

LEADENHALL MARKET

LONDON



LEADENHALL TOUR I (Circular route around the City)

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.

EST. 1321

LEADENHALL

M A R K E T

L O N D O N

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

EST. 1321

LEADENHALL

M A R K E T

L O N D O N

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.

LEADENHALL

MARKET

LONDON

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."

LEADENHALL

MARKET

LONDON

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 left and walk until you reach the Lloyds building on your left, at the junction of Lime St and Fenchurch Avenue (Lime St becomes pedestrianised).

The Lloyds Building

Peering up at the Lloyd's of London building at One Lime Street walkers in the City see a flamboyant office tower - steel frame, glass curtain, exterior staircases and ducts, coloured lights. In fact, the building designed by Richard Rogers and completed in 1986 does not contain offices. It houses a market like the markets at Smithfield, Billingsgate and Covent Garden. Instead of meat, fish or vegetables, however, the goods on sale here are insurance policies, and instead of hawkers the sales people inside the building are highly qualified professionals known as underwriters.

Optional detour: if you continue up Lime St and then take a left, following the exterior of the building, you will find the beautiful original facade of the building this skyscraper replaced.

Continue along Fenchurch Avenue, and take the first right turn down pedestrianised Fen Court. On your right you will pass the pretty Fen Court Garden. Crossing Fenchurch Street, to your left is tiny Star Alley - follow it through to Mark Lane, where you should turn right. On your right hand side you will see a church tower.

All Hallows Staining

First recorded in the late 12th century, the name 'Staining' means 'stone' which distinguished it from other local churches at the time, which were all of wooden construction. It survived the Great Fire of London but collapsed five years later, its foundations weakened by too many burials close to the church walls. Rebuilt in 1674, only to be partially demolished in 1870 - leaving only the tower you see today, later attached to a church hall. The tower is maintained by the Worshipful Company of Clothmakers.

LEADENHALL

M A R K E T

L O N D O N

Continue on along Mark Lane, then take a left onto Hart St. On your right hand side you will find St Olave's Church.

St Olave's Church

St Olaves dates from the fifteenth century, and survived the Great Fire mainly due to the efforts of the writer Samuel Pepys, who lived and worked nearby. Pepys is buried in the nave of the church beside his wife Elizabeth. He had a covered walkway built so he could get from the Royal Naval offices to the church without getting rained on. It has since been removed but his memorial on the exterior of the church marks the position of the doorway. Other burials include Mother Goose, who was interred in 1586, and Mary Ramsey, the woman who it is claimed brought the plague to London in 1665 and lies alongside 356 other plague victims.

Charles Dickens lived nearby and referred to St Olave's as "St Ghastly Grim" due to the macabre skull decoration on the churchyard gate: "It is a small small churchyard, with a ferocious, strong, spiked iron gate, like a jail. This gate is ornamented with skulls and cross-bones, larger than life, wrought in stone" from 'The Uncommercial Traveller'

In the church tower is a memorial to Monkhouse Davidson and Abraham Newman, grocers with premises on Fenchurch Street who shipped a cargo of tea to Boston in 1773, which was famously emptied into Boston Harbour by protestors.

Continue South along Seething Lane, passing Seething Lane Garden on your left. Turn left onto Muscovy Street, reaching Trinity Square Gardens, which houses a war memorial for Mercantile Marines. Walk through the gardens towards Tower Hill station.

The old City Wall and the composite statue

Just beyond the station is the best surviving section of the old City wall, accompanied by a modern statue which combines the head of Trajan and the body of Augustus. The components of the statue are both 12th century casts of 1st century statues, and were recovered from a scrapyards in Southampton in the 1920s having been stuck together at some point before that.

Carefully cross Tower Hill and proceed onto Tower Bridge to enjoy the view.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge shares an architect with Leadenhall Market: Sir Horace Jones. It took 8 years to build and unfortunately Sir Jones never saw the finished article. When built, Tower Bridge was the largest and most sophisticated bascule ('seesaw' in French) bridge in the world. In 1912 Frank McClean flew between the bascules and the high level walkways in a seaplane. In 1952 a number 78 bus had to leap from one bascule to another as the bridge had begun to open! Originally a chocolate brown, the bridge was painted red white and blue to celebrate the Royal Jubilee in 1977.

LEADENHALL

M A R K E T

L O N D O N

Walk back across Tower Bridge, taking the exit onto St Katharine's Way and walking through the foot tunnel under the bridge. This will take you along the river with the Tower of London on your right. Halfway along the lawns you will see Traitor's Gate, the watery entry point for medieval prisoners. Continue on to the Millennium Pier, then take a left onto Gloucester Court. Carefully cross onto Great Tower Street.

Great Tower Street

On Wednesday the 5th of September 1666 Samuel Pepys climbed the steeple of All Hallows by the Tower (originally on Great Tower Street) to get a view of the conflagration razing London. In his notebook he wrote he "there saw the saddest sight of desolation that I ever saw. Everywhere great fires, the fire being spread as far as I could see it." Pepys' 441-year-old account of the Great Fire of London stands as one of history's great examples of reporting.

Take a left onto St Dunstan's Hill and you will shortly find St Dunstan-in-the-East on your right hand side.

St Dunstan-in-the-East

The church was named for St Dunstan, a tenth century monk with a colourful past. He survived black magic, leprosy, and the Devil himself to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Badly damaged by the Great Fire of London, it then got a new tower designed by Sir Christopher Wren. However, the tower and steeple, along with the north and south walls, are the only parts that still stand today – the rest having been wiped out in 1941 by German bombing. The ruins were later converted into a leafy, atmospheric public garden.

Crossing through St Dunstan-in-the-East, exit onto St Dunstan's Lane, turning left onto St Mary at Hill and crossing Lower Thames St. Heading West you will have the Old Billingsgate Market building on your left. The Market originated here in the Middle Ages, moved to a new site on the Isle of Dogs in 1982 and today the building is used as a stock market. Continuing on you will find St Magnus the Martyr church on your left.

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).

Crossing carefully North over Lower Thames St, turn onto Pudding Lane.

LEADENHALL

MARKET

LONDON

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

Turn left 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.

Return to Pudding Lane, walking North to St George's Lane and then turning right onto Botolph Lane. Cross Eastcheap to Philpot Lane, where you will find two tiny mice.

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!

Continue up Philpot Lane, turning left onto Fenchurch Street, then crossing over 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

LEADENHALL

M A R K E T

L O N D O N

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 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.