

# FROM VICTORIA TO THE CITY



Image by Angelina Dimitrova / Getty Images



## Walk up a thirst. Discover history.

There are several enjoyable and interesting ways of reaching St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London without travelling on the tube. They will take you past some of London's most iconic landmarks.

### By Bus

You will need an Oyster Card or contactless bank card to travel on London buses as they don't take cash – but it is only £1.50 per journey – even if you change buses.

Bus no. 11 from stops N,S,T,W will take you through the most iconic places of London, such as Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and leading you straight to St Paul's Cathedral.

### By Boat

You can pick up a Thames Clipper or City Cruise boat from Westminster pier going east to the Tower of London.

## By Cycle

Take a Santander Bike from one of the racks outside London Victoria Station on Victoria Street, which leads to Westminster Abbey. New temporary bicycle routes have been added in central London, making it easier to cycle around.

### Cycling information



You can also bring your own bike into the City. Cycle parking is available at the many on-street cycle parking racks throughout the City. The City of London Corporation provides free cycle parking in its off-street public car parks. More cycle parking spaces are available in NCP car parks.



Westminster Abbey  
(Image by Vladislav Zolotov / Getty Images)



Big Ben  
(Image by Moussa81 / Getty Images)

**Walking to the City from Victoria Station will take approximately one hour. The route will take you past some of London's most iconic sites.**

Leave by the main exit, turning right at the traffic lights onto Buckingham Palace Road. On the right is the **Nova Building**, which offers plenty of choices for eating and drinking. Further up on the left is the **Royal Mews**, where you can visit the Queen's horses and carriages, including the opulent coronation carriage. You will then find yourself at the **Queen's Gallery**, where you can view the Royal collection of art and treasures.

The gallery forms part of **Buckingham Palace**, and if you walk on and turn left you will see the Palace in its entirety.

In front of Buckingham Palace there is an imposing statue of Queen Victoria. Through the main gates the **Changing of the Guard** usually takes place 4 days a week at 11am (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday), though this is currently suspended.

Straight ahead is St James's Park, where you can enjoy a green and varied space including a lake populated with fowl and pelicans that are fed every afternoon - quite a spectacle. As you continue through the park, you will arrive at Horse Guards Parade Road. Turn right passing the ground where the annual Trooping of the Colour celebrates the Queen's official birthday during the second weekend in June. On the way to Parliament you pass the **Churchill War Rooms** which is now a museum and can be visited daily (advance booking required).

Once at the end turn left on to Great George Street and you will arrive onto **Parliament Square**. To the right is the magnificent Gothic structure of **Westminster Abbey**, also known as the Coronation Church. This is open for visiting and pre-booking is required (please visit the website for opening hours). The Abbey is open for worship with a daily evening prayer service at 5pm.

Straight ahead are the **Houses of Parliament** and the famous clock tower affectionately known as **Big Ben**. Walking past Big Ben and crossing the traffic lights, you will arrive at **Whitehall**, also known as the corridor of power as the ministries such as Foreign, Finance and Defence are located there. You will also see the **Cenotaph**, designed by Sir E.L. Lutyens - a simple white column commemorating the dead from World War I. There is a procession of remembrance for all those that lost their lives in combat, which takes place at the memorial every second Sunday in November.

Carry on along Whitehall and on the right you will see Banqueting House, which is the only remaining part of **Whitehall Palace**. Further on is **Trafalgar Square**, Nelson's Column, the Lions and the heart of London. At the north end of the square is the **National Gallery**, home of Western European Art from 13th to early 20th Century, including masterpieces from Da Vinci, Turner, Rembrandt and many more (free, advance booking required).



Nelson's Column at Trafalgar Square  
(Image by coward\_lion / Getty Images)



The National Gallery  
(Image by Iakov Kalinin / Getty Images)

Walking east from Trafalgar Square, you will pass **Charing Cross Station**. Continue along the Strand, passing the Savoy Hotel. Once at Aldwych there are two churches on an 'island' in the middle of the road: St Mary le Strand and St Clement Danes. On the left-hand side, Harry Potter fans will spot **Australia House**, a.k.a Gringotts Bank. East of St. Clement Danes is a statue of Dr Johnson and his cat, the former being the creator of the first English Dictionary. You can visit his house in Gough Square, just off Fleet Street.

You will soon notice a large dragon, which means you are now entering the City of London. You will be greeted by a large Gothic style building, which is the **Royal Courts of Justice**. You are now in **Fleet Street** - former home of the British press. You will see some signs on buildings alluding to its past.

Continue along Fleet Street, where you will come to a very large junction called Ludgate Circus. Continue straight up Ludgate hill, where the spectacular **St Paul's Cathedral** dominates the skyline. The Cathedral can be visited every day except for Sundays, which is reserved for worship only.

The **City Information Centre** is on your right, just south of the Cathedral. It is the ideal place to call in for the latest information on what is on in London and to buy tickets for St Paul's and many other London attractions – as well as some quality souvenirs and gifts.



The City Information Centre (Image by Ben Broomfield)