

A LONG WAY FROM DULWICH

LONDON'S DARK SIDE

A 90-MINUTE WALK
THROUGH PLAGUE,
PUNISHMENT AND POWER



LONDON WALK 01

£2.99

THE WALK AT A GLANCE

Nine stories. One line.

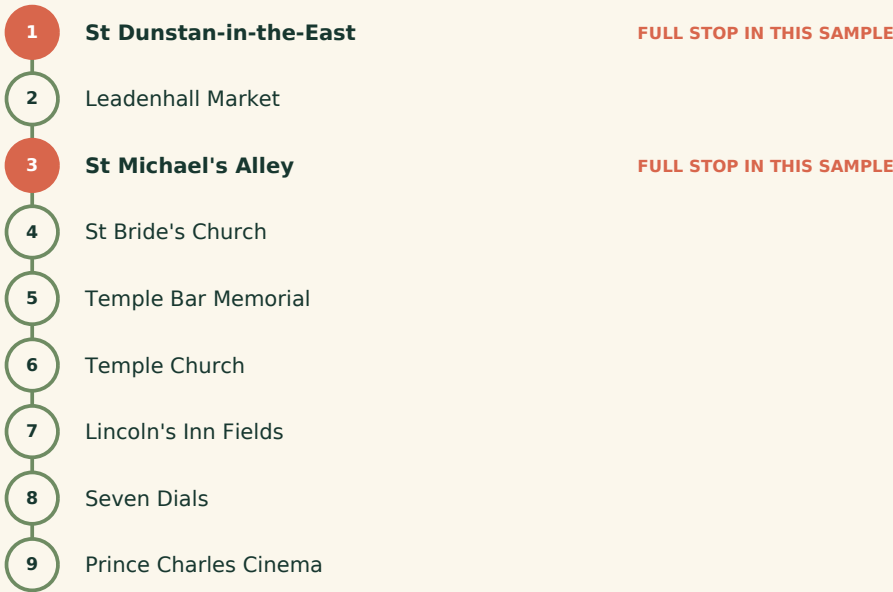
No backtracking. Built for a quick walking pace.

START

London Bridge Station

FINISH

Prince Charles Cinema



HOW TO USE IT

Read while standing at each stop. Directions are deliberately short. The history gives you the established facts; the Look twice box asks what the polished version of the city leaves out.

GET THERE

From London Bridge Station, cross London Bridge. Continue onto King William Street, bear right along Eastcheap, then turn right down St Dunstan's Hill.

THE STORY

The first church here was built around 1100. Fire tore through it in 1666; war struck it again in 1941. The Blitz gutted the church, but Christopher Wren's tower and steeple survived. After the war, the City chose not to rebuild. The ruins became a public garden, opening in 1970.

That is the neat version: destruction, survival, renewal. Stand inside the roofless walls and notice what the garden asks you to do. Ivy softens the stone. Office workers eat lunch where a congregation once met. A place shaped by catastrophe has become one of the City's prettiest photographs. Nothing is false about that beauty, but beauty can make damage feel safely finished.

LOOK TWICE

The ruin tells two truths at once: London survives, and London is very good at turning its wounds into scenery. Ask which story you noticed first.

PHOTO NOTE

Frame the Wren tower through a Gothic window. Let the living leaves cut across the damaged stone.

WALK ON

Return to Eastcheap and continue east toward Leadenhall Market, the next stop on the full route.

GET THERE

From Leadenhall Market, leave toward Gracechurch Street. Continue to Cornhill and turn into St Michael's Alley beside the Jamaica Wine House.

THE STORY

A City of London plaque records the first London coffee house here in 1652, at the sign of Pasqua Rosee's Head. Coffee houses multiplied across the City and became working rooms for news, deals, stocks and insurance.

The usual story is about progress: caffeine replacing ale, conversation becoming commerce, London becoming modern. But a network is only as open as the door into it. Information may have moved quickly in rooms like these, while power still collected around people with the money, time and social permission to enter. The drink was new. The unequal city was not.

LOOK TWICE

The alley is tiny; its influence was not. Look from the narrow passage to the towers above it. London still turns information into advantage - only the speed has changed.

PHOTO NOTE

Shoot from low in the alley so the old brick, plaque and modern City rise in the same frame.

ONE-MINUTE PAUSE

If this alley were a group chat, who would be invited - and who would only hear about the decision later?

CONTINUE THE WALK

The full guide is £2.99

A complete, independent London walk - written to be used on the street, not studied at home.

09

dark-history stops with full write-ups

90

minutes at a quick, purposeful pace

01

continuous route from London Bridge to Soho

02

perspectives at every stop: the grand story and the shadow beside it

NO APP. NO SUBSCRIPTION.

Download once. Put your phone away between stops.

SOURCE NOTE

Historical facts in this sample were checked against the City of London, Historic England and St Bride's Church. Opening hours, access and street conditions can change; check before setting out.

Plague, punishment and power are waiting.

