



YHA London Central

Sightseeing Dash (East)

Distance: 13.5 miles (21.7km) **Ascent:** 99m (325ft)

Time: Allow 4h 45m to 8h 15m (plus time to visit attractions or shops)

Start/Finish: OS Locate TQ 289 817 **what3words** ///door.hook.lanes



Facilities

Public toilets throughout the route (expect to pay) and many museums and attractions also have toilets. City of London has a community toilet scheme. Lots and lots of places to eat and drink.



Seating throughout route



Wheelchair accessible



Pushchair accessible



37
Moderate

Welcome to London! This walk is an efficient sightseeing tour of East London. Over 80 attractions have been highlighted but there is so much more to look out for – history, architecture, nature, monuments, statues, art and museums. And of course, the shops and markets – some famous, some quirky. Enjoy!

Watch out for traffic and be aware that some areas may be busy. You can reduce the route or dip in and out using public transport – tfl.gov.uk

From the hostel turn left onto Bolsover Street and right onto Clipstone Street for a great view of **1 the BT Tower** ahead. At Cleveland Street continue ahead onto Maple Street, turn right onto **2 Tottenham Court Road**, pass Goadge Street station and turn left onto Great Russell Street.

Pass **3 The British Museum** and turn right into **4 Bloomsbury Square Garden**. Cross the gardens, leave onto Southampton Place and continue to High Holborn. Turn left, right onto Kingsway, left onto Aldwych and left onto The Strand.

Pass the **5 Gladstone Memorial**, **6 St Clement Danes Church** – designed by Sir Christopher Wren and **7 Royal Courts of Justice**. Pass **8 the Temple Bar Memorial** and **9 The Old Bank of England** and continue to Fleet Street.

Turn left onto Wine Office Court, a small alley just before **10 Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese**, turn right at **11 the canon**, left onto Shoe Lane, right onto Stonecutter Street, left onto Farringdon Street and under the ornate High Holborn Viaduct.

Turn right onto Charterhouse Street to **12 Smithfield Market** and turn right onto Grand Avenue through the market. Ahead is **13 the Smithfield Rotunda Garden** with a statue representing 'Peace'.

Turn left onto Long Lane, turn right into the alley next to the Old Red Cow and onto Kinghorn Street. At Newbury Street continue ahead onto the pedestrianised road onto Bartholomew Close, follow it around to the right and turn left under the buildings onto Albion Way.

Head under more buildings and turn left onto Montague Street, ahead is **14 the Museum of London**. Head around the museum onto **15 London Wall**, which follows the path of the Roman Walls. **16 Roman ruins** can be seen on the left and to the right on Noble Street.

Head into the tunnel and turn left onto Wood Street. The huge 1960s block is **17 The Barbican** a multi arts centre and residential area, parts of which can be explored, there are Roman ruins, water gardens and **18 St Giles Cripplegate**, a reconstructed gothic style church.

Otherwise follow Fore Street around to the right, turn right onto Fore Street Avenue and left onto London Wall. Cross over Moorgate and turn left onto Circus Place to **19 Finsbury Circus Gardens**. Follow the garden path to the left, leave onto Finsbury Circus and turn right onto Moorgate.

Turn right onto **20 Finsbury Square** and follow the road around the square to the left. Turn right onto Christopher Street, left onto Wilson Street and right onto Worship Street. At the junction with Curtain Road continue ahead onto Worship Street, head alongside Principal Place and turn left onto Shoreditch High Street.

Cross over Commercial Street, turn right onto Bethnal Green Road, pass **21 Box Park**, a shopping centre built from shipping containers. Pass **22 Rich Mix**, culture and arts centre and turn right onto **23 Brick Lane**.

Head under the Overground bridge and past **24 Truman Brewery**. **25 Brick Lane Mosque** is a short detour ahead. Otherwise wander through **26 historic East End streets**, turn right onto Princelet Street, left onto Wilkes Street and right through Puma Court.

