

# FROM KING'S CROSS TO THE CITY



Paternoster Square (Image by Puripat / Getty Images)



## Walk up a thirst. Discover history.

From King's Cross, there are several enjoyable ways of reaching the Barbican, Museum of London and the City of London without travelling by tube. For a memorable day out, take the journey by bus, bike, National Rail services or on foot.

### By Bus

**There are a number of options for catching a bus from Kings Cross towards the City.**

You will need an Oyster Card or contactless bank card to travel on London buses, cash is not accepted – but it costs only £1.50 per journey – even if you change buses within the hour.

Start at bus stop E on Euston Road, which is right by the exit from Kings Cross leading out to York Way. Take bus number 214 to Finsbury Square, bus stop H. From here you can cross the road and continue around Finsbury Square. These gardens were first laid out in 1777 and were the scene of the first successful hot air balloon flight in 1784. Then turn right on Chiswell St and left down Moor Lane where you will come to Silk St on your right, where you can access the Barbican Centre, or why not stop for a drink and some food in one of the bars and restaurants in City Point on your left.

Alternatively, take the 63 from bus stop D, also on Euston Road. Hop off at Snow Hill (not Lane) to walk over to the Barbican (15 minutes). To do so you will need to go down Snow Hill, turning right on Long Lane and following it all the way along the side of disused market buildings which will be the new home of the Museum of London in a few years time. You will also pass **Smithfield Market**. Alternatively, get off at Fleet Street/City Thameslink and walk from there, passing the site of one of the ancient gates of the City. Outside **St Paul's Cathedral**, you can enjoy some alfresco dining at **Paternoster Square**.

## By Train

Another option is to hop on a National Rail train (Thameslink) at King's Cross to Farringdon.

Farringdon was the end of the first public underground railway (opened in 1863). Walk along Cowcross Street, turn right onto Charterhouse Street and left down Grand Avenue. This takes you through **Smithfield Market**. The Victorian building is home to the City's meat market, and operates through the night. There has been a market here continually since the 1100s.

From here you could turn left on Long Lane to reach the Barbican Estate ahead, or continue straight down Little Britain where you'll pass St Bartholomew Hospital and the **William Wallace (also known as 'Brave Heart') Memorial**. Then why not nip down King Edward St and into **Postman's Park** with its poignant memorial to ordinary people who lost their lives through heroic action. Take a rest here before heading out onto Aldersgate St and left up to Rotunda, where you'll find the iconic **Museum of London**.



Smithfield Market  
(Image by fotofritz16 / Getty Images)



Inside the Museum of London  
(Image courtesy of Museum of London)

## Walking

For the more adventurous of you out there, you can be on the outskirts of the City in under 30 minutes by foot from Kings Cross St Pancras Station.

Start outside the station on Pancras Road. If you're there from Friday to Sunday you might be able to pick up some fuel for your walk at the artisan food market. Head down Argyle Street, turning left onto Argyle Square (becoming St Chad's St). Turn right onto Gray's Inn Road and follow it all the way down to Holborn. On the way you'll pass a number of hidden gems, including the **Calthorpe Community Garden** (open Thursday to Sunday), **St Andrew's Gardens** and **Gray's Inn Square**. You could even take a short detour down Guilford St and then Doughty St to visit the **Charles Dickens Museum**, currently open Friday to Sunday (check the website for opening hours). The museum is situated in the author's former home and is where he wrote Oliver Twist, Pickwick Papers and Nicholas Nickleby, achieving international fame as one of the world's greatest storytellers.

At the end of Grays Inn Road, turn left onto Holborn which you can follow all the way into the City, passing St Andrew's Holborn on your right. The first mention of a church here dates to 959 AD.

Further along you will walk over Holborn Viaduct, opened in 1869 by Queen Victoria. The four bronze statues on the viaduct represent Fine Arts, Science, Agriculture and Commerce. Just after this you will pass another church on your left. This is **Saint Sepulchre**, also known as 'The Musicians' Church' and which also has a special chapel dedicated to the Royal Fusiliers. Carry straight on to quickly reach St Paul's Cathedral, Cheapside and nearby, Guildhall Art Gallery.



