

The London Wall (Tower Hill to Blackfriars)			Blackfriars to Tower Hill via Modern & Roman Waterfronts		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
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The London Wall

Start: Tower Hill Underground

Finish: Blackfriars Station

Length: 4.7 km (2.9 mi). **Cumulative ascent/descent:** negligible.

Toughness: 1 out of 10

Time: 1 ½ to 3 hours walking time.

Transport: Tower Hill Underground Station is a stop on the Circle and District lines between Monument and Aldgate/Aldgate East stations respectively and only a short distance from Tower Gateway DLR and Fenchurch Street Main Line stations as well as the Tower Millennium riverboat pier. Blackfriars Station is on the Thameslink line through Central London and also a starting point for limited commuter services to Kent run by Southeastern Railway. It is also a stop on the Circle and District Lines of the Underground and close to Blackfriars Millennium riverboat pier. Both stations as well as the whole route are within Zone 1.

Walk Notes:

This highly interesting walk follows as closely as possible the course of the London Wall as it would have run during Roman times around the settlement of Londinium, starting at the (medieval) fortress of the Tower of London and leading through the modern-day City of London past the sites of the former city gates to the westerly wall end at modern Blackfriars. It also passes the site of the much older first Roman Fort (built AD 120) at the north westerly corner of the city, whose walls were later incorporated into the Wall (built ca. AD 190-230).

Street levels would have been up to 7 metres lower than today, so many remaining parts of the Wall are now hidden from view in the basements of buildings or under roads, but the route still passes a surprisingly large number of publicly accessible exposed sections of the Wall above ground (plus one section below ground on an optional extension). Wall parts as seen today have been much altered during the Middle Ages and some of the info panels or the walk directions point out these alterations.

The route initially closely follows a signed London Wall Walk established by the Museum of London in 1984 for the section from the Tower to the Museum and passes the remaining info panels from that time plus several modern-day replacement panels.

At the end of the 3rd century, following a series of raids by Saxon pirates, an additional riverside wall along the Thames was added, but no evidence of it survives today. Nevertheless, two options are described to make this a circular walk, either along the modern-day waterfront or along the line of the Roman Era waterfront, which ran further inland.

Walk Options:

Dropout points are aplenty along the route at tube stations or bus stops.

An Extension leads to a large section of the Wall in the underground London Wall Car Park (320m each-way). **The route can be made into a circular walk** by following a choice of routes back to the Tower, both add 2.3 km to the route:

- The Thames Path along the **modern-day waterfront** (without any diversions around river fronting residential or office buildings);
- A meandering route following as close as sensible the line of the **Roman era waterfront**. [But even the Romans started reclaiming land from the Thames and pushing out the waterfront into the river, so there is no one 'definitive' Roman waterfront. For more details check "Londinium – a new map and guide to Roman London", published by Museum of London Archaeology.]

Refreshments

En route

All Walk Options (last updated 02/01/2025): [The Habit](#), [The Chamberlain](#) (Fuller's), [Senzo Coffee](#), [Barbie Green](#), [Wood Street Bar & Restaurant](#), [Lord Raglan](#), [The Lamb and Trotter](#), [The Viaduct Tavern](#), [Ye Olde London](#), [The Glean Restaurant & Bar](#), [The Black Friar](#), [El Vino](#).

Circular Walk via Thames Path (last updated 20/01/2025): [Frequency Coffee](#), [High Timber Restaurant](#), [The Samuel Pepys](#), [Little Ship Club](#), [The Banker](#), [The Oyster Shed](#), [Coppa Club Restaurant](#).

Circular Walk via Roman Era Waterfront (last updated 02/11/2023): [The Walrus & The Carpenter](#), plus any number of **establishments just off route**.

Near the end of the circular route, back at Tower Hill (last updated 02/11/2023):

[Keepers Kitchen & Bar](#) (Cooper's Row), [Munich Cricket Club](#) (Cooper's Row), [The Cheshire Cheese](#) (Crutched Friars), [Crutched Friar](#) (Crutched Friars), [The Ship](#) (Hart Street), [The Windsor](#) (New London Street), [East India Arms](#) (Fenchurch Street), any number of **establishments in St. Katharine's Dock**.

Notes:

London Wall Walk

The London Wall Walk was devised by the Museum of London in 1984 and over a length of 2.8 km it follows the original line of the City Wall for much of its length, from the Tower of London to the Museum of London. It passes many surviving pieces of the Wall visible to the public and the sites of the gates now buried deep beneath the City streets. The Walk was marked by twenty-one info panels, some of which have disappeared over the years due to building works – although some of the missing panels have been adequately replaced by similar panels of a different design. The surviving original panels can be followed in either direction, as they are showing in some detail the routes to the previous and subsequent panels.