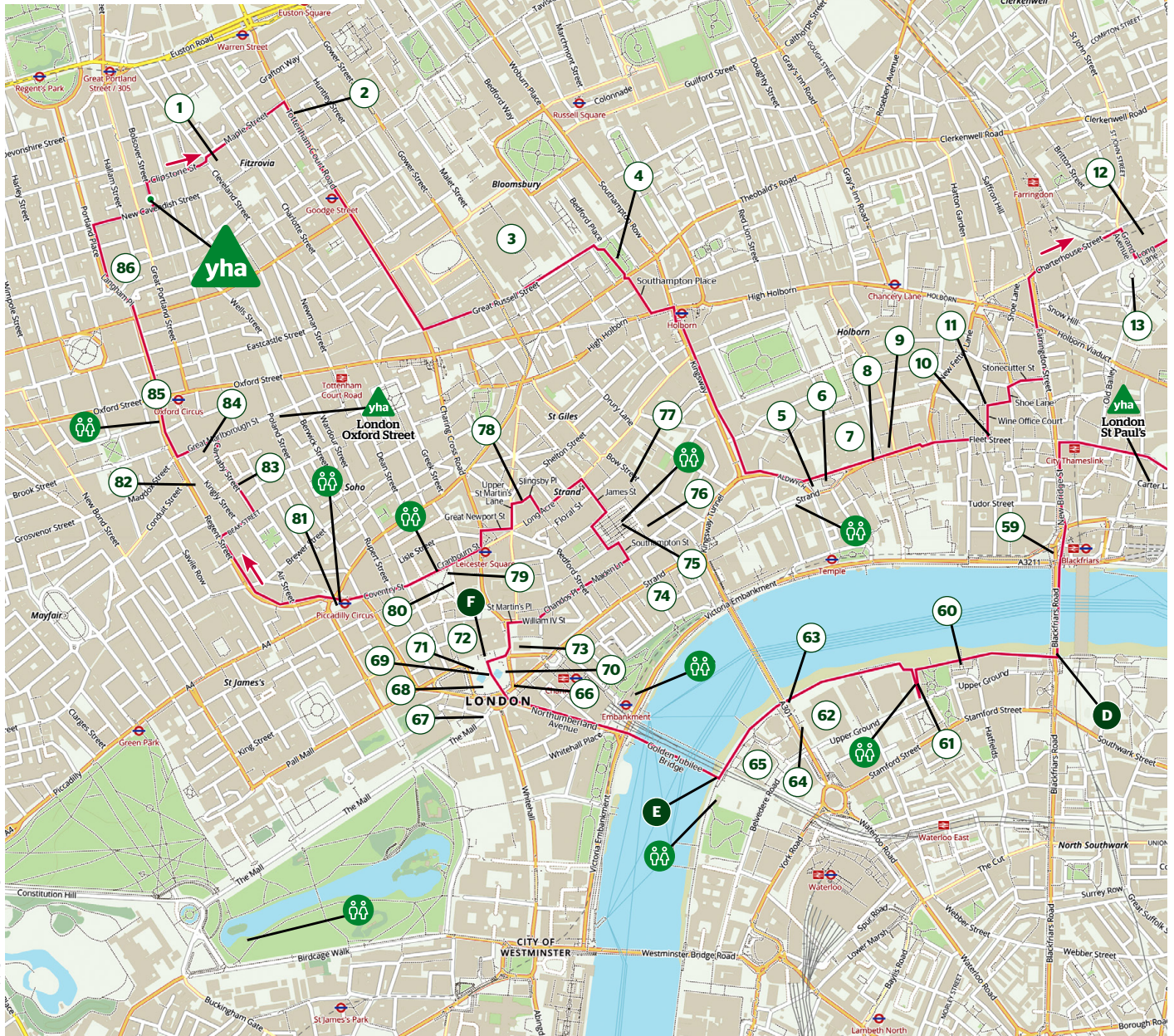
Either head through **27 Old Spitalfields Market** to Brushfield Street or turn left onto Commercial Street and at **28 Christ Church Spitalfields** turn right onto Brushfield Street.

