

Discover London...



map & introduction

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND CITY SQUARES. . .

Full day

This full day trail takes you from the heart of Mayfair, through fashionable city squares, the lively areas of Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Covent Garden to the magnificent Somerset House – London's latest meeting place and Lincoln's Inn – one of London's largest squares. On the way, you'll be treated to some of London's greatest cultural triumphs ... theatre and opera, Impressionist art and contemporary photography ...

Celebrate the life of a famous composer, see some handsome churches, and visit Leicester Square, heart of the capital's entertainment district and site of many of London's best-known theatres. You'll be immersed in the vibrancy of fashionable Covent Garden, a converted 1830s fruit and vegetable market, while discovering grand opera before being amazed by the gold, silver and sparkling jewels in the Gilbert Collection and Hermitage Rooms. You'll also visit one of London's latest redeveloped museums at Lincoln's Inn and see some fine examples of British cartoons in Bloomsbury.

- 1 **Handel House Museum**
- 2 **St Martin's Gallery**
- 3 **The Photographers' Gallery**
- 4 **Royal Opera House**
- 5 **Theatre Museum**
- 6 **Somerset House**
- 7 **The Hunterian Museum
at the Royal College of Surgeons**
- 8 **Cartoon Museum**

Not to scale

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND CITY SQUARES. . . From Mayfair via Covent Garden to Somerset House and Lincoln's Inn



- A Grosvenor Square
- B Hanover Square
- C Trafalgar Square
- D Leicester Square
- E Lincoln's Inn Fields

BOND STREET



HOLBORN



COVENT GARDEN



LEICESTER SQUARE



CHARING CROSS



WATERLOO BRIDGE

HUNGERFORD BRIDGE

RIVER THAMES

KEY TO MAP

- 1 Museum
- Underground
- Rail
- Square
- Walk
- Transport



the campaign for museums

Discover London Trails have been produced by the Campaign for Museums, a registered charity, in support of London's Smaller Museums and Galleries with funding from the Mayor of London and ALM London.

...go to next page for addresses & summary

Discover London...



addresses & summary

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND CITY SQUARES. . .

TRAIL SUMMARY

Take the Underground to Bond Street and begin this trail in the exclusive district of Mayfair at **Grosvenor Square**, the location of the American Embassy and the September 11 Memorial Garden. Celebrate the life and works of George Frideric Handel at the **Handel House Museum** in Brook Street, where the renowned composer once lived. The restored Georgian house creates the perfect setting for live music, 18th century furniture and fine art that evoke the spirit of Handel's time. Walk across New Bond Street to **Hanover Square** and visit St George's, the church where Handel was a parishioner.

Make your way to the magnificent **Trafalgar Square** with its statues and monuments and discover the hidden **St Martin's Gallery**, an arts centre situated in the ancient stone vaults of the crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church. Stroll through Leicester Square to the **Photographers' Gallery**, a prime venue for contemporary photography.

Walk along Long Acre to **Covent Garden** where bustling market stalls surround the specialist shops, cafes and wine bars in the central piazza, and street performers add to the enjoyment. Here, the new **Royal Opera House**, home to the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies, is open to all every day. The vibrant Theatre Museum, with its collection of theatrical memorabilia, is close-by in Russell Street.

From here, walk to **Somerset House** in the Strand. This is one of London's historic squares recently opened to the public. Wonderful displays can be enjoyed at the **Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery**, famed for its Impressionist art, the **Gilbert Collection** and **Hermitage Rooms**. A short walk up Kingsway takes you to the **Hunterian Museum** in Lincoln's Inn and a little further north to the newly opened **Cartoon Museum** in Bloomsbury.