The section west of the Museum of London is not covered by the London Wall Walk, as there are no surviving pieces of the Wall in the public sphere anyway.

The Roman Fort/Roman Wall/London Wall

The London Wall was the defensive wall first built by the Romans around Londinium, their strategically important port town on the River Thames, and subsequently extended and maintained until the 18th century. It is now also the name of a road running along part of the course of the old wall between Wormwood Street and the Rotunda junction where St. Martin's Le Grand meets Aldersgate Street. Until the later Middle Ages, the wall defined the boundaries of the City of London. Nowadays its line is still evident in the names of some of the churches, with the annotations -within- or -without- denoting their location inside or outside the walled area.

Although the exact reason for the wall's construction is unknown (occasional attacks by Picts, Scots and Saxons are prime suspects though), it appears to have been built between AD 190 and AD 230. This was around 80 years after the construction of the legionary fortress in AD 120, whose north and west walls were thickened and doubled in height to form part of the new city wall. The incorporation of the fort's walls gave the walled area its

distinctive shape in the north western part of the city near modern-day Cripplegate. As well as providing defence, the construction of a stone wall represented the status of the city.

The wall's gateways coincided with their alignment to the British network of Roman roads. The original four gates (plus one into the legionary fortress), clockwise from west to east were: Ludgate (for Westminster), Newgate (for Watling Street to Verulamium/St Albans as well as Calleva Atrebatum/Silchester and on to The West), Cripplegate (for the fortress), Bishopsgate (for Ermine Street to Eboracum/York and The North) and Aldgate (for The Great Road to Camulodunum/Colchester and The East). Aldersgate, between Newgate and Cripplegate, was added around AD 350. Moorgate, initially just a postern (i.e. pedestrian) gate, was enlarged later still: in 1415.

When finished, the wall was 3.2 km long, enclosing an area of 135 hectares, and up to 3m wide and up to 6m high. In front of the eastern face of the wall was a ditch, which was up to 2m deep and 5m wide. The Wall was built of rubble (mostly Kentish ragstone brought by barge from quarries near Maidstone) bound in a hard mortar, and faced on either side by roughly squared ragstone blocks. At every fifth or sixth course the wall incorporates a horizontal band of red Roman tiles, intended to ensure the courses remained level over long stretches of masonry. This gives the wall its distinctive striped appearance. The wall was originally built without the external D-shaped bastions or turrets that can be seen in several places around the city: these were added in the 4th century AD, almost certainly as emplacements for catapults or stone-throwing engines. After several raids by Saxon pirates in the late 3rd century, construction of an additional riverside wall began in AD 275, and this was repaired around AD 390 (no evidence of this survives in the current streetscape though). The riverside wall had 13 water gates where goods were unloaded from ships.

The Roman wall remained standing after the departure of the Roman army in AD 410, through a long period during which the city seems to have been largely abandoned. It was repaired in the late Anglo-Saxon period and survived to be an important feature of the city plan at the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066. Large parts of the wall were incorporated into the medieval defences of the city and additional fortifications were added (chiefly more bastions, the building of the Tower of London and a westerly extension to the Fleet River, enclosing Black Friars Priory, as well as extensions towards the changing Thames riverfront, following land reclamation). The wall continued to influence the development of the city street plan through the Middle Ages and beyond. By the mid-17th century buildings had been erected against sections of the wall on either side. In time it was obscured and, later, partly destroyed during the construction of new buildings and railway lines.

River Walbrook

The Walbrook is a subterranean river in the City of London that gave its name to the Walbrook ward and a minor street in its vicinity. It played a very important role in the Roman settlement of Londinium, and flowed between the two low hills in it: Ludgate Hill to the west, and Cornhill to the east. The brook flowed southwards through the walled city, bringing a supply of fresh water whilst carrying waste away to the Thames, at Dowgate near modern day Cannon Street Station. During Roman times it was also used for transport, with the limit of navigation some 200m from the Thames. It was there that the Romans built a port and temple to Mithras on the east bank of the stream, ca. AD 250 (<https://www.londonmithraeum.com/temple-of-mithras/>). The London Wall seems to have had unintended consequences though, impeding the flow of the river and creating the marshy conditions which characterised the open space at Moorfields. Nowadays, as is true for most other central London rivers, the waters of the Walbrook are diverted into the sewage system, so only a storm overflow drain remains to be seen entering the Thames.

River Fleet

The River Fleet is the largest of London's subterranean rivers. Its headwaters are two streams on Hampstead Heath either side of Parliament Hill, each of which was dammed into a series of ponds in the 18th century – the Hampstead and Highgate Ponds. At the southern edge of Hampstead Heath, the rivers continue underground as sewers and join in Camden Town. The waters flow 6 km from the ponds to the Thames. In Roman times, the Fleet formed the western boundary of Londinium, and in Anglo-Saxon times it served as a dock for shipping, navigable up to where Holborn Viaduct now stands. The river's modern name is thought to derive from the Anglo-Saxon *flēot* "creek/tidal inlet". It gives its name to Fleet Street, the eastern end of which is at the site of the former Fleet Bridge, now Ludgate Circus. The lower reaches of the river were known as the Holbourne (or Oldbourne), from which Holborn derived its name.

