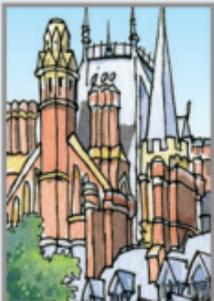
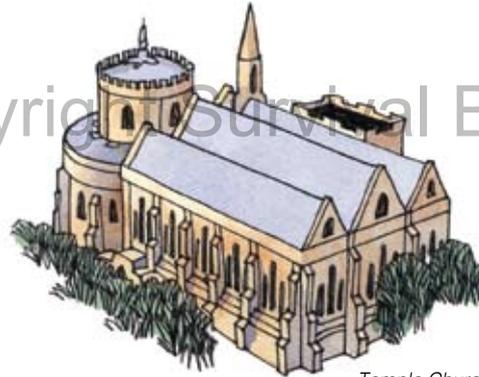


LONDON'S ARCHITECTURAL WALKS

JIM WATSON



London's Architectural Walks



Temple Church

This layout and text will probably change after I do the cover



Whitehall for Trafalgar Square

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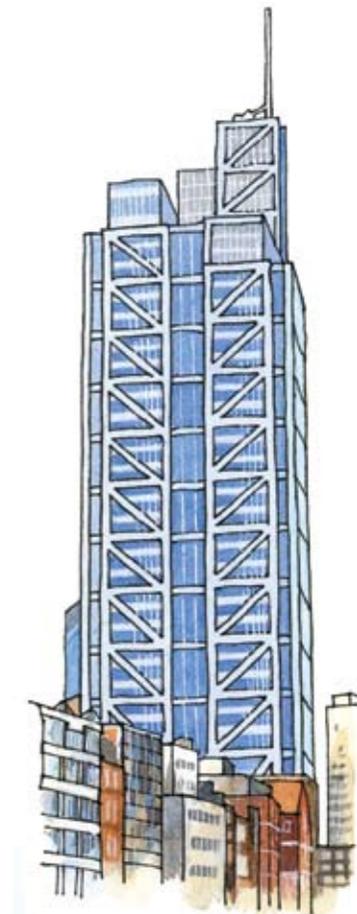
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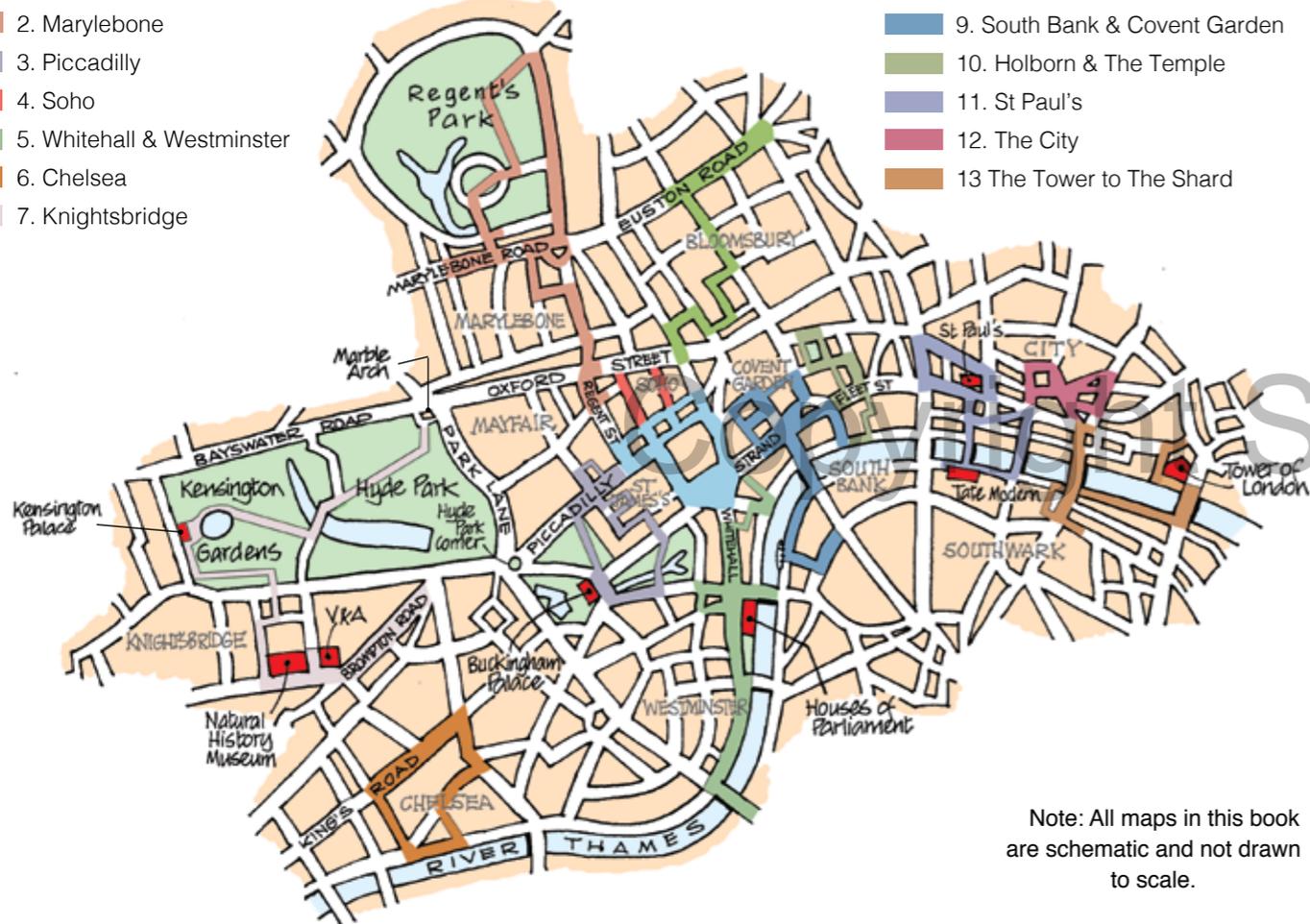
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The Heron Tower from Bishopsgate

