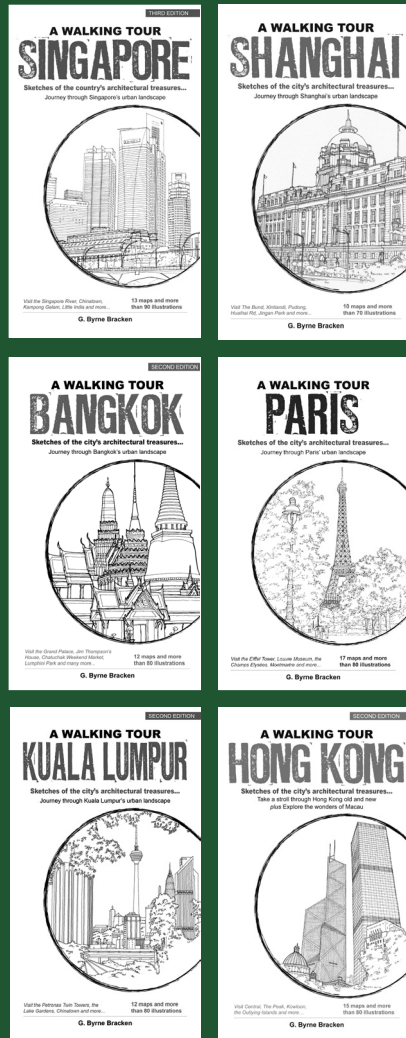


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G. Byrne Bracken

A WALKING TOUR  
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SECOND EDITION

**A WALKING TOUR**  
**LONDON**

Sketches of the city's architectural treasures...  
Journey through London's urban landscape



Gregory Byrne Bracken comes from Ireland and is an architect and inveterate walker, both of which occupations he has pursued across the globe – from London, Paris and Berlin to Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong. He is an Assistant Professor of Spatial Planning and Strategy at TU Delft in the Netherlands, where he received his PhD.



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G. Byrne Bracken

Author photo by Gerhard Bruyns

Front cover: Tower Bridge, Southwark and the Shard

For Review only

# A WALKING TOUR LONDON

Sketches of the city's architectural treasures...

Journey through London's urban landscape



**SECOND EDITION**

Gregory Byrne Bracken

**mc** Marshall Cavendish  
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# For Review only

Text and illustrations by Gregory Byrne Bracken  
Book design by Benson Tan

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For Review only

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# Acknowledgments For Review only Introduction

I would like thank Melvin Neo and Justin Lau at Marshall Cavendish, who have been such a pleasure to work with over the years. I also want to thank my cousin Nicholas Bracken OBE for showing me the city he was lucky enough to call home when I was an intern in London in the 1980s.



One of the world's greatest cities, London was also the capital of the British Empire – the largest empire the world has ever seen. Founded by another empire, the Roman, around 50 CE, the city experienced steady growth over the millennia until the 19th century, when its size and population simply exploded. It has had its fair share of setbacks as well – invasions, plagues, the Great Fire of 1666. The city has been the birthplace of some truly remarkable innovations in architecture, from Inigo Jones's majestic Banqueting House to Christopher Wren's stunning dome on St Paul's Cathedral, as well as more recent innovations like Richard Rogers's futuristic Lloyd's of London.

Despite its huge size, London divides rather neatly into districts. The walks in this book cover each of them in turn, starting with the oldest – Spitalfields and the City of London. Each of the 13 walks starts where the previous one left off, while the final chapters cover places that are a little out of town, such as Hampstead, Greenwich, Kew Gardens and Hampton Court Palace. The various architectural styles and features mentioned in the book are explained at the end.

All that remains is for you to enjoy your time walking around this most aristocratic yet accessible of cities.

## History

London is the capital of the United Kingdom. Called Londinium when it was first founded by the Romans around 50 CE, it occupied an area roughly the size of Hyde Park (250 hectares, or 625 acres). By the 2nd century, Londinium had replaced Colchester as the capital of Roman Britain, and its population had reached 60,000. It boasted a number of important buildings, including the largest basilica north of the Alps, as well as temples, bath houses and an amphitheatre. Between 190 and 225 CE the Romans built the London Wall. The 3-kilometre wall defined the city's perimeter for the next 1,600 years; six of its seven gates are Roman: Ludgate, Newgate, Aldersgate, Cripplegate, Bishopsgate and Aldgate (Moorgate is medieval). In 410 CE Roman rule ceased in Britain and the city experienced a rapid decline.

An Anglo-Saxon settlement is believed to have then grown up to the west of the old Roman walls, dating from the end of the 5th century. The population was as high as 12,000 people at this time. By 650 CE, it had become Christian.

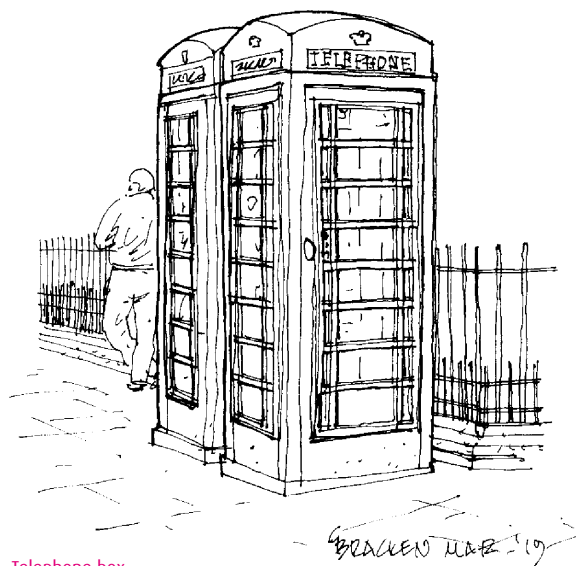
Vikings from Denmark attacked the city throughout the 9th and 10th centuries, with English resistance finally collapsing in 1013. Rival Danish claimants fought for the throne, with King Canute finally defeating Edmund Ironside to gain control of all of England north of the Thames (which included London). Edmund's death a few weeks later left Canute in control of the whole country.

English rule was restored by Edward the Confessor in 1042 after the extinction of Canute's dynasty. The new king founded Westminster Abbey

and established Westminster as the centre of government; it proved to be a serious rival to the power of the old City of London. Edward's death in 1066 left England open to Norman invasion, with William the Bastard, Duke of Normandy, defeating King Harold at the Battle of Hastings later that year.

The first thing that William the Conqueror did was build a new fortress on the Thames. The Tower of London was one of the first stone castles to be built in England and King William granted a charter confirming the City of London's existing rights, privileges and laws in 1067. The City's powers of self-government would be increased significantly under King John at the beginning of the 13th century. The Palace of Westminster was built in the 11th century, followed by London Bridge in the 1170s. Trade grew steadily throughout the Middle Ages, and the city grew rapidly; by 1300 the population was around 80,000. London lost half its population during the plague known as the Black Death in the middle of the 14th century, but made a rapid recovery.

Under the Tudors, who reigned from 1485 to 1603, England turned to Protestantism. Up to this point over half the land in London was owned by monasteries, nunneries or other religious establishments. With Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, however, almost all of this valuable property changed hands. London had also become an important commercial centre, with trade expanding beyond Europe to Russia, the Holy Land and the Americas. Companies such as the East India Company were established – the first steps towards the establishment of the vast British Empire. The 16th and early 17th centuries were remarkably rich not just in terms of material wealth but also culturally. British drama enjoyed a golden age under Elizabeth I, with playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, and above all, William Shakespeare.



Telephone box

By this time, London had expanded beyond the boundaries of the old City, as aristocrats with business at the royal court began to live in the West End. This was the beginning of the 'London season', which saw urban development in places like Lincoln's Inn Fields (1629) and the Piazza of Covent Garden (1632, designed by Inigo Jones).

London suffered a double blow in the mid-1660s. The Great Plague of 1665 killed about one-fifth of the population, and the following year the Great Fire destroyed about 60 percent of the city's built fabric. (The fire in a way proved helpful – eradicating the last of the plague.) Within a few days of the fire, plans were presented by Christopher Wren, John Evelyn and Robert Hooke for the rebuilding of the city. Wren was given the job of rebuilding the City's churches, including St Paul's Cathedral; Hooke oversaw the reconstruction of the City's houses.