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths is an archaeological site in Roman London. The best-preserved parts of the house are a bath with hypocausts. Its ruins were discovered in 1848 while the Coal Exchange was built and the remains were preserved in the cellar of the building. Further excavations were made in 1967 to 1970, when the Coal Exchange was replaced by a new building and Lower Thames Street was enlarged. The remains were incorporated into the cellar of the new building.

The Roman house was erected in the late 2nd century along the then waterfront of the Thames and had a north and an east wing around a courtyard. There was most likely also a west wing but nothing of it survived. The rooms in the east wing had underfloor heating. The whole complex was in use until the early 5th century.

WALK DIRECTIONS

From the main exit of **Tower Hill Underground Station** out onto **Trinity Place**, *turn left* towards the Tower of London, down some steps past **the tube station entrance** and through a subway under Tower Hill road to the ruined stump of a **Medieval Postern Gatehouse** (possibly on the site of an earlier Roman postern, i.e.: pedestrian, gate) by a T-junction with a path along the wide moat around the **Tower of London**. You have **Info Panel 1 of the London Wall Walk** (The Tower, Postern Gate) on the left-hand side on a concrete wall. It introduces the walk and describes in words and pictures the timeline of the various stages of the Wall's history from about AD 100 to 1984, when the signed route was created. There are some more info panels about the site along the railings around the ruined gatehouse and some facing the Tower. **The Roman Wall of London** started at the riverbank on the other side of the Tower, with the riverbank then approximately in line with the current southerly tower wall. Some remnants of the Wall can still be seen within the grounds of the tower (ticketed entry).

To follow the further course of the Wall, you *turn back* towards Tower Hill station, through the subway and up the steps, but **[!]** halfway up *turn right* through a gap in the concrete wall to a bronze statue of the Roman **Emperor Trajan** (AD 98-117) and an English Heritage panel for the Wall, **one of the largest surviving visible pieces** of which you are facing. The Roman era part is ca. 4 metres high here. Away on the left you find **Panel 2 of the London Wall Walk** (Tower Hill, City Wall) on a high wall. Continue up the flight of steps past the entrance to Tower Hill station and at the top *turn left* back towards the starting point of the walk by the tube station exit. Facing the fenced **Trinity Square Gardens**, *turn right* along the near side of the square and in 30m continue in the same direction to the right of **Trinity House** (home to the lighthouse authority for England & Wales) along **Cooper's Row**. In 30m **[!]** *turn right* through the covered car park of a hotel (currently trading as: **Leonardo Royal Hotel London City**) along a paved path (i.e. to the right of the hotel reception). In 25m in the open courtyard you have another tall part of the Wall ahead with a bronze plaque in front of it.

Again, the lower section of the Wall is of Roman origin. Walk to the right-hand corner of the courtyard to get a glimpse back along the wall towards the earlier stop by the steps near the tube station. From the bronze plaque, facing the Wall, *turn left* along it and in 15m *turn right* over a raised railed protective bridge leading through an archway in the Wall (a **Roman era postern gate for pedestrians**) and on the other side *turn right* to find **Panel 3 of the London Wall Walk** (Cooper's Row, City Wall). Continue through a paved area between office buildings and in 40m *turn left* along a road and immediately go under a railway bridge carrying trains into/out of **Fenchurch Street Main Line** station. In 30m you continue in the same direction through **America Square** (a large part of the Wall is visible in a basement conference centre of One America Square on the left, its northern end can be spotted through skylights in the pavement about 20m around the corner in Crosswall) and in 30m cross **Crosswall** and continue along **Vine Street**.

In 70m pass The Chamberlain on the right (a hotel bar run by Fuller's) and in 20m on the left you find **Senzo Coffee**. In the basement of the building is another very large exposed piece of the Wall including the base of a bastion tower and **Panel 4 of the London Wall Walk** (Emperor House, City Wall) is on display at street level [The exhibition is free to visit daily 09.00-18.00, but requires pre-booking: <https://citywallvinestreet.org/>]. In 30m *turn left* along **India Street** and in 20m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Crutched Friars/Jewry Street**. The Wall here ran along the line of the road along its right-hand side. At the top of the road by the site of **the Aldgate** (see the blue panel on the house wall on the right) at a T-junction with **Aldgate** (road) and with **St. Botolph-without-Aldgate Church** on the

right, cross the busy road at a set of lights onto **Aldgate Square** (a new development, turning the traffic-heavy roundabout into a – relatively – calm landscaped environment).

