

London

48 Hours

A Two-Day Walking Guide to the City

Home base: Maida Vale. Sequential route maps for every leg. Tube directions from the previous stop – not from home – so you always know exactly how to get from where you are to where you're going. Each stop pairs with a Place of the Day podcast episode and a companion drink.

OYSTER CARD

Use Oyster or contactless. Never buy paper tickets. Daily cap ~£8.90 (Zones 1-2). After the cap – ride free all day.

DAY ONE

01 Maida Vale + Little Venice

02 British Museum

03 South Bank + St Paul's

04 Tower of London

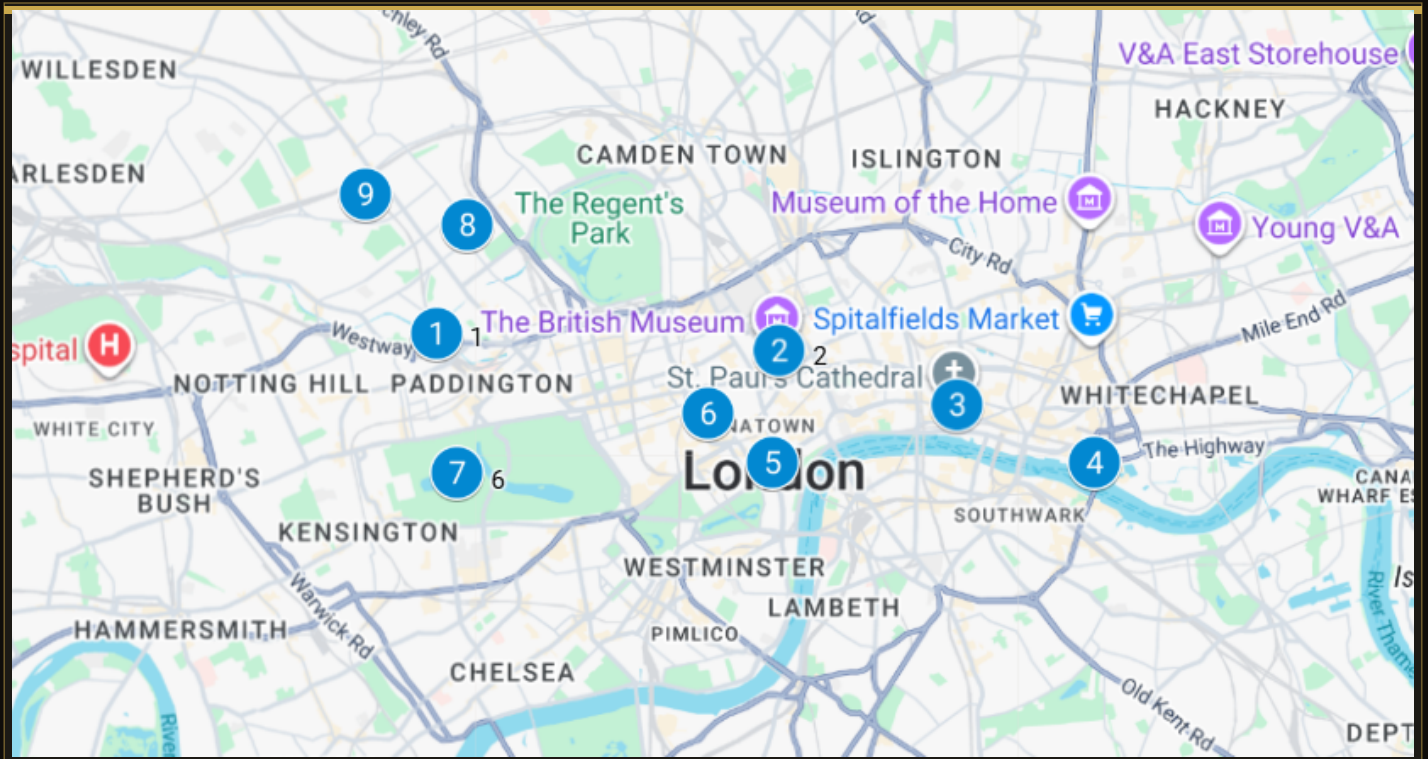
DAY TWO

05 Trafalgar Square

06 Carnaby Street

07 Kensington Gardens

08 Abbey Road



All stops numbered in visit order · Blue = Day 1 · Green = Day 2

DAY ONE

- 01 Maida Vale
- 02 British Museum
- 03 South Bank + St Paul's
- 04 Tower of London

DAY TWO

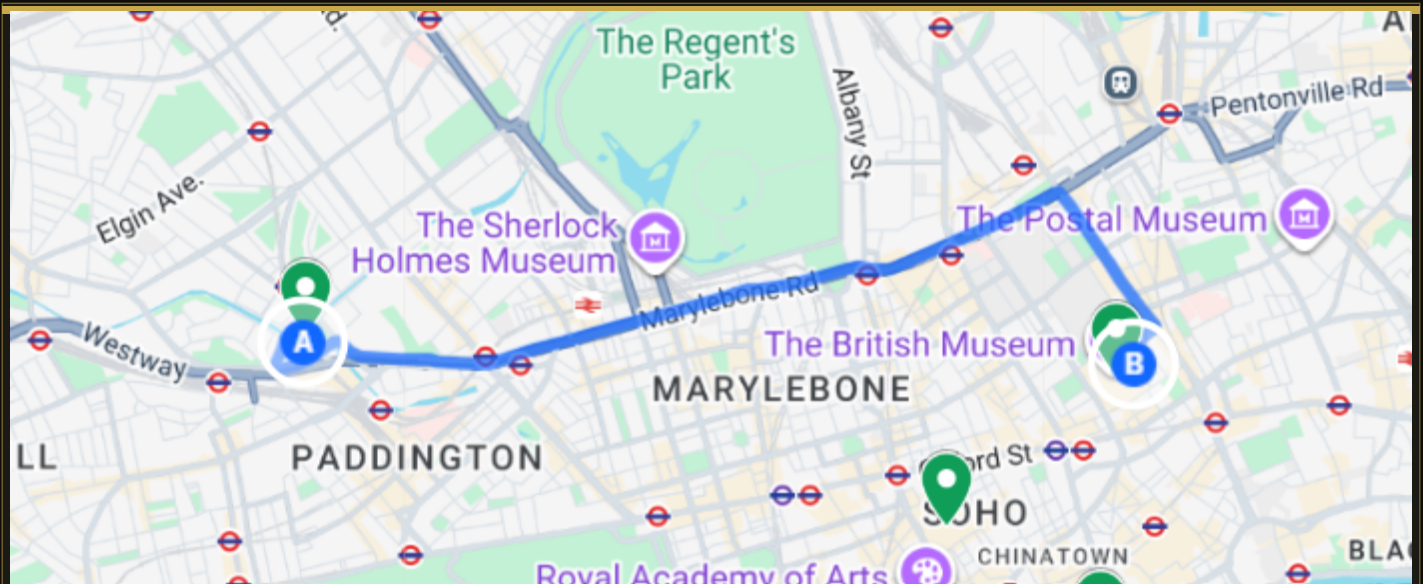
- 05 Trafalgar Square
- 06 Carnaby Street
- 07 Kensington Gardens
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Day One Route — Google Maps

