

# THE HIDDEN - LESS-TRODDEN TRAIL



## Start by Pall Mall at the Duke of Wellington horse block

- Note the unusual building on the south side of the corner of the square on Cockspur Street. Norway House (1920) was the HQ of the Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce, opened by the king, Haakon VII, in 1921. In later years, it became The [Norwegian Club](#). The building was sold in 1997 but retains its Norwegian look. The medieval king above the entrance is St Olav, who drove out the Danish from London in the early 1000s. His technique? It is said he destroyed London Bridge, giving rise to the famous nursery rhyme, London Bridge is Falling Down.

## Head to Trafalgar Square to check out London's smallest police station

- Cross over to the square and, in the southeast corner, take a peek at the [smallest police station](#) in Britain. Well, it was until it was taken over by Westminster Council to become a broom cupboard for the cleaners!

## Make your way through the West End to find Neal's Yard

- At the top of Monmouth Street, succumb to [Neal's Yard](#), a courtyard named after the developer, Thomas Neale in the 17thC. In 1976, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam bought offices there, as did entrepreneur, Nicholas Saunders, a few years earlier, for his bulk Whole Foods business. Other businesses, such as Neal's Yard Remedies soon opened shop along with Monmouth Coffee Company.

## Need a comfort break? Discover the urine deflectors of Fleet Street

- Fleet Street isn't only the home of Demon Barbers. It was also the home of English publishing, founded in 1500 when an apprentice (aptly named Wynkyn de Worde) set up a printing shop near Shoe Lane.
- Off of the side of Fleet Street you will find Cliffords Inn Passage. This medieval entry to Clifford's Inn of Chancer, an institution for training barristers. In more recent history it turned into another London alleyway conveniently located for those leaving the pub to stop for a pee. This resulted in the brick walls beginning to corrode, leading to the installation of urine deflectors to direct the urine into the gutter (or onto a pair of shoes).

## Have a quick break at Postman's Park

- The park gained its name due to its reputation as a lunchtime hotspot for workers from the old General Post Office nearby.
- The Park is also home to the Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice. This memorial, made by George Frederic Watts in 1900, celebrates ordinary people who died while saving the lives of others, and who they themselves may otherwise be forgotten.

## Escape the city at the Barbican Conservatory

- The Barbican homes the [second biggest Conservatory in London](#). Known for its brutalist architecture, the Barbican is home to a hidden tropical oasis of over 2,000 different species of plants and trees, and some fish too!

Stop by the **Oldest tree in the City of London**

- Located in the churchyard in Wood Street is the old Plane tree. It is debated how long it has lived there, but regardless it is a protected tree, and any construction over one storey on the adjoining side is forbidden!

Need less walking? Skip this stop and grab the circle line from the Barbican to Monument for the Sky Garden

See London from a different angle at the **Sky Garden**

- **20 Fenchurch street**, or the Walkie Talkie as it is colloquially known, is home to London's highest public garden. You can visit for free and enjoy a 360-degree view of the capital. The garden is located 155m in the air

Finish off in **St Dunstan in the East church garden**

- The unique space is found in the ruins of a Wren Church. The original church was built in 1100, with additions being made in 1391. Unfortunately, damage was sustained in both the 1666 Great Fire of London and the Blitz in 1941 (though it did receive a new tower built by Sir Christopher Wren which did survive the war). A decision was made to not rebuild the church after the war, and in 1967 the decision was made to make the ruins into a public garden, opening in 1970.

Check it out on our interactive map [here](#)

Total walking time: 1 hour 26 minutes