- 1. Central Squares
- 2. Marylebone
- 3. Piccadilly
- 4. Soho
- 5. Whitehall & Westminster
- 6. Chelsea
- 7. Knightsbridge

- 8. Bloomsbury
- 9. South Bank & Covent Garden
- 10. Holborn & The Temple
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- 13. The Tower to The Shard



Note: All maps in this book are schematic and not drawn to scale.

Introduction

London is one of the world's great cities, steeped in two thousand years of history and rich in culture, architecture and agreeable surprises – often just around the corner.

This series of walks includes all the famous landmarks, which are relatively close to each other so none of the routes exceeds four miles in length. They begin and end at underground stations, the circular walks at the same station.

London is architecturally diverse. A third of the city was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, including the old St Paul's Cathedral, but subsequently rebuilt on the old medieval street plan giving architects such as Christopher Wren the opportunity to show their genius. This visual guide will take you to the architectural hotspot of the City where London was founded in Roman times, show you the artistic legacy of Chelsea and the great museums of Bloomsbury and Knightsbridge. Also included are the bastions of royal and political power, and the heart of the English legal system, plus Georgian Squares, Victorian railways and John Nash's blissful terraces.

The sinuous curves of the River Thames has always provided an enduring backdrop to the capital so we visit the South Bank cultural area, the ancient Tower of London, reeking of history, and Pugin's masterpiece, the Houses of Parliament. You'll cross iconic bridges, including Tower Bridge and the famous 'wobbly' Millenium Bridge. We'll also take in the peace of ancient churches and the wonderful Royal Parks, expansive and free for everyone to enjoy.

London's skyline has seen dramatic changes in recent years

and the massive growth of skyscrapers is a constant source of amazement, with the glittering Shard now towering over all.

By far the best way to enjoy all these riches is undoubtedly on foot. However, walking in central London is not like country walking. The crowds, traffic and less than pure air can be tiring and paving stones are a lot harder on the feet than grass. Take your time, there's plenty of places to rest and usually a plethora of refuelling stops.

The pleasures of London are many and varied but few are such good value for money as just looking. Many of these buildings have magnificent interiors and house wonderful things but often it's sufficient to just stand outside and marvel at the human creativity, skill and tenacity that went into their construction.

I do hope you enjoy this book and the buildings that inspired it. May they stimulate you as much as they did me while I was drawing them.

Jim Watson
Rugby, July 2017

Shop sign, Bloomsbury

*What is this life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare?*
W.H. Davis