Day Two Route — Google Maps

WALK + TUBE

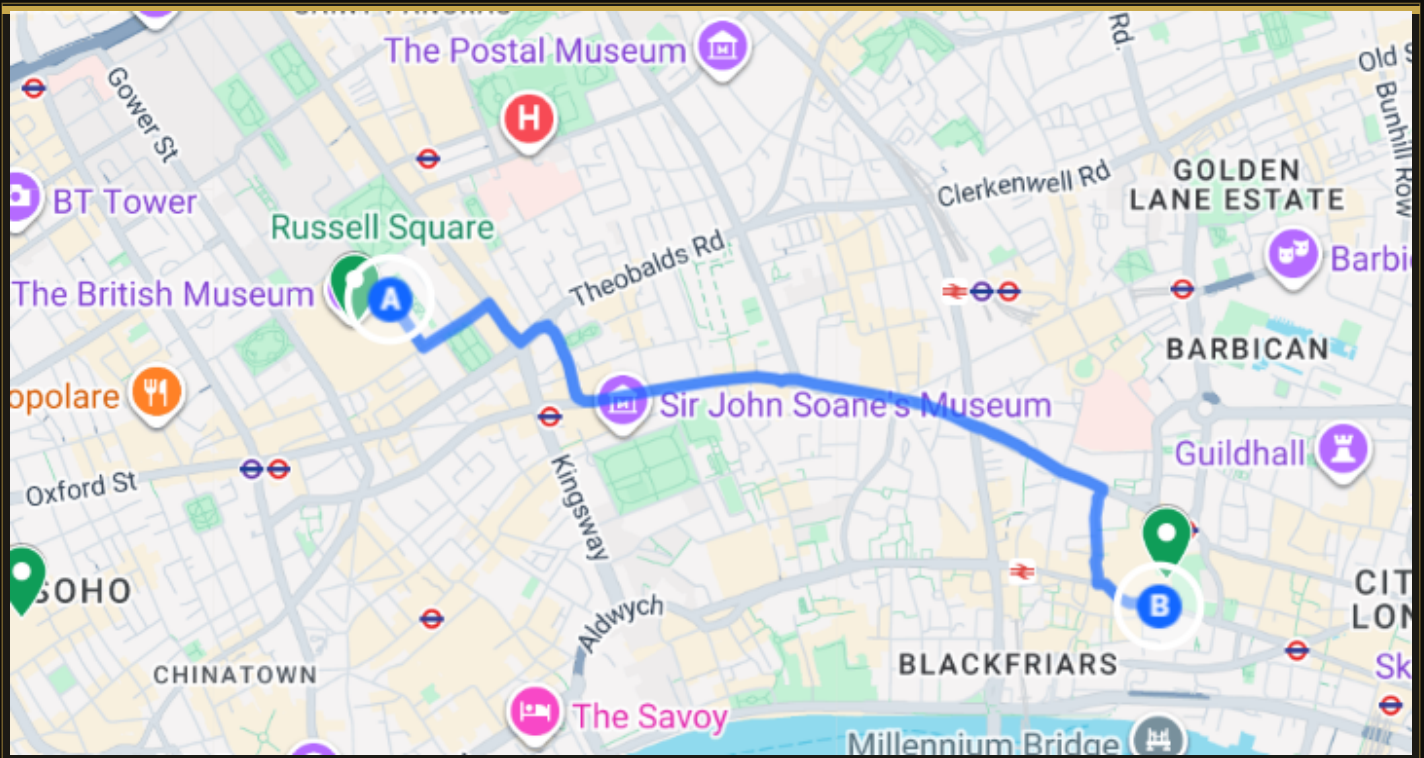
Walk to Warwick Avenue (5 min) · Bakerloo Line south · change at Oxford Circus · Central Line east · alight Tottenham Court Road · 7 min walk to museum · Total ~25 min



Maida Vale → British Museum

WALK

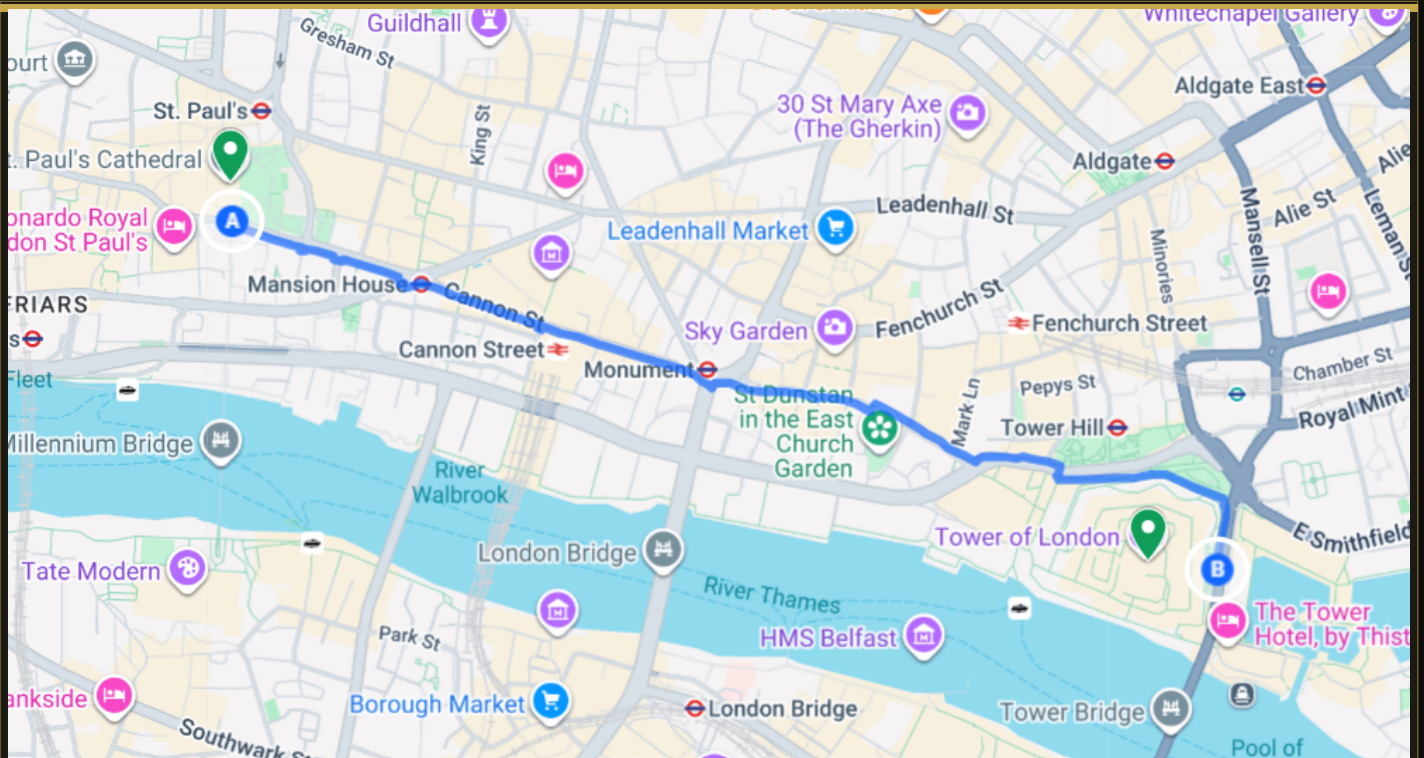
Walk south from Holborn ~15 min through Covent Garden to the Thames ·
cross Waterloo Bridge or walk along the Embankment · Total ~15-20 min on
foot



