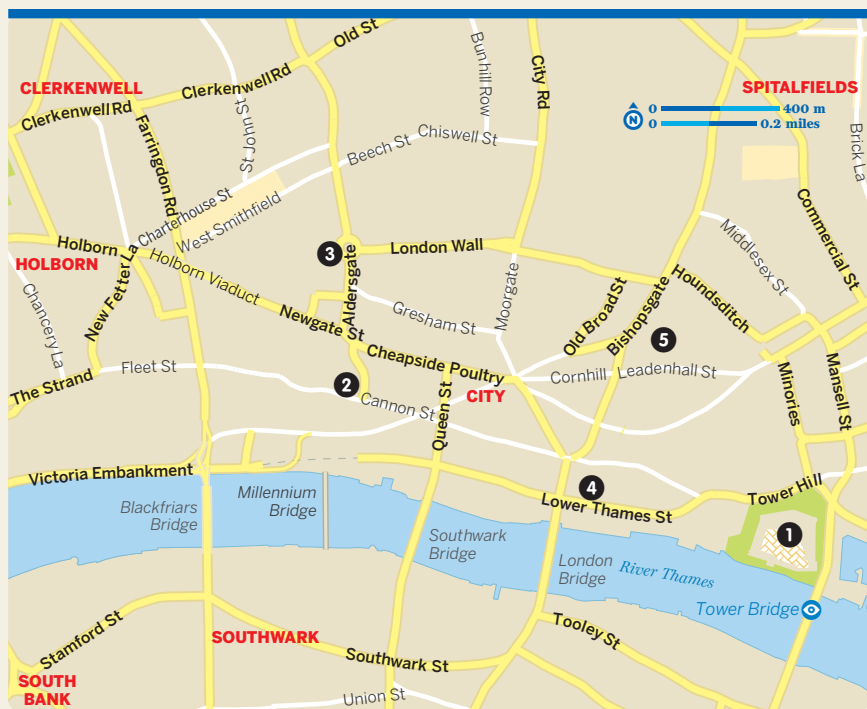


The City

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Being bowled over by the spectacular Crown Jewels, the Yeoman Warders' (beefeaters') gruesome tales and the head-spinning wealth of history at the unmatched **Tower of London** (p141).
- 2 Listening for whispers in the dome of **St Paul's Cathedral** (p147), before enjoying its awe-inspiring views.
- 3 Getting under the skin of the city at the excellent **Museum of London** (p154).
- 4 Imagining the spectacle of London ablaze as you climb the **Monument** (p152).
- 5 Marvelling at the ultra-modern **30 St Mary Axe** (p151) and **Lloyd's of London** (p151).



Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Designed by Jean Nouvel, **One New Change** (www.onenewchange.com; Cheapside EC2; ☎ St Paul's), a recently opened shopping centre, houses mainly run-of-the-mill, 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

- ➔ Sweeting's (p157)
- ➔ Café Below (p157)
- ➔ Restaurant at St Paul's (p157)
- ➔ City Caphê (p159)

For reviews, see p157 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Vertigo 42 (p159)
- ➔ Black Friar (p159)
- ➔ Volupté (p160)

For reviews, see p159 ➔



Best Churches

- ➔ St Bartholomew-the-Great (p155)
- ➔ St Stephen Walbrook (p152)
- ➔ Temple Church (p157)

For reviews, see p150 ➔

Explore: The City

For its size, the City punches well above its weight for attractions – there's literally an embarrassment of riches here when it comes to sightseeing. Start with the heavyweights – the Tower of London and St Paul's – and try to allow at least a half day for each. It's worth arriving early too, unless you like to queue. You can combine the other top sights with explorations of the City's lesser-known delights and quieter corners; the scores of churches make peaceful stops along the way.

While about 300,000 people work in the City of London, only 8000 actually live here. To really appreciate its frantic industry and hum, you're best to come during the week, which is when you'll find everything open. It empties quickly in the evening, though, as its workers retreat to the suburbs. Weekends have a very different appeal, giving you a lot more space for quiet contemplation, although you'll find most places shut tight until Monday. All of the big-hitting sights, however, open on at least one weekend day.

Local Life

➔ **Barbican** A powerhouse of culture, people flock to the Barbican (p154) for its innovative dance, theatre, music and art, stopping to enjoy lunch or a coffee in its excellent food hall.

➔ **Drinks in the Sky** There's nothing like getting a taste of the high life, trying to spot your house and watching the sun go down over the capital at Vertigo 42 (p159).

➔ **Burlesque** While the City's not known for late nights, dressed-up locals detour for the cabaret and burlesque, cocktails and full-on vintage club nights at Volupté (p160).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Underground** A veritable tangle of tube lines cross over in the City and you're never too far away from one of them. Handiest are St Paul's (Central Line) and Bank (Central, Northern, DLR and Waterloo & City), but Blackfriars (Circle and District), Barbican (Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City) and Tower Hill (Circle & District) are all useful for the further-flung sights.

➔ **Bus** For a west-to-east sweep from Oxford Circus through St Paul's, Bank and Liverpool St, hop on the 8; and from Piccadilly Circus via Fleet St and the Tower, the 15. The 11 sets off from Liverpool St and passes Bank and Mansion House on its way to Chelsea. The 26 follows the same route through the City but branches off for Waterloo.

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