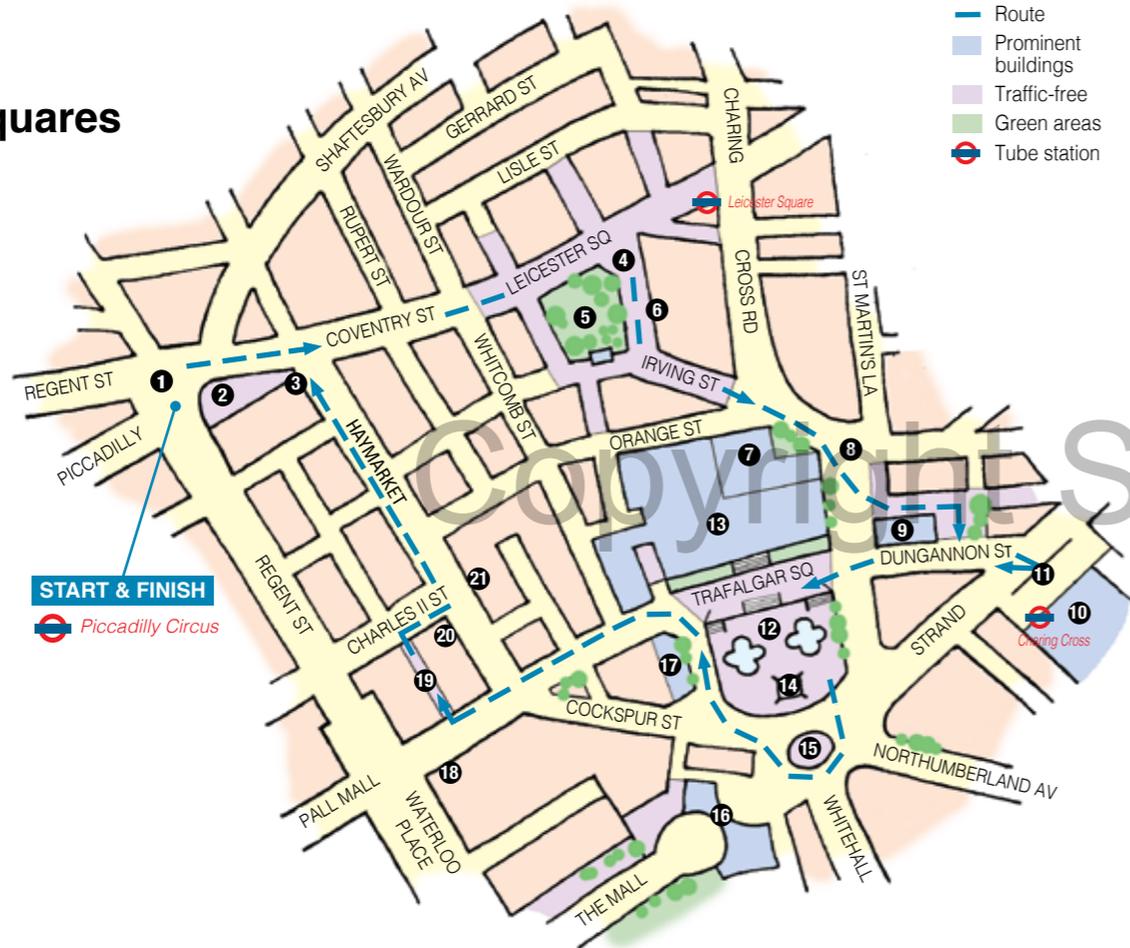


WALK 1

The Central Squares

Places of interest

- 1 Piccadilly Circus
- 2 Eros
- 3 Horses of Helios
- 4 Leicester Square
- 5 Shakespeare statue
- 6 Odeon Cinema
- 7 National Portrait Gallery
- 8 Edith Cavell statue
- 9 St Martin-in-the-Fields
- 10 Charing Cross Station
- 11 Eleanor Cross
- 12 Trafalgar Square
- 13 National Gallery
- 14 Nelson's Column
- 15 Charles I statue
- 16 Admiralty Arch
- 17 Canada House
- 18 Institute of Directors
- 19 Royal Opera House Arcade
- 20 Her Majesty's Theatre
- 21 Theatre Royal, Haymarket



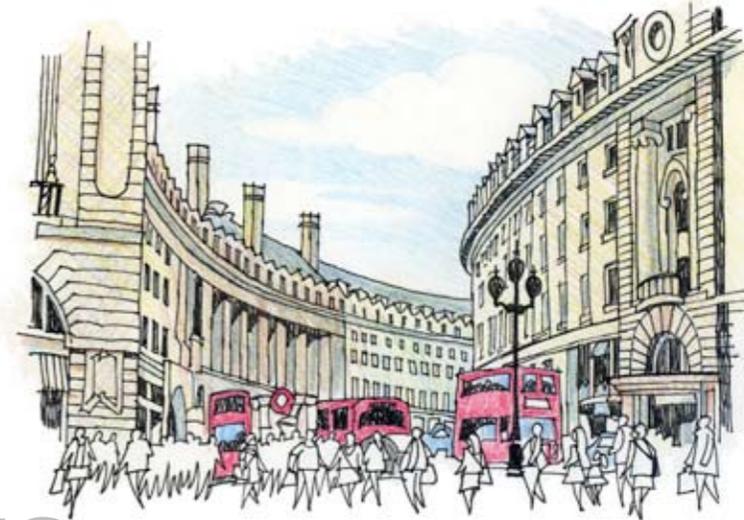
This circular walk takes you around London's three central squares plus a couple of interesting detours. The squares each have their own diverse character.

Piccadilly is brash, touristy, busy by night and day, a meeting place for four main highways and people from all over the world. The famous statue of Eros in the square was for years the best-know symbol of London. It's said that if you wait here long enough, someone you know will turn up.

In contrast, pedestrianised Leicester Square is quieter – except when there's a glitzy film premier going on – and has a restful little park at the centre. The buildings are fairly unremarkable but there have been some notable residents.

Trafalgar Square, the largest of the three, is the most stately, has the best architecture and some of London's most iconic landmarks including the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, St-Martin's-in-the-Fields and Nelson's Column.

START & FINISH: Piccadilly Circus tube station.
LENGTH: 1.5 miles approx. Broad streets and traffic-free areas. No steep hills or steps. Expect crowds.
REFRESHMENTS: Fast food outlets and coffee shops aplenty. National Gallery café & restaurant. Portrait Gallery restaurant & bar. St Martin's-in-the-Fields Crypt café.