British Museum → South Bank / Tate Modern

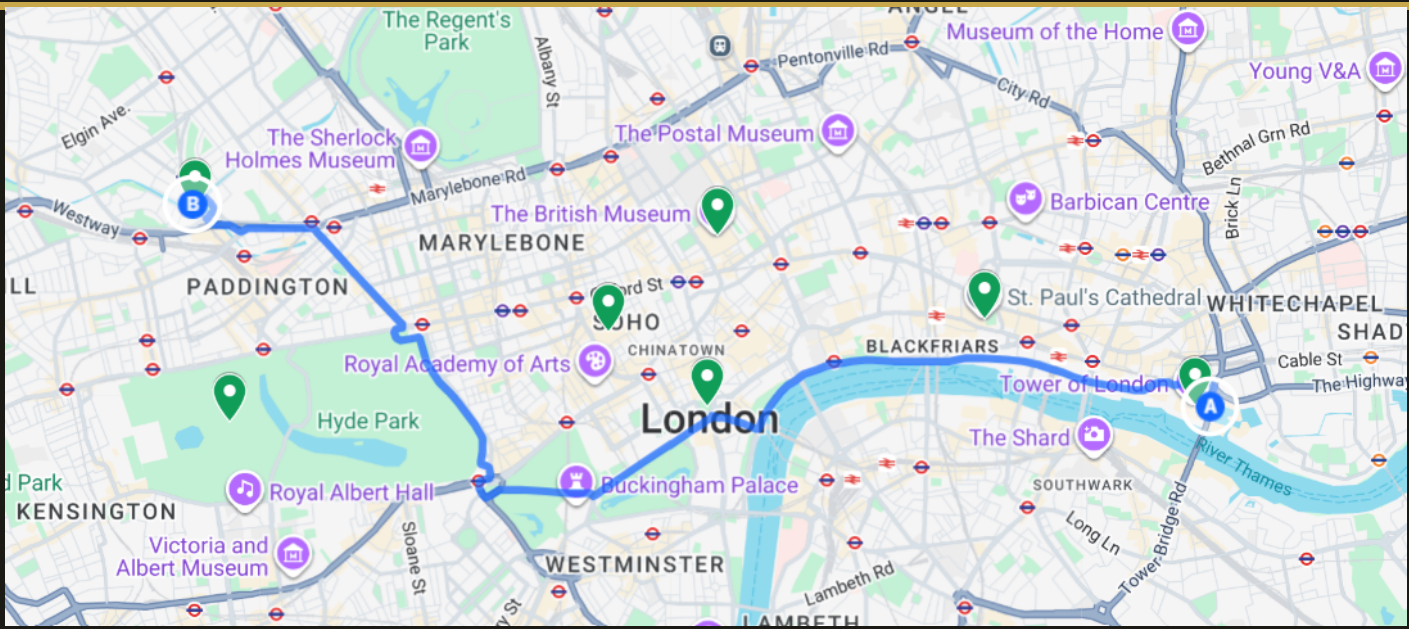
WALK

Walk east along the South Bank from the Tate Modern · past Shakespeare's Globe · past Borough Market · cross Tower Bridge · Total ~30 min · or
Tube: Southwark → Jubilee → Tower Hill ~10 min



South Bank → Tower of London

TUBE HOME · BAKERLOO LINE → WARWICK AVENUE
Tower Hill → District/Circle Line west → change at Paddington → Bakerloo Line north → Warwick Avenue · Total ~30 min · Approx. £3.00-£3.60 off-peak



