

Discover London...

trail 2

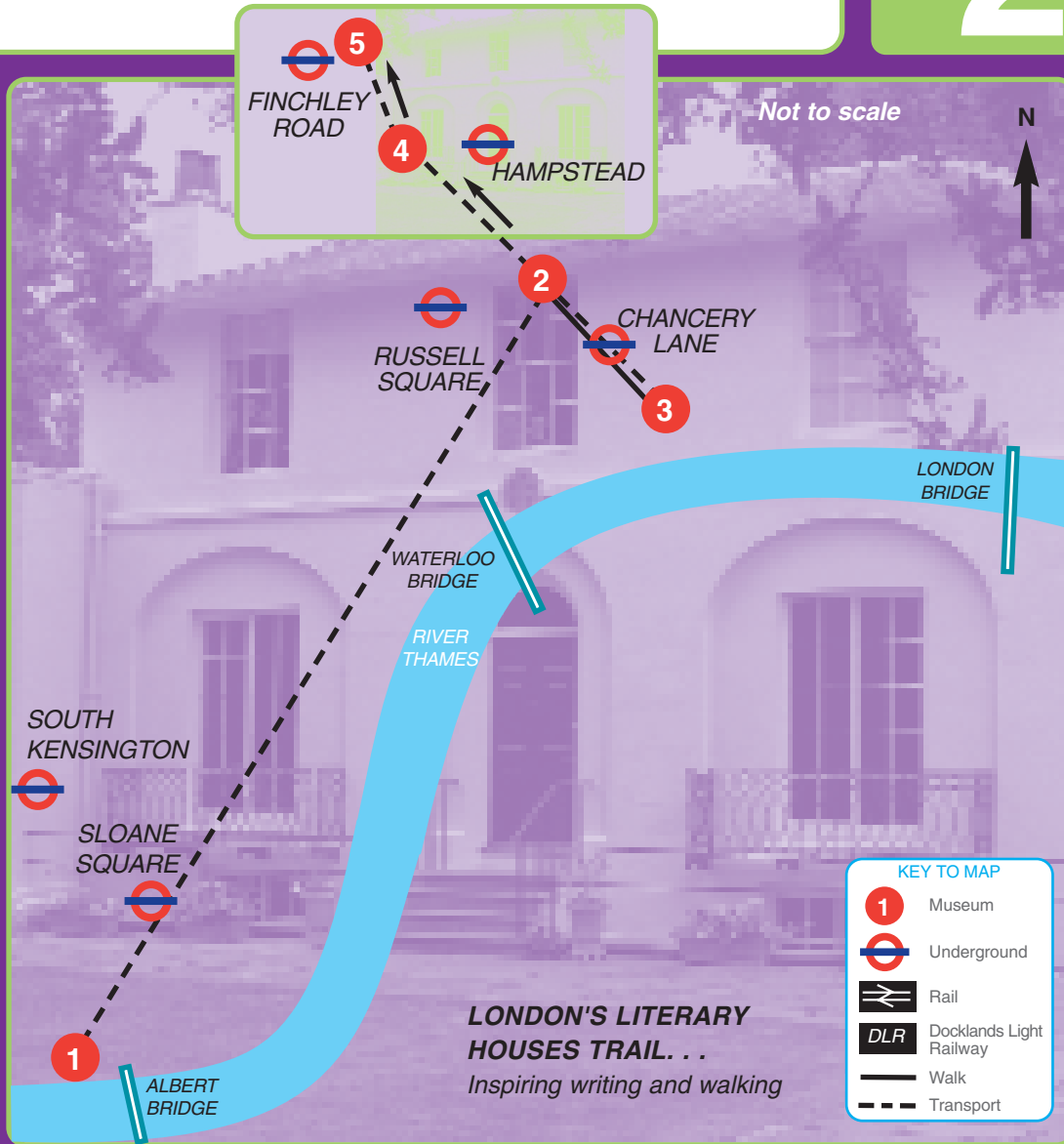
map & introduction

LONDON'S LITERARY HOUSES TRAIL...