The Quadrant on Regent street

The Walk

1 Piccadilly Circus – from the latin meaning 'circle'– was developed in 1819, part of the Prince Regent's royal processional route through the capital. Designed by John Nash, it was to run from an open hunting ground on the northern edge of the city, now Regent's Park, to the prince's palace, Carlton House, in Waterloo Place (walk 3).

Nash's glorious terraces alongside the park survive (walk 2) as do his memorable designs of Park Crescent and Carlton House Terrace (walk 3). The Nash buildings on Regent Street have been replaced, but the beautiful curve of the Quadrant, where the street enters Piccadilly Circus from the north, survives.

The famous statue of **2 Eros** tops a memorial fountain, erected in 1892-93 to commemorate Lord Shaftesbury, a Victorian politician and philanthropist. This is a busy road junction and traffic used to circulate around the fountain, but in a major redesign in the 1980s it was moved to the large paved area on the south side.



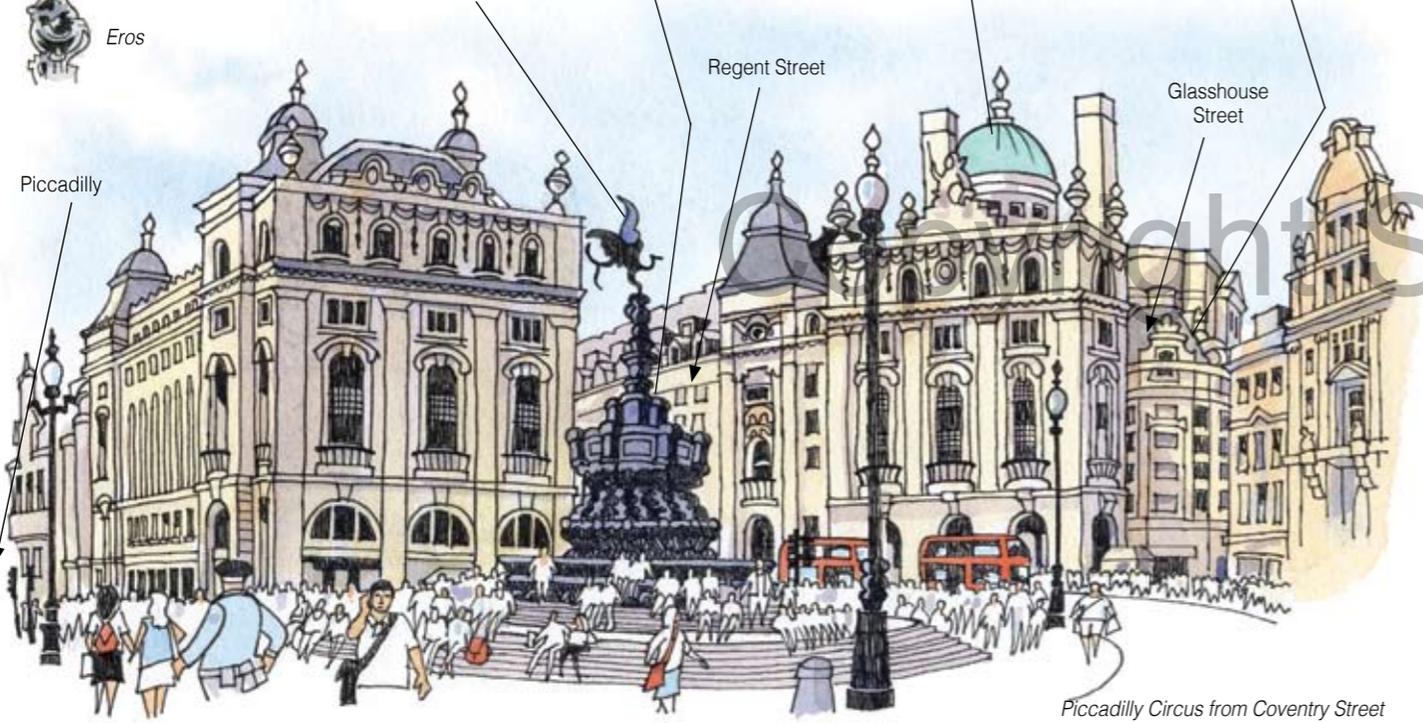
Eros

2 Eros First public statue to be cast in aluminium, designed by Sir Alfred Gilbert to represent the Angel of Christian Charity. But as it was of an angelic archer, the statue became popularly known as Eros, the Greek god of love.

Memorial fountain Designed by Sir Alfred Gilbert, the bronze fountain is octagonal with two levels of basins into which water once poured from the mouths of fish.

Former Swan & Edgar Department Store (1913-30) by Reginald Blomfield. Built in French Baroque style replacing Nash's County Fire Office.

Former Regent Palace Hotel Opened in 1915, then the largest hotel in Europe with 1028 bedrooms and over a thousand staff. Closed in 2006 but now redeveloped as offices and retail outlets.