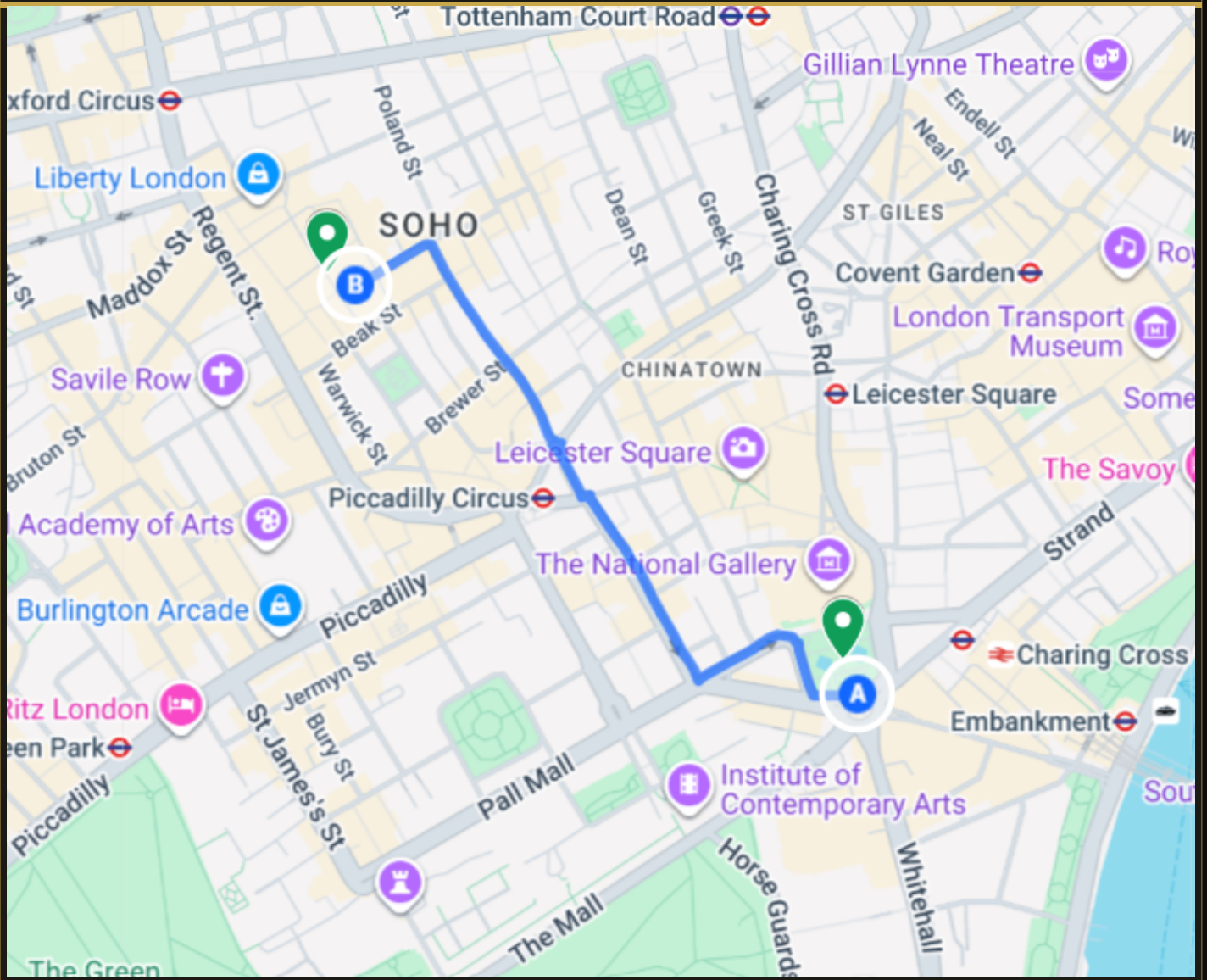
Route home: Tower of London → Maida Vale / Warwick Avenue

TONIGHT
The Walrus and Carpenter
Your local. Named for the Lewis Carroll poem. Two minutes from the canal. Order something. Sit outside if the weather allows.

TUBE

Warwick Avenue → Bakerloo Line south → alight Charing Cross (~12 min, 6 stops) · 5 min walk to Trafalgar Square · Total ~18 min · Approx. £3.00 off-peak

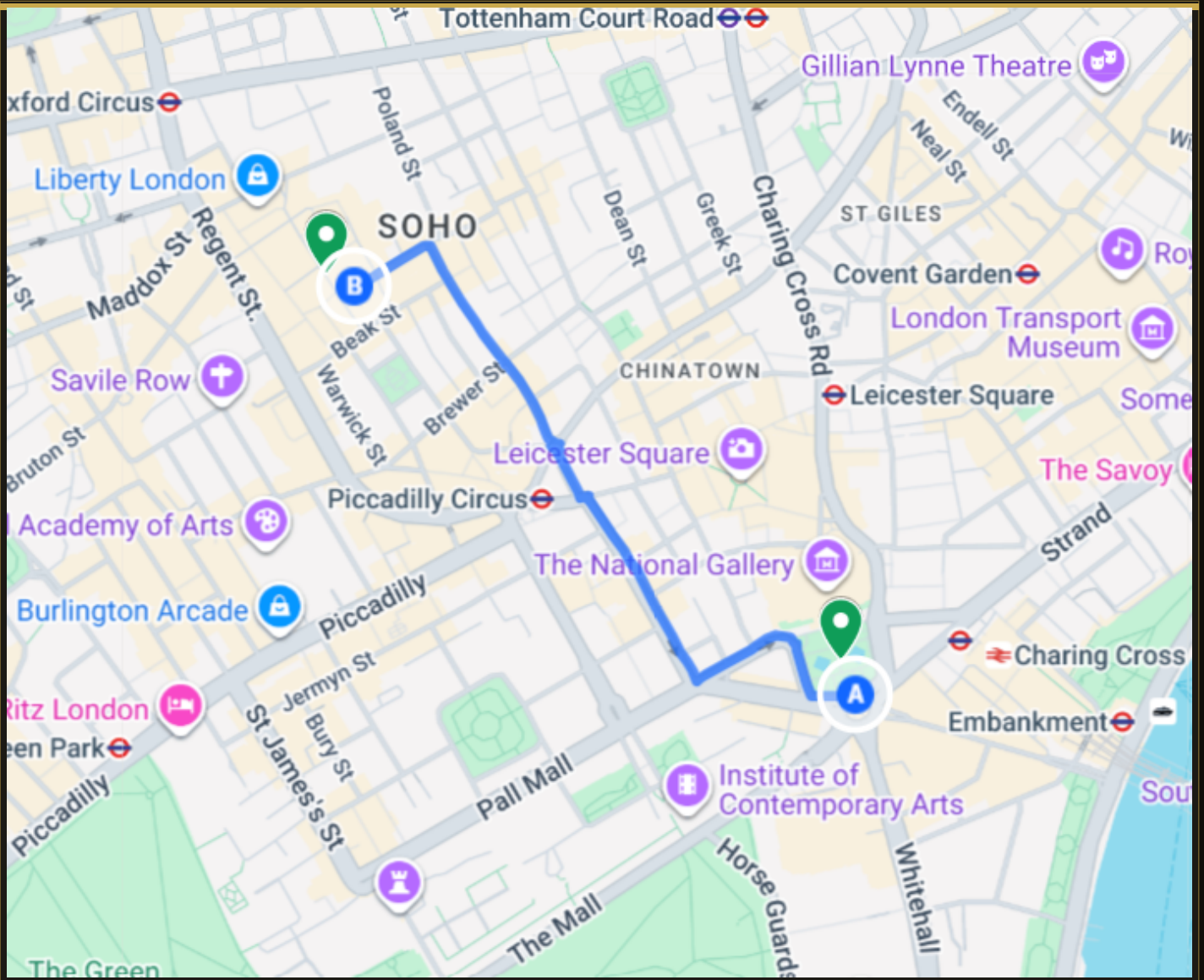
Replace this map with Maida Vale → Trafalgar route screenshot when available