Plan your own journey by visiting Transport for London's website www.tfl.gov.uk



Handel House Museum
25 Brook Street, W1
www.handelhouse.org
Open: 1000-1800 Tue-Sat (1000-2000 Thur), 1200-1800 Sun, closed Mon;
Admission charge
Tel: 020 7495 1685
Home of George Frideric Handel for 36 years

The Gallery in the Crypt
St Martin-in-the-Fields,
Trafalgar Square, WC2
www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org
Open: 1000-1800 daily
Tel: 020 7766 1100
An arts centre within the ancient stone vaults of the crypt

The Photographers' Gallery
5 & 8 Great Newport Street, WC2
www.photonet.org.uk
Open: 1100-1800 Mon-Sat, noon-1800 Sun
Tel: 020 7831 1772
The country's primary venue for contemporary photography

Royal Opera House
Covent Garden, WC2
www.royaloperahouse.org.uk
Open daily; tours at 1030, 1130, 1230, 1330, 1430
Admission charge
Tel: 020 7304 4000
Home to the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies

Theatre Museum
Russell Street, WC2
www.theatremuseum.org.uk
Open: 1000-1800 Tue-Sun
Tel: 020 7943 4700
Illustrates the history of the performing arts in the UK

Somerset House Strand, WC2
Home of:

Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery
www.courtauld.ac.uk
Open: 1000-1800 daily.
Admission charge
Free Admission 1000-1400 Mon (except BH)
Tel: 020 7848 2526

Gilbert Collection
www.gilbert-collection.org.uk
Open: 1000-1800 daily
Admission charge
Tel: 020 7420 9400

Hermitage Rooms
www.hermitagerooms.org.uk
Open: 1000-1800 daily
Admission charge
Tel: 020 7845 4630

Hunterian Museum
at the Royal College of Surgeons
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2
www.rcseng.ac.uk/services/museums/
Open: 1000-1700 Tue-Sat
Guided tour at 1300 every Wed
Tel: 020 7869 6560
A large collection of the surgeon John Hunter

The Cartoon Museum
35 Little Russell Street, WC1A
www.cartooncentre.com
Open: 1030-1730 Tue-Sat
Admission charge
Tel: 020 7580 8155
Dedicated to preserving the best of British cartoons, caricatures, comics and animation

Images
Handel House Museum
Somerset House courtyard

Discover London...



the trail in detail

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND CITY SQUARES. . .

Start the trail at Bond Street station (Central and Jubilee Lines), walk down Gilbert Street and turn left at the end along Brook Street into **Grosvenor Square**. The American Embassy occupies the whole west side of the square and there is now a permanent memorial garden – built by the British Government in 2003 - to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. There are also several memorials including one for Eisenhower and another for Roosevelt. Between 1785 and 1788 John Adams, the first United States Minister to the Court of St James's and the second President of the United States, lived in the house at 9 Grosvenor Square on the corner of Brook and Duke Streets.

Back in Brook Street, visit the **Handel House Museum**, home to the baroque composer George Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759. The museum is located on the upper floors of numbers 23 and 25 and the entrance is in Lancashire Court at the back of the museum. Since Handel's occupancy, there have been substantial changes to the house, now meticulously restored to the early Georgian interiors Handel would have known. Artworks and furniture from the 18th century, musical scores and instruments, provide a real insight into the composer's life, his music and his time. There are live recitals on Thursdays, when talented students and young professionals perform early music repertoires, and craft activities for children every Saturday.

Continue along Brook Street, cross New Bond

Street and you arrive at **Hanover Square** and the fashionable St George's Church where Handel was a parishioner and played the organ. The church is a favourite venue for society weddings and among those married there were the Duke of Sussex, 6th son of George III, Benjamin Disraeli, Theodore Roosevelt, H H Asquith and George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans).

Your options now are to take one of the many buses from Regent Street down to Trafalgar Square or to walk along St George's Street, Old Burlington Street, through the Burlington Arcade to Piccadilly, past the Royal Academy and along Haymarket. In Duncannon Street overlooking Trafalgar Square is **St Martin-in-the-Fields**. With one of the finest musical reputations in the world, this church has played host to some of the greatest musicians: Handel played on its first organ and Mozart is said to have given a concert in the church. Lunchtime recitals take place Monday, Tuesday and Friday and candelit concerts Thursday to Saturday.

In the ancient stone vaults of the Crypt, you will find **St Martin's Gallery**, with frequently changing exhibitions of paintings and photographs, and the London Brass Rubbing Centre, offering the opportunity to make pictures. There is also a restaurant and religious bookshop.

