

LEADENHALL MARKET

LONDON



LEADENHALL TOUR 2 (Circular riverside route)

Begin on Gracechurch Street, and proceed through Leadenhall Market.

Leadenhall Market dates back to the 14th century and is situated in what was the centre of Roman London. Originally a meat, poultry and game market, it is now home to a number of boutique retailers, restaurants, cafes, wine bars and an award-winning pub.

Starting as the site of a manor, Leadenhall has survived changes in use, rebuilding, and even the Great Fire to become a popular destination for city residents, visitors and workers.

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Leadenhall Fact:

The gold paint on the pillars (entrances and dotted throughout) is real, hand-applied gold leaf.

The Romans

Leadenhall served an important role in the Roman settlement of Londinium, housing the basilica (courts) and forum (market). Established around 70AD, by 120AD Leadenhall was the largest market North of the Alps and occupied an area bigger than that of Trafalgar Square.

Leadenhall's Roman roots weren't fully understood until the early 1800s when workers discovered a section of Roman mosaic artwork about nine feet below street level, during extensive remodelling work.

Leadenhall Fact:

Visitors can see the original Roman mosaic artwork, depicting Bacchus riding a tiger with serpents, drinking cups and a cornucopia, in the British Museum, alongside one of the Roman Basilica arches which was discovered in the market's north-western foundations in the basement of the Nicholson & Griffin Barber Shop (1) in the market's Central Avenue.

Rome destroyed the buildings in 300 AD as a punishment for supporting Carausius (who declared himself the Emperor of Britain), but the Romans didn't actually leave until the early 5th century, when Britain became independent from Rome.

The 1300s

Originally, the market building was a lead-roofed manor house (hence the name), in London's Lime Street Ward. In 1309 the Manor of Leadenhall was listed as belonging to Sir Hugh Neville. By 1321, the area around Leadenhall manor had become known as a market place for poulterers. They were joined, in 1397, by cheesemongers.

Leadenhall Fact

This means that Cheese at Leadenhall (2) is the most 'old fashioned' retailer in the market!

1400 - 1500

In 1408, the former Lord Mayor Richard 'Dick' Whittington acquired the lease of the building, and then acquired the site in 1411. It quickly became one of the best places in London to buy meat, game, poultry and fish.

Leadenhall Fact

Whittington Avenue (3) is named after Dick Whittington

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Redesigned by John Croxton in 1449, it was expanded into a large quadrangle with two stories, a small side chapel, and various storage rooms to prepare for food shortages or other types of “social unrest.”

By 1463, Leadenhall was such a major hub for commerce that it was here that the tronage for wool was determined. “Tronage” meant the tax that traders had to pay to have their goods weighed officially at the market, from a specially installed wooden beam, showing just how important wool was to London’s economy at the time, and how important Leadenhall was as a centre of commerce. In 1488, it was decided that leather will be sold exclusively from Leadenhall Market.

Leadenhall Fact

Fashion retailers like Reiss (4) would have only been able to source their leather from Leadenhall in the 15th century!

1600 - 1700

In 1622, a new invention called cutlery is made available exclusively from Leadenhall Market.

Leadenhall Fact

Our many eateries (5) would have had quite an advantage in the 17th Century, as tenants of the only place that cutlery was sold.

The great Fire of 1666 destroys much of the City of London, including parts of the Market. When it is rebuilt not long after, it becomes a covered structure for the first time and is divided into the Beef Market, the Green Yard and the Herb Market.

Leadenhall was always a busy place but its denizens still had time for fun. In 1766, the poulterers played cricket against the butchers for “a considerable sum of money and a fine whole lamb for supper”. No one recorded what the score was, but history does record that the poulterers won.

Leadenhall Fact

It is easy to imagine a game of cricket taking place down Lime Street Passage (6)

1800s

A celebrated character in Leadenhall during the 19th century was ‘Old Tom’, a little goose who rose to fame having escaped capture repeatedly over 2 market days during which 34,000 of his fellow geese were slaughtered. He became a great favourite in the market and was fed at the local inns.