Maida Vale → Trafalgar Square

WALK

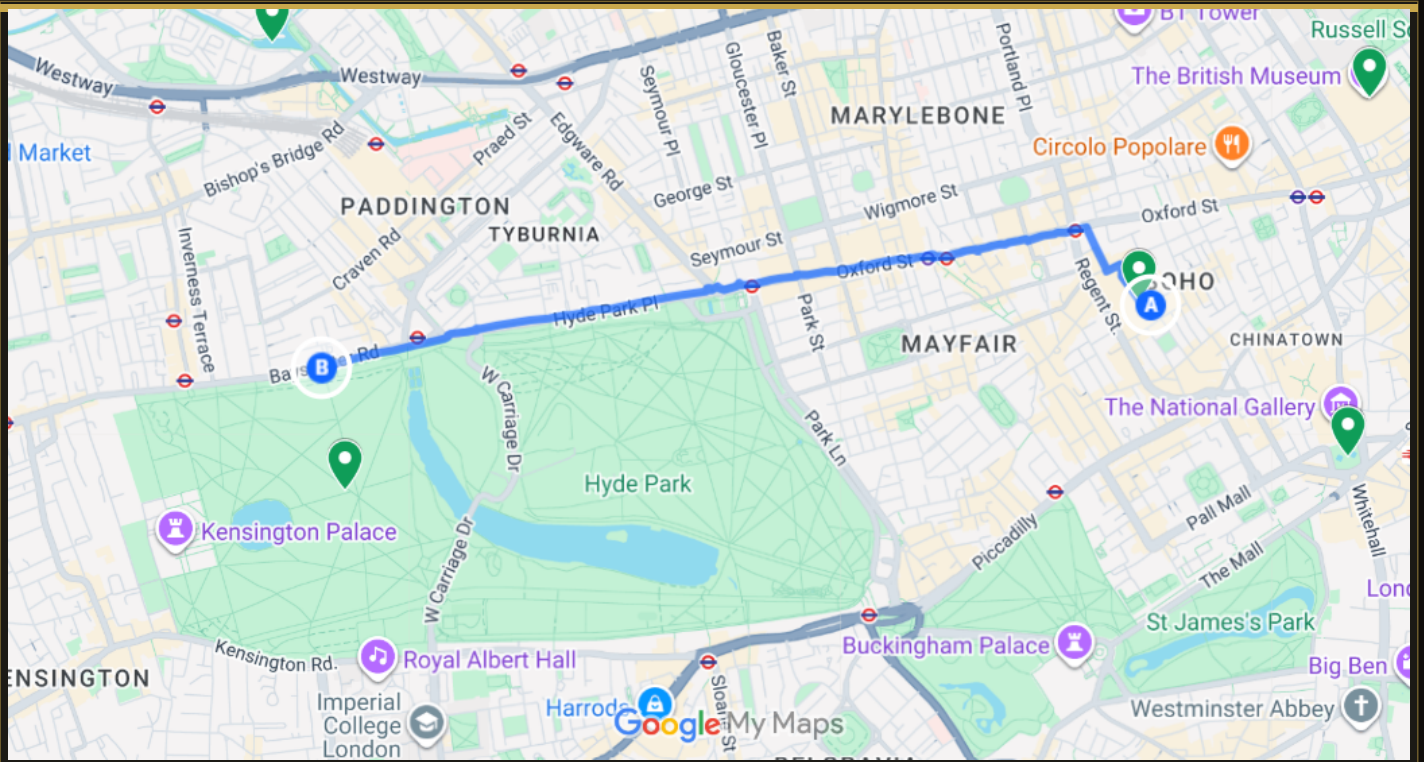
Walk north from Trafalgar Square up Charing Cross Road · turn left onto Oxford Street · Carnaby Street is 1 block south of Oxford Circus · Total ~12 min walk



Trafalgar Square → Carnaby Street

WALK + TUBE

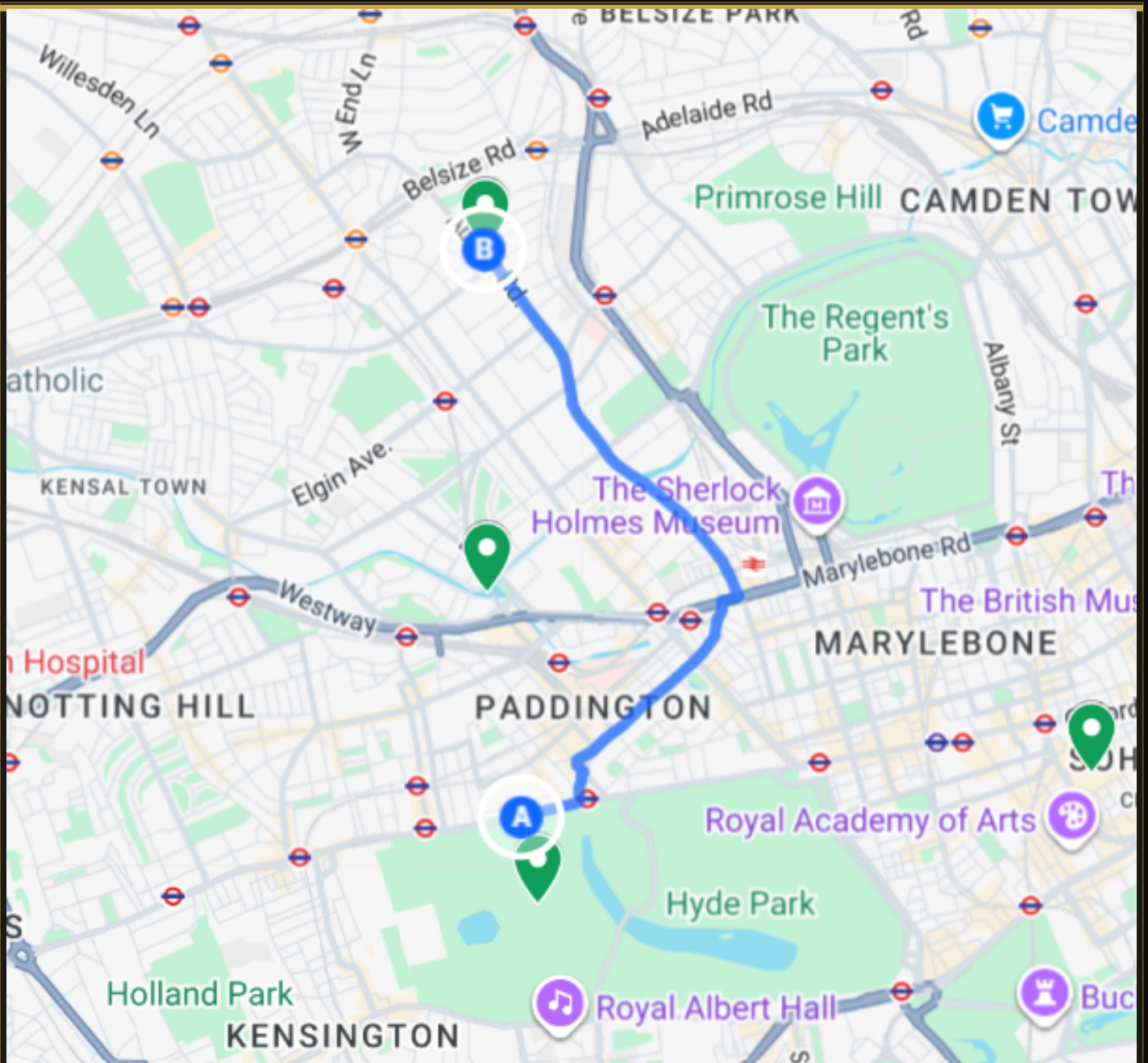
Walk to Oxford Circus · Central Line westbound 3 stops to Queensway or Holland Park · 5 min walk to gardens · Total ~20 min · OR walk the full route through Hyde Park ~35 min