[The **Aldgate**, demolished in 1760, was built decades before the Wall, as it guarded the busiest road leaving London, the one to Camulodunum/Colchester and The East: Pye Road or **The Great Road**.] *Veer left* to **Panel 5 of the London Wall Walk** (Aldgate, City Gate) on a fence-topped brick wall surrounding **Sir John Cass's Primary School**, the City's only primary. There is also a new high info panel on **Aldgate Archaeology** with an illustration of the Aldgate in about AD 200. You continue in the previous direction along the left-hand side of Aldgate Square, in 120m continuing along the left-hand pavement of **Duke's Place**. As Panel 5 made clear, **Panel 6 of the London Wall Walk** (Duke's Place, City Wall) used to be mounted on a wall in a subway leading under one arm of the roundabout to the right-hand side of this road, which does not exist anymore, so neither does the panel. There used to be on display a cross section of the wall (including the Roman and medieval tilework) and the panel highlighted the fact that the Wall ran along the line of the modern-day office buildings on the right, with sections still exposed in some of the basements.

The road parallel to the right on the other side of the buildings follows the line of the extra-mural ditch and is called appropriately: **Houndsditch** (for the corpses of dogs amongst the rubbish deposited over the wall). Duke's Place continues as **Bevis Marks** and in 120m on the left-hand side you pass the entrance to **Bevis Marks Synagogue**, followed by **Panel 7 of the London Wall Walk** (Bevis Marks, City Wall). In 220m at a crossing with Bishopsgate, you *turn right* across the continuation of Bevis Marks, **Camomile Street**, at a set of lights and *turn left* immediately to cross Bishopsgate at another set of lights. [**Panel 8 of the London Wall Walk** (Bishopsgate, City Wall) hung on number 99 Bishopsgate, on the right-hand, easterly side of the road. This suffered significant damage from a truck bomb by the Provisional IRA on 24/04/1993, which killed one person (a photographer ignoring police warnings) and injured 44 others despite the attack happening on a Saturday morning and despite a one-hour warning of the impending explosion. The building had already been weakened by the Baltic Exchange Provisional IRA bombing about a year earlier around the corner in St. Mary Axe and had to be pulled down.]

Turn right along **Bishopsgate** and in 10m look up to the left to the first floor of the façade to find **a sculpted Bishop's Mitre** (a second one was located on the opposite side of the road), indicating the site of the Bishopsgate (demolished in 1761). **Ermine Street** led north through the gate, all the way to Eboracum/York. On the left you have the churchyard of **St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate Church** and *turn left* through it along a paved path. **Panel 9 of the London Wall Walk** (St. Botolph, City Wall) was located here in the churchyard. In 90m you pass an old **Victorian Bathhouse** and in another 35m *turn left* along **Old Broad Street**. In 40m *turn right* along **London Wall** (road). You pass **All-Hallows-on-the-Wall Church** (one of only two churches attached to the wall, now trading as City Gates Church), its churchyard wall near the church entrance incorporated some medieval parts of the wall, the Roman parts are below ground though. The vestry was built on the foundations of a bastion, hence the semi-circular shape of it. **Panel 10 of the London Wall Walk** (All Hallows, City Wall) used to be displayed here, you can still see the two black metal legs that held the panel by the wall. In 80m cross **Blomfield Street** at a set of lights. Under the pavement on the far side of the street flows what is left of the **River Walbrook**, around whom **Londinium** was formed.

In another 80m you cross **Circus Place**, leading to Finsbury Circus on the right and in 120m reach the busy junction with **Moorgate** (road) at the former site of the (medieval, not Roman) **Moorgate**. You'll find **Panel 11 of the London Wall Walk** (Moorgate, City Gate) on the right as well as a blue panel at a higher level, alluding to the date of its demolition (1761 again). Cross Moorgate (road) and continue in the same direction along

London Wall (road), to the left of a newly landscaped area. In 90m at the far end of **Moor House** on the right, you **[!]** *veer right* to continue along **Fore Street**, leaving the busy London Wall (road), which was realigned away from the course of the Wall when it was widened. This area to the north of the city defences turned into marshy grounds after the Wall blocked proper drainage, and was later known as Moorfields.

In 80m you pass the south easterly corner of the **Barbican Estate** on the right-hand side of the road and in another 20m go under the corten steel **St. Alphage Highwalk**. Immediately *turn left* into the landscaped confines of the new **London Wall Place** development and in 20m *turn right* towards the sunken **Salters' Garden** at the back of Salters' Hall (one of the 12 Great Livery Companies of the City of London) and go down some steps into the gardens (Private Ground, No Right of Way, usually open to the public during the day but **please respect closed gates**) to admire a long stretch of the Wall.