Piccadilly

Regent Street

Glasshouse Street

Piccadilly Circus from Coventry Street



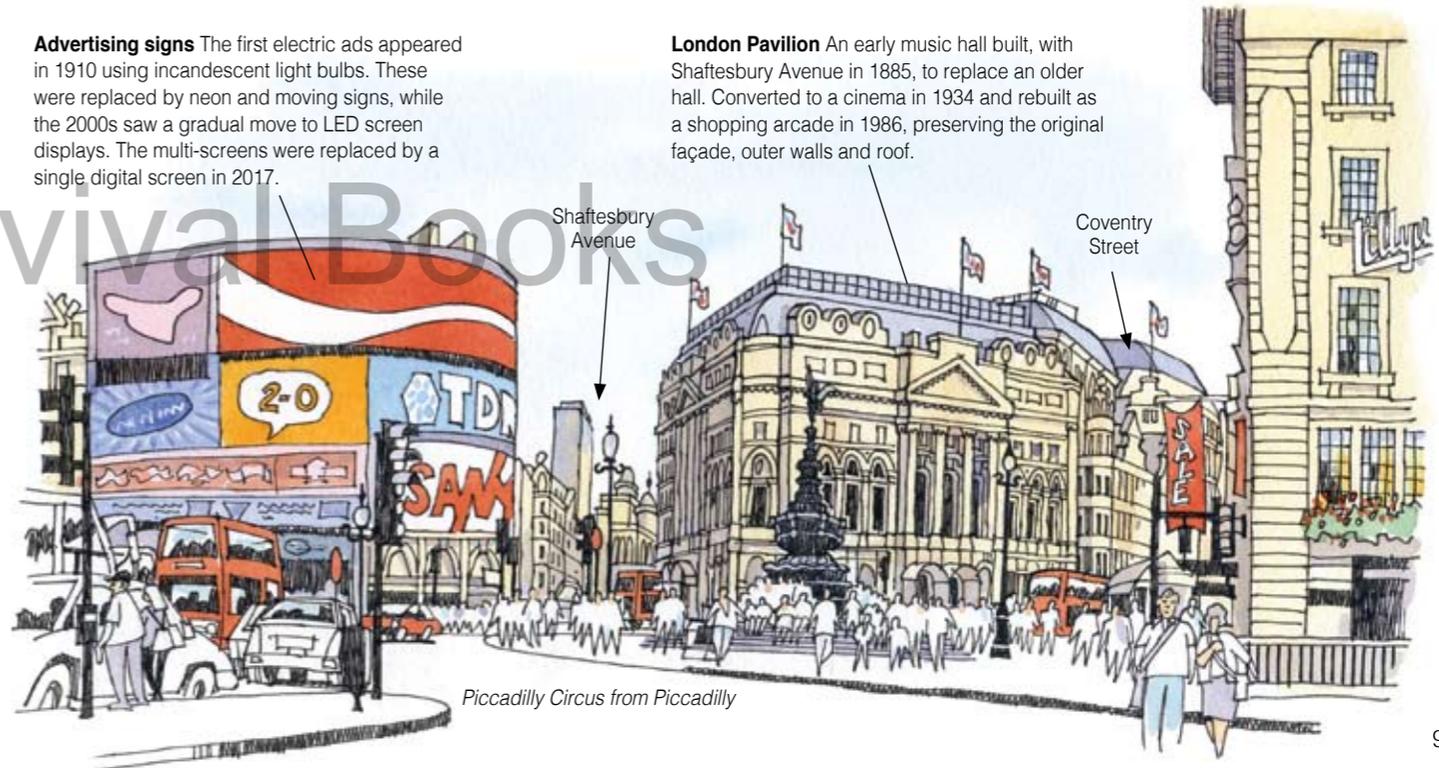
The Horses of Helios

Leave Piccadilly Circus along Coventry Street, pausing at the corner of the Caffé Concerto building to admire the **3 Horses of Helios** (Greek god of the sun), a 1992 bronze sculpture by Rudy Weller of four prancing horses.

Continue past various theatres and the Trocadero which was built as a restaurant in 1896 and has had numerous entertainment guises since. Cross the southern end of Wardour Street, from where there's a distant view of Chinatown, into a traffic-free section. Pass the largest Lego store in the world on your right to enter Leicester Square at its north west corner.

Advertising signs The first electric ads appeared in 1910 using incandescent light bulbs. These were replaced by neon and moving signs, while the 2000s saw a gradual move to LED screen displays. The multi-screens were replaced by a single digital screen in 2017.

London Pavilion An early music hall built, with Shaftesbury Avenue in 1885, to replace an older hall. Converted to a cinema in 1934 and rebuilt as a shopping arcade in 1986, preserving the original façade, outer walls and roof.



Shaftesbury Avenue

Coventry Street

Piccadilly Circus from Piccadilly

Now the centre of London's cinema land and prime location for glitzy film premieres,

4 **Leicester Square** was laid out in 1670 as a gentrified residential area with famous tenants including the then Prince of Wales and artists William Hogarth and Joshua Reynolds.

The area drifted downmarket during the 18th century and by the 19th the small park in the centre, which was originally called Lammas Land, had become rundown. A restoration by Albert Grant MP installed four new statues of famous residents which were eventually removed after an incompetent restoration during the 1990s.