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After his death in 1835 at the age of 38, he was featured in the obituary section of a local newspaper, and he lay in state in the market before being buried there.

Leadenhall Fact

Old Tom's burial spot is marked by (7), and you can also see two different representations of Old Tom on top of the old Midland Bank building, which is just near the Bank of England by the Bank tube station.

In 1881 Leadenhall was redeveloped by Sir Horace Jones, who also designed the Smithfield Market, the Billingsgate Fish Market and even the Tower Bridge; (although the bridge wasn't completed until eight years after his death). His designs replaced the earlier stone structure with wrought iron and glass – a structure which in 1972 is given Grade II* listed status.

Leadenhall Fact

The project cost an enormous £99,000 (nearly £12 million in today's money) to build, with its additional entrances costing another £148,000.

1900S - PRESENT

Extensively restored in 1991, Leadenhall Market offers a spectacular Victorian setting with the roof, cobbles and buildings preserved. By the mid-20th century the shops were also being used for general retailing and leisure and by the end of the century Leadenhall Market had evolved into one of the City's five principal shopping centres.

Leadenhall on Film

The scene where Harry Potter and Hagrid go shopping for wands (and where Hagrid buys Hedwig as a late birthday gift for Harry) is one of the most memorable scenes in the first Harry Potter film...and it all happened in front of Leadenhall Market, which stood in for Charing Cross Road. As they walk, Harry asks Hagrid "Can you find all this in London?" to which Hagrid replies "If you know where to go".

And not only was Leadenhall Market used to represent the one area of London which secretly leads magical folk to Diagon Alley (in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*), Potterheads should be able to immediately recognize the entrance to the Leaky Cauldron at [42 Bull's Head Passage \(8\)](#), as its blue door was used to film scenes in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* as well.

Leadenhall Fact

Not just limited to Harry Potter, Leadenhall Market has also been used as a filming location for a handful of other movies over the years, such as *Hereafter*, *Love Aaj Kal*, *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus* and *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, as well as for Erasure's 1991 music video "Love To Hate You."

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Leadenhall in the Olympics

When London hosted the Olympic Games in 2012, Leadenhall Market formed part of the route for the Marathon. Hundreds of runners from all over the world ran through the market on their loop around the

city, entering at Whittington Avenue and leaving through [Lime Street \(9\)](#). They followed a very picturesque route through London; perhaps they were among the luckiest of the competitors that year.

In 2021 Leadenhall Market continues to provide a wide range of shopping and dining options to its visitors. Looking at the beautifully clean and vibrant Victorian buildings of today it's hard to imagine the noise and smells of a 19th century market, but if you look closely at the shop fronts you will see the wrought iron hooks where produce used to hang.

When you reach Lime St, turn right, then cross Fenchurch Street onto Philpot Lane. At the junction of Philpot Lane and Eastcheap, pause and look to your left, then up.

Philpot Lane Mice

London's tiniest public sculpture, the origin of the two tiny mice sharing some cheese remains a mystery. Local legend says that they were created to mark the death of two workers involved in constructing the Monument. Stopping on a high perch for lunch together, one noticed that his cheese sandwich had been mostly eaten - by mice - but blamed the other worker. In the ensuing scuffle both fell to their deaths. The story is unsubstantiated, but the mice remain. The building number is 23 Eastcheap, but they on the Philpot Lane side, look up high for them!

Cross Eastcheap, continuing on to Botolph Lane and turning right onto St George's Lane. This will lead you to Pudding Lane.

Pudding Lane

The Great Fire of London started on September 2, 1666 at Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. Destroying around 85% of medieval London, there were only six recorded deaths during the four-day blaze, but it is believed that many more victims went unrecorded.

Pudding Lane was also one of the first one-way streets in London, one of 16 alleys designated to move traffic in a single direction. It was not until 1800 that one-way traffic that the concept spread more widely.

Much like other food-themed street names in London, from Milk Street to Honey Lane, Stew Lane to Shoulder of Mutton Alley, Pudding Lane's name comes from the products that could be purchased on that particular street. In this case the word "pudding" refers not to cake but to butchers' offal - animal guts. The area surrounding Pudding Lane was a meat district, and the butchers of Eastcheap would throw offal

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from the high windows of their buildings and from carts heading for the waste barges on the Thames, giving the road its name.

