

# Welcome

This tree trail has been created in partnership between Trees for Cities & the City of London Festival. It aims to provide a fascinating and fun guide to some of the most interesting trees and heritage sites the City has to offer, accessible to all visitors, workers and residents – young and old.

The City is a great showcase for the diverse range of trees that can grow within the often harsh and challenging urban environmsts visitors; there are nearly 2,500 individual trees in the City, made up from around 70 different species.

As you will learn along the trail, **trees are a vital part of cities**, they absorb pollution and carbon dioxide; attract a diverse range of wildlife; absorb water, helping to reduce flooding; bring city dwellers in contact with nature; provide places for children to play; create peaceful spaces for people to relax and socialise; provide shade; and can even reduce the air temperature in hot summers.

This trail is a celebration of the diverse tree population and history of the Square Mile. It is also intended to highlight the importance of urban trees across the world and the need for people to continue planting and caring for them. We hope you enjoy your time on the trail and discover something new along the way.

Enjoy.



## Using the trails

Please refer to the map with trail options on the other side of this leaflet – we have tried to accommodate everyone with different walks for all abilities and lengths of time. We have also included some fun activities to look out for at some of the stops along the trail.

# City walk

The main City walk takes in eleven significant trees found within a two-mile route of St Paul's Cathedral and also incorporates sites of historical importance such as the London City Wall, the Barbican, Smithfields Market, the Old Bailey, Cheapside, Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral. This walk should take you roughly one hour, however if you are pushed for time, there is a shorter route of thirty minutes which can be followed on the map. There are plenty of parks and gardens along the way to sit and relax in, enjoy a picnic or have fun on the play equipment. Toilets, play equipment and access information are indicated on the map.

To start the trail, find your way to the south side of St Paul's Cathedral garden and follow the trees indicated along the route using the locations on the reverse of the leaflet.

## 1. Sweet Gum

Found on the south side of St Paul's, this is the largest Sweet Gum in the City at 25m high. Sweet Gum leaves turn beautiful vibrant red and yellow colours in the autumn, creating a firework effect.

Look closely and you'll see that the tree has scaly, alligator-skin textured bark.

## 2. London Plane

Originally purchased for sixpence over 250 years ago, the special Cheapside Plane is believed to be the oldest Plane tree in the City. This tree is protected by clauses that prevent the surrounding buildings being redeveloped.

Some of its leaves can grow bigger than your head; in autumn see if you can find any on the ground and measure it.

## 3. Judas Tree

The Judas Tree has beautiful dark pink flowers which, combined with its heart shaped leaves, create a stunning tree during Spring and Summer. The flowers are edible and taste both sweet and acidic. This is a very popular tree in the city due to its unusual shape and is great for sheltering under if it is raining.

Across the road Aldermanbury Gardens has lots of historical features. Look for clues to see what you can find out about the gardens.

## 4. Foxglove Tree

The Foxglove Tree is distinctive because of its large heart-shaped leaves, which can grow to be 60cm in diameter. Its beautiful flower-spikes look like the foxglove plant (hence its name) and bear small egg-shaped fruits.

See what medicinal plants you can find in the garden today.

## 5. Handkerchief Tree

The Handkerchief Tree can be found against the long wall opposite the memorial tiles. This species of tree is very rare in the City; it is particularly stunning in late May when covered in white bracts that resemble handkerchiefs, from which the tree gets its name.

See if you can find the newest addition to the memorial wall.

## 6. Fig Tree

There are lots of interesting species within the lovely Rotunda gardens including mature London Planes, two Caucasian Walnuts and a very impressive mature Fig Tree, behind which you can see the beautiful architecture of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

See how many figs you can count on the tree. For children and the young at heart you will find various play equipment around the rotunda.

## 7. Tulip Tree

The Tulip Tree is a very attractive tree that has unusual shaped leaves and tulip shaped green 'cup' flowers which yield large quantities of nectar. This is an example of new tree planting and landscaping within the City and creates a vital living legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Take a seat and enjoy the water feature and view of the Old Bailey over the road.

## 8. Maidenhair Tree

Ginkgo trees, native to China, can be traced back 270 million years, when dinosaurs walked the planet – some call it a living fossil! Look out for Ginkgo supplements next time you are in a chemist.

See the city in a more rounded view in the mirror balls opposite the Ginkgos.

## 9. Elms

The New Horizon Elm species is significant as it was developed to resist the damaging Dutch Elm disease, the disease that wiped out over 25 million Elm trees in England alone.

Try out your detective skills to discover who planted these trees and why.

## 10. Swamp Cypress

The Swamp Cypress is a native of North America, one of the few deciduous conifers to be found in the UK and is also known as the 'bald cypress' because it sheds its deep red leaves in winter. Its wood is water proof and very good for making furniture and wood carvings.

Find out why this is called the Cleary Garden. The clue is somewhere in the garden amongst the plants.

## 11. Silver Lime

An impressive hedge of pleached Lime trees (both Large leafed Lime and Silver Lime) surround the Festival Garden that was developed on the site of bomb-damaged land. The wood of Lime trees was used by Grinling Gibbons, the Dutch sculptor, in the construction of the Cathedral's choir stalls – why not head inside and have a look?