The square has been a centre of popular entertainment for over a century, first with music halls and now clubs, casinos and cinemas. It was pedestrianised in the 1980s and refurbished for the 2012 London Olympics at a cost of £15 million. The TKTS booth, the official outlet to buy discount theatre tickets, has been here since 1980.



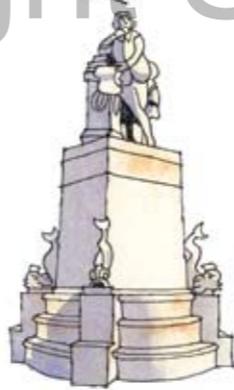
The central park in Leicester Square



The TKTS booth

A marble statue of 5 **William Shakespeare** was installed at the centre of the park in the 19th century restoration. Positioned above a fountain with four dolphins which used to spout water, it's by Giovanni Fontana, a copy of the memorial by Scheemakers in Westminster Abbey.

Shakespeare looks rather pensive on his plinth. Perhaps he feels out of place amongst these film folk. Maybe he'd be happier in a more appropriate setting, – the Globe Theatre by the Thames?



Shakespeare statue



The Odeon cinema

Several theatres were established in the square during the 19th century, some later converted to cinemas. The distinctive 1930s tower of the 6 **Odeon**, which seats over 1,600 people, dominates the east side. The Empire opened in 1960, the largest cinema in the square until 2013 when it was subdivided to make space for an IMAX screen. The state of the art Vue Cinema, just off the square in Cranbourn Street, has nine screens, three 3D screens and can seat 2400 people.

The Hippodrome Casino next door was built in 1900 as a venue for circus and variety acts. It's had many uses since, most famously in the 1980s as the Talk of the Town nightclub.



Chaplin statue

The bronze statue of film legend Charlie Chaplin by John Doubleday was unveiled in the central park in 1981. Chaplin is wearing his famous tramp outfit and, unlike Shakespeare, looks perfectly at home in this setting. He was removed during the square's makeover but returned to his rightful place in April 2016.

Chaplin was born into poverty in Walworth, London in 1889 but found huge fame in the USA as a comic actor, director and producer during the silent film era of the early 1900s. Widely regarded as a towering figure in the history of film, he died in Switzerland in 1977.

Leave Leicester Square along Irving Street near the TKTS booth, which leads to an small open area opposite The Garrick Theatre in Charing Cross Road.



Vue Cinema and the Hippodrome

The **7 National Portrait Gallery** is the building on your right. A statue of Sir Henry Irving, the great Victorian actor-manager stands outside on a small green area. The statue, by Thomas Brock, was erected in 1910, paid for by a group of actors and people from the theatre world.

Sweep right to the Portrait Gallery entrance. It opened in 1896, designed by Ewan Christian and Dixon Jones in Italian Renaissance style with round-headed windows. The gallery displays portraits of figures from history going back to the 14th century. A major overhaul during 1994-2000 established a gallery extension, improved visitor facilities and added a rooftop restaurant with fabulous views from 28m (92ft) above the square.



National Portrait Gallery

Edith Cavell statue

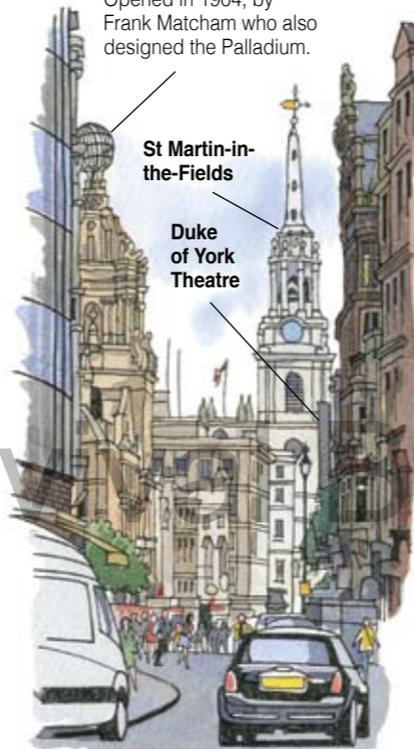


A striking statue across the road in St Martin's Place commemorates

8 Edith Cavell, a British nurse who was shot by the Germans for helping allied troops to escape during the First World War.

Further along is **9 St Martin-in-the-Fields**, designed by James Gibbs and built during 1721-6 on the site of an earlier 11th century church. With its rectangular design, portico and Baroque steeple, it inspired the design of many many colonial churches worldwide, most notably in America and Ireland. The interior is also noteworthy with huge columns and a balcony to three sides.

Coliseum Theatre
Opened in 1904, by Frank Matcham who also designed the Palladium.



St Martin-in-the-Fields

Duke of York Theatre

St Martin's Lane

Stretching north from St Martin's Place, St Martin's Lane is an interesting, narrow street of restaurants, cafés and theatres, most notably the Coliseum, home of the English National Opera since 1974.

A short detour between St Martin-in-the-Fields and its award-winning café takes you onto the Strand opposite **10 Charing Cross Station** and Hotel, completed in 1864 when it was fashionable to build a fine-looking building in front of a train station.