Turn right onto Monument Square

Monument to the Great Fire of London

Built between 1671 and 1677 to commemorate the Great Fire of London and to celebrate the rebuilding of the city, the Monument was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It is positioned only 202 feet from where the Great Fire started. The Monument has seen several notable incidents in its history, including a sailor successfully completing what may have been one of the earliest recorded bungee jumps in 1732, six suicides and one accidental - but equally deadly - fall.

Turn left onto Fish St Hill and the cross over Lower Thames St to reach the church of St Magnus the Martyr.

St Magnus the Martyr

St Magnus the Martyr houses the last remains of the original London Bridge. In existence in one form or another from AD50, the bridge was the gateway to the city for over 600 years and housed shops, churches, homes and a gatehouse. By the early 19th century the buildings had been demolished, the crossing was too narrow and the supporting arches were too small for the ships that needed to pass underneath. The new bridge was built in 1799, 30 metres upstream to allow the old bridge to continue in use until the new one was completed in 1831, at which point the old bridge was demolished. The only remaining parts are the original pedestrian entrance (c. 1763), which was incorporated into the entrance of St Magnus the Martyr, and a piece of timber in the courtyard from the old Roman Wharf (c. AD75).

Walk West on Lower Thames St, taking the pedestrian entrance onto London Bridge. Cross the Bridge, stopping at the 'needle' sculpture.

The Southwark Needle

Sixteen metres long, made of Portland stone and set at a slight angle, the Southwark Needle marks the approximate spot where for 400 years the heads of traitors were impaled on spears - one of the first things people saw as they entered London. The first traitor to have the 'honour' was William "Braveheart" Wallace in 1305 and by the time the tradition petered out in the late 17th century, Wat Tyler, Thomas Cromwell and Guy Fawkes had all been used as similarly revolting decorations – their heads all boiled, dipped in pitch, and maintained by the Keeper of the Heads.

At the end of the Bridge, turn right onto Montague Close, passing Southwark Cathedral on your left. Take a sharp right onto Cathedral St, and right again along the passageway leading to Pickfords Wharf, passing the Golden Hinde on your right. Continuing along Pickfords Wharf you will find Winchester Palace on your left hand side, just before you reach Stoney St.

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Winchester Palace

Winchester Palace was once one of the largest and most important buildings in all of medieval London. Built in the early 13th century as a home to the powerful Bishops of Winchester, the palace was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1814. From the pavement, you can still see the remaining walls of the Great Hall, including a magnificent rose window that adorns the West Gable.

Turn left onto Stoney Street and follow it all the way to Southwark St, past the usually bustling Borough Market on your left. Cross onto Borough High Street and head South, stopping at the first alleyway on the left to look in at the George Inn.

The George Inn

Once a coffee house visited by Dickens - and mentioned in Little Dorrit - The George Inn is London's last remaining galleried inn, and the only pub in London to be owned by the National Trust. An older incarnation was destroyed by fire in 1676.

Continue along Borough High Street, then turn right onto Union Street. At the junction of Union Street and Redcross Way you will find the Crossbones Garden.

Crossbones Garden

Once a pauper's burial ground, now a shrine to the outcast dead, the Crossbones Garden has been much written about by local poet John Constable. Among the flowers, photographs, ribbons and poems, a brown plaque states unambiguously "in medieval times, this was an unconsecrated graveyard for prostitutes". Excavated by the Museum of London in the 1990s, remains were found dating from late Georgian and early Victorian times. It is believed to be the last resting place of around 15,000, many of whom were sex workers and children. Note: the garden is only open when wardens are available, but you can see in from the street if it is closed.

Continue to the end of Union Street and turn right onto Southwark Bridge Rd. Continue up Southwark Bridge Road until you reach Southwark Bridge, at which point you should join the Bankside path going West. Just before you reach Pizza Express you will find the Ferryman's Seat.

