

On the Londinium trail

How much of Londinium can be seen today? More than you might think. Upstanding sections of the Roman city wall can be found in the modern City but you can also learn a lot about Roman London if you know where to look. Plan your own journey around the town and remember to visit the Roman Gallery at the Museum of London.

Fort

Just east of the Museum of London, a bridge spans over gardens and in Noble Street: You are standing above the site of the Roman fort built 1900 years ago. The fort and city wall continues, across the road in Noble Street, down to its south-west corner. The west gate of the fort is partly preserved underground (for tours, see *Museum Events leaflet*).

Public baths

Under offices in Upper Thames Street: The main public baths lie carefully buried and inaccessible beneath modern office foundations. A smaller bath building lay closer to the fort in Cheapside. Here, like our leisure centres today, the bather could meet friends, have a bite to eat and exercise as well as sweat out the toils and troubles of the day.

Temple of Mithras

Temple Court, Queen Victoria Street: Post-war excavations led to the sensational discovery of the Temple of Mithras. Temple treasures (on show in the *Museum of London*) are perhaps the finest marble sculptures ever found in Britain. The temple outline has been reconstructed a short distance from its original location.

Amphitheatre

Guildhall Yard, off Gresham Street: Look for the curved black line marked in the oval area of the amphitheatre. The surrounding buildings are sited where the timber seating once stood. The walls of the eastern entranceway and part of the arena are now preserved below ground (for opening times and entry charges, contact the *Guildhall Art Gallery* or for tours, see *Museum Events leaflet*).

Government offices

Under Cannon Street station: An imposing stone building once stood here, looking out over the river. Once identified as the Governor's Palace, it is now thought to have been an office complex for central government. The London Stone (displayed at 111 Cannon Street) is thought to have originated from this building.

Walbrook stream

Queen Victoria Street with Walbrook: You have just crossed over where the Walbrook stream flowed south to the Thames. This was the busy city centre of Londinium where many ordinary Roman Londoners lived. Here in 1869, workmen found the mosaic floor that forms the central display in the Roman Gallery.

Basilica and forum

Leadenhall Street and Lombard Street: Look out for the plaque in the foyer of Marks & Spencer in Leadenhall Street. The Roman town hall (basilica) once stood here, the largest such building north of the Alps. Lombard Street is one of the earliest Roman roads that ran through the town. Where Lombard Street meets both Fenchurch and Gracechurch Street, imagine you are standing at the imposing entranceway into the centre of finance and commerce (forum).

City Wall

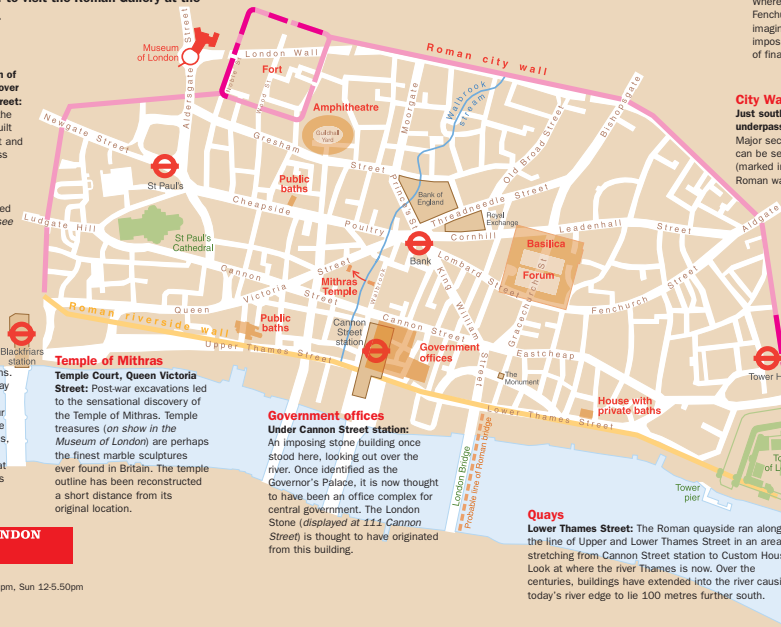
Just south of Tower Hill station in the underpass to the Tower of London: Major sections of surviving city wall can be seen throughout the City (marked in pink) but sometimes the Roman wall is in disguise, having been repaired over following centuries or included in later buildings. This section at Tower Hill is one of the best surviving sections of Roman and medieval city wall standing to a height of 10m.

House with private baths

101 Lower Thames Street: Estate agents would have raved over the wonderful view of the river from this Roman winged house. The remains, first discovered in 1848, are preserved underground (for tours and charges, see *Museum Events leaflet*).

Quays

Lower Thames Street: The Roman quayside ran along the line of Upper and Lower Thames Street in an area stretching from Cannon Street station to Custom House. Look at where the river Thames is now. Over the centuries, buildings have extended into the river causing today's river edge to lie 100 metres further south.



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Free admission
Open Mon - Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 12.5-5.00pm