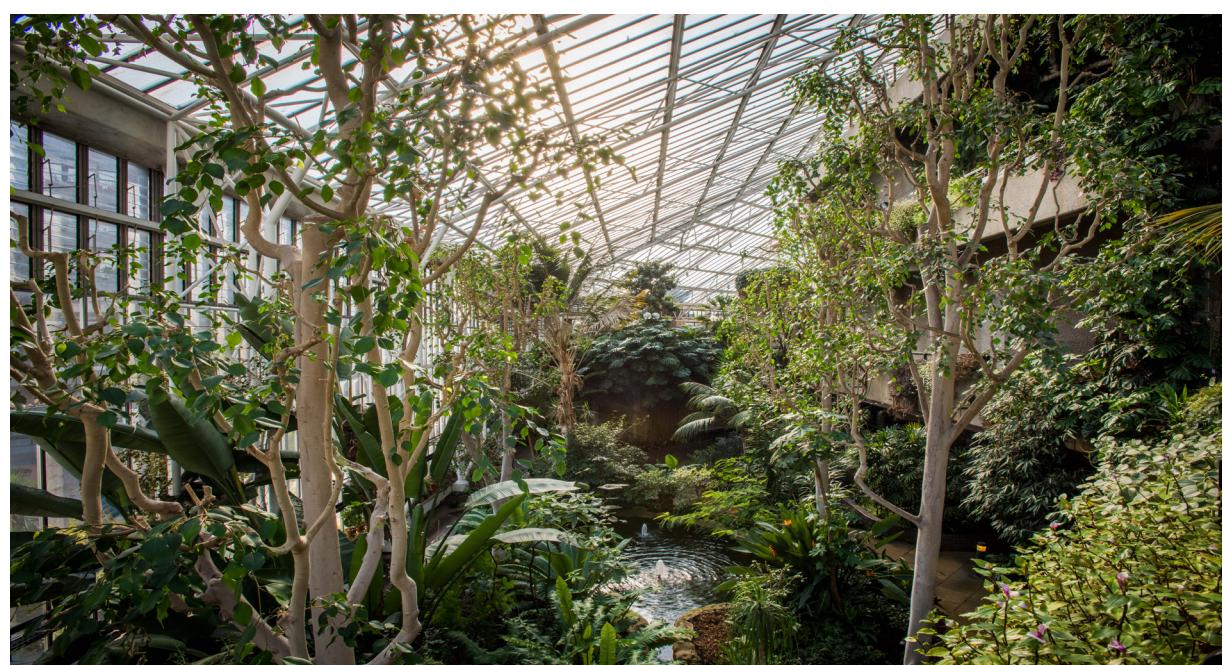
Holborn Viaduct (Image by IR\_Stone / Getty Images)



Guildhall Art Gallery (Image by Sam Roberts)

For an alternative, scenic route, at the end of Grays Inn Road you can turn left onto Holborn then up Brooke St, through the stunning **Waterhouse Square** to Leather Lane. The Square is named after Alfred Waterhouse, who designed the buildings originally for the Prudential Insurance Company. Go north up Leather Lane and turn right onto Greville St. From here, you can head right down **Hatton Garden** and marvel at the array of jewels on offer on this world-famous street with workshops, designers and diamond traders. The street takes its name from Sir Christopher Hatton.

Take a left down Charterhouse St and follow it until you reach **Charterhouse Square**, where you can explore The Charterhouse. Established in 1348, has had a very lively history and for the past 400 years has provided a community for older people in need. Alternatively, you can continue on to access the **Barbican Arts Centre**. Built on a site ravaged by the Blitz, the Barbican is recognised the world over because of its Brutalist style of architecture. It is in some ways a City within the City, and home to around 4,000 residents across 2,000 flats. Organised around schools, a church, a library, an artificial lake, conservatory and an entire arts centre, it is not to be missed on a visit to the City.



The Conservatory at the Barbican (Image by Max Colson)