The Ferryman's Seat

This is an unremarkable chunk of flinty stone built into the side of a Greek restaurant. But, what it lacks in looks it makes up for in charm and history. The age of the seat is unclear, but we do know that it was used as a resting place for the Ferryman who once operated a water taxi service across to the north side of the Thames and back from this point. This was once a busy job, especially up until 1750 when London Bridge was the only other means of carrying passengers and goods across the river.

At the time, the South side of the river was considered a lawless place full of "stews" or steam baths (which were usually also brothels), bear-baiting rings and theatres. In fact, the seat is on a street called

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“Bear Gardens” named after the Davies Amphitheatre, the last bear baiting pit in London. Stop for a moment and imagine the rowdy passengers, the long hours, the open sewers and the pong of the nearby tanneries.

Continue on, past Shakespeare’s Globe on your left, then cross the Millennium Bridge. The features as a location on the planet Xandar in Guardians of the Galaxy (2014). It is also seen in James Bond: Spectre (2015) in a shot of Miss Moneypenny (Naomi Harris) walking on the bridge with the dome of St Pauls Cathedral framed behind her. Continue on to Peter’s Hill and cross St Paul’s Churchyard to reach St Paul’s Cathedral.

St Paul’s Cathedral

For more than 1,400 years, a Cathedral dedicated to St Paul has stood as the highest point in the city. The present Cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The Cathedral has seen a Suffragette plot to blow up the Bishop’s throne, a very near miss when a WWII bomb lodged itself 30 feet deep in the road outside the Cathedral, addresses from luminaries including Martin Luther King, found fame in the film Mary Poppins, hosted countless significant funerals - including that of Sir Winston Churchill - and is the last resting place of many of the great and good of British history.

Walk towards New Change and cross onto Watling St (the first section is pedestrianised). Stop briefly at Bread Street.

Bread Street

Bread Street was, unsurprisingly, originally the site of London’s bread market. Recorded as ‘Bredstrate’ in 1180, in 1302 Edward I announced that “the bakers of Bromley and Stratford-le-Bow” were forbidden from selling bread from their homes or premises and could only sell it on Bread Street. Bread Street is the birthplace of poets John Donne and John Milton.

Continue along Watling Street until you reach the Cordwainer Statue, at the junction with Queen Street.

The Cordwainer Statue

The area to the East of St Paul’s, from Bread Street onwards is Cordwainers Ward - a name derived from the trade of its inhabitants. The name comes from ‘cordwaner’ or a worker of ‘cordwane’, a leather from Cordova, Spain. Shoe making was the key trade in the area and between 1154 and 1189, the local market was the only place you could buy shoes in all of London. The Cordwainers had an ongoing rivalry with the Cobblers: the Cordwainers weren’t allowed to fix shoes and the Cobblers weren’t allowed to make them.

At the end of Watling Street, take a right and then a left onto Queen Victoria Street. Continue until you reach Mansion House.

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Mansion House

Mansion House is a combination of palace, town hall and law court complete with its own lock-up. Its prime role is as the official residence of the City's Lord Mayor, who holds office for a one year term. Built during the reign of George II, it is designed to evoke the power and importance of the City of London.

Continue as Queen Victoria Street joins Mansion House Street, and carefully cross the the junction of Princes Street and Threadneedle Street, where you will find the Bank of England.

The Bank of England

Established on 27th of July 1694, the Bank of England was created to serve as the government's banker and debt manager. It is known as the 'Old Lady of Threadneedle Street', sometimes abbreviated to the 'Old Lady', a nickname which originated in a political cartoon showing then-Prime Minister William Pitt trying to seduce the Bank of England, represented as an old lady in a dress made of bank notes. The bank has one of the largest gold vaults in the world, holding 5,134 tonnes of gold, a volume second only to the New York Federal Reserve and equivalent to approximately 3% of the total gold mined in the history of humankind.

On the other side of Threadneedle Street you will find the Royal Exchange.