Panel 12 of the London Wall Walk (St. Alphage, City Wall) was on display in the garden. Make your way back out of the sunken garden and *turn right* (with the garden behind you) through the undercroft of the new office building towards the Wall and in 15m *turn right* along a gently ascending path along the left-hand side of the wall to in 30m reach an info panel. You are now within the perimeter of the **Roman Fort** that was built long before the Wall was even started and the base of the Wall here is the remnants of the fort walls. The sunken garden sits in the former extramural ditch around the fort. There is one more info panel 20m further along the wall and then to the left, identifying this as the former site of **St. Alphage Church**, the second of the two churches attached to the Wall.

The route continues in the same direction to the right of the **Barbie Green** café, but you first may want to have a look at the info panel on the left by the road by the ruined tower of **St. Elsyng Spital** (merchant William Elsing founded a secular hospital on the site in 1331; it was taken over by Augustinian canons in 1340 and closed in 1536 with the Dissolution of the Monasteries). You pass a gate at the far end of the sunken garden and the path through it leads down some steps to the interesting ruins below and to one more panel informing about St. Alphage Church, which incorporated the old Roman walls into its build. In 40m you reach **Wood Street** at a T-junction, by **Roman House** on the right. You find **Panel 13 of the London Wall Walk** (Cripplegate, City Gate), as well a blue panel about the **Cripplegate** (the northern gate to the fort), on the right on its former site (it was demolished in 1760). Cross the road and *turn right* along the opposite pavement.

In 50m by the **Wood Street Bar & Restaurant** and where **Fore Street** joins from the right, you *turn left* along **St. Giles' Terrace** and in 25m *turn left* to the left of **St. Giles' Cripplegate Church**. In 30m you have **Panel 14 of the London Wall Walk** (City Wall and Towers) attached to a metal fence along a part of the ornamental lake in the Barbican Estate, here running along the course of the former extramural ditch, with the base of the medieval **Bastion #11A** 20m away to the right (like all bastions here this is a 13th century addition to the Wall). *Turn right* along the fence to in 70m pass **the far postern of the fort** on the left across the water (**Bastion #12**, surviving to 2/3 of its original height) and *turn right* across the paved square to pass the church to its left and return to Wood Street and *turn right* along it towards London Wall (road). In 120m *turn right* along London Wall (road) and in 70m **[!]** *turn down to the right* along the descending entrance drive to the **London Wall Car Park**.

In 25m – by the entrance to the car park on the left and by the fenced ruins of **Bastion #14** of the Wall – *turn right* this side of the bastion down some steps and along an initially paved path across a grassy area, with a large portion of the Wall on the left. In 40m stay to the left of **Bastion #13** of the Wall and in 50m by the ornamental lake seen earlier, you

find **Panel 15 of the London Wall Walk** (St. Giles Cripplegate, Tower) on the right-hand side. **Bastion #12** of the Wall (seen earlier from across the water) is visible a little away with St. Giles beyond it. Turn back the way you came to the car park entrance. **Panel 16 of the London Wall Walk** (Barber Surgeons' Hall, Tower) used to be placed in the garden around to the left of Bastion #13. **Panel 17 of the London Wall Walk** (Medieval Tower, City Wall) used to be placed around the piece of wall on the right as you leave the area back to the car park entrance. **Panel 18 of the London Wall Walk** (West Gate of Roman Fort) you find to the right of the car park entrance, with the remnants of the **West Gate** (ca. AD 120) just inside behind a door marked 'Private - 03' (the Museum of London runs occasional tours to see them).

Here you have a choice:

For an Extension to a large piece of the Wall in the car park (320m each-way), enter the car park and *turn left* along the red marked footpath through it (maybe informing the attendant that you have come **to visit a piece of the London Wall**; they are usually very supportive). In 320m, **by Bay 52 on the left-hand side**, you have a large remaining piece of the Wall on the left (discovered in 1952 when the road above and the car park were built, it was then still a much larger structure, but most of it was demolished during those works). You are now as far back along the route of the walk as the junction of London Wall (road) and Fore Street. Return the way you came to leave the car park.

For the continuation of the route, go up the drive back to street level and cross London Wall (road) carefully and continue a little to the right along **Noble Street**, which is currently – due to building works on the left – just a **Viewing Walkway** to the right of the road over a large drop with a long section of **the westerly wall of the Roman Fort** exposed in a sunken garden. **Panel 19 of the London Wall Walk** (Roman Fort, City Wall) used to be displayed on a house on the left prior to redevelopment. You pass several info panels and at the end of the walkway pass the spot that would have been the **south westerly corner of the Roman Fort**. **Panel 20 of the London Wall Walk** (Roman Fort, City Wall) used to be displayed on a house on the left prior to redevelopment.