Head onto Crispin Street, continue to Bell Lane and for **29 Petticoat Lane Market** turn right onto Wentworth Street then right onto Middlesex Street. Turn left onto Harrow Place, right onto White Kennet Street, left onto Cutler Street, right onto Houndsditch and left onto St Mary Axe.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.

Continued overleaf

Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX



Route: Matt Overd & Katherine Coacher
© Crown copyright and database rights 2020. Ordnance Survey 100009945. For full terms and conditions please visit www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

This is a busy workplace of the City where historic buildings sit between skyscrapers and modern buildings. With many coffee shops and bars, it will be bustling during the week but may be eerily quiet at the weekend.

Continue along St Mary Axe, pass **30 The Gherkin**, turn right onto Leadenhall Street, left onto Whittington Avenue and through **31 Leadenhall Market** to Lime Street. Turn right, cross over Fenchurch Street to Philpot Lane and pass the Walkie Talkie building with **32 the Sky Garden restaurant**.

Turn right onto Eastcheap, left onto Pudding Lane, look right for **33 the Monument for the Great Fire of London**

and turn left onto Monument Street. Bear left onto Lower Thames Street, pass **34 Old Billingsgate**, the former fish market and **35 Billingsgate Roman House and Baths**, Roman Ruins hidden in the basement of an office block.

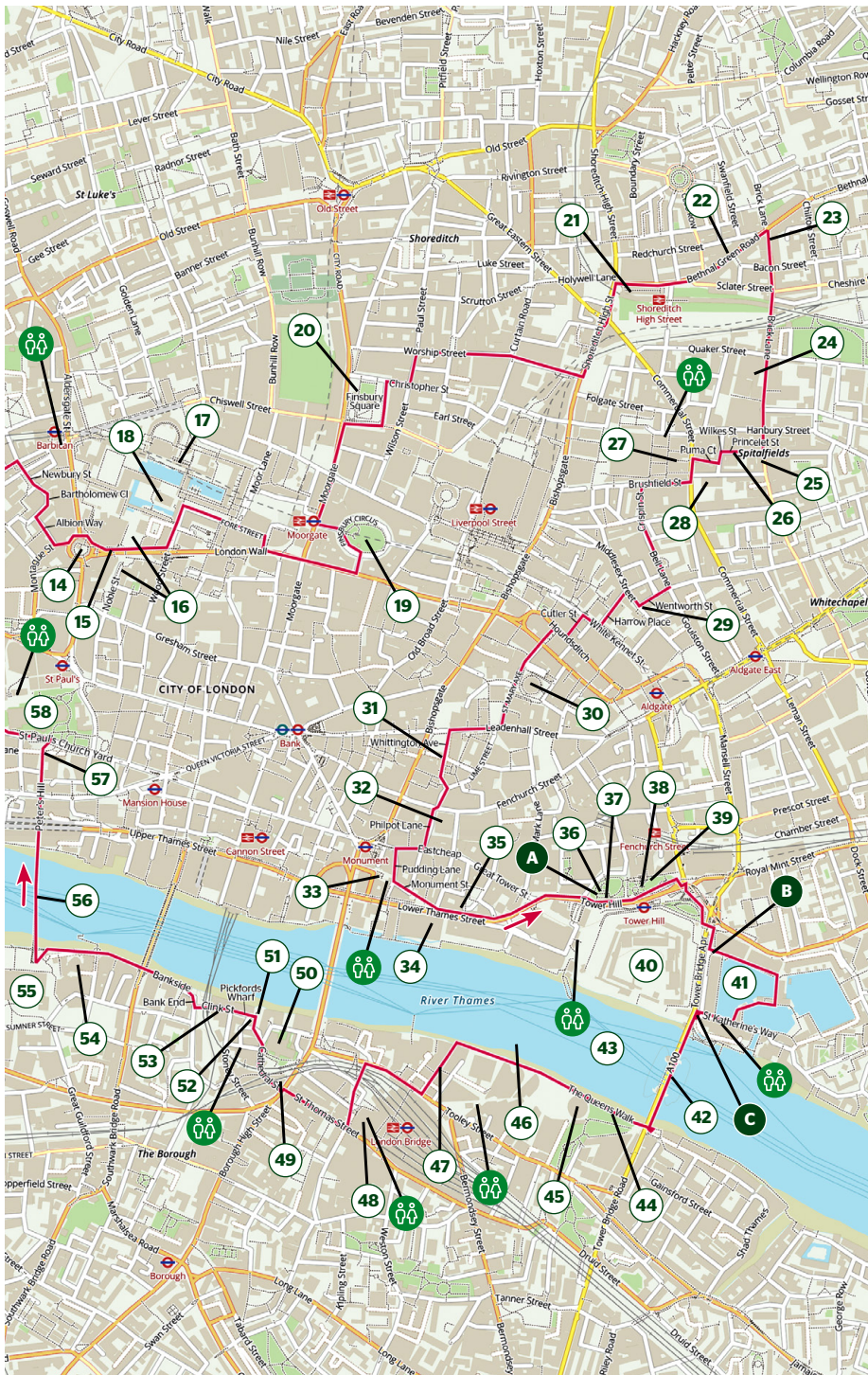
Cross over Great Tower Street and pass **36 Trinity Square Gardens** with **37 the Tower Hill War Memorial**. Continue along Tower Hill, look left for **38 a statue of Emperor Trajan** and **39 Roman wall ruins**.