Count how many trees make up the Lime hedge.



# River Trail

If you are feeling more adventurous a longer walk lasting roughly two hours can be made along the Thames Path. This walk takes in the iconic sights of London's Embankment, the historic Temple gardens, the Tate Modern across the river and the various bridges that transport Londoners from North to South. Follow this route and discover the Middle and Inner Temple gardens, hosting magnificent trees including the Black Mulberry (1) and the Indian Bean Tree (2). Continue along the walk and find huge Victorian London Planes (3) and (5), a Strawberry Tree (4), Horse Chestnut (6) and the rare Japanese Snowball Tree (7).

The City of London Festival has been running since 1962 and exists to entertain and inspire the City's workers, residents and visitors with special events and world-class artists in the beautiful surroundings of the oldest part of London. Since 2009 the Festival has had an environmental focus within its programme. This Tree Trail was commissioned by the Festival in 2013 as part of a celebration of the City's Trees.

colf.org

Trees for Cities is an independent charity that works with communities, residents and schools to transform the urban environment and plant trees in cities where they are most needed. In its 20th birthday year, Trees for Cities joined forces with the City of London Festival to celebrate London's unique tree heritage.

treesforcities.org

The gardens in the City are part of a network of open spaces, parks and gardens around London, owned and managed by the City of London as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each open space is a unique resource managed for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the conservation of wildlife and historic landscape.

cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces

To feed into the development of the Tree Trail, Trees for Cities and the City of London Festival ran workshops at four primary schools in boroughs surrounding the City. Each group visited the City to study its trees and then undertook further work back in the classroom. The illustrations contained in this guide are by some of the pupils involved in these workshops:

Michael Faraday Primary School  
Rotherfield Primary School  
Shapla Primary School  
Thomas Fairchild Community School

For further information about the City's trees, or if you require this leaflet in another format, please contact 020 7332 3505

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# CITY OF LONDON TREE TRAIL

## POCKET GUIDE /



Trees for Cities



CITY OF LONDON




City of London Festival




# CITY OF LONDON TREE TRAIL

## MAP/ICON KEY


**City trail**   
2 miles, est. 1 hour – 1 hour 40 minutes to complete

**Short cut**   
for City trail trees 1-5

**River trail**   
2.5 miles, est. 2 hours to complete.


- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Tree location            |  Access by steps         |
|  Restricted opening hours |  Viewing point           |
|  Play facilities          |  Seating                 |
|  Uneven ground            |  Drinking water fountain |
|  Dangerous Crossing       |  Toilets                 |

## 11 Silver Lime *Tilia tomentosa*

 Festival Gardens  
The walk ends here. Take a seat in the gardens and enjoy the bustle of the City. Have a think, how many different species of trees have you seen?



## 10 Swamp Cypress *Taxodium distichum*


 Cleary Garden  
This garden is great for hide and seek or a peaceful sit down because it has so many secret levels and hideaway spots – see how many you can find.



## DID YOU KNOW?


The great London Plane tree, planted by the Victorians for its tolerance of pollution & air cleaning quality, is actually not native to London, but a hybrid of the American & Oriental Plane.

## 2 London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*

 Junction of Cheapside and Wood Lane  
Walk through the gardens and come out of the North side entrance, at St Pauls Underground station, and cross over the road to head east down Cheapside.




## 3 Judas Tree *Cercis siliquastrum*

 Opposite St Mary Aldermanbury Gardens on Aldermanbury Street  
From the London Plane, walk back onto Cheapside and take the next left, heading east, onto Milk Street. This will take you up to Aldermanbury Gardens, a lovely church and a lovely pond on your right.




## 4 Foxglove Tree *Paulonia tomentosa*

 Barber Surgeon's House, Monkwell Square, off Wood Street  
Visit the remains of the ancient London Wall and walk further into the garden to see the impressive architecture of the Barbican.




## 5 Handkerchief Tree *Davidia involuta*

 Postman's Park  
If you have run out of time or energy then this is a good place to make a return back to St Paul's Cathedral by cutting down King Edward's Street.




## 6 Fig Tree *Ficus carica*

 West Smithfield Rotunda Garden  
Before you reach the iconic Smithfield Market, turn right into a pedestrian walk halfway down and cross the road with care. To experience a large working meat market visit Smithfield over the road.




## 8 Maidenhair Tree *Ginkgo Biloba*

 On the footpath between Millennium Bridge and St Paul's  
Be sure to stop and take in the fantastic view of St Paul's Cathedral and the river along the Millennium Bridge. See the city in a more rounded view in the mirror balls across from the Ginkgos.



## 7 Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*

 HMS Belfast  
North end of Old Bailey  
The Old Bailey courts are open to the public during the week, drop in and observe the courts in action.



## DID YOU KNOW?

That figs were one of the earliest fruits to be eaten by humans. Fossilised evidence of figs in Neolithic villages have been found dating back to 9400 BC.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That Ginkgos are very hardy trees. Six of them planted 1-2 km from the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bomb explosion were among the few living things in the area to survive the blast and the trees are still alive today.

For detail of the River trail see overleaf