Continue past a small garden and at the end of it *turn right* along **Gresham Street**, passing **St. Ann & St. Agnes (Lutheran) Church** on the right. In 60m at a T-junction with **St. Martin's-le-Grand**, *turn right* along the pavement and in 20m, just after the **Lord Raglan** pub, you pass a blue panel marking the site of the **Aldersgate** (demolished 1761). Continue in the previous direction and in 25m – with the now closed **Museum of London** visible about 100m ahead (which had a large permanent exhibition on Roman London) – you find **Panel 21 of the London Wall Walk** (Aldersgate, City Gate). The marked London Wall Walk used to finish at the museum, partly as there are no parts of the Wall visible to the public along its further former course, so the walk route takes the quietest possible route to **Newgate** and then shadows the line of the Wall **to the Thames**.

Turn left across the road and enter **Postman's Park** through a metal gate to the left of **St. Botolph-without-Aldersgate Church** (the park is open to 19.00 hours or dusk, whichever is earlier; **if this is closed**, *turn right* and in 20m *turn left* along **Little Britain** and *left again* in 140m (with **The Lamb and Trotter** on the right) to get to the far side exit of the park in 25m). The right-hand side of the park is approximately where the Wall used to be. In 60m you pass the highly interesting **G.F. Watts' Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice** and in 50m leave the park through the far gate.

Cross the road and *turn left* along **King Edward Street**. In 80m *turn right* along **Greyfriars Passage** to the right of the ruined (in the Blitz) **Christ Church, Greyfriars**. At the end of the church continue in the same direction to the right of a fenced green and in

50m *turn left* (there is an exposed piece of the Wall in the Bank of America-Merrill Lynch building) towards the busy **Newgate Street** to *turn right* along it. In 40m you pass panels marking the site of Grey Friars Monastery (1225-1538) and Christ's Hospital (1552-1902). In 70m you have a blue panel on the left-hand side of the road indicating the location of the **Newgate** (demolished 1777). At a four-way road junction by **The Viaduct Tavern** on the right, *turn left* across the road at a set of lights and continue down **Old Bailey** (road). The Wall would have run a little to the left of the road in continuation of the Newgate.

In 90m you pass the **Central Criminal Court**, the **Old Bailey**. In 130m at a T-junction with **Ludgate Hill** (road), *turn left* to the **Ye Olde London** pub in 15m. A little further on there is a blue panel high up on the wall, indicating the site of the **Ludgate** (demolished in 1760). The next building along is **St. Martin-within-Ludgate** church. *Turn right* to cross Ludgate Hill carefully (there are medians nearby) and continue along **Pilgrim Street**. *Turn right* with the street and in 50m *turn left* along **Ludgate Broadway**. A **medieval extension of the City Wall** continued ahead further along Pilgrim Street in a westerly direction towards the **River Fleet** to include the Black Friars Priory. In 40m by a house with a blue panel commemorating the foundation of the **Black Friars Priory** in 1278, you *turn left* along **Carter Lane**. In 10m ignore Carter Court on the right but in another 25m *turn right* down a narrow passageway called **Church Entry** (the name for a passage between nave and chancel). The Wall would have run a little to the right of this passage.

You pass the entrance to **St. Anne, Blackfriars'** small churchyard on the right (this was part of the grounds of the Dominican **Black Friars Priory**) and then **St. Ann's Vestry Hall** on the left. In another 40m emerge in **Ireland Yard** and *turn right* along it, continuing as **Playhouse Yard**. In 70m, by **The Glean Restaurant & Bar** on the right, *turn left* down **Black Friars Lane** into the valley of the **River Thames** with the valley of the **River Fleet** on the right below and in 50m you meet **Queen Victoria Street** at a T-junction. About 60m to the left is the point where the **Westerly End of London Wall** would have met the Thames **Riverbank in Roman Times**. **Blackfriars Station** is opposite, with its entrance around to the right. **London's only Art Nouveau pub**, the Grade II* listed **The Black Friar**, is 40m away on the right (notice the mosaic over its entrance showing Black Friars Priory and the Fleet), as is **El Vino** tapas bar.

Here you have a choice:

To complete a Circular Walk along a route approximating **the ancient riverbank**, *turn left* along Queen Victoria Street and pick up the directions below under **Roman Era Waterfront Route**.

To finish the walk at Blackfriars Station or to complete a Circular Walk along a route as close as possible to **the current riverbank**, *turn right* past **The Black Friar** and then left across **Queen Victoria Street** towards Blackfriars Station's entrance. For the circular option, continue past it towards **Blackfriars Road Bridge**. In 15m ignore steps down to the **Blackfriars Underpass** and in 35m – just before the River Thames – *turn left* (signposted 'Blackfriars Pier') along a path soon leading down some steps and continue along the **Thames Path** Long-Distance Path, with the river on your right. In 30m you go under Blackfriars Railway Bridge and then you pass Blackfriars Pier on the right. Ignore all paths and steps off to the left and in 250m go under the **Millennium Bridge**, with **St. Paul's Cathedral** up on the left set back from the river on Ludgate Hill.

