

Hidden London

Walking Tour Guide

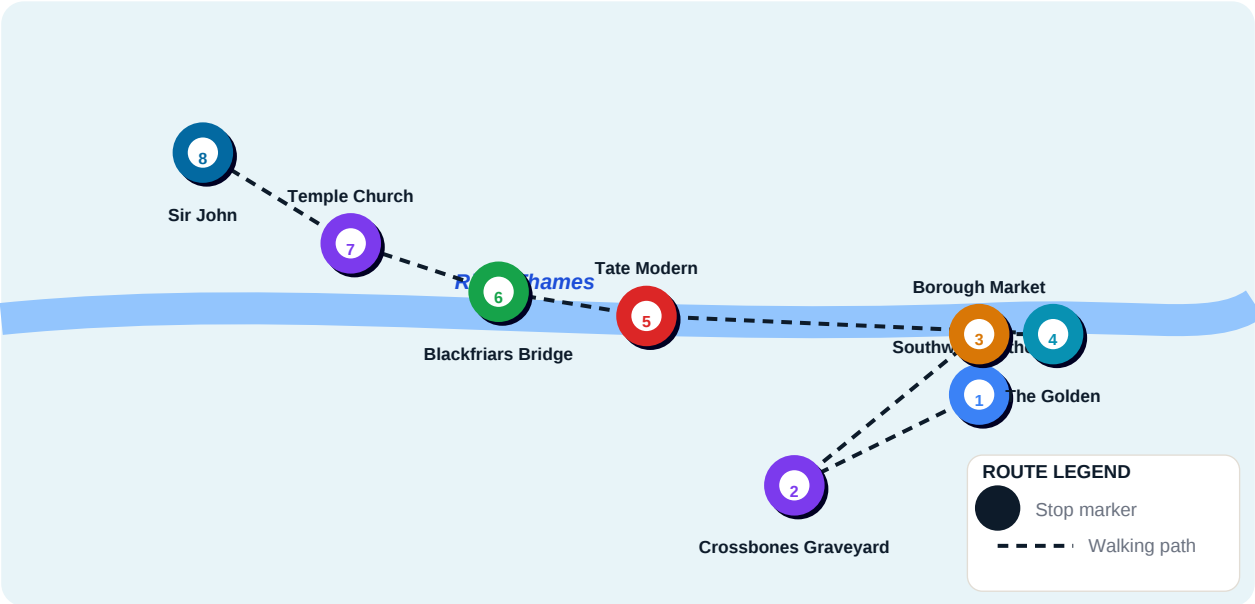
8 Secret Stops · 2.5 Hours · Southwark → Holborn · Free to print & share

This guide takes you off the tourist trail and into the London that most visitors never see — medieval graveyards, Crusader churches, rooftop railway arches, and one of the world's greatest secret museums. All within a gentle 3.8 km riverside walk.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

Start London Bridge Station (Jubilee / Northern Line)	End Holborn Station (Central / Piccadilly Line)	Distance 3.8 km (2.4 miles)
Duration 2 hours 30 minutes walking + stops	Difficulty Easy — flat route, no hills	Cost Mostly free — optional £5 Golden Hinde, free Tate Modern &

SCHEMATIC ROUTE MAP



PRO TIPS FOR THIS WALK

Best day	Tuesday or Wednesday — quietest, Soane's open late on Tue
Footwear	Comfortable flat shoes — cobblestones on Clink Street

■ Navigation	Download offline Google Maps before you go
■ Tide check	Check BBC London tide times — Stop 6 needs low tide
■ Fuel up	Borough Market (Stop 3) for breakfast before continuing

THE 8 STOPS — DETAILED GUIDE

Each stop below includes insider tips, the best time to visit, what to do, and what to skip. Follow the numbers in order for the most logical walking route.

1



Southwark Cathedral

London Bridge · 51.5054° N, 0.0904° W

■ START HERE

HIDDEN TIP

Enter from the riverside door — the medieval nave is free and almost always empty. The tomb of Shakespeare's brother Edmund is here.

BEST TIME

8–9am for golden light through the rose window

DO THIS

- ✓ Light a candle in the Harvard Chapel
- ✓ Find the replica Golden Hinde ship nearby
- ✓ Check the Norman undercroft

AVOID

Lunchtime — tour groups arrive from Borough Market

★★★★★

2



Crossbones Graveyard

Borough / Southwark · 51.5032° N, 0.0964° W

■ 5 min walk west

HIDDEN TIP

An unconsecrated graveyard for 'outcast dead' — medieval prostitutes & paupers. The iron gates are covered in ribbons and mementos. Profoundly moving and utterly unknown to most tourists.

BEST TIME

Any time — it's always open as a public memorial garden

DO THIS

- ✓ Read the stories on the memorial boards
- ✓ Add a ribbon or token to the gate
- ✓ Visit on 23rd of each month for candlelit vigil

AVOID

Nothing to avoid — a respectful quiet space

★★★★★

3



Borough Market Rooftop Lane

Borough · 51.5054° N, 0.0910° W

■ 4 min walk north

HIDDEN TIP

Duck through Stoney Street and look up — the Victorian wrought-iron railway arches frame a stunning rooftop skyline. The lane behind Monmouth Coffee is where chefs shop at 6am.