Full day

From Shakespeare and Charles Dickens to Monica Ali, London has always been an inspiration for poets, novelists and artists. This trail takes you from Keats's romantic hideaway to the intellectual hothouse where Carlyle and the greatest thinkers of his day gathered; from the smart streets of Chelsea to the idyllic lanes of Hampstead - via the house of the man who wrote the most quotable quote: 'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life'. For a downhill walk - do this trail the other way round, starting in Hampstead and finishing in Chelsea.

- 1 Carlyle's House
- 2 The Charles Dickens Museum
- 3 Dr Johnson's House
- 4 Keats House
- 5 Freud Museum



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.

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Carlyle's House

(National Trust)

24 Cheyne Row, SW3

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carlyleshouse

Open: 25 Mar - 27 Oct 1400-1700 Wed-Fri; 1100-1700 Sat, Sun, BH

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7352 7087

Home of the writer Thomas Carlyle

The Charles Dickens Museum

48 Doughty Street, WC1

www.dickensmuseum.com

Open: 1000-1700 Mon-Sat; 1100-1700 Sun

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7405 2127

The only surviving London home of Dickens

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4

www.drjh.dircon.co.uk

Open: 1100-1730 Mon-Sat (until 1700 Oct-April); closed BH

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7353 3745

Home of the compiler of the first English Dictionary

Keats House

Keats Grove, NW3

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/leisure_heritage/libraries_archives_museums_galleries/JAS/keats_house/

Open: 1300-1700 Tue-Sat; 1300-1700 Sun, BH Mon

Admission Charge

Tel: 020 7435 2062

A regency house displaying memorabilia, manuscripts and letters of Keats

Freud Museum

20 Maresfield Gardens, NW3

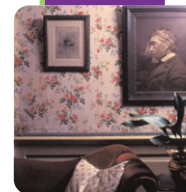
www.freud.org.uk

Open: 1200-1700 Wed-Sun

Tel: 020 7435 2002

Admission charge

Arts and Crafts house where Freud spent the last years of his life



Images
Keats House, Hampstead
The Living Room, Carlyle's House

LONDON'S LITERARY HOUSES TRAIL...

TRAIL SUMMARY

This trail begins in Chelsea at **Carlyle's House**, a classic Queen Anne building that was home to the writer Thomas Carlyle from 1834 until his death in 1881. The nearest Underground stations are Sloane Square or South Kensington followed by a 15-20 minute walk, or local buses. It is also possible to walk (approximately 45 minutes) from Victoria along Chelsea Embankment.

For a fascinating insight into the life of novelist Charles Dickens, proceed to South Kensington station and take the Piccadilly Line to Russell Square and walk to Doughty Street for **The Charles Dickens Museum**. This is preserved largely as it was during his lifetime. Stroll down Gray's Inn Road towards Fleet Street to **Dr Johnson's House** in Gough Square, residence of Samuel Johnson, wit, writer and compiler of the first definitive English Dictionary.

Take the Underground from Chancery Lane to Tottenham Court Road and change for the Northern Line to the leafy suburbs of Hampstead for **Keats House**, home and inspiration for the poet Keats. From here, walk or take a bus to the **Freud Museum** with its fascinating insight into the life of Sigmund Freud.

For a more leisurely day, 'pick and mix' and do this trail over a couple of days.

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

Discover London...

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the trail in detail

LONDON'S LITERARY HOUSES TRAIL . . .

This trail begins at Carlyle's House in Cheyne Row, Chelsea. Situated off Cheyne Walk between Battersea and Albert Bridges on Chelsea Embankment, this house is in one of the most elegant and sought-after parts of London. By Underground, take the Circle or District Line to Sloane Square, walk along the Kings Road, left into Oakley Street, right into Upper Cheyne Row and left into Cheyne Row.

Carlyle's House, owned by the National Trust, was built in 1708 as part of a terrace of London homes. Rented for £35 a year, it was the first - and only - London home of the influential 19th century writer Thomas Carlyle and his wife Jane, a place where they lived for almost 40 years. Jane turned the house into a comfortable home and the venue for the best wit and conversation in London. Thomas and Jane Carlyle had one of the most exalted social circles and played host to many of the major literary and cultural figures of the Victorian age, including Tennyson, Dickens, Ruskin and Darwin. Many of the couple's possessions, either

relocated from their house in Scotland or bought specially for their new London home, can be seen throughout this atmospheric house. You can sit in the drawing room where Carlyle wrote books such as 'The French Revolution', inspiring some of the greatest figures of the Victorian age. At the top of the house in the attic is the study that was converted in the loft in 1853. Here, Carlyle wrote his last major work, six volumes of a 'History of Frederick the Great', which took him 12 years to complete.

