

Walking tour of central London

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Link to google maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/boKMJK3oJ3KecAXR9>



In order:

1. Hyde Park pet cemetery
 - a. In operation from 1881 to 1903 by Hyde Park gatekeeper. Some wealthy Victorians & some royals have buried their pets there. It's closed to the public mostly, there are some special arrangements that can be made to visit it.
2. 10 Hyde Park place
 - a. Narrowest house in London - 4ft wide - Hampshire House. It has 2 rooms connected by the ladder in the back. Legend has it was used in early 1900s by graverobbers for easy access to St George's graveyard.
3. Tyburn Tree Gallows
 - a. Operational for 650 years, convicted individuals would be transported by Oxford Street from Newgate Prisons. It was even mentioned by Shakespeare. Most notable was execution of 105 catholic martyrs.
4. John Snow Water Pump
 - a. In 1854 there was a cholera outbreak here. John Snow was a surgeon tasked with investigating it. Story goes that he noticed that the few people that did not get sick was the construction workers, working on a building nearby. As it turns out they usually ended up drinking at a pub and did not use the water pump at all. That was one of the clues that lead John snow to advocate to remove the handle off it.
5. 3 Saville Row - Apple Records
 - a. Bought by the Beatles in 1968, it was a place where they worked, each of them having an office and basement recording studio. They played their very last concert on the roof of it in January 1969.
6. Athenaeum club
 - a. 1st Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley was 5ft8. The building is a residence of The Athenaeum Club - a gentleman's club. At Dukes request, a few planks were put down there to make him dismount the horse in more dignified manner. Other members of a club, included Winston Churchill, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
7. 9 Carlton House Terrace
 - a. The countries only memorial to a Nazi. It was a dog under care of German Ambassador in 1932. the dog chewed through electrical cable . The ambassador was very much liked in Britain, and received full military parade after hist death in 1936. The fact that contributed the rest of the Nazi party not giving him the same treatment when the coffin arrived back in Germany. Giro the Nazi Dog grave
8. Statue of King Charles the First.
 - a. It was a site of original "Charring Cross", placed there by King Edward the first, on the route of procession of Queen Elanor's funeral. The replica stands withing Charring cross station. This is the spot where all sign distances are measured to, across great Britain.
9. Trafalgar Sq
 - a. London's Smallest Police Station - Cement was hollowed out in 1926 for purpose of monitoring the demonstrators in Trafalgar Sq. It was said that it had direct connection to Scotland yard, in case re-enforcements were needed. Before, it was just a simple light box.
 - b. Imperial Measurements - plaques. These are standard measurements, that are a backup for everyone to baseline their own measuring instruments. There is feet, inches, "pole", "perch" and even "links" and "chain".
10. Brydges Place

- a. Narrowest Street in London (not really, there is one narrower), but it is 1 foot 3 inches wide.
- 11. 10 Adam Street
 - a. Not Downing Street. This building was built around the same time as 10 Downing Street in 1700s. It was absolutely accidental and on purpose. It is now slightly different as in 1991 10 Downing Street door was replaced with bomb proof one, after an attempted attack.
- 12. Carting Lane
 - a. Sewage Lamp - last remaining. Back in 1890s build-up of sewage gases was a real concern. The idea was put forward to burn the gases off, and use the flame as a street light. It is the only one in existence, and this one also had a run in with a delivery truck reversing into it, and likely have been restored with modern equivalent.
- 13. Savoy Hotel
 - a. The only Road in Britain where you drive on the right. It was due to design of horse drawn carriages which allowed the driver, or hotel staff to open the door for the passengers without going around the carriage.
- 14. Temple Place
 - a. Cabman Green Hut. Originally put together in late 1800s as a result of a fund to ease life of horse powered cabs drivers, who were exposed to the elements of the London weather. With 13 in existence and 10 in operation, only licensed cab drivers are allowed inside, for a hot meal and a drink.
- 15. Cock Lane
 - a. Golden Boy of Pye Corner. A statue at the end of "Cock Lane" where brothels were legal. It's a marker of where the great fire of London has ended. It's also a reminder by more religious folk that the fire of London was caused by a sin of gluttony.
- 16. 10 Aldersgate St
 - a. Blue police box. Inspiration behind the Tardis in Dr Who, these telephone boxes were to be used by both police officers and the public to alert to any incidents, between 1920s and 1960s.
- 17. Southwark Bridge
 - a. The Ferryman's Seat - used at least since 1750s this is where ferry operators would wait for theatre goers, to offer them passage to the north of the river.
 - b. By the stairs of the bridge - French Canon used as a posts / bollards. It was a move by the British to rub it in to the French, that they lost 1805 battle of Trafalgar. They basically stripped the ships of everything to be repurposed, the canons ending up in the streets. There are many replicas around London, but the one by the Southwark bridge is the original canon used in the battle of Trafalgar.
- 18. Union St
 - a. Crossbones Garden - a graveyard for poor people, prostitutes and outcasts. Dating back to 1800s it was the place where the poorest and most unwanted people used to come to rest. It was taken up and restored by artists and becoming a shrine to outcasts living in London.
- 19. Across London Bridge
 - a. The old London Bridge was sold to an American 1960s and it's now in operation in Arizona. They didn't realise this was the bridge they were buying, they wanted Tower Bridge instead.
- 20. Church of Saint Magnus-the-Martyr
 - a. A piece of timber dating back to Roman times, most likely used as a support at the end of the original roman London Bridge.
- 21. 23 Eastcheap
 - a. 2 mice eating cheese on building. When construction was underway two men argued over a missing sandwich, resulting in one of them falling to their death. Later two mice were spotted eating the sandwich.

Not covered:

- 1. Picadilly Circus
 - a. Burlington House - K2 phone boxes
- 2. Oxford Circus / Goodge Street
 - a. Attendant Coffee Roasters - coffee shop located underground in former public toilet [\[link\]](#)
- 3. Old Street / Hoxton
 - a. Hoxton Street Monster Supplies - a shop with weird products [\[link\]](#)
- 4. Euston
 - a. Wellcome Collection - health and human experience - CLOSED - reopens January 25 2022 [\[link\]](#)
- 5. London Bridge
 - a. The Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret [\[link\]](#)
- 6. Bilingsdale Market
 - a. Traffic Lights Tree
- 7. Trafalgar Square
 - a. Pavement Marking in front of "The Lord Moon of the Mall" [\[link\]](#)