Carnaby Street → Kensington Gardens

TUBE

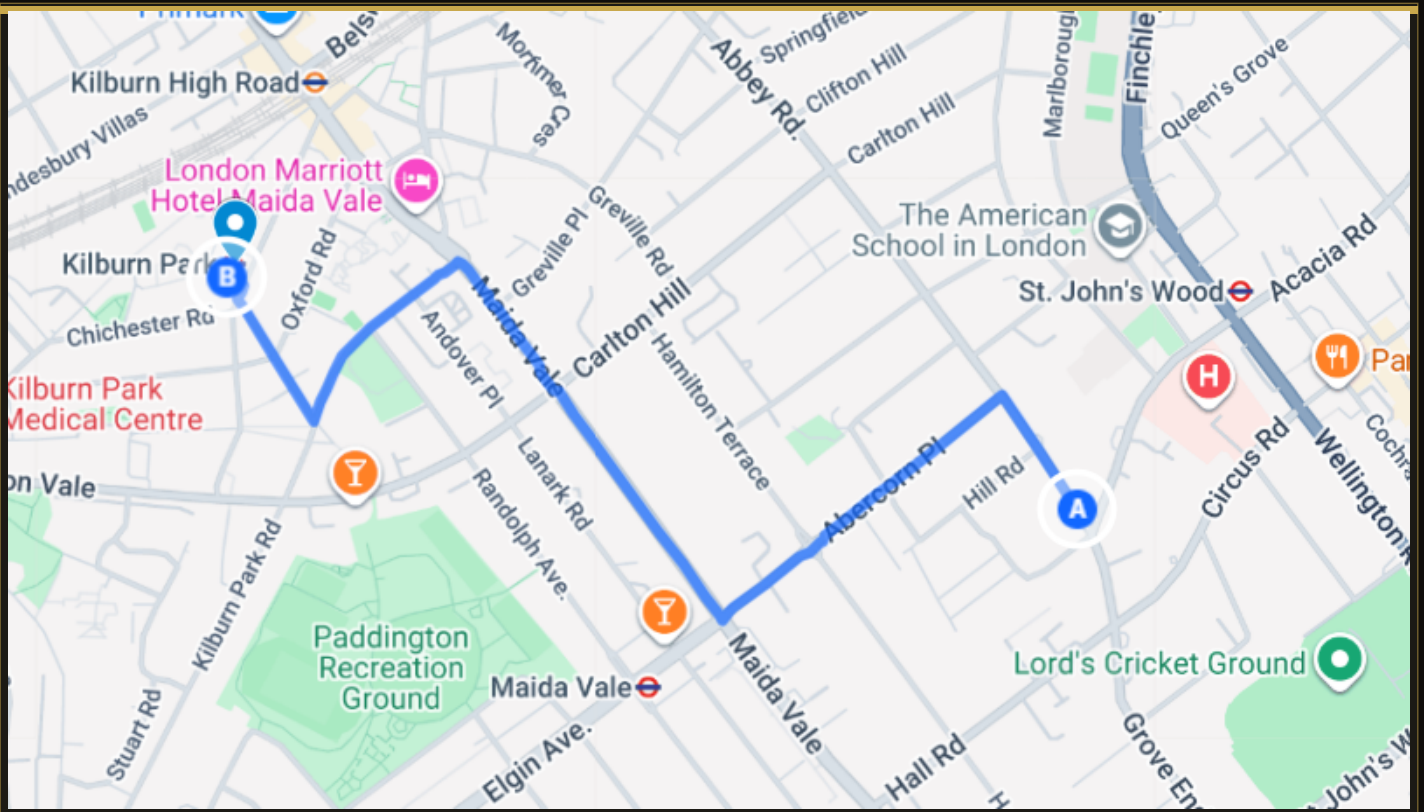
Walk to Queensway or Lancaster Gate · Central Line east to Bond Street · Jubilee Line north 2 stops to St John's Wood · 5 min walk to Abbey Road · Total ~20 min · Approx. £3.00-£3.60



Kensington Gardens → Abbey Road

TUBE HOME · BAKERLOO LINE → WARWICK AVENUE

St John's Wood → Jubilee Line south to Bond Street → change to Bakerloo north at Baker Street → Warwick Avenue · OR walk 25 min south through Maida Vale directly home · Total Tube ~20 min



Route home: Abbey Road → Maida Vale / Warwick Avenue

TONIGHT

The Walrus and Carpenter

Your local. Named for the Lewis Carroll poem. Two minutes from the canal. Order something. Sit outside if the weather allows.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Two days in London. Home base: Maida Vale. Every route map shows the journey from the PREVIOUS stop – not from home – so you always know exactly where you're going next. Use Oyster card or contactless. Daily cap ~£8.90 for Zones 1-2 means after 3-4 journeys you ride free for the rest of the day.

DAY ONE

STOP 01

Maida Vale + Little Venice

"Home base — the neighbourhood most tourists never find"

LOCAL LIFE · ARCHITECTURE

Maida Vale: wide tree-lined Victorian avenues, a neighbourhood feel that central London rarely delivers. Five minutes' walk: Little Venice, where the Regent's Canal meets the Paddington Arm. Narrowboats, canal cafés, willow trees. The Walrus and Carpenter pub – named for the Lewis Carroll poem – is your local for the trip.