By the end of the 17th century, the City of London had supplanted Amsterdam as the world's financial capital. The Bank of England was founded in 1694 and by 1700 London was handling 80 percent of England's imports, 69 percent of exports and 86 percent of re-exports. Many of these goods were luxuries from the Americas and Asia: silk, sugar, tea, tobacco. William III disliked London, so he, along with his wife Mary II, developed Kensington Palace, which began to draw London's growth westwards. The establishment of Greenwich Hospital also extended the city to the east and south.

In 1707 the Act of Union merged the Scottish and English parliaments to establish the Kingdom of Great Britain. Throughout the 18th century, immigration boosted the city's population, while military and naval victories enhanced London's global standing. The year 1750 saw the opening of Westminster Bridge, up till which time the only way across the Thames was by London Bridge or ferry. George III bought Buckingham House in 1762, and over the next 75 years, with the help of architects like John Nash, turned it into a palace. It was also during this time that London's great Georgian squares were laid out.

During the 19th century, the city's population grew from 1 million to 6.7 million. London was the capital of the British Empire, as well as the world's political, financial and cultural capital. But alongside the lavish wealth there was a city of dire poverty – as immortalised in the novels of Charles Dickens. The railway arrived at this time, linking the city with the rest of the country; the termini were housed in magnificent new station buildings, like Euston and St Pancras. London was the first city in the world to develop an underground rail system, which allowed people to commute from their homes at the edges of the ever-expanding metropolis. One of the most notable events of the century was the Great Exhibition of 1851, where the magnificent Crystal Palace – a marvel of 19th-century engineering – showcased Britain to the world.

London in 1900 was a city at the height of its global dominance. World War I, however, dealt a shattering blow, significantly undermining the confidence and faith in the political system that had made Britain great. This was further compounded by the Great Depression of the 1930s and the

hardships of World War II. From September 1940 to May 1941 the Blitz laid waste to huge swathes of the city, including many of its beloved landmarks. This was undoubtedly devastating, but it was also, in many ways, London's finest hour, for the city's indomitable spirit survived. The failure of the German invasion turned the tide of the war and led to the eventual victory for the Allies in 1945.

London's recovery was slow, in spite of events such as the 1948 Summer Olympics and the 1951 Festival of Britain. It was not helped by the fact that the once-great empire vanished almost overnight – a serious psychological blow for the former imperial capital. And the city was in a shambles. Well-meaning attempts to rehouse the population had led architects to build ghastly tower blocks in a botched reinterpretation of Modernist ideals.

It wasn't until the 1960s that a remarkable renaissance in the city's confidence and cultural importance took place – when it became the epicentre for new movements in fashion, music and the arts. Carnaby Street and Abbey Road (with its famous recording studios) became household names the world over. The role of London as a trendsetter for youth culture has continued ever since, from the Punk movement of the 1970s, through the New Wave of the 80s and the Cool Britannia of the 90s. The 1980s also saw the deregulation of the financial markets in the City of London – known as the Big Bang – which did much to re-establish London as a major global financial centre, a role it had lost out to cities like New York and Tokyo.

London in the 21st century is a place that treasures its history. It is possible to visit Roman, medieval, Georgian, Victorian and 20th-century buildings, sometimes all in one small area. But London is also a city that looks to the future, with projects like the Millennium Dome at Greenwich (a remarkable feat of engineering even if aesthetically polarising), and the London Eye, both designed to usher in the new millennium. A stroll through London's streets is a stroll through two millennia of architectural history. All that remains is for you to enjoy that history as you make your way around one of the world's most spectacular architectural treasure houses.

### Climate

London has a temperate maritime climate which rarely experiences extremes of temperature. Central London can be as much as 5°C warmer than surrounding areas. Summers are generally warm, with daytime temperatures in the range of 20–25°C (68–77°F), and rarely above 30°C (86°F). Winters are cold but rarely freezing, daytime temperatures in the range of 6–8°C (43–46°F). Snow, while uncommon, does fall in the city during the winter. Spring is typically mild and cool; it is also the driest season of the year. Autumn is usually mild too, but can be unsettled, with temperatures hovering around the 18°C (64°F) mark until the end of September. Despite England's reputation for rain, London is a relatively dry city, with generally light, albeit regular, precipitation throughout the year.

#### Roman architecture

Smithfield: Museum of London  
The City: Old Roman wall

#### Medieval architecture

Smithfield  
The City  
Southwark  
Holborn

#### Georgian architecture

St James's  
Bloomsbury  
Regent's Park  
Further Afield: Hampstead, Greenwich and Kew Gardens

#### Victorian architecture

The City  
Westminster  
Kensington (museums)

#### 20th-century architecture

The City  
South Bank

#### Parks and gardens

St James's  
Regent's Park  
Kensington: Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens  
Chelsea: Battersea Park  
Further Afield: Hampstead, Greenwich and Kew Gardens

#### Panoramic views

South Bank: London Eye  
Further Afield: Hampstead and Greenwich

#### Shopping and markets

Smithfield  
Southwark  
Soho  
Covent Garden  
Kensington  
Chelsea

# For Review only **Map of London**

**Nightlife**  
Soho  
Covent Garden

**Children's**  
Bloomsbury: Pollack's Toy Museum  
Regent's Park: London Zoo, Madame Tussauds  
Further Afield: Kew Gardens

## Key to Icons



Must See



National Monument



Good View



See At Night



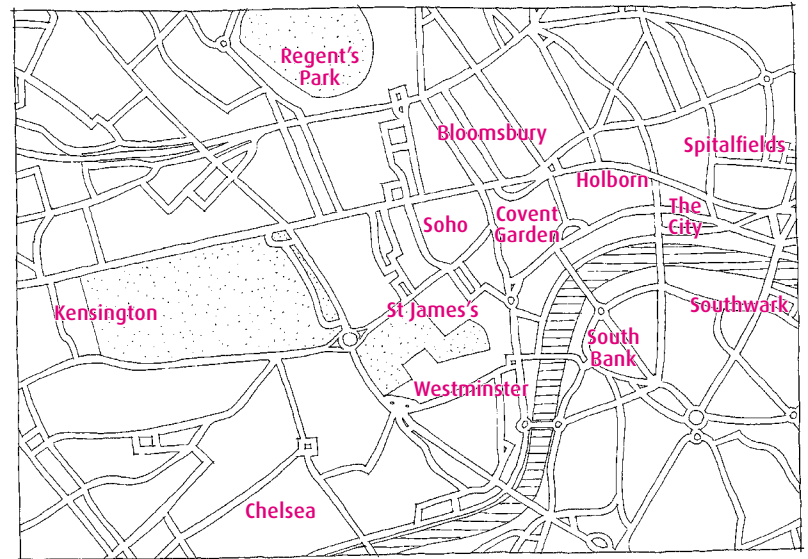
Drinking



Eating



Shopping





For Review only

'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.'