Pass through Leicester Square to Charing Cross Road and turn right into Great Newport Street (just past the Underground station) the location of the

enterprising **Photographers' Gallery**, London's leading venue for photographic exhibitions. There are occasional lectures and theatrical events, as well as a good photographic book and print shop and café. The plaque on the outside commemorates Sir Joshua Reynolds, the founder of the Royal Academy in Piccadilly who lived here in the 18th century.

Walk along Long Acre to Covent Garden and, in the north corner of the piazza, you will see the stunning building of the **Royal Opera House**. After two years of extensive refurbishment, this was reopened in time for the new millennium complete with a second auditorium and rehearsal rooms. It was primarily a playhouse for serious musicals beginning with the operas of Handel.

Backstage tours offer a unique glimpse behind the scenes, including an introduction to the colourful history of the theatre, an insight into the recent re-development of the Royal Opera House and a look at aspects of current productions.

Nearby, in Russell Street, the **Theatre Museum** illustrates the history of the performing arts with displays that include playbills, programmes, props and costumes from historic productions, bits of interior décor from theatres that have long since vanished, as well as paintings of actors and scenes from plays.

Walk down Drury Lane to the Strand turn left to the entrance of the magnificent **Somerset House**, a

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the trail in detail

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND CITY SQUARES...

thriving cultural centre for London – a place for enjoyment, art, and refreshment. Within the 18th century building in the Strand are the celebrated collections of the Courtauld Institute of Art, Gilbert Collection and Hermitage Rooms. The magnificent courtyard, with the choreographed fountains of the Edmond J. Safra Court, is now a venue for open-air events in the summer and the spectacular Somerset House ice rink in the winter.

Since 1990, the northern part of Somerset House, known as the Strand Block, has housed the **Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery** a dynamic centre for the study and enjoyment of the history of art. Here, you can see an extraordinary collection of works of art from Old Master paintings to Impressionist and 20th century art.

The **Hermitage Rooms** are decorated in the style of The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, one of the world's greatest museums. The beautifully furnished galleries provide the perfect backdrop for rotating exhibitions which offer a glimpse of some of the magnificent treasures from the Museum and other collections. The Hermitage Rooms shop offers a range of exclusive gifts and souvenirs throughout the year, many of the items specially designed and made in Russia.

Formed over 35 years by the late Sir Arthur Gilbert, the **Gilbert Collection** comprises more than 800 works of decorative art and is one of the most important gifts ever made to the nation. The restored, vaulted

spaces of the Embankment Building are an impressive setting for this dazzling display of European craftsmanship, which includes magnificent European silver, spectacular gold snuff-boxes and remarkable Italian mosaics. *Situated in the South and Embankment Buildings at Somerset House, the Collection can be accessed from the Great Arch entrance on the Victoria Embankment.*

Exit the Strand and walk up Kingsway, turn left into Portugal Street to reach **Lincoln's Inn Fields** – London's largest square, laid out by Inigo Jones in the 18th century and once the home of the duellists. Today it's better known as one London's Inns of Court over on the far side. The newly refurbished **Hunterian Museum** is in the Royal College of Surgeons on the south side. The museum houses over 3000 anatomical and pathological preparations collected by the surgeon John Hunter (1728-1793) and covers the development of surgery from the 18th century. There are also changing exhibitions, lectures and events.

Walk to the north of the square, past Sir John Soane's Museum, turn left from Kingsway into High Holborn, right into South Place, left into Bloomsbury Way (beside Bloomsbury Square), right into Bury Place and left into Little Russell Street. Here, the new Cartoon Museum is dedicated to preserving the best of British cartoons, caricatures, comics and animation. It also aims to make the creativity of cartoon art past and present accessible to all for the purposes of education, research and enjoyment.

Retrace your steps to Holborn Underground station or in the opposite direction to Tottenham Court Road.

CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Handel House Museum –selection of drop in family events on Saturday afternoons

Covent Garden – lively street performers in action

Theatre Museum - daily programme of workshops, demonstrations and guided tours. Children can operate puppets, try out make-up and costumes, and walk on stage.

Somerset House – free family workshops on Saturday afternoons.

Cartoon Museum – family fun days