The Royal Exchange

Founded in the 16th century as a centre of commerce for the City of London, the present building dates from the 1840s having previously twice been destroyed by fire. Britain's first specialist commercial building, it was used only for the exchange of goods until the 17th century - stockbrokers weren't allowed in because they were too rude, so they were forced to work from nearby inns and coffee houses. It housed the Lloyd's insurance market for nearly 150 years, and is now a combination of shops and offices.

Exit the Royal Exchange onto Cornhill. Continue until you reach number 32, a building with 'Cornhill Insurance Ltd' written in gold leafed engraving on the first floor level.

32 Cornhill

Cornhill, as you may have guessed, gets its name from an ancient corn market - its likely that Romans walked up the road you're standing on. The wooden double doors of number 32 were carved by Walter Gilbert in 1939, they commemorate 8 chapters of local history. The top left panel shows King Lucius founding a church called St Peter Cornhill in 179AD. The panel below shows a priest overseeing women with loaves - at the time the Bishop of Lonon had the only oven and charged his tenants to use it. The next panel shows a 1604 mens clothing shop on Birchin Lance. The bottom panel is a scene from Garraway's Coffeeshop - which was often full of stockbrokers not allowed into the Royal Exchange. The top right panel shows Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester after being convicted of sorcery - she had to walk

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from Queen Hithe to St Michael's Church barefoot in penance. The next panel shows that Cornhill was the only market allowed to operate after noon (not that the stallholder looks thrilled). The next panel depicts the Pope's Head Tavern (in nearby Pope's Head Alley). The final panel shows Charlotte and Anne Bronte meeting their publishers (Elder & Co) in person. They had to visit because the publishers simply didn't believe that they were women, particularly since they'd previously written under male pseudonyms.

Turn West up Cornhill, passing the Pitcher and Piano and take Change Alley, which leads onto Lombard Street.

Lombard Street

Lombard Street, is one of the few places in London where the old fashioned shop signs survive in all their glory. Walking west from Birchin Lane to St Mary Woolnoth's, you can see the sign of the king's head, "cat-a-fiddling", golden grasshopper (originally the emblem of the Gresham family, who built the Royal

Exchange), and golden anchor. They are Edwardian reconstructions of earlier signs, reappropriated by early 20th-century banks, though the signs of the black eagle and the black horse, which became the logos for Barclays and Lloyd's, are sadly gone. Lateral thinking is needed to decode the signs: Adam and Eve is a fruiterer; a bugle's horn is a post office; a unicorn is an apothecary's; a spotted cat is a perfumer's (since civet, a fashionable musky perfume, is scraped from the anal glands of civets). Some signs were alive – there were cats in baskets, rats and parrots in cages, vultures tethered to wine shacks, often with bells around their necks. When these "live signs" expired, they were sometimes stuffed and put back in place, for continuity.

Turn onto George Yard, then take a left onto St Michael's Alley. At the next junction you will find the Jamaica Wine House.

London's First Coffee House

In 1652 the first coffee house in London was opened on St. Michael's Alley, within a warren of medieval streets. Truly, it was more of a wooden coffee shack, but it was ideally positioned below the spire of St. Michael's Church, visible all over London. The proprietor was Pasqua Rosee, servant to Daniel Edwards, an importer of goods which included coffee.

The coffee shop has two origin stories - one that says Rosee left the household after an argument to start the shop, and a more likely one that Edwards had such a stream of visitors to his house wanting to sample coffee that he helped Rosee set up the coffee house. Similarly the name is debatable - it could have been "The Turk's Head," or "The Sign of Pasqua Rosee's Head." The sign was definitely Rosee's portrait, in a turban with a curly moustache - this style of sign became the default for all coffee houses.

Sadly both the coffee house and its proprietor were short lived. After the original House closed, Rosee intended to open a more permanent premises (on a site which is now, ironically a Starbucks, as is Mr Edwards' home), but it wasn't to be. The original Coffee House was re-built after the Great Fire in 1666

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and re-opened as the Jamaica Coffee House. Re-built again after the Second World War, it continues (in normal times) to offer beverages to thirsty adventurers.

Follow St Michael's Alley East as it curves round to the left then turn onto Corbet Court. Emerging onto Gracechurch Street you will find yourself back at the entrance to Leadenhall Market.