Designed by E.M. Barry, the hotel is decorated with Renaissance motifs and two brightly painted galleries above the station entrances. Two upper stories have since been added to the original design and in a radical development in 1990 a modern office and shopping complex, Embankment Place, was built over the station platforms.



St Martin-in-the-Fields



Charing Cross Station & hotel

Barry also designed the **11 Eleanor Cross**, a highly decorated replica of the 13th century Whitehall Cross, which stands outside the station. The original cross, demolished in 1647, was where the statue of Charles I now stands in Trafalgar Square. It is from this point that distances in London are measured, not from the replica.

From Duncannon Street cross Charing Cross Road to the National Gallery. Turn left to walk around the square in a clockwise direction.

You will soon come across a round stone building with a lamp on top. This was once Britain's smallest police station, built in 1826, with its own phone line to police HQ installed in 1926. It no longer helps the modern police with their enquiries.



Continue beyond Nelson's Column and cross the road to a traffic island where there's a grandiose statue of **15 Charles I** (1600-49), glaring defiantly down Whitehall to the scene of his execution outside the Banqueting Hall (walk 5). The memorial, commissioned in 1633, is by the French sculptor, Hubert Le Sueur. After years of being buried in a Holborn garden to escape being melted down, the statue has stood here, the official centre of London, since 1947.

Charles I statue

12 Trafalgar Square is named after Lord Nelson's victory in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 which cost him his life. Part of his grand plan for London, the square was conceived by John Nash as an open space looking down Whitehall. Most of the construction was done during the 1830s but the surrounding buildings developed over the years with no overall master plan. Much like the city of London itself.

The fourth plinth Designed to carry a statue of William IV but the money ran out. It remained empty until 1999 when it was decided to use the plinth to display a series of contemporary artworks which have delighted, amused and shocked the crowds ever since.

13 National Gallery Designed in neo-Classical style by William Wilkins and built during 1832-38. Houses one of the world's great collections of over 2,300 Western European paintings from the 13th century Early Renaissance to the 19th century Impressionists.

Sir Charles James Napier statue (1855).

Ionic columns from demolished Carlton House in Waterloo Place. (see walk xx)

Coliseum Theatre

George IV statue 1840s

Fountains designed by Edward Lutyens in 1939

St Martin-in-the-Fields

South Africa House Built in the 1930s on the site of a derelict hotel. Was a target for protests against racial segregation during the 1980s. In 2001, Nelson Mandela appeared on the balcony to mark the seventh anniversary of the end of the Apartheid system.

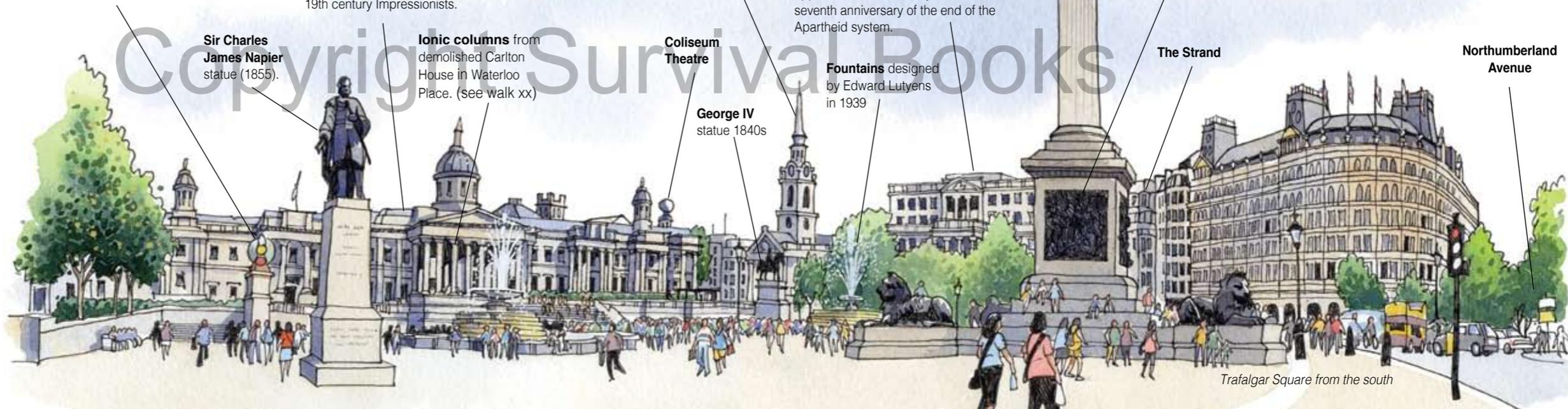
The Strand

Northumberland Avenue

Traffic used to cross in front of the National Gallery but since it was rerouted the square is now a completely pedestrianised, open area. Despite it's regular character, the square is mostly a venue for rallies, political meetings and sales campaigns, rather than state or royal occasions.

14 Nelson's Column dominates the square and commemorates Admiral Lord Nelson, Britain's most famous sea lord who died heroically during his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Dating from 1843, the 46m (151ft) high column of Dartmoor granite is guarded by Edward Landseer's four bronze lions – much-loved, especially by climbing children – which were added 25 years later, due it is said to the artist's difficulty in creating a satisfactory lion likeness. It was worth the wait.