Before the junction with The Minories turn right to cross over Tower Hill and follow the pavement around to Tower Bridge Approach. Ahead and to the right is **40 The Tower of London**. Cross over

Tower Bridge Approach to the big glass fronted building and turn right onto St Katherine's Way. Turn left, down the steps and walk around the edge of **41 St Katherine's Docks** to St Katherine's Way.

Take the steps up to cross **42 Tower Bridge** and when over **43 The River Thames**. Leave the bridge via the steps on the left, head under the bridge and along **44 Southbank** and The Queens Walk.

Follow along the river, pass **45 the former City Hall** and **46 HMS Belfast**, turn left through **47 Hays Galleria** and right onto Tooley Street. Turn left onto Joiner Street – one of the entrances to London Bridge Station, follow the passage, pass



the Underground station entrance and continue alongside the glass walls to emerge under **48 The Shard**.

Turn right onto St Thomas Street, cross Borough High Street and either head along Bedale Street or through **49 Borough Market** to Cathedral Street. At **50 Southwark Cathedral** bear left to **51 The Golden Hinde** a replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship. Head to the left of the ship and turn left onto Pickfords Wharf, pass **52 Winchester Palace ruins**, continue onto Clink Street and pass **53 The Clink medieval prison**.

Head under the railway bridge, turn right onto Bank End and left onto Bankside. Continue under Southwark Bridge, pass

54 Shakespeare's Globe and **55 Tate Modern**, then cross the river using **56 the Millennium Bridge**. Continue ahead onto Peter's Hill, pass the **57 National Firefighter's Memorial** to **58 St Paul's Cathedral**.

Turn left along St Paul's Church Yard, pass City Thameslink station and turn left onto New Bridge Street. Pass London Blackfriars station, onto Blackfriars Bridge, look right for **59 a statue of Queen Victoria**, cross the river and take the steps on the left down to the riverside.

Turn left, under the bridge, pass **60 Oxo Tower**, turn left to visit **61 Gabriel's Wharf**, then continue along the riverside. Pass

the **62 The National Theatre**, head under Waterloo Bridge with **63 the Book Market**, **64 the British Film Institute** is to the left, pass **65 the Southbank Centre, Royal Festival Hall** and turn right onto the Jubilee Bridge to cross the river.