The front kitchen in the basement looks just as it did 100 years ago whilst, in the garden, work is going on to re-establish the beds with the plants and flowers that the Carlyles enjoyed.

Turn right out of the house for a walk through the attractive streets of Chelsea and Kensington. From Cheyne Row, turn left into Oakley Street, right into the Kings Road, left into Sydney Street, see St. Luke's Church where Dickens was married, and across Fulham Road into Onslow Square to South Kensington station

- your next stop is located close to Russell Square on the Piccadilly Line.

Russell Square is a relaxing place to sit for a break before walking along Guildford Street almost to the end before turning right into Doughty Street for **The Charles Dickens Museum**. This showcases the most important collection of material relating to the great Victorian social commentator and novelist, author of 'Oliver Twist' and 'Great Expectations'.

The only surviving London home of Dickens (from 1837 until 1839) was opened as a museum in 1925. It continues to welcome visitors from all over the world in authentic and inspiring surroundings. On four floors, you can see paintings, rare editions, manuscripts, original furniture and many items relating to the life of one of the most popular and beloved personalities of the Victorian age. There is also an excellent 30-minute DVD presentation and the opportunity to book a seasonal walk through Dickensian London.

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the trail in detail

LONDON'S LITERARY HOUSES TRAIL . . .

Back at Guildford Street, turn right into Gray's Inn Road, left into Holborn, right into New Fetter Lane and Holborn Circus until you reach Fleet Street, once famous as the home of the British newspaper industry. Here, there are directional signs for **Dr Johnson's House** in Gough Square. This house, opened as a museum in 1914, is situated in a maze of courtyards and passages that are a reminder of historic London. It is a rare find and one of the few residential houses of its age still surviving in the City of London. Built in 1700, it was the home and workplace of Samuel Johnson from 1748-1759 and it was here that he compiled the first comprehensive English Dictionary. Now restored to its original condition, the house contains panelled rooms, a pine staircase, and a collection of period furniture, prints and portraits.

Retrace your steps to Fleet Street along New Fetter Lane, turning left at Holborn Circus along Holborn to Chancery Lane Underground station. Take the Central

Line to Tottenham Court Road and change to the Northern Line for Hampstead.

Walk up Hampstead High Street, past the bookshops and boutiques, right into Devonshire Hill and right into Keats Grove for **Keats House**. Now one house, this was originally two lovely Regency semi-detached cottages, one of which was the home of the poet John Keats (1795-1821) where he spent his most productive years as a poet between 1818 and 1820. The celebrated poem 'Ode to a Nightingale' was written under a plum tree in the garden. His fiancée Fanny Brawne lived in the house next door. Opened to the public in 1925, largely due to the poet's American fans, the house displays books, manuscripts, letters, prints, paintings and artefacts relating to the life of the poet.

If time allows, walk towards Finchley Road (also accessible by buses 268 or 46) to the **Freud Museum**. This was home to Sigmund Freud and his family when they escaped from Nazi-occupied Vienna in

1938. The family recreated the atmosphere of Freud's Vienna consulting rooms with the possessions they brought with them. After he died in 1939, Freud's daughter Anna – a pioneer of psychoanalysis – kept the house as it was until she died in 1982.

The house was opened as a museum dedicated to Freud in 1986. It retains the atmosphere of a family home, with much of the original furniture and personal effects - including a remarkable collection of antiques and a fine collection of 18th and 19th century Austrian painted furniture. The centrepiece of the museum is Freud's library and his study, preserved just as it was in his lifetime with his famous couch and desk. The museum is now being developed as a cultural and research centre of outstanding value to the professional community.

Finchley Road is the nearest Underground station or if you go back to the centre of Hampstead, you will find many refreshment places and interesting, historic pubs.