

Untitled

"Maggie's London Walks" have become more flexible and variable. She is now working with some other camera clubs around London, and finds it is better to offer the walks as listed below, and let people choose which walk they would like to do and on what day. So if you would like to go on any of these, please get in touch with her on maggieinlondon@gmail.com to make the arrangements, including time and place to meet.

Things common to all the walks are that there are coffee and lunch stops on the way round, and that you give her a tenner for the interesting route and commentary she provides as guide.

1. Smithfield. Meet at St. Paul's tube station.

A host of hidden gems, a park dedicated to unsung heroes, a cholera pit three feet higher than the pavement, an ancient meat market housed in a beautiful Victorian building, Art Nouveau pub, a huge black plague pit, the world's oldest industrial cold storage, London's first flyover and finally the site of some World War Two bravery.

2. Spitalfields. Meet at Liverpool Street station.

Walk through the financial heart of the City passing through some of the most deprived areas of London. See one of London's oldest synagogues, the homes of the Huguenot refugees, 17th century streets and houses, walk along the medieval street routes, pass the haunts and murder spots of Jack the Ripper, pass the world's largest ex-brewery and see world class graffiti.

3. Camden. Meet at St Pancras Station by the John Betjeman statue.

See St Pancras, the station where the troops left for the battles of both world wars, visit the stunning Midland Railway Hotel, past the German Gym, see some of the first social housing in the country, see the church with a Christian history going back to the 4th century, visit the Grade 1 Listed graveyard alongside the church, pass through some very deprived areas of Camden, visit Camden Lock with its unique shops and London's fourth most popular visitor site, walk along the 200-year-old canal to the old industrial area, now an art and media college at the back of King's Cross where Google are building offices. NB, this is a long walk, only a couple of miles but it takes about 5 hours to complete.

4. Graffiti walk. Meet at Old Street tube station.

From Shoreditch to Brick lane. Artists come from all over the world to leave their mark on London's walls. There is a lot of high class street art including a couple of Banksy's. There is also street art by Eine, Shepard Fairy, Osch and Roa amongst many others.

5. Rotherhithe to London Bridge. Meet at Canada Water tube station.

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A walk from where Brunel built the world's first underground tunnel, past the pub where the Mayflower set off, past all the old docks warehouses with stunning views of the Thames all along the route.

6. Thames circular walk. Meet at London Bridge train station.

A walk along the north and south sides of the Thames crossing Tower Bridge and London Bridge. We'll pass The Tower, The Shard, Hays Galleria, City Hall, and All Hallows by the Tower where an American President and a Founding Father were married and baptised and which has the remains of a Roman ruin in the crypt. We will also see The Monument to the Great Fire of London and pass the spot where the fire started.

7. Covent Garden. Meet at Temple tube station.

We'll pass Astor House, and enter if open, then on to the Inns of Court which date from the 14th century. It has one of the finest Elizabeth Halls in the country (closes at 12pm) built in 1562 and remains unaltered to this day. There is also the Temple church from which the Knights Templar set off on their crusades. We will visit the Freemasons' headquarters for a free guided tour of this stunning Art Deco building (where, sadly, photography is not allowed.) On rare occasions it may be shut.

These are just snapshots of what you will see. Maggie has plans for other walks so I will update this list from time to time when she gives me details.