— Dr Johnson





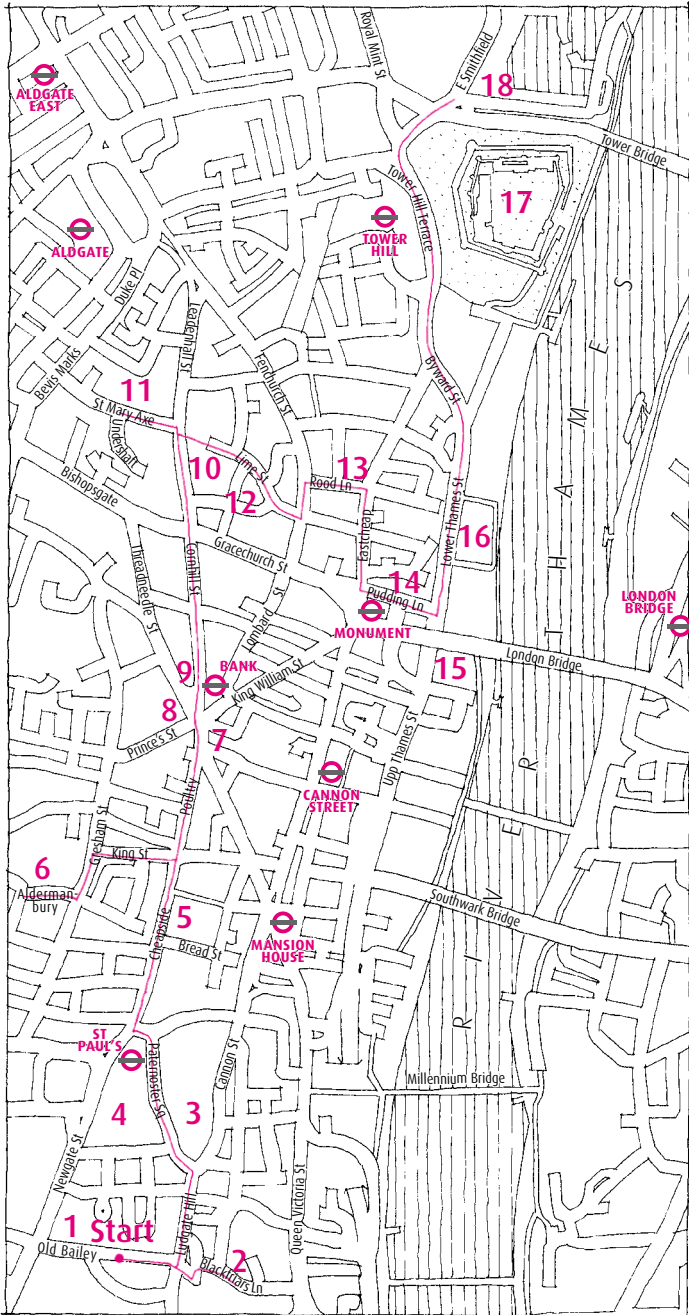
# The City

**Nearest Tube: St Paul's**  
**Approximate walking time: 2 hours 30 minutes**



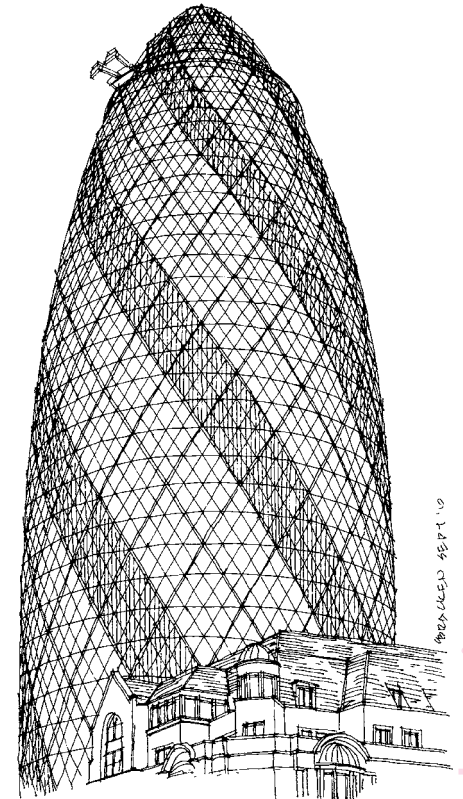
## The City

The City of London is one of the world's most important financial districts, home to such venerable institutions as the Bank of England and the Stock Exchange. Originally a Roman settlement, it flourished as an urban centre right through the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Most traces of these earlier incarnations were obliterated, however, by the Great Fire of 1666, and then the aerial bombardment of World War II. Architecturally the area is a magnificent mix of styles, everything from late 17th-century churches (many by Wren), through the 18th and 19th centuries' elegant Neoclassical temples (dedicated to commerce rather than religion), right up to the skyscrapers of the present day. It is this melange of old and new, squat and tall, stone and brick and glass that gives the district its distinctive character – its *genius loci*.



KEY

- 1 Old Bailey
- 2 Apothecaries' Hall
- 3 St Paul's Cathedral
- 4 Stock Exchange
- 5 St Mary-le-Bow
- 6 Guildhall Art Gallery
- 7 Mansion House
- 8 Bank of England Museum
- 9 Royal Exchange
- 10 Lloyd's of London
- 11 30 St Mary Axe
- 12 Leadenhall Market
- 13 St Margaret Pattens
- 14 Monument
- 15 Fishmongers' Hall
- 16 Old Billingsgate
- 17 Tower of London
- 18 St Katherine's Dock



© 2004 City of London



Old Bailey

## Old Bailey ①

Leave St Paul's station and walk along Newgate Street until you come to the Old Bailey on your left. The prominent dome, topped by a statue of Justice, is a paragon of Edwardian elegance.

The new Central Criminal Courts opened here in 1907, on the site of the notorious Newgate Prison. Public hangings used to take place outside the prison gates; these were stopped in 1868, but the Magpie and Stump pub across the road would serve a special 'execution breakfast' for those who had worked up a healthy appetite watching the spectacle. Judges still carry small posies of flowers into court with them on special days – a reminder of the times when the smell of those on trial was too much for their well-bred nostrils. Today, the courts are distinctly less pungent, and open to the public via a guided tour which starts in the Viaduct pub on Newgate Street and includes a visit to one of Newgate Prison's original cells – in what is now the

pub's cellar. It is possible to then visit one of the Old Bailey's courtrooms and watch a case in progress (this is in fact the only way to do such a thing any more because strict security precautions mean the public can no longer wander around the building).

### Old Bailey

Access by guided tour only; admission charges  
[www.old-bailey.com/visiting-the-old-bailey](http://www.old-bailey.com/visiting-the-old-bailey)  
 Tel: 07866 690618

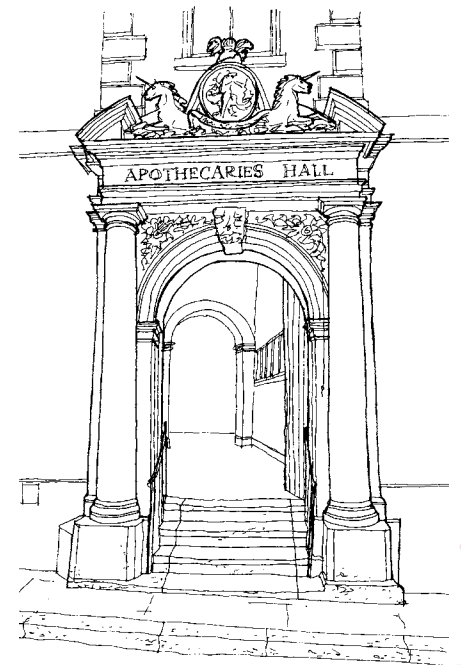
## Apothecaries' Hall ②



Continue down Old Bailey, crossing Ludgate Hill onto Blackfriars Lane and you will come to the small but ornate entrance to the Apothecaries' Hall on your left. London's livery companies, also known as guilds, were established from the early Middle Ages onwards to protect and regulate specific trades.

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London was founded in 1617 when it broke away from the older Grocers' Company. It went on to found the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1673, which has one of the richest collections of medicinal plants in Europe. The society's membership consisted of those who prepared, prescribed or sold drugs. Now nearly all members are either physicians or surgeons. It has produced some surprising alumni, including Oliver Cromwell and John Keats.

Apothecaries' Hall, originally called Cobham House, was destroyed in the Great Fire; a new hall was built in 1672, based on a design by Edward Jerman. Major restoration work was carried out in the 1780s, and even though the hall underwent further redevelopment in the 1980s, it still retains its 18th-century character. It is the oldest surviving livery company hall in the City of London.



### Apothecaries' Hall

Opening times (courtyard):  
 10am–5pm Mon–Fri  
 Admission free  
[www.apothecaries.org](http://www.apothecaries.org)

Apothecaries' Hall

## St Paul's Cathedral ③

Retrace your steps to Ludgate Hill and you will see St Paul's Cathedral on your right. Dominating the city skyline, Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece has been the magnificent backdrop for such important state occasions as the funeral of Winston Churchill in 1965 and the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981.



Review only



St Paul's Cathedral



Wren had submitted designs for the renovation of the old St Paul's before the Great Fire of London destroyed it in 1666. He was then asked to design a new building, which he did in 1673. Called the Great Model (which can be seen in the cathedral), it was rejected because it was in the form of a Greek cross, whereas the clergy preferred a Latin cross, which would allow them a larger nave for special occasions. Wren then produced what is known as the Warrant Design, which was accepted this time, and constructed between 1675 and 1710.

