

ALLEYWAYS OF THE CITY

2 miles

This walk is easy going. No map is supplied since it would be too complex, so follow these directions carefully and perhaps take an A-Z, although not many of these alleyways can be found in it. Whatever happens you can't get too lost!

1 Start by travelling to Blackfriars station - train from Bowes Park or tube to Kings Cross then a 45 or 63 bus from right outside the station. Note that Blackfriars underground station is currently closed for a major rebuilding scheme. There is the mainline Thameslink train from Kings Cross to Blackfriars, however this doesn't normally run at weekends (the same rebuilding work).

2 Go ahead a few yards from the bus stop to see 'Black Friar' PH. on the left. Not much to look at from the outside but it is Listed Grade II* on account of its truly remarkable interior. Go inside for a drink - it really is remarkable. Retrace your steps a short distance up Bridge Street the way the bus has just come then follow these directions - R for right, L for left.

3 R into Apothecary St to cross Thameslink railway on bridge over tunnel mouth. The railway formerly stayed on the level and crossed Ludgate Hill on a bridge, blocking the view of St Pauls.

R into Blackfriars Lane. Note Apothecaries Hall (City Livery Company Hall) - go into courtyard to view.

L into Playhouse Yard.

L at Cockpit PH into Burgon St. Playhouse Yard and the 'Cockpit' are both names that are reminders of the past. You will see plenty more.

R at Rising Sun PH into Carter Lane.

4 R into Wardrobe Place (careful, easy to miss) - out and back into cul-de-sac to see C17th houses. The name is a reminder that this was once the site of the royal wardrobe, where the Kings formal garments were kept - until it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

R Godliman St.

L Knychtrider St.

R at Centre Page PH into Peter's Hill (crossing the approach to the famous wobbly bridge, look back for a view of St Paul's).

5 L Distaff Lane.

Ahead up steps past church.

R at end of church into Old Fish St Hill.

L Queen Victoria St. Cross road.

Through Cleary Gardens if open (these gardens were laid out on a former bomb site) - either way, it's then -

6 R Huggin Hill.

L Huggin Court.

L Little Trinity Lane. Note Painters Hall (Livery Company Hall).

R Great Trinity Lane.

L Garlick Hill - Past Hatchet PH.

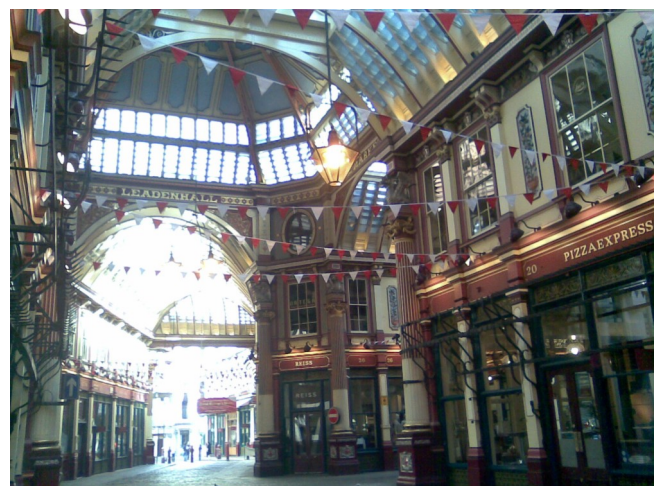
Ahead is Bow Lane (having crossed main roads).

7 Pass Ye Olde Watling PH on the corner of Roman Watling Street.

L into Grovelands Court - out and back to see Williamsons Tavern.

L into unnamed alley next to Grovelands Court.

L Bow Churchyard, then R beside church (St Mary Le Bow - as in the Great Bell of Bow, cockneys etc.)



Leadenhall Market

8

R Cheapside - cross road.
L Honey Lane, passing City Tavern.

R Trump St.

L Lawrence Lane.

R Gresham St.

L Guildhall Yard.

R Guildhall Buildings. You are now opposite the Guildhall, seat of city government and largely rebuilt following wartime bomb damage. Note gas lamps and a now rare police phone box.

R Basinghall St.

R Gresham St.

L Ironmonger Lane.

L St Olaves Court.

9

R Old Jewry. The name is a relic of the fact that this was once the city's Jewish area.

R Fredericks Place - out and back to see C18th buildings, including former home of Benjamin Disraeli. Note torch snuffers outside houses.

L Poultry - cross road.

R Bucklersbury Passage.

Ahead and left into Bucklersbury.

Ahead St Stephens Row - Beside St Stephen Jewry. This church ("One of the ten most important buildings in England" - Pevsner) was used by Christopher Wren as a dress rehearsal for St Pauls. Note gas lamp high up on wall on left (may not be lit).

10

R Mansion House Place (no street name).
L St Swithin Lane.

R King William St.

L Post Office Court. This was once the site of the city post office. A very important building from which the mail coaches once departed.

R Lombard Street.

You will now find yourself in a maze of narrow alleys. Few people know they are there and this area is very historic.

11

L Change Alley.

R Unnamed alley.

L Birchin Lane.

R Bengal Court (note old shop fronts).

L Beside George & Vulture PH - St Michael's Alley.

L again down alley - Castle Court.

R into narrow passage to Ball Court and Simpsons PH. An ancient city institution.



12

Retrace steps to George & Vulture.

Ahead past Jamaica Wine House (St Michaels Alley). The Jamaica Wine House was once a city coffee house. At end of gardens R under arch then L, Bell Inn Yard.

L Bell Inn Yard.

L Gracechurch St (Crosse Keys PH).

R Leadenhall Market, which is an ornate Victorian market building, now superbly restored and maintained.

Note on the left the extraordinary Lloyds Building.

13

R Lime St past Grapes PH.

Ahead crossing Fenchurch St into Philpot Lane.

R Brabant Court to see old building (out and back).

At junction with Eastcheap look up on wall of Café Nero to see carving of mice with cheese on the side of the building.

Ahead Botolph Lane.

R Monument St to the Monument. This was built to commemorate the Great Fire. You can climb the Monument (311 steps) to admire the view .

To get back to Bowes Park:

Monument and Bank underground stations are nearby and the 141 bus back to Wood Green and Palmers Green stops opposite.