

1 ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE

Underneath Guildhall Yard, is the site of London's Roman Amphitheatre. This large outdoor theatre—like the Colosseum in Rome—was once the stage for eclectic events like animal fights, devotional ceremonies and public executions. Heading into the basement of the Guildhall Art Gallery, you'll be able to see what remains of this immense stone structure.

2 ROYAL EXCHANGE

Now a luxury shopping destination, The Royal Exchange—as it stands today—was opened by Queen Victoria in 1844. The central courtyard structure retains its original 16th-century layout, built in the style of typical Northern European trading houses. Head inside and upstairs to the first floor to find a series of 24 murals narrating London's history. Painted between 1895 and 1922, the murals include work by British artists such as Lord Frederick Leighton.

3 ST DUNSTAN IN THE EAST

Take a moment to relax in this tranquil paradise hidden in the City. This magnificent Gothic church was largely destroyed by bombing during the Blitz in 1940s, leaving only Christopher Wren's steeple and some of its walls intact. In the 1970s, St Dunstan and its surrounding area was transformed into a green space that continues to provide the public with an oasis set back from the busy City streets.

4 FEN COURT/ THE GARDEN AT 120

Just off Fenchurch Street, you'll stumble upon a tranquil garden with a labyrinth on surface level, installed in 2010 on the site of an old church which can be used as an aid for mindfulness. You'll also notice a large granite sculpture made up of sugarcane columns of varying heights. Gilt of Cain— by sculptor Michael Visocchi and poet Lemn Sissay—was introduced to Fen Court in 2007 to mark the 200-year anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

5 ST HELEN'S BISHOPSGATE CHURCH

Nestled among some of London's tallest and most iconic buildings is the church that was once attended by William Shakespeare in the 16th Century. The church's outer structure dates largely from the 13th Century. The unusual double façade is a reminder of the two churches that once stood side-by-side; the nuns' choir to the North and the parish church to the South which were once separated by a row of arches and a screen.

6 SALTERS' HALL GARDEN

Head into this urban garden to see one of the most prominent sections of the London Wall—that once housed the Roman city—that is still visible today. See the contrast between the historical stone ruins and the Brutalist building that is the modern home to The Salters' Company. Today's building was designed by Sir Basil Spence in 1976, but the land has belonged to the Salters since 1454.

7 POSTMAN'S PARK

In the former site of the General Post Office's headquarters, Postman's Park is one of the larger public green spaces in the City. The park was converted from a churchyard in the late 19th Century, after The Burial Act was introduced in 1851. The park contains the Grade II listed Victorian Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice. Here, you'll notice plaques that each commemorate the life of an 'ordinary' person that sacrificed themselves to save the lives of others.

8 THE HERBALIST'S PLANT PRESS

More than a place to lunch outside the office, Holborn Circus is also home to a new temporary garden by Fleet Street Quarter which reintroduces herbal and medicinal plants to the City. The design is inspired by 16th Century herbalist John Gerard who had a prominent garden in Holborn (approximately where Fetter Lane is now), and created his "Generall Historie of Plantes", printed in 1597.

9 QUEENHITHE MOSAIC

Just ashore of the Thames—where you'll see Shakespeare's Globe to the South—the Queenhithe Mosaic sits hidden away on the North bank. Marking the site of a 12th Century port, the stunning mosaic reveals key moments across the 2000-year history of the City.

10 ONE NEW CHANGE ROOF TERRACE

Time to climb! Round off your City explorations with a trip to the rooftop at One New Change. Due to St Paul's Cathedral sight-line height restrictions, the building's ground-source energy system was the largest in Europe when it was built—a pioneering project of the City's green ambitions. Here you can rest your feet and enjoy the spectacular views of the Cathedral's dome.

CITY OF LONDON SECRET SPACES TRAIL



The London Festival of Architecture invites you to peek behind the bustle of the City of London, navigating its twisting streets to explore its abundance of hidden but publicly accessible spaces.



The City of London has some of the most fascinating stories and greatest histories spanning more than 2,000 years. It is the birthplace of London; known to the Romans as 'Londinium' when it was founded in the 1st century AD. Roman ruins lay beneath your feet, glass towers above your head.

The City is a mix of old and

new—full of historical treasures alongside modern architecture. Today, the City has a plentiful array of unique gardens and biodiversity initiatives that make it an important site of transformation in an ever-changing London.

As one of our festival destinations this year, the City of London will be animated throughout the month of June with activities and installations from Fleet Street in the west, along Cheapside and across the Eastern Cluster to Aldgate. Through the LFA's theme of 'In Common' we are thinking about the importance of our public spaces, of which the City has many. Some of these spots—and their stories—may be unknown to visitors, workers and residents alike. This trail will reveal some of the City's history, public spaces and stories around every corner.