Continue ahead onto Northumberland Avenue to **66 The Strand** – look to the left for **67 Admiralty Arch** and continue to **68 Trafalgar Square** where you can see **69 Nelson's Column**, **70 Britain's smallest Police Station** hidden in an ornamental light fitting, the fountains, statues, lions and **71 the Fourth Plinth**.

Head towards the **72 National Gallery** and turn right towards **73 St Martin-in-the-Fields Georgian Church**. Turn left before the church onto St Martin's Place, right onto William IV Street, left onto Chandos Place, continue onto Maiden Lane. **74 The Savoy** is a short detour away to the right along Southampton Street on The Strand. Otherwise turn left onto Southampton Street to **75 Covent Garden**. Here you will find **76 The London Transport Museum**, market stalls and street performers.

Head around or through Covent Garden onto James Street. **77 The Royal Opera House** is a short detour away to the right along Floral Street on Bow Street. Otherwise pass Covent Garden station and turn left onto Long Acre. Turn right onto **78 Slingsby Place** and follow the lane around to the left to Upper St Martin's Lane. Turn left, then right onto Great Newport Street, left onto Charing Cross Road and right onto Cranbourn Street to **79 Leicester Square** with **80 The Odeon Cinema** – one of the cinemas used for red carpet film premiers. There are also statues of William Shakespeare and characters including Mr Bean, Paddington and Mary Poppins.

Continue onto Coventry Street, onto Piccadilly, to **81 Piccadilly Circus** with the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain and illuminated advertising boards. Continue ahead onto Regent Street. **82 Hamleys Toy Shop** is a short detour ahead on Regent Street. Otherwise turn right onto Beak Street, then left onto **83 Carnaby Street**.

Turn left onto Great Marlborough Street, pass **84 Liberty department store**, turn right onto Regent Street, cross over **85 Oxford Circus**, continue along Regent Street, which becomes Langham Place, then Portland Place and pass **86 BBC Broadcasting House**.

Turn right onto New Cavendish Street and left onto Bolsover Street back to the hostel.

Numerous blue plaques on and around the route – www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Exploring the cities and towns of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. Our city hostels provide a base to wander through parks and streets and discover history, culture, sights and attractions.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – of differing levels of difficulty. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Remember:

- Check the local weather forecast (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Wear the right clothing for the route and weather and shoes that you can easily walk in.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Be considerate in residential areas or places of work.
- Take care when crossing busy roads and look out for cyclists.
- Dispose of litter properly in bins.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.

In case of emergency call 999 and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/walks

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk

Scan or click to shop for OS maps
online osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



Accessibility

The route follows roads, paths and parks. Flat surfaces throughout – mostly tarmac, paved or flat path. Main road crossings have traffic lights and dropped kerbs. Some narrow pavements in places. Some steps in places, alternative routes available. During events and development work access to parts of the route may be restricted, follow diversions and be prepared to make your own if necessary.

See map

A If exploring Trinity Square Gardens near Tower Hill be aware that exits on the station side of the gardens have steps, for step free access you may need to leave the way you went in.

B For step free access to St Katherine's Docks continue along St Katherine's Way and take the ramp on the left to the base of the steps.

C There are lifts in each tower of Tower Bridge, if they are not available or not working then, after the docks, to reach Tower Bridge turn right and head up St Catherine's Way (back to the glass fronted building) and onto Tower Bridge Approach. To get from Tower Bridge to Southbank continue along Tower Bridge Road, turn right onto Queen Elizabeth Street and turn right onto Duchess Walk to the riverside.

D For step free access from Blackfriars Bridge continue along Blackfriars Road, turn right onto Upper Ground and right onto Marigold Alley to the river.

E There is lift access to and from Golden Jubilee Bridge.

F The steps outside the National Gallery can be avoided by exiting the square from the opposite side and taking the pavement on the other side of the wall.