Visitors to St Paul's are invariably struck by the cool, spacious, beautifully ordered interior. The climax of Wren's design is doubtless the crossing, with its great dome, which at 110 metres (360 feet) high, is the second tallest in the world (after St Peter's, in the Vatican). The outer and inner layers actually hide a third structure, which supports the massive stone lantern on top – a unique solution to a daunting engineering problem. The southern tower contains the stunning geometrical staircase, a spiral of 92 stone steps leading to the cathedral library. Another staircase, from the south aisle, leads to the Whispering Gallery, whose strange acoustics enable the softest utterances to echo around the dome. Famous tombs in the cathedral include Wren's own – complete with the famous inscription, 'Reader, if you seek my monument, look around you' – as well as those of Florence Nightingale and the poet John Donne, whose monument was the only one to survive the Great Fire.

### St Paul's Cathedral

Cathedral: 8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Sat

Dome galleries: 9.30am–4.15pm Mon–Sat

[www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk)

### Did You Know?

Inigo Jones built a portico for the original cathedral's west front in 1634–40, which was in its time the largest one north of the Alps. It burnt down, along with the rest of the cathedral, in the Great Fire.

### Note on Sir Christopher Wren (1632–1723)

One of England's most acclaimed architects, Wren was responsible for the rebuilding of more than 50 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire of 1666, including his masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral.

Born into a well-placed establishment family – his father was Dean of Windsor and an uncle was Bishop of Ely – Wren began his career as an astronomer, geometer and mathematician-physicist, and only became interested in architecture around 1660. He held the Savilian Chair of Astronomy at Oxford from 1661 to 1673 and was a founder of the Royal Society (and its president 1680–82); his scientific work was highly regarded by the likes of Isaac Newton and Blaise Pascal. As befitted his family connections, most of Wren's commissions came from the church and the state.



To Wren, the Great Fire in 1666 would have seemed a heaven-sent opportunity to redesign the overcrowded medieval city along grandiose Neoclassical lines (something he had admired when visiting Paris – his one and only trip abroad). His famous reconstruction plan consisted of wide boulevards radiating from numerous piazzas in straight lines – anticipating Baron Haussmann’s Paris by two centuries – but it was considered too radical for its time. The plan did, however, get him the job of Surveyor General of the King’s Works in 1669. The parliamentary act for the rebuilding of the city was passed in 1670, and Wren spent the next 16 years designing 52 new churches.

Since there had been little church-building in England since the Reformation, no one had given any thought to what an Anglican church ought to look like. Wren went back to basics, setting down the practical guidelines that no church should be too large for the congregation to see or hear what was going on. Another massive challenge was the irregularity of the medieval sites that these new churches had to be built on. Much ingenuity was needed to fit these handsome Neoclassical buildings onto them, yet he managed to do so with an elegance, energy and breadth of design that is still delightful today.

**Did You Know?**

Even though Wren’s steeples are often the most arresting features of his churches, these were often only designed and added as much as 20 years later. The steeple is in fact a typically Gothic feature, and until Wren added them, they were unheard of on Neoclassical buildings. His genius in successfully melding Gothic forms with Neoclassical style influenced church design for centuries.

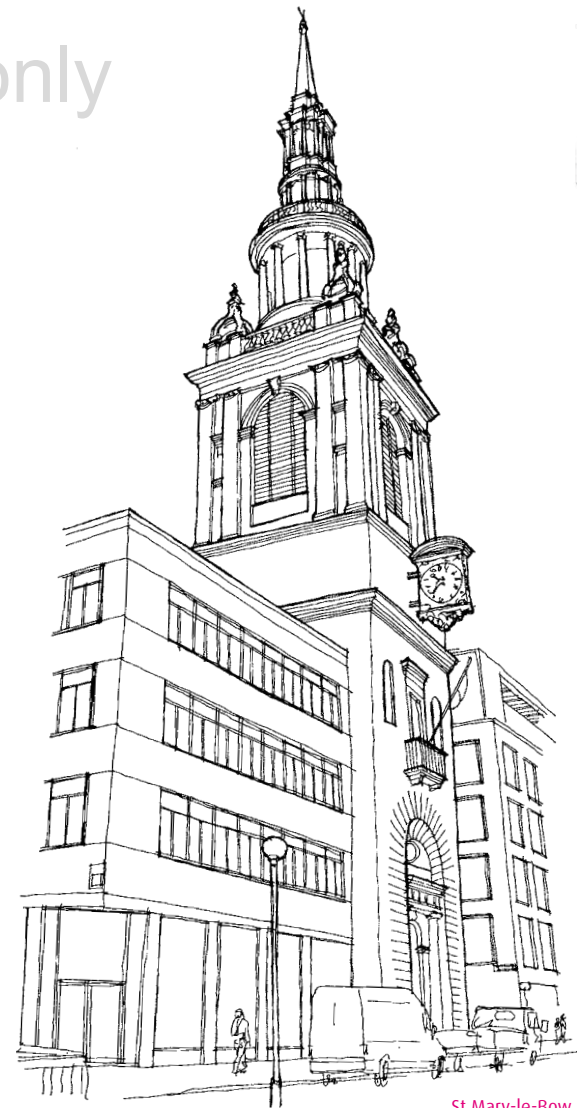
**Stock Exchange 4**

Located just to the north of St Paul’s, overlooking Paternoster Square, is London’s Stock Exchange. London wasn’t just the capital of the British Empire, it was also the world’s financial capital from the 18th to the 20th century. The city’s first stock exchange was established in Threadneedle Street by a group of stockbrokers in 1801. Previously they used to meet in coffee houses. Although eclipsed by New York and Tokyo for several decades in the mid-1900s, London’s importance as an international financial centre was boosted in 1986 by the ‘Big Bang’ – the deregulation of its financial markets.

The building’s foyer contains a remarkable kinetic sculpture, *The Source*, which indicates the day’s market performance through a three-dimensional matrix of mobile spheres.

**St Mary-le-Bow 5**

Leave Paternoster Square via Cheapside and, past Bread Street, St Mary-le-Bow will be on your right. This church was founded here around 1080 as the London headquarters of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Rebuilt by Wren after



St Mary-le-Bow

it was destroyed in the Great Fire, it takes its name from the bow arches in its crypt, which date back to the Norman period. Wren echoed this motif in the graceful arches of his steeple, at the summit of which is an amazing weathervane in the form of a dragon. The church was bombed during the Blitz, leaving only the steeple and two outer walls standing, but was restored between 1956 and 1962. Its famous bells were recast and rehung.

**St Mary-le-Bow**

Opening times: 7.30am–6pm Mon–Wed, 7.30am–6.30pm Thur, 7.30am–4pm Fri  
Admission free  
[www.stmarylebow.co.uk](http://www.stmarylebow.co.uk)



## Guildhall Art Gallery 6

Continue along Cheapside, turn left onto King Street, then left again onto Gresham Street. Take the first right and the Guildhall will be on your right overlooking Aldermanbury Square.

Built around 1440, the **Guildhall** has been the administrative centre of the City of London for more than eight centuries. Its main hall, which gives the whole building its name, was for a long time used for trials, where judges condemned many people to death, including Henry Garnet, one of the Gunpowder plotters. Today, it is used for happier occasions, such as the banquet that takes place a few days after the Lord Mayor's Parade, and where the prime minister is always the keynote speaker. The interior is not open to the public.

Next door, the **Guildhall Art Gallery** houses the Corporation of London's art collection. It contains portraits from the 16th century up to the present day, and is also home to the studio collection of 20th-century artist Sir Matthew Smith. The current building is a replica of the 1885 original, which was destroyed by World War II bombing. In 1988, the remains of a Roman amphitheatre were discovered beneath the gallery. Dating back to 70 CE, it would have been capable of holding up to 6000 spectators in its time. Access to the ruins is included with the gallery admission.

### Guildhall Art Gallery

Opening times: 10am–5pm Mon–Sat; noon–4pm Sun; admission charges  
[www.guildhall.cityoflondon.gov.uk/art-gallery](http://www.guildhall.cityoflondon.gov.uk/art-gallery)

## Mansion House 7



Retrace your steps to Cheapside and turn left onto Poultry; you will see the Mansion House ahead of you.

Overlooking this busy junction is **No. 1 Poultry**, a swaggering Post-modernist building decorated in bands of pastel-coloured stone (you can see an illustration of it in the Architectural Styles chapter). Located as it is on a tight corner, and rubbing shoulders with some of the City's most majestic buildings, it pretty much had to shout to make its presence felt. Architect James Stirling's genius was to create a building with presence, style and wit in this hemmed-in space. Its most remarkable feature is the ship-like prow overlooking the junction, which contains a restaurant, a roof garden, and an observation deck over the clock tower.