In 50m stay to the right of **Frequency Coffee** along **Globe View Walk** and in 50m pass the **High Timber Restaurant** in an office building at **Broken Wharf**. In 80m you pass the **Samuel Pepys** pub, bar and kitchen at the end of **Stew Lane**. You soon *turn left then right and right again* with the path past the **Westin Hotel** on the left and around the

Queenhithe inlet (believed to be the only remaining Anglo Saxon dock in the world and the site where Alfred the Great re-established the City in 886, following a long hiatus after it had been abandoned by the Romans), lastly along the **Queenhithe Mosaic** on the seawall wall (unveiled on 18 November 2014), showing a timeline of events on this site and in the rest of London. Back on the riverbank, *turn left* along **Three Barrels Walk** and in 50m *veer right* and in 70m *turn left* in front of **Southwark Bridge** to go through the gated **Fruiterers Passage** (an underpass) under the bridge (the late evening diversion is to go up some stairs and across the road).

On the far side continue along **Three Cranes Walk** and in 40m pass the **Little Ship Club**. In 20m pass an info panel on **Walbrook Wharf** and continue in the same direction through it (lean over the wall on the right to locate – at low tide – the storm drain outflow of the **River Walbrook**, around whom **Londinium** was formed). [A diversion is signed in case the fenced covered path is shut due to wharf operations.] On the far side of the wharf, you emerge by **The Banker** pub with **Cannon Street Station** towering above. *Turn very briefly left* along **Cousin Lane** and *turn right* along **Steelyard Passage** to go through the bowels of the station. In 60m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Allhallows Lane** towards the river 20m away, where you used to find a panel on the right above commemorating the site of the **Hanseatic 'Stahlhof'** (Steelyard), between the 13th and 19th centuries a largely autonomous part of London belonging to the **Hanseatic League**, which had 400 merchants located in London.

Turn left along **Hanseatic Walk** and in 70m pass **The Oyster Shed**. Continue along **Oystergate Walk** and in 70m along **Fishmonger's Hall Wharf**, by Swan Lane on the left. In 40m you pass the **Fishmonger's Hall** and go under **London Bridge**. The path turns right back to the river and you then *turn left* along it. In 40m there is a landscaped green area on the left, with a church 40m away to the left. This is **the site of the** northerly bridgehead of the **Old London Bridge**, which (from 1176 to 1831) ran in straight continuation of Bishopsgate/Gracechurch Street/Fish Street Hill across to Borough High Street on the line of the first **Roman bridge**. The church is **St. Magnus the Martyr**, and there are some boulders of the old bridge structure in the churchyard as well as some old timber revetments from Roman times (entrance up on Lower Thames Street). In 60m continue along **Grant's Quay Wharf**, **Dark House Walk** and **Old Billingsgate Walk** (by the **Old Billingsgate Fish Market**). In 50m continue a little to the left along a walkway past **Custom House** and in 160m *veer to the left* where **Water Lane** joins from the left.

You continue in the same direction along **Sugar Quay Walk** and then **Three Quays Walk** and in another 70m by **Coppa Club Restaurant** on the left *turn left* with the path by the **Tower Millennium Pier** into a pedestrianised area by the **Tower of London** (toilet facilities are signed away to the left). The Alternative Circular Walk Route joins from the left along Lower Thames Street. The core area of the Tower is ticketed, so continue ahead to the nearby end of the wrought iron fence around the tower moat, 30m to the left of the entrance gate. The historical waterfront here would have been just to the left of the right-hand gate tower, about 30m to the right of where you are standing. You cannot see the Wall remnant in the grounds from the non-ticketed area. *Turn left* along the wrought iron fence around the Tower's moat and in 110m *turn right* with the fence to in 100m get back to the first stop on the walk.

Roman Era Waterfront Route

The Roman waterfront would have run just to the left of the road here. Opposite to the right in Norman times would have been **Baynard's Castle**, at the point where the Roman wall and the River Fleet met the River Thames. In 50m, just before **St. Andrew's Hill** (a stream would have run down the hill in Roman times), you *turn right* across **Queen Victoria Street** at a set of lights and *turn left* along the opposite pavement, along the Brutalist **Baynard House**. **St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe Church** towers across the road on the left and is followed by the London HQ of the '**Church**' of **Scientology**. In another 80m, at the far end of **Baynard House**, **[!]** *veer right* down some steps and go through a subway under a raised main road (White Lion Hill). On the other side you find the **Guild Church of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf** (a Welsh Anglican Church; one of only four churches in the City of London to escape damage during WWII).