GETTING THERE · FROM HOME BASE TO MAIDA VALE + LITTLE VENICE

- This is where you're staying – no Tube needed
- Walk from your hotel to Warwick Avenue station: 5 minutes
- Walk from Warwick Avenue south to the canal: 5 minutes
- Little Venice canal basin is at the bottom of Warwick Avenue

Approx. fare: Free – walkable

Fares shown are approx. 2025/26 Oyster/contactless off-peak rates. Peak surcharges apply Mon-Fri 6:30-9:30am and 4-7pm. Verify at tfl.gov.uk before travel. Daily cap ~£8.90 Zones 1-2.

DON'T MISS

The canal at dawn before 7am. Walk the towpath east toward Paddington. The Warwick Avenue Tube station – one of the quieter, more beautiful small stations on the Underground.

PRACTICAL

Tube: Warwick Avenue · Bakerloo Line – your home station for the trip. Paddington station 10 min walk or 5 by Tube – direct trains to Heathrow, Oxford, Bath. The Walrus and Carpenter: your evening local. Go.

"The Particular"

London Dry Gin, honey, lemon, Angostura, tonic. Crisp, slightly bitter. Tastes like knowing your way around.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 1 · walksyourway.com

STOP 02

The British Museum

"Two thousand years of loot under one roof"

HISTORY · ART · ARCHITECTURE

8 million objects, 2 million years of human history. Norman Foster's Great Court: 1,656 unique glass panels, free to enter. The Reading Room: where Marx researched Das Kapital (seat G7), Bram Stoker researched Dracula, Virginia Woolf and Oscar Wilde did their thinking. The Rosetta Stone unlocked ancient Egyptian civilisation. The Elgin Marbles: Greece has been asking for them back since 1983.

GETTING THERE · FROM MAIDA VALE TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

- Walk to Warwick Avenue station (5 min)
- Bakerloo Line southbound to Oxford Circus (~10 min)
- Change to Central Line eastbound
- Alight Tottenham Court Road (1 stop)
- Walk east on New Oxford Street ~7 min to museum entrance

Approx. fare: Approx. £3.00 off-peak (Zones 1-2)

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DON'T MISS

Arrive at 10am opening – Rosetta Stone room is manageable then, five deep by 11:30. The Sutton Hoo helmet and Lewis Chessmen: extraordinary, rarely crowded. Both will stop you.

PRACTICAL

Free entry. Pre-book timed slot online. Allow 2 hours. Tube: Tottenham Court Road (Central/Elizabeth) or Holborn.

"The Reading Room"

Earl Grey gin, bergamot, honey, lemon. The color of old manuscript pages.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 2 · walksyourway.com

STOP 03

South Bank + St Paul's + The City

"The view from the bridge"

ARCHITECTURE · HISTORY · LOCAL LIFE

National Theatre to the Tate Modern (old Bankside Power Station, decommissioned 1981, national museum of modern art since 2000 – free permanent collection) to the Millennium Bridge. The bridge wobbled so badly it was closed 2 days after opening and remained shut for 2 years. From the middle: the dome of St Paul's. Wren designed it after the Great Fire of 1666. The City on a weekday: 500,000 workers. The City on a Saturday: medieval streets, 17 Wren churches, near-empty.

GETTING THERE · FROM BRITISH MUSEUM TO SOUTH BANK + ST PAUL'S + THE CITY

→ Walk south from Holborn ~15 min through Covent Garden to the Thames

→ OR: Holborn → Central Line 1 stop to Blackfriars → cross the river

→ Walk west along the South Bank toward the Tate Modern

→ Cross the Millennium Bridge north to reach St Paul's and the City

Approx. fare: Free if walking · Approx. £3.00 if taking Tube

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DON'T MISS

Stop in the middle of the Millennium Bridge. Look north at the dome. Then turn around – Tate Modern, Tower Bridge, the full Thames sweep. You are standing at the intersection of several different centuries of London simultaneously.

PRACTICAL

Tate Modern: free permanent collection, Turbine Hall alone worth it. St Paul's: entry fee, dome climb worth it. City on Saturday or Sunday before 10am is the secret. Nearest Tube: Blackfriars or Southwark.

"The City"

Dry Martini variation – bone dry, pale gold, lemon peel. A Saturday morning in an empty medieval street.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 4 · walksyourway.com

STOP 04

Tower of London + The Monument

"Nine hundred years of everything"

HISTORY · ARCHITECTURE

White Tower begun 1078. Nine centuries: palace, prison, mint, menagerie, Crown Jewels, executions. Anne Boleyn executed on Tower Green 1536. Her ghost the most reported apparition in the Tower. Six ravens must be kept or the kingdom falls – currently eight, each named. The Ravenmaster is a real job. The Monument: 202 feet tall, placed exactly 202 feet from where the Great Fire started on Pudding Lane.

GETTING THERE · FROM SOUTH BANK TO TOWER OF LONDON + THE MONUMENT

- Walk east along the South Bank from the Tate Modern (~30 min)
- Past Shakespeare's Globe, Borough Market, cross Tower Bridge
- OR: Southwark → Jubilee Line east to London Bridge → walk across the bridge
- OR: Blackfriars → District/Circle Line east to Tower Hill (~8 min)
- Tower Hill station: the Tower is visible immediately to your left

Approx. fare: Approx. £3.00 off-peak if taking Tube

Fares shown are approx. 2025/26 Oyster/contactless off-peak rates. Peak surcharges apply Mon-Fri 6:30-9:30am and 4-7pm. Verify at tfl.gov.uk before travel. Daily cap -£8.90 Zones 1-2.

DON'T MISS

Yeoman Warder tours free with admission – they live in the Tower and have opinions. Opinions make history interesting. Climb the Monument: 311 steps, £5, best unpaid view in the City.

PRACTICAL

Tower: book in advance hrp.org.uk · Allow 3 hours. Monument: separate £5 ticket, climb it. Tube: Tower Hill (District/Circle lines). End of Day 1 – head home after this.

"The Raven"

Sloe gin, blackcurrant, lemon, sparkling water. Deep purple-black. Nine hundred years in a glass.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 3 · walksyourway.com

DAY TWO

STOP 05

Trafalgar Square + The West End

"The postcard and what's behind it"

HISTORY · ARCHITECTURE · LOCAL LIFE

Nelson's Column: 185 feet tall, 17-foot Nelson at the top invisible from the base. Fourth plinth: empty 150 years, rotating contemporary art commissions since 1999. Westminster: the Palace looks medieval – most of it was built 1840-1870 after the original burned in 1834, caused by burning old Exchequer tally sticks in a furnace. Green Park: the only royal park with no flowerbeds.

