

# The City

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Walking through that treasury of history, the **Tower of London** (p136), past the colourful Yeoman Warders (or Beefeaters), the spectacular Crown Jewels, the soothsaying ravens and armour fit for a *very* large king.
- 2 Listening in on whispering neighbours in the dome of **St Paul's** (p142), before enjoying its far-reaching views.
- 3 Getting below the surface – literally – of the City at the extensive **Museum of London** (p151).
- 4 Imagining the tragedy of medieval London ablaze as you climb the **Monument** (p148) to the Great Fire of 1666.
- 5 Marvelling at the City's ultramodern new buildings from what is perhaps its least admired building, **20 Fenchurch St** (p147), aka the 'Walkie Talkie'.



For more detail of this area see Map p418 →

## Explore: The City

For its size – just one square mile (about 2.6 sq km) – the City punches well above its weight for attractions. Start with the heavyweights – the Tower of London and St Paul's – allowing at least a half-day for each. It's worth arriving early to avoid the queues in season. You can combine the other top sights with explorations of the City's lesser-known delights and quieter corners – Christopher Wren's dozens of churches make peaceful stops along the way.

While more than 350,000 people work in the City of London, fewer than 8000 actually live here. To appreciate its frantic industry and buzz, come during the week, when you'll find everything open. It largely empties in the evening as its workers retreat to the suburbs, and weekends have traditionally been quiet. But in recent years, the One New Change shopping mall and the new bars and restaurants atop the City's flashiest skyscrapers have begun attracting people at off-peak times.

## Local Life

- **Culture Vulture Nest** A powerhouse of culture (though not the prettiest kid in class), people flock to the Barbican (p149) for its innovative dance, theatre, music, films and art.
- **Meals with a View** There's nothing like getting a taste of the high life, trying to spot your hotel and watching the sun go down over the capital at Tower 42's City Social (p153).
- **Old-Style Drinking** Though they tend to keep bankers' hours, the City's pubs are some of the most atmospheric and historic – the Jamaica Wine House (p155) once did time as London's first coffee house.

## Getting There & Away

- **Underground** There's a tangle of tube lines under the City. The handiest stations are Bank (Central, Northern, DLR and Waterloo & City) and St Paul's (Central Line), but Blackfriars (Circle and District), Barbican (Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City) and Tower Hill (Circle and District) are useful for sights further afield.
- **Bus** For a west-to-east sweep from Tottenham Court Rd past St Paul's, Bank and Liverpool St, hop on the 8. From Trafalgar Sq via Fleet St and the Tower, the 15. The 11 sets off from Liverpool St and passes Bank, Mansion House and St Paul's on its way to Chelsea. The 26 follows a similar route through the City but branches off for Waterloo.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Designed by Jean Nouvel, **One New Change** (Map p418; www.onenewchange.com; 1 New Change, EC4M; ☀10am-7pm Mon-Wed & Fri, to 8pm Thu, to 6pm Sat, noon-6pm Sun; 📍St Paul's, Blackfriars) – called the 'Stealth Bomber' by some because of its distinctive shape – is a shopping mall housing mainly high-street brands, but take the lift to its 6th floor and a great open viewing platform will reward you with up-close views of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral and out over London.

## Best Places to Eat

- City Social (p153)
- White Swan (p153)
- Miyama (p153)
- Wine Library (p153)
- Perkin Reveller (p153)

For reviews, see p152 ➡

## Best Places to Drink

- Sky Pod (p153)
- Blackfriar (p155)
- Madison (p155)
- Jamaica Wine House (p155)
- Counting House (p155)

For reviews, see p153 ➡

## Best Churches

- St Bartholomew-the-Great (p150)
- All Hallows by the Tower (p146)
- Temple Church (p152)

For reviews, see 146 ➡