The **Mansion House** is the official home of the Lord Mayor of the City of London. It was completed in 1753 to a Palladian design by George Dance the Elder, and its main façade, with Corinthian columns, is a famous City landmark. The state rooms are magnificent, particularly the 27-metre (90-foot) Egyptian Hall. Less magnificent, but a reminder of the Lord Mayor's role as Chief Magistrate of the City, were the 11 holding cells (these have now been moved to the Museum of London).

Located behind the Mansion House is the Lord Mayor's parish church, **St Stephen Walbrook**. Built by Christopher Wren in 1672–79 (the spire added in 1717), it ranks among his finest work. The church's dome – unusual, though attractive – was clearly an experiment for St Paul's. It sits atop a brilliant, spatially daring combination of aisled nave and centralised plan, and floats gracefully on eight slender columns instead of the massive piers usually encountered. The church contains some lovely carvings, in stark contrast to which is the simplicity of Henry Moore's massive stone altar, added in 1987. There is also a moving tribute to Rector Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans: a telephone in a glass box.

### Mansion House

Tours: 2pm Tue; admission charges  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### St Stephen Walbrook

Opening times: 10am–4pm Mon, Tue, Thur; 11am–3pm Wed, 10am–3.30pm Fri  
 Admission free  
[www.ststephenwalbrook.net](http://www.ststephenwalbrook.net)

#### Did You Know?

Emmaline Pankhurst, the suffragette, was held for a time in the Mansion House cells.

## Bank of England Museum 8



Facing the Mansion House is the hefty bulk of the Bank of England – a suitably solid edifice for an institution with so weighty a function. In fact this is a dull, over-decorated behemoth that all but ignores its prime city location, preferring to turn a windowless face to the street and focus secretively inwards.

The Bank of England was originally set up in 1694 to raise money for the country's wars, and gradually developed into a national central bank with the power to issue banknotes. The 1788 building was originally designed by Sir John Soane, but only its exterior survives; the rest was destroyed in the 1920s and '30s when the bank was enlarged. Soane's stock office (from 1793) has since been reconstructed.

The building contains a museum that outlines the history of England's national finances, as well as displays of gold ingots, silver-plated decorations and a Roman mosaic floor, which were discovered during rebuilding.

### Bank of England Museum

Opening times: 10am–5pm Mon–Fri; admission free  
[www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum)  
 Tel: 020-7601 5545

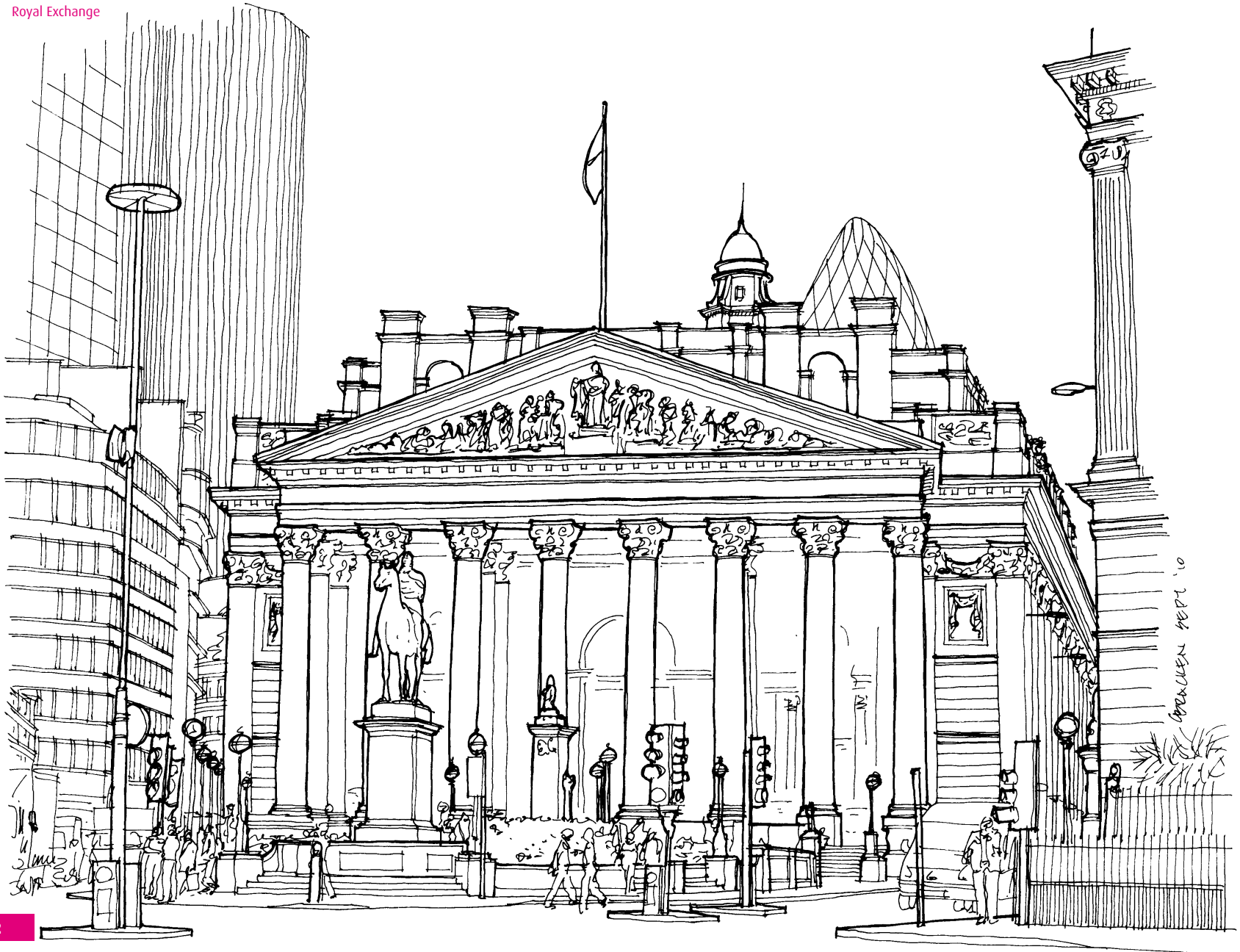


Royal Exchange 9

Between the Bank of England and the Mansion House lies the Royal Exchange. This imposing Neoclassical building, dating from 1844, is the third to occupy the site since Sir Thomas Gresham founded the institution in 1565. Designed by Sir William Tite, it follows the original building's plan of a four-sided structure surrounding a central courtyard where merchants could do business – this

plan based on a bourse that Gresham had seen in Antwerp. The interior, designed by Edward l'Anson, is notable for its early use of concrete. The pediment contains a sculpture by Richard Westmacott (the younger). The Royal Exchange has been the beating heart of London's commerce since Elizabeth I gave it its royal charter, and it is still used as one

Royal Exchange







of the sites from which the announcement of a new monarch is made. This tradition of commerce has recently been continued with the opening of the Royal Exchange as a luxury shopping and dining outlet. The equestrian statue in the forecourt is of the Duke of Wellington. There is also a war memorial dedicated to London troops closer to the front of the Exchange.

**St Mary Woolnoth**, which can be seen on the corner of Lombard Street and King William Street, is a striking work by Nicholas Hawksmoor (a pupil of Wren's). Lombard Street takes its name from the Italian bankers who settled here in the 13th century.

### Royal Exchange

Opening times: 7am–11pm daily (shops and restaurants vary); admission free  
[www.theroyalexchange.co.uk](http://www.theroyalexchange.co.uk)

### St Mary Woolnoth

Opening times: 9.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri; admission free  
[www.london-city-churches.org.uk/Churches/StMaryWoolnoth/index.html](http://www.london-city-churches.org.uk/Churches/StMaryWoolnoth/index.html)  
 Tel: 020-7626 9701

## Lloyd's of London 10



Walk along Cornhill Street, which turns into Leadenhall Street, and you will see Lloyd's of London towering over you. This is one of the gems of London's architecture, a visionary masterpiece of late 20th-century design.

Named after Edward Lloyd, the owner of a coffee shop where the business of insurance was invented in 1688, Lloyd's is one of the world's most famous insurance companies. When they decided they needed a new building in 1986, they turned to Richard Rogers, who had made his name with the Pompidou Centre in Paris. This building continues in the High Tech mode that Rogers pioneered with Renzo Piano in Paris, with its ducts and cranes, pods, pipes and braces, external glass lifts (the first of their kind in the country) and soaring staircase towers finished in shiny metal. The decision to express the building's services on the outside was a highly controversial one, but it was done in order to leave the interior spaces as uncluttered as possible.