Four bronze panels Cast from captured French guns, depicting Nelson's four great victories.



Trafalgar Square from the south

Across the road junction in front of the Charles I statue stands the great Portland stone edifice of **16 Admiralty Arch**, built as a tribute by King Edward VII in memory of his mother, Queen Victoria. Designed by Austin Webb and built 1906-11, the arch completed the development of the Mall and St James Park begun in the 1660s.

Traffic can only use the two outer arches, the central one being reserved for royal processions. Once the residence of the First Sea Lord and used by the Admiralty, the arch housed government offices until it was sold in 2012 for redevelopment as a luxury hotel, restaurant and apartments.

Latin inscription 'In the tenth year of King Edward VII, to Queen Victoria, from her most grateful citizens, 1910'.



Admiralty Arch



Canada House

Occupying most of the west side of the square, **17 Canada House** was built between 1822-25 in Greek Revival style by Robert Smirke, who also designed the British Museum. Originally it was two buildings occupied by the Royal College of Physicians and the Union Club.

Acquired by the Canadian government in 1923, the exterior was remodelled to achieve a more unified appearance.



Institute of Directors

The route leaves Trafalgar Square at its north-western corner, turning sharply past the Sainsbury extension to the National Gallery into Pall Mall East. The extension, funded by the supermarket company, has a functional look about it but does house a fabulous collection of Renaissance paintings.

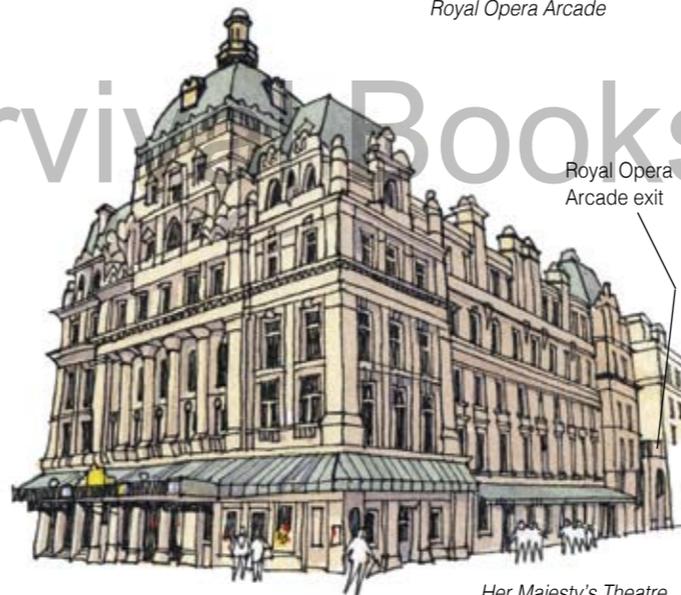
Just beyond the junction with the Haymarket the sunny stucco of the **18 Institute of Directors** building comes into view on the left hand side of Pall Mall East. Originally the United Services Club, it was built in 1827 to a design by John Nash and remodelled by his assistant Decimus Burton. It's another of Nash's production line of neo-Classical designs, this one a mixture of orders with Roman Doric prominent for the entrance porch.

Across Pall Mall East is another of Nash's creations, the **19 Royal Opera Arcade**, the oldest of London's five 19th century shopping arcades, built 1816-18. Originally, it was the entrance to the Haymarket Opera House which was decimated by a fire in 1867. The arcade survived and now houses 18 small shops, set either side of the colonnade.



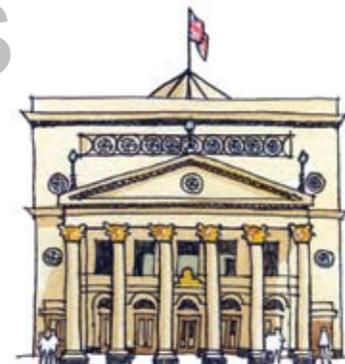
Royal Opera Arcade

Walk through the arcade and turn right along Charles I Street to the Haymarket where **20 Her Majesty's Theatre** looms dramatically on the corner. Designed by Charles J Phipps and opened in 1897 it replaces The Haymarket Opera House, demolished in 1891. Built in French Renaissance style it looks remarkably like a traditional grand opera house, but as by this time the London opera scene had moved to Covent Garden, Her Majesty's instead staged spectacular productions of Shakespeare and other classical works. With a large stage and a seating capacity of 1,216, it's more recently been the venue for large-scale musicals. 'The Phantom of the Opera' has run here since 1986 in a house well-suited for the telling of Gothic tales.



Her Majesty's Theatre

Royal Opera Arcade exit



Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Across the Haymarket is London's oldest theatre, the **21 Theatre Royal**. Designed by John Nash in 1831, he moved the location from further up the street so the grand portico of six Corinthian columns could be best seen from St James's Square (walk xx). The interior has been updated but much of the stage machinery is original.

A stroll to the top of the Haymarket and a left turn returns you to the end of the walk in Piccadilly Circus. Have a sit down on the steps of Eros. Everyone does it.