



Thameside Winter Markets (Tower Hill to Westminster) Short Walk

Easy walk along the Thames and across two bridges while passing through three winter or Christmas markets



Length 5.6 km (3.5 mi) with negligible ascent/descent and 1 ½ hours walking time.

Walk Notes This easy Central London route passes through three riverside winter or Christmas markets, all having a mixture of food and drink businesses, mostly from wooden huts or stalls but some of which offer indoor seating, plenty of year end-related stalls selling Christmas or winter-related goods, knick-knacks and decorations. Some of the huts offer activities such as stone curling. The markets in question are the St. Katherine Docks Christmas Market (north of Tower Bridge), Winter by the River (south of the Thames between Tower Bridge and London Bridge) and the Southbank Winter Market (between Waterloo Bridge and Westminster Bridge).

Based on the 2025 opening hours, it is best walked from East to West, i.e. from Tower Hill Station to Westminster Station.

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

Eat & Drink Besides the many food and drink offerings at the three markets, there is **no shortage** of pubs, cafés, restaurants, takeouts and bistros on the route or just off it.

Travel Tower Hill is a stop on the District and Circle Lines and very close to Fenchurch Street Mainline Station and Tower Gateway DLR. Westminster is

a stop on the District and Circle Lines as well as the Jubilee Line. Both stations as well as the whole route are within Zone 1.

Help Us! After the walk, please leave a [comment](#), it really helps. Thanks!

You can also upload photos to the [●● SWC Group on Flickr](#) ([upload your photos](#)) and [videos to](#) [YouTube](#). This walk's tags are:

By Car

Start

Finish

Help National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

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Walk Directions

Last checked: 24/12/2025

1. 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. [See SWC Short Walk 47 - The London Wall]
2. Turn left along the path and follow it under the Tower Bridge approach road and turn right on the far side. At the corner of the office building on the left, turn left into **St. Katherine Docks**. You have a row of restaurants shops on the left and the **West Basin** on the right. At the end of the dock, turn right along the water, with more restaurants and shops on the left. Go under an archway and - at the quayside of **Central Basin** - there are some more restaurants and cafes on the right, but you turn left. Bear right across a footbridge between Central Basin and **East Basin** onto a large square by **The Dickens Inn** on the left. Turn right along the water and by a drawbridge across the dock lock, turn left this side of it, towards the **Thames River**. Turn right across a footbridge and along the river towards **Tower Bridge**. You pass the **St. Katherine Docks Christmas Market** and at the bridge, turn right for 30m and turn up to the left up some steps (i.e. before a road turning left under the

- bridge approach). The steps turn to the left and you emerge on the westerly pavement of Tower Bridge and keep ahead, towards the Southbank.
3. On the far side of the bridge, turn hard left back on yourself down some steps, which turn left and left again. At the bottom, turn hard right to continue along the **Southbank**, with the river on your right. You walk through the **Winter by the River** fair, while passing the former Town Hall, the HMS Belfast, Hay's Galleria and the London Bridge Pier. 80m before London Bridge, turn left along **Queen's Walk West**, signed for London Bridge Station and Tooley Street, and at Tooley Street, turn right along it to in 80m go under London Bridge, passing several pubs and a Bierkeller as well as a Pizza Express branch. On the far side you pass **Southwark Cathedral** and turn left with the Thames Path. In 40m, before getting to **Borough Market**, turn hard right back on yourself towards the **Golden Hinde** sailing boat 50m away. Turn left to pass the ruins of the **Great Hall at the Palace of Winchester** and then **The Clink** goal. Ignore **Dirty Lane** on the left, leading to the **Borough Yards** and go under the **Cannon Street Railway Bridge** to turn right in front of **The Anchor** pub and turn left along its riverfront entrance.
 4. You go under **Southwark Bridge**, then pass the Bankside Pier on the right and the **Globe Theatre** on the left. Go under the **Millennium Bridge** by the **Tate Modern Gallery** and go under **Blackfriars Railway and Road Bridges** to pass the **OXO Tower** and **Gabriel's Wharf**. The **National Theatre** and the **Southbank Centre** follow, as you go under **Waterloo Bridge** with the beginnings of the **Southbank Winter Market**. This continues along the stretch past the **Royal Festival Hall** and under the Hungerford Bridge/Charing Cross Station Railway Bridge and further along to the **London Eye**. Past the **County Hall**, you walk up some steps onto **Westminster Bridge** and turn right along it across The Thames to **Westminster Station**.

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