The magnificent Underwriting Room soars a breathtaking 60 metres (200 feet), forming an airy atrium lit by daylight through its barrel-vaulted glass roof. Known somewhat ominously as 'The Room', it contains the famous Lutine Bell, which is rung in the event of a disaster. The building's 11th floor houses the Committee Room, which is where a dining room (designed originally for the Earl of Shelburne in 1763 by Robert Adam) was moved piece by piece from its previous location in Lloyd's 1958 building across the road.

Directly opposite Lloyd's on Leadenhall Street (at No. 122) stands the Leadenhall Building, one of a number of recently built skyscrapers that have been given a colourful nickname due to an unusual shape – in this case a wedge, hence the name '**The Cheesegrater**'. Designed by Rogers Stirk

Harbour and Partners, it opened in 2014 and is the second tallest building in the City of London (at 225 metres or 738 feet). The tallest, Heron Tower, at 110 Bishopsgate, is actually only 202 metres (663 feet) at roof height but has a 28-metre (92 foot) mast.

## 30 St Mary Axe 11

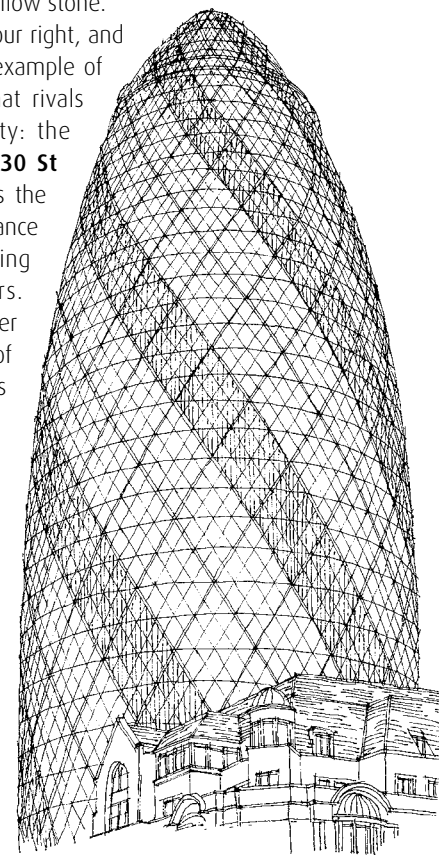


Diagonally across Leadenhall Street from The Cheesegrater, on the corner of Lime Street, stands another skyscraper with a colourful nickname: '**The Scalpel**'. This elegant 38-storey edifice was designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox for the insurance company W.R. Berkley. Completed in 2018, it is their new European headquarters and they occupy about a quarter of the total floor area. There is some commercial space at ground level as well as a basement restaurant accessed via Leadenhall Street. The *Financial Times* gave the building its nickname because of its sharply articulated angular facades.

Walk up St Mary Axe and you will pass the church of **St Andrew Undershaft** on your right. It is a lightly handled Gothic church with a medieval-looking tower all executed in a pale-yellow stone.

Farther along the street, also on your right, and towering over the church, is another example of London's architectural daring, one that rivals Lloyd's of London for sheer audacity: the 40-storey 'Gherkin'. Officially called **30 St Mary Axe**, it was originally known as the Swiss Re Tower, after the Swiss reinsurance group who commissioned the building from architects Foster and Partners. Resembling a giant cigar – a not altogether inappropriate image for the fat cats of the City – and with its swirling patterns of diamond-shaped glass, the building was an instant hit when completed and soon became one of London's most recognisable landmarks. The building's double-layered skin creates a natural chimney effect that reduces the need for air-conditioning. The design also allows for maximum natural lighting. At the top of the tower, just beneath its conical glass dome, is a stunning, double-height rooftop gallery and restaurant for tenants and their guests.

Across St Mary Axe, on Undershaft, sits **St Helen's Bishopsgate**, an odd-





looking 13th-century church which houses the tomb of Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange. Its strange shape owes to the fact that it was originally two places of worship: a parish church and the chapel of a nunnery. The nuns of St Helen's were notorious for a bizarre form of worship known as 'secular kissing'.

**St Andrew Undershaft**

Open by appointment only; admission free  
[www.london-city-churches.org.uk/Churches/StAndrewUndershaft/index.html](http://www.london-city-churches.org.uk/Churches/StAndrewUndershaft/index.html)  
 Tel: 020-7283 2231

**St Helen's Bishopsgate**

Opening times: 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri; admission free  
[www.st-helens.org.uk](http://www.st-helens.org.uk)  
 Tel: 020-7283 2231

**Leadenhall Market** 12

Retrace your steps to Leadenhall Street, cross it and go down Lime street until you come to Leadenhall Place on your right and you will see one of the entrances to Leadenhall Market in front of you.

This elaborate and ornately decorated covered mall was designed by Sir Horace Jones in 1881 (Jones also designed the nearby Billingsgate Fish Market). This food market is very popular at lunchtime with City workers. Its sells traditional game, poultry, fish and meat and also has a number of independent shops offering everything from wine to chocolates to cheese. Its name derives from a 14th-century mansion that used to stand here, which had a lead roof. There has been a food market here since the Middle Ages, and in Roman times this was the site of the forum. One of the most delightful little streets in London – to walk under its ornate roof is like entering a secret Dickensian world.

**Leadenhall Market**

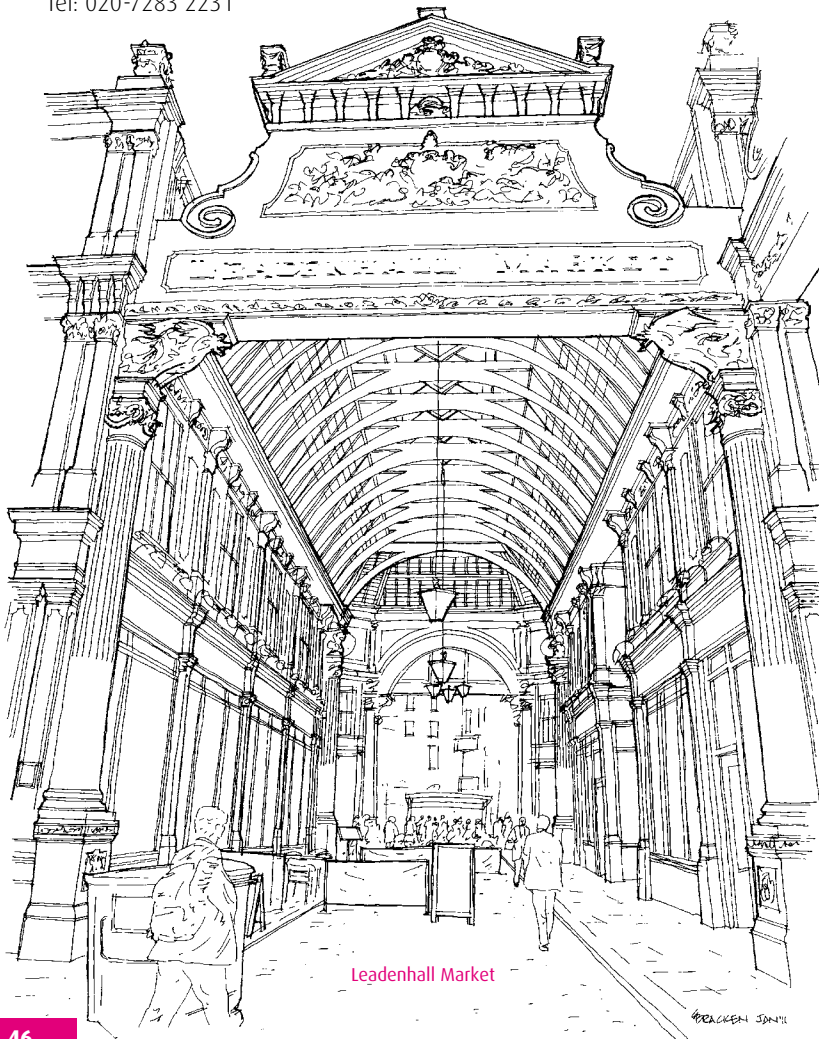
Opening times: 24 hours daily (shops and restaurants vary)  
[www.leadenhallmarket.co.uk](http://www.leadenhallmarket.co.uk)

**St Margaret Pattens** 13

Browse Leadenhall Market at your leisure, then exit onto Leadenhall Place and turn right onto Lime Street. Walk to the end and take a left onto Fenchurch Street and you will see 'The Walkie-Talkie' across the street at Nos. 18-20. Completed in 2014, this 38-storey building by Rafael Viñoly has a distinctive top-heavy shape, spreading outwards as it climbs. This was done to maximise floor space at the top of the building, where rent is usually higher, but resulted in a somewhat inelegant shape, earning it the Carbuncle Cup, an unofficial award for bad architecture. Originally planned to be 200 metres (656 feet) tall, concerns about its visual impact on nearby St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London kept its height to 160 metres (525 feet). The **Sky Garden** on the top three storeys, billed as the city's highest public garden, contains a large viewing deck, a bar and restaurants.