BEST TIME

Early morning (8–10am) or late evening when market is closed

DO THIS

- ✓ Grab the legendary cheese toastie from Kappacasein
- ✓ Try Neal's Yard Dairy aged cheddar
- ✓ Photograph through the railway arches

AVOID

Saturday noon — impossibly crowded

★★★★★

4



The Golden Hinde

Bankside · 51.5057° N, 0.0904° W

■ 3 min walk east

HIDDEN TIP

A full-size replica of Drake's circumnavigation ship, docked in a hidden courtyard off Clink Street. Most people walk right past. Climb aboard for £5.

BEST TIME

Weekday mornings when school groups aren't in

DO THIS

- ✓ Walk Clink Street's cobblestones
- ✓ See the original Clink Prison Museum
- ✓ Find the 'Mudlarking Beach' at low tide

AVOID

High tide (no beach access)

★★★★■

5



Tate Modern Turbine Hall

Bankside · 51.5076° N, 0.0994° W

■ 8 min walk west

HIDDEN TIP

The Turbine Hall is free and always has a jaw-dropping installation. Ride the lift to Level 10 for the best free view of St Paul's in London — completely unknown to tourists.

BEST TIME

Weekday late afternoon, golden hour hits the Thames

DO THIS

- ✓ Take the lift to Level 10 viewing deck (FREE)
- ✓ Walk across the Millennium Bridge for the famous view
- ✓ Explore the free Boiler House galleries

AVOID

Weekend afternoons in summer



6



Blackfriars Bridge Underbelly

Blackfriars · 51.5119° N, 0.1042° W

■ 10 min walk west

HIDDEN TIP

Walk under Blackfriars Bridge at low tide. The Victorian ironwork is extraordinary and you're completely alone. The old railway bridge columns still stand in the Thames.

BEST TIME

1–2 hours after high tide — check a tide table

DO THIS

- ✓ Look for Roman pottery shards in the mud (legally)
- ✓ Photograph the bridge ironwork
- ✓ Watch the Thames boat traffic from river level

AVOID

High tide — path floods completely



7



Temple Church

Temple / Inns of Court · 51.5120° N, 0.1073° W

7 min walk north

HIDDEN TIP

A 12th-century round church built by the Knights Templar, hidden inside the Inns of Court. Crusader knights lie in stone on the floor. Most tourists never find it — it's not on Google Maps prominently.

BEST TIME

Tuesday–Sunday 10am–4pm (closed Mon)

DO THIS

- ✓ See the original Templar effigies on the floor
- ✓ Wander the peaceful Inner Temple Garden (free)
- ✓ Find the sundial in the courtyard

AVOID

Mondays (closed) and during legal term services

★★★★★

8



Sir John Soane's Museum

Holborn · 51.5172° N, 0.1177° W

12 min walk north

HIDDEN TIP

The architect's own house, left exactly as it was in 1837 — crammed with antiquities, Hogarth paintings in secret fold-out panels, a sarcophagus in the basement, and an Egyptian crypt. Free entry. Shockingly undervisited.

BEST TIME

Tuesday open late to 9pm — candlelit first Tuesday of the month

DO THIS

- ✓ Ask staff to open the hidden Hogarth panel paintings
- ✓ Descend to the sarcophagus room
- ✓ Sign up for the candlelit evening tour

AVOID

First Tuesday evening — gets busy (but worth it)

★★★★★

QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Cut out or screenshot this page for easy reference on the walk.

#	Stop Name	Area	Walk	Cost	Must Do
1	Southwark Cathedral	London Bridge	START	Free	Light a candle in the Harvard Chape...
2	Crossbones Graveyard	Borough / Southwark	5 min walk west	Free	Read the stories on the memorial bo...
3	Borough Market Rooftop Lane	Borough	4 min walk north	£5	Grab the legendary cheese toastie f...
4	The Golden Hinde	Bankside	3 min walk east	£5	Walk Clink Street's cobblestones
5	Tate Modern Turbine Hall	Bankside	8 min walk west	Free	Take the lift to Level 10 viewing d...
6	Blackfriars Bridge Underbelly	Blackfriars	10 min walk west	Free	Look for Roman pottery shards in th...
7	Temple Church	Temple / Inns of Court	7 min walk north	£5	See the original Templar effigies o...
8	Sir John Soane's Museum	Holborn	12 min walk north	Free	Ask staff to open the hidden Hogart...

TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS		
Holborn Station	Central & Piccadilly lines	End of walk
Temple Station	Circle & District lines	Midway option (Stop 7)
Blackfriars Station	Thameslink & District	After Stop 6
London Bridge Station	Jubilee & Northern	Walk start

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