GETTING THERE · FROM MAIDA VALE TO TRAFALGAR SQUARE + THE WEST END

- Walk to Warwick Avenue station (5 min)
- Bakerloo Line southbound (~12 min, 6 stops)
- Alight Charing Cross station
- Walk 5 min north to Trafalgar Square

Approx. fare: Approx. £3.00 off-peak

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WHILE YOU'RE HERE – NEARBY

- Westminster: 10 min walk south along Whitehall. Pass Downing Street and the Cenotaph.
- Buckingham Palace + Green Park: 15 min walk west via The Mall.
- Westminster Abbey: adjacent to Parliament – entry fee, genuinely medieval, site of every coronation since 1066.
- Victoria Memorial: gold, allegorical, extraordinary – almost nobody looks at it because the palace is behind it.

DON'T MISS

Walk Trafalgar to Westminster along Whitehall. You pass the Cenotaph – Britain's memorial to the dead of both World Wars. Most people walk past it. Don't. The Victoria Memorial in front of the Palace: look at it before you look at the palace gates.

PRACTICAL

All free. Changing of Guard: 11am most days, arrive early. Do the West End before 9am – different without the crowds. Tube: Charing Cross (Bakerloo/Northern), Westminster, St James's Park.

"The Guard"

Pimm's No.1, lemon, cucumber, ginger ale, fresh mint. The most British drink in the series.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 5 · walksyourway.com

STOP 06

Carnaby Street + Liberty London

"Where the Swinging Sixties happened"

HISTORY · LOCAL LIFE

In the 1960s, Carnaby Street was the epicentre of Swinging London. The Rolling Stones shopped here. Jimi Hendrix shopped here. What it is now: branded stores leaning on the 1960s reputation. Worth visiting to understand what was here and what it means that it became this. One street over: Liberty London – a 1924 Tudor Revival building built partly with timber from two decommissioned Royal Navy ships. The interior is extraordinary.

GETTING THERE · FROM TRAFALGAR SQUARE TO CARNABY STREET + LIBERTY LONDON

→ Walk north from Trafalgar Square up Charing Cross Road (~12 min)

→ OR: walk up Haymarket → Piccadilly Circus → north to Carnaby

→ Carnaby Street is 1 block south of Oxford Circus

→ Liberty London: one block east on Great Marlborough Street

Approx. fare: Free – walkable from Trafalgar Square

Fares shown are approx. 2025/26 Oyster/contactless off-peak rates. Peak surcharges apply Mon-Fri 6:30–9:30am and 4–7pm. Verify at tfl.gov.uk before travel. Daily cap ~£8.90 Zones 1–2.

DON'T MISS

Liberty London interior – free to browse, extraordinary building. The timber from HMS Impregnable and HMS Hindustan is visible in the ceiling beams. Worth going in even if you buy nothing.

PRACTICAL

Carnaby Street: free, pedestrianized. Liberty London: free to enter, open daily. Nearest Tube: Oxford Circus (Bakerloo/Central/Victoria lines).

"The Touchdown"

Bourbon, St-Germain elderflower, lemon, Angostura. American spirit, British botanical. The two worlds making sense together.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 7 Bonus · walksyourway.com

STOP 07

Kensington Gardens

"The secret statue and the park worth knowing"

LOCAL LIFE · ART · HISTORY

Originally the private grounds of Kensington Palace, opened to the public in the early 18th century. Queen Victoria was born here. Princess Diana lived here. The Peter Pan statue: J.M. Barrie commissioned it in 1912 and had it installed overnight on May 1st without permission, so children would find it the next morning as if by magic. He paid for it himself. Refused credit for years.

GETTING THERE · FROM CARNABY STREET TO KENSINGTON GARDENS

- Walk to Oxford Circus station
- Central Line westbound to Queensway (3 stops, ~6 min)
- OR Holland Park (4 stops) for the western entrance
- 5 min walk from either station to the gardens
- Peter Pan statue is near the Long Water – follow signs inside the park

Approx. fare: Approx. £3.00 off-peak · likely within daily cap by now

Fares shown are approx. 2025/26 Oyster/contactless off-peak rates. Peak surcharges apply Mon-Fri 6:30-9:30am and 4-7pm. Verify at tfl.gov.uk before travel. Daily cap -£8.90 Zones 1-2.

DON'T MISS

The Peter Pan statue base: spend 10 minutes minimum. Look at every animal. Count the fairies. The bronze is worn smooth where generations of children touched the rabbits. The Albert Memorial across the road: gold, Gothic, elaborate – Queen Victoria wore black for 40 years after Albert died.

PRACTICAL

Free, open daily. Kensington Palace: entry fee if you want to go inside. Nearest Tube: Queensway or High Street Kensington.

"The Crossing"

Gin, blackcurrant, lemon, sparkling water. Soft purple-blush. A British summer afternoon.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 6 · walksyourway.com

STOP 08

Abbey Road

"The famous crossing — and why it still works"

LOCAL LIFE · ART

On August 8, 1969, at 11:35am, four men walked across a zebra crossing on a quiet street in St John's Wood. Iain Macmillan stood on a stepladder and took six photographs. One became the cover of Abbey Road. EMI Studios – now Abbey Road Studios – opened at 3 Abbey Road in 1931. The Beatles recorded every studio album here from 1962 to 1970.

GETTING THERE · FROM KENSINGTON GARDENS TO ABBEY ROAD

- Walk to Queensway or Lancaster Gate station
- Central Line east to Bond Street (2 stops)
- Change to Jubilee Line northbound
- Alight St John's Wood (1 stop)
- Abbey Road Studios is a 5 min walk from the station

Approx. fare: Approx. £3.00-£3.60 · almost certainly within daily cap

Fares shown are approx. 2025/26 Oyster/contactless off-peak rates. Peak surcharges apply Mon-Fri 6:30-9:30am and 4-7pm. Verify at tfl.gov.uk before travel. Daily cap -£8.90 Zones 1-2.

DON'T MISS

Come early – the crossing is manageable at 8am, a queue by 10. Bring your own photographer – you need someone off the road to get the angle right. The graffiti wall outside the Studios has had fan messages since the 1970s. Repainted occasionally. Refills within weeks.

PRACTICAL

The crossing: free, always accessible, on a public road. Abbey Road Studios: not open to the public but the exterior and graffiti wall are the point. Nearest Tube: St John's Wood (Jubilee Line). End of Day 2 – head home to Maida Vale after this.

"The Particular"

You're heading home. The Walrus and Carpenter is waiting. Same drink as Day 1 – you've earned a second one.

Full recipe – cocktail + mocktail – walksyourway.com/drinks

Episode: London Series · Episode 6 · walksyourway.com

*"Every place has a story.
This one's worth the trip."*

Place of the Day · Walks Your Way · walksyourway.com
Seven episodes · Seven drinks · Two days in London
Tube fares subject to change – always verify at tfl.gov.uk
Art · Architecture · History · Local Life