Turn right onto Rood Lane and St Margaret Pattens will be on your left at the corner of Eastcheap. This is another of Wren's post-fire churches. Built between 1684 and 1687, it was named after a type of overshoe that used to be made nearby. The church's rather plain-looking spire dominates this narrow, hilly corner. At 60 metres (200 feet) this is Wren's third highest and was the only one he designed in a medieval style; hence it is sometimes referred to as his only 'true spire', even as it is not one of his best efforts. It is one of only a handful of City churches that escaped significant damage during World War II.

The interior is simple and contains the only canopied pews in London. The initials 'C.W.' which appear on one of the pews are sometimes thought to refer to Christopher Wren, but more likely refer to the church wardens who



Leadenhall Market



sat here. Look out, too, for the punishment box, where wrongdoers had to sit during the service. This is carved with a devil's head.

In 1954 St Margaret Pattens ceased to be a parish church, becoming one of the City's guild churches instead. It holds regular services on weekdays, rather than on Sundays – to cater to office workers.

### Sky Garden

Opening times: 9.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri  
 Admission free  
[www.skygarden.london/sky-garden](http://www.skygarden.london/sky-garden)  
 Tel: 020-7337 2344

### St Margaret Pattens

Opening times: 10.30am–4pm Mon–Fri  
 Admission free  
[www.stmargaretpattens.org](http://www.stmargaretpattens.org)  
 Tel: 020-7623 6630

## Monument 14

Turn right onto Eastcheap from Rood Lane and Monument will be on your left on Pudding Lane. This towering structure, designed by Sir Christopher Wren to commemorate the Great Fire of London, is the tallest freestanding stone column in the world. Its height of 62 metres (205 feet) marks its distance – 62 metres – from where the fire started, in Pudding Lane. This was on 2 September 1666, in a baker's shop owned by Thomas Farriner, the king's baker. His maid had failed to put out the ovens at the end of the night's work and the heat caused the old wooden building to ignite – the maid was one of the fire's victims. Once started, it spread quickly – the city was built primarily of wood and the summer had been very dry. Strong winds fanned the flames. The fire destroyed 84 churches, as well as the old St Paul's Cathedral. It also burned away vast areas of slums that had been infested with plague the previous year – thus in a way giving the city a fresh start.

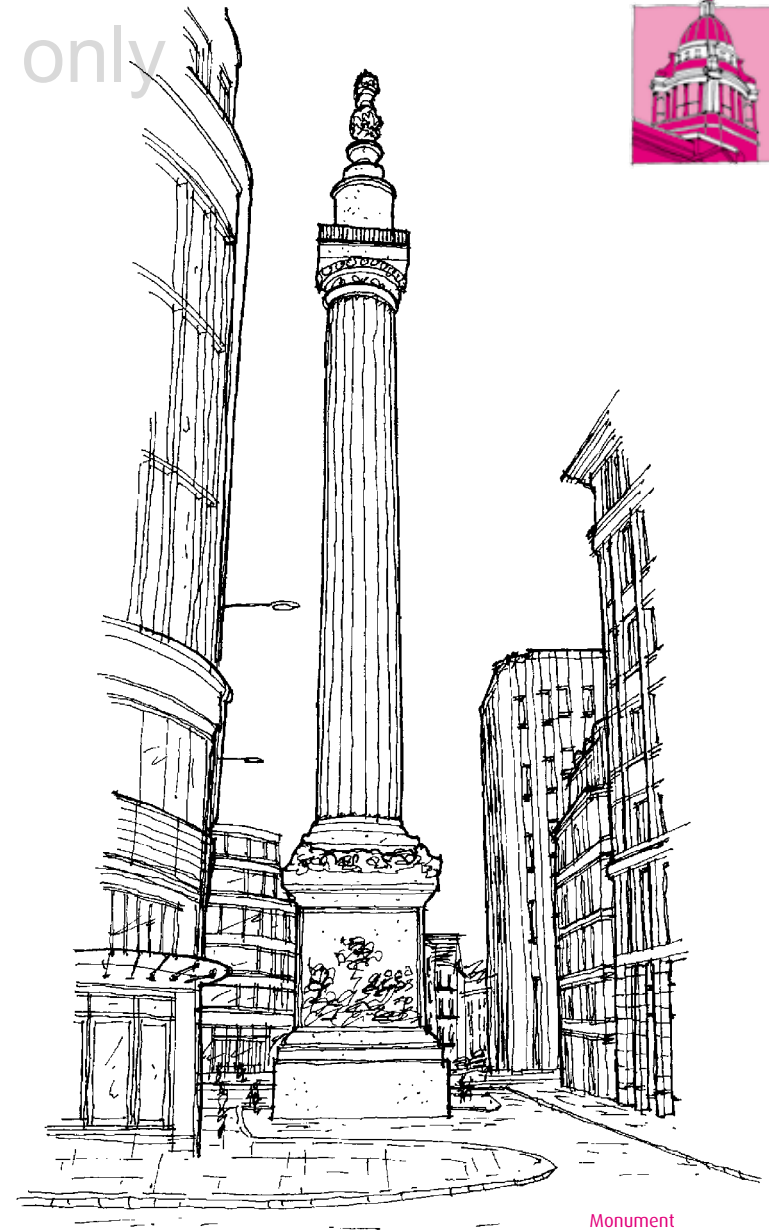
Reliefs around the column's base show Charles II restoring the city. Three hundred and eleven steps lead to a viewing platform; the views are magnificent.

### Monument

Opening times: 9.30am–6pm (Apr–Sep), 9.30am–5.30pm (Oct–Mar)  
 Admission charges  
[www.themonument.info](http://www.themonument.info)

## Fishmongers' Hall 15

On the other side of London Bridge from Monument sits Fishmongers' Hall, a startlingly beautiful Neoclassical building overlooking the river. Consisting of



Monument

six Ionic engaged columns rising two storeys over a rusticated arched base to support a pediment, it was built in 1834 to a design by Henry Roberts (although his assistant George Gilbert Scott made the drawings), and after being badly damaged by bombing in December 1940, restored by Austen Hall and reopened in 1951.

Back on the Monument side of London Bridge stands the church of **St Magnus the Martyr**. St Magnus was the Earl of the Orkney Islands and a



renowned Norwegian Christian leader; he was brutally murdered in 1110. There has been a church here for over 1000 years. When Christopher Wren built the replacement for the one that burnt down in the Great Fire between 1671 and 1676, it was at the foot of London Bridge, which until 1738 was the only bridge across the Thames. Wren's magnificent arched porch spanned the flagstones leading to the old bridge, which meant that everyone going south from the city had to pass underneath it. (Sadly, this route is no longer available.) The interior contains a delicately carved organ case depicting musical instruments, and Wren's pulpit, which was restored in 1924.

### Fishmongers' Hall

Guided tours by appointment  
Admission charges  
[www.fishhall.co.uk](http://www.fishhall.co.uk)  
Tel: 020-7626 3531

### St Magnus the Martyr

Opening times: 10am–4pm Tue–Fri; 10am–1.30pm Sun  
Admission free  
[www.stmagnusthemartyr.org.uk](http://www.stmagnusthemartyr.org.uk)  
Tel: 020-7626 4481

## Old Billingsgate 16

Continue along Lower Thames Street and you will come to Old Billingsgate on your right. This was for 900 years the location of London's main fish market. Sited on one of the city's earliest quays, it was one of London's noisiest markets and infamous for the foul language that rang through it. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, up to 400 tonnes of fish were sold here every day, much of it delivered by boat. The market moved to Canary Wharf in the Docklands in 1982.