Turn right downhill past the **City Gardens Depot** and in 50m *turn left* along the left-hand pavement of **Castle Baynard Street** (now a Cycle Super Highway), here running underneath a building and then under the approach to the **Millennium Bridge** (in Roman times a **Temple Complex** was situated along this whole stretch). In 90m ignore a drive joining from the left and in another 60m ignore **Booth Lane**, joining from the left behind. In 30m you pass a church tower without a church but with a pretty garden (**St. Mary, Somerset**; re-erected after the Great Fire of London). In 30m cross **Lambeth Hill** and continue along **Upper Thames Street** (a bathhouse complex would have stood here in Roman times). You go under a couple of raised footbridges across Upper Thames Street either side of a part of the **Westin Hotel** and then *veer left* to continue along a quieter road about 20m to the left of the busy road.

In 40m pass a memorial to the **Barge Master and Swan Marker** on the right and continue to the left of **St. James's Church** along **Skinners Lane**, where **Garlick Hill** turns up to the left towards **Mansion House Underground** Station, and in 60m cross the wide (but pedestrianised on the right) approach down from the **City Guildhall** up on the left to **Southwark Bridge** on the right and continue along **College Street**. In 40m you pass **Whittington Gardens** on the right and cross what would have been the mouth of the **Walbrook River**, around whom **Londinium** was formed. You get to the other bank of the river mouth in 100m by **Cannon Street House**, where you have to *turn right* along **Dowgate Hill** (road) to Upper Thames Street and *turn left* along it.

You go under **Cannon Street Station**. The riverbank along this stretch towards London Bridge would have run just to the left of Upper Thames Street and was lined with **temples, large stone buildings and waterfront warehouses**. You can **avoid some of the busy road** in 40m (from the far side of the station building) by turning left up **Suffolk Lane**, then in 50m *turning right* along **Laurence Pountney Hill** and in 50m continuing along a paved path to the left of **Rectory House**. In 20m cross a cobbled lane to in 15m continue through bike barriers. In another 20m *turn back down to the right* along **Martin Lane**, then **Arthur Street** towards **Upper Thames Street** and in 50m *turn left* along it.

In 50m go under **London Bridge** and in another 90m you reach the far side of it. The road is now called **Lower Thames Street** and the Roman waterfront would have run just to the left of the road, with **warehouses** lined up along it. In 30m you reach a junction with **Fish Street Hill** down from the left. This runs down from the location of the main **Roman Forum, Temple and Basilica** complex near nowadays Fenchurch Street/Leadenhall Market, and down along the line of **the historic first London Bridge**, in straight continuation of Bishopsgate/ Gracechurch Street and through the current churchyard of **St. Magnus the Martyr** on the right (there are boulder remnants of the old bridge

foundations in the churchyard, as well as some old timber revetments from Roman times tied to the church near its entrance).

Turn left up **Fish Street Hill** and in 50m by **The Monument**, you *turn right* along **Monument Street**'s initially paved and pedestrianised part, gently descending back towards Lower Thames Street. In 150m by **Lovat Lane** on the left you pass **The Walrus & The Carpenter** pub and continue along the left-hand pavement of Lower Thames Street, opposite **Old Billingsgate Fish Market**. In 40m you ignore **St. Mary at Hill** (street) and in 50m at the following **Billingsgate Roman House and Baths** building notice the striking illustration of an aerial view of Roman London on its windows. [!] Go back for 15m to cross Lower Thames Street at a pedestrian crossing and *turn left* along the opposite pavement with **Custom House** on your right (i.e. continuing easterly).

In 30m you have fine views on the left up to **St. Dunstan's East Church** and in another 50m, where the main road bears up to the left (as Byward Street), you continue in the same direction along the pavement (the Roman waterfront would have been just to the left here). In 80m ignore **Water Lane** turning right to the modern-day waterfront (HMS Belfast, Hay's Galleria and The Shard can be spotted across the Thames). Cross over to the left-hand side of the street at a convenient point (but mind the traffic coming down from Byward Street). In Roman times another minor stream would have run down the slope on the left. Where the road turns up to the left turn by the **Tower of London**, you continue in the same direction into a pedestrianised area by the Tower (toilet facilities are signed away to the left). The Main Circular Walk Route joins from the right.

The core area of the Tower is ticketed, so continue ahead a little to the left to the nearby end of the wrought iron fence around the tower moat, 30m to the left of the entrance gate. The historical waterfront here would have been just to the left of the right-hand gate tower, about 30m to the right of where you are standing. You cannot see the Wall remnant in the grounds from the non-ticketed area. *Turn left* along the wrought iron fence around the Tower's moat and in 110m *turn right* with the fence to in 100m get back to the first stop on the walk.