch and French speaking "strangers" were granted a royal charter in 1550 that allowed

them to establish a Stranger Church and this was incorporated by letters patent from King Edward VI. By 1570, the Dutch community was the largest group of expatriates in London, numbering 5,000 out of the 100,000 total population of the time. The original building was destroyed in the blitz and a new church, built to the design of Arthur Bailey, was completed in 1954.

🕒 **Leadenhall Market**

In the early 1300s the Manor of Leadenhall belonged to Sir Hugh Neville. Within a few years the area around the manor became a popular meeting place for first poulterers, and then cheesemongers.

Former Lord mayor Richard 'Dick' Whittington gifted Leadenhall to the City in 1411. The market was enlarged to provide a site for selling poultry, grain, eggs, butter, cheese, herbs and other foodstuffs. Over the next 200 years Leadenhall Market was a centre of commerce and further markets were added for wool, leather and cutlery. Rebuilding after the great fire, the market became a covered structure, divided into the Beef Market, the Green Yard and the Herb Market.

In 1881 the City's architect Sir Horace Jones, who was also the architect of Billingsgate and Smithfield Markets, redesigned Leadenhall in wrought iron and glass - a structure which in 1972 was given Grade II listed status.

☕ **Jamaica Wine House**

The Jamaica Wine House is affectionately known by locals as the Jampot. London's first ever coffee house opened here in 1652, counting Samuel Pepys amongst its earliest patrons. The building that currently stands on the site is a 19th-century public house. This pub's licence was acquired by Shepherd Neame and the premises were reopened after a restoration that finished in April 2009.

🏦 **Royal Exchange**

Known as the father of English banking, wealthy

merchant Sir Thomas Gresham established The Royal Exchange as London's first purpose-built centre for trading stocks in 1566. It was modelled on the Bourse in Antwerp, the world's oldest financial exchange, where Gresham had been based as a royal agent. The site was provided by the City of London Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers, who still jointly own the freehold.

The original The Royal Exchange was destroyed, along with one-third of the city, in the Great Fire of London. Reopened in 1669, in a Baroque style by City surveyor Edward Jerman, The Royal Exchange was destroyed again by fire in 1838. An architectural competition to design the third (and current) The Royal Exchange was launched. The winner, Sir William Tite, reverted to the original layout of the building, but included the imposing, eight-column entrance inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. The building was opened by Queen Victoria in 1844.

The Grade I listed building was extensively remodelled by architects Aukett Fitzroy Robinson in 2001 and transformed into a luxury shopping and dining destination. The modern-day The Royal Exchange pays homage to its founder in its gilded copper grasshopper weathervane – a symbol taken from the Gresham family crest.

🏦 **Bank of England**

Founded in 1694, the Bank of England, known as the old lady of Threadneedle Street, is the second oldest central bank in the world after the Swedish Riksbank, which was founded in 1668.

The need for a central bank in England was seen by a Scotsman, William Paterson, who noticed that the nation's finances had been in disarray as a result of Williams's wars and there was no real system of money or credit. His proposal to finance the government debt by private subscription of individual shareholders was innovative. He led a

successful scheme in which £1.2m was loaned to the government from funds raised by subscribers who, in return, were incorporated into the governor and company of the Bank of England. The Bank was established as a commercial operation but also secured large government accounts, becoming the government's banker and debt manager.

In 1844 the Bank Charter Act granted the Bank a monopoly to print banknotes in England and Wales. In 1946 the Attlee government nationalised it, making it more of an instrument of government.

The Bank of England started in Mercer's Hall but soon moved to the Grocer's Hall and then, in 1724, to the private house of Sir John Houblon, head of the bank. Its first dedicated home was designed by George Sampson from 1734; it expanded under the architectural direction of Robert Taylor (1764-88). What may still be seen as its crowning glory was overseen by John Soane (1788-1833); and, after a period of stagnation, came reconstruction by Sir Herbert Baker (1921-42) to accommodate twentieth century technology. Sir Herbert Baker's rebuilding of the Bank, demolishing most of Sir John Soane's earlier building but leaving the shell, was described by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as "the greatest architectural crime in the City of London, of the twentieth century".

🏰 **Abchurch Yard**

The origin of the word Abchurch unclear. The churchyard existed by 1218. A c.14th vaulted chamber, probably the undercroft of a chapel, was discovered beneath the churchyard after the church was bombed in World War II. St Mary Abchurch was badly damaged in the Great Fire and rebuilt by Wren in 1681-6 who may have moved the tower from south-west to its north-west position. The church has fine carvings by Grinling Gibbons. By 1838 the Bishop of London had allowed the church yard to be opened up as a paved space 'for the convenience of the neighbourhood'.