The best views of the building are from the southern shore of the Thames, where the Neoclassicism of its design can best be appreciated. In fact, it looks more like a grand hotel than a fish market, with its arcaded base and elegantly proportioned windows. The restrained elegance of its design sits well over the water, where its reflection lends it an even more placid air of completeness – something the architect clearly considered. Sir Horace Jones designed the building in 1875 to replace the first Billingsgate Market, constructed in 1850 by John Jay. It is today a hospitality and events venue.

Across Lower Thames Street from Old Billingsgate is **St Mary-at-Hill**, one of Wren's first churches (1670–76). Its Greek-cross design was a prototype for his original – but unbuilt – plan for St Paul's Cathedral. The interior plasterwork and 17th-century furnishings both survived the Victorian era and its mania for 'refurbishment'. They even survived the bombs of World War II, only to be destroyed by fire in 1988. The building was then restored to its original

appearance, only to be damaged again in 1992 – this time by an IRA bomb.

Continue along Lower Thames Street as it turns into the gently curving Byward Street and you will see **All Hallows by the Tower** on your right. The first church on this site was a Saxon one, while the arch on the southwest corner contains some Roman tiles. There are also some Roman pavement tiles in the crypt. Most of the church's interior has been altered, but a limewood font cover, carved by Grinling Gibbons in 1682, has survived. The church houses a small museum, a brass-rubbing centre and a bookstall. It also hosts occasional concerts. This is where Samuel Pepys watched the Great Fire of London, where William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania Colony, was baptised, and where John Quincy Adams was married in 1797, before he became the sixth American president.

### St Mary-at-Hill

Opening times: 10.15am–3.45pm Mon–Fri; admission free  
[www.stmary-at-hill.org](http://www.stmary-at-hill.org)  
Tel: 020-7626 4184

### All Hallows by the Tower

Opening times: 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm Sat and Sun (Apr–Oct);  
8am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm Sat and Sun (Nov–Mar)  
Admission free  
[www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk](http://www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk)  
Tel: 020-7481 2928

## Tower of London 17



Continue along Byward Street, which turns into Tower Hill, and you will see the great complex of the Tower of London on your right. The Tower of London is without a doubt London's most impressive and important tourist attraction, and has been drawing visitors since the days of Charles II (1660–85). This magnificent cluster of Norman towers was where the Crown Jewels and some of the armour of the royal collection were first displayed in public.

For much of its 900-year history, however, the Tower was a place of fear and misery, a prison where those accused of treason were incarcerated and tortured. Many never saw the light of day again. It was also a place of execution, although only aristocrats were executed here, on Tower Green, to spare them the indignity of the mobs of Tower Hill. In fact only seven people died here, two of them the unfortunate wives of Henry VIII. Aristocratic prisoners were held in Beauchamp Tower, often with retinues of their own servants to wait on them. The most mysterious and sinister deaths to have occurred in the Tower were the boy princes Edward and Richard, sons of Edward IV. Placed in the Tower by their uncle, Richard of Gloucester, when their father



Tower of London

died in 1483, neither of them was ever seen again. Richard crowned himself king later that year. In 1674 the skeletons of two children were found near what is known as the Bloody Tower.

The **White Tower** is the oldest surviving building in the complex – begun by William the Conqueror in 1077, and finished in 1097. At 30 metres (90 feet), it would have been the tallest building in London at the time. Built just inside the old Roman wall along the Thames, it contains an austere beautiful Romanesque place of worship: the Chapel of St John. For centuries this particular tower served as the royal armoury; in the 1990s many of the exhibits were moved to other museums in Leeds and Portsmouth, but the most historic items have remained, including the Tudor and Stuart armour. Originally the tower's main rooms would have been at least twice their present height but extra floors were built in them in 1490.

The **Jewel House** is the home of the Crown Jewels, which are used at coronations and state occasions. Most of the Crown Jewels only date back to 1661, when a new set had to be made for the coronation of Charles II – parliament having destroyed the previous crowns and sceptres after the execution of Charles I in 1649. On display are ten crowns, three Swords of Justice (symbolising mercy, spiritual justice and temporal justice), the Orb – a

gold sphere encrusted with jewels – and the Sceptre, in which is set the world's largest cut diamond, the 530-carat Great Star of Africa.

Other buildings in the Tower include the **Medieval Palace**, built by Henry III in 1220 and enlarged by his son, Edward I, who also added **Traitors' Gate**, through which prisoners entered the Tower by boat. The **Queen's House** is the official residence of the Tower's governor, and the Yeoman Warders – more commonly known as the Beefeaters – also live in the Tower when guarding it.

### Tower of London

Opening times: 9am–5.30pm Tue–Sat, 10am–5.30pm Sun–Mon (Mar–Oct);  
9am–4.30pm Tue–Sat, 10am–4.30pm Sun–Mon (Nov–Feb)

Admission charges

[www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london](http://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london)

Tel: 020-3166 6000

### Did You Know?

Legend has it that if the ravens ever desert the Tower of London the kingdom will fall. (Taking no chances, obviously, the birds have part of their wings clipped on one side, making flight impossible.)

## St Katherine's Dock 18



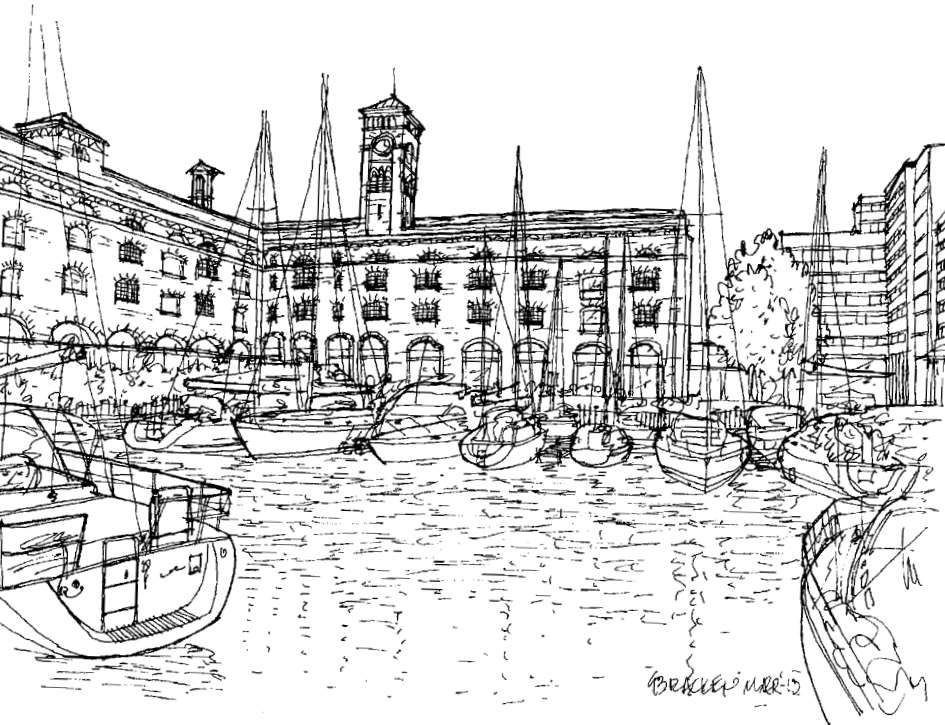
Across Tower Bridge Approach from the Tower of London is St Katherine's Dock. Originally the most centrally located of all London's docks, it was designed by Thomas Telford and opened in 1828. It handled everything from tea to live turtles – turtle soup being a popular Victorian delicacy. St Katherine's flourished until the middle of the 20th century, when containerisation meant that larger docks were needed; these were built farther downstream at Tilbury. The docks closed down in 1968, and languished until the 1980s, when they were redeveloped as residential, commercial and entertainment facilities. With the converted industrial buildings arranged around a network of waterways, walkways and bridges, St Katherine's Dock has come back to life – full of yachts and waterside cafes, and a wonderful place to stroll night or day.

### St Katherine's Dock

[www.skdocks.co.uk](http://www.skdocks.co.uk)

Tel: 020-7264 5287

*Link to Southwark walk: Cross Tower Bridge.*



St Katherine's Dock