

The Great NWH3 'Ash Trail London 1666th run

"Pish, a woman could piss that out!" Sir Thomas Bloodworth, Mayor of London 1666

Approximate distance: 15k / 10 miles

You will need this guide, as there is no flour.

A map would help. There are some free ones available at the youth hostel, which will keep you orientated. The route is never very far away from St. Paul's Cathedral.

Helpline numbers:

KitKat	07761 345 520
Babe	07860 881 025
Peacemaker	07960 714 020
Bones	07941 640 862

RG refers to times and places where hares will be stationed for the lost or lonely.

Start: St Paul's Churchyard South (EC4M 8AY), 10.30am

"The stones of St. Paul's flew like grenades, the melting lead running down the streets in a stream, the very pavements glowing with fiery redness, so that no horse, nor man, was able to tread on them."

John Evelyn

- Cross road at pedestrian crossing onto Peters Hill S to the Millennium Bridge. Cross the river and head E on Bankside, past the Globe Theatre and under Southwark Bridge, to:

The Anchor pub (SE1 9EF) - 12 mins / 1km from St. Paul's

"I took refuge in a little alehouse on Bankside, and there watched the fire grow." Samuel Pepys

The pub was named The Anchor in 1665 by Josiah Childs, who supplied the navy with Masts, Spars and Bowsprits as well as stores and small beer. The brewery was "Thales of Deadman's Place", being built on a Roman graveyard, and a plague pit of 1665.

- Retrace your steps to Southwark Bridge. Take the stairs. Cross the bridge N. Cross the road, take the L stairs and turn immediately R at the bottom of the steps into Fruiterers Passage. Follow the riverside walk E past The Banker pub (EC4R 3TE), through Steelyard Passage - 3 min.
- Turn L and head N on Allhallows Lane beside Cannon Street station, then R into Upper Thames St. Take crossing and continue into Suffolk Lane, R (into Laurence Pountney Lane) and continue through the alley in front of you into Martin Lane. On L is

The Old Wine Shades (EC4R 0DP) - 3 mins

This pub was built as a wine bar in 1663 and survived the fire. Unfortunately closed at weekends.

- S on Martin Lane, L onto Arthur St., and L to cross King William St./ A3 at crossing. Turn R and L into Monument St.

The Monument (EC3R 8AH) - 4mins_ **RG time 11.30 - 11.45am**

Built to commemorate the fire, it is 62m high and 62m away from the bakery where the fire started in Pudding Lane, which is in front of you. The Monument is open to the public.

Robert Hubert was simple, foreign and catholic. He confessed (under duress) to starting the fire, as an act of terrorism, and was hanged at Tyburn. Later it was agreed that he couldn't have started the fire because he was on a ship at sea at the time.

- Continue down Fish St. Hill onto Lower Thames St. Across the road is:

St Magnus the Martyr (EC3R 6DN) - 2mins. Closed at weekends

Contains a model of the old London Bridge. The bridge was 'mis-sold' to the Americans in the 1960's; they thought they were buying Tower Bridge! London Bridge stopped the fire spreading to the south bank as it had a fire break in the centre where no buildings were allowed. Stones of the original bridge can be seen here. The church contained the fire fighting equipment - and was the first church to burn down.

- If you are facing the church continue L along Lower Thames St. to The Walrus and Carpenter pub on Monument St. After a bevie exit the pub into Lovat Lane - 3 mins.

The City alleyways After the fire King Charles II ordered Robert Hooke (of the newly formed Royal Society) to survey and plan a new city along Dutch lines, with wide, straight streets on a grid system. This was so fire fighters could gain access to the city. This he did. No-one took any notice of the new plan, and the city was rebuilt in the same narrow, haphazard way of the old city. Lovat Lane is one of

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these old alleyways. Later our route will take you through more of these alleys. Lovat Lane used to be called Love Lane, due to the ladies of the night who frequented it.

- N along Lovat Lane, R onto Eastcheap and into Gt. Tower St. Ahead of you is: All Hallows by the Tower (EC3R 5BJ) - 5 mins

A fire survivor, saved by soldiers from the Tower of London, who stopped the fire spreading by blowing up houses with dynamite to form a fire break. Samuel Pepys climbed the tower to observe the fire.

“I up to the top of Barking steeple, and there saw the saddest sight of desolation that I ever saw; every where great fires, oyle-cellars, and brimstone, and other things burning. I became afeard to stay there long, and therefore down again as fast as I could, the fire being spread as far as I could see it.”

- On your R is The Hung, Drawn and Quartered ‘pie and pint’ pub. Exit pub, cross Gt. Tower St. and bear R into Byward St. and first L into Seething Lane. This is where Samuel Pepys lived. The Draft House selling draft Czech beer is on your L. Head N to

St Olave’s Hart St. (EC3R 7NB)

Saved from the fire by William Penn, father of the founder of Pennsylvania. He persuaded the naval dockyard staff to blow up the surrounding houses. Flames reached 100yds from the church and then the wind changed direction. Whilst all this heroism was taking place, Samuel Pepys was digging a hole in his garden to bury his cheese and wine, before escaping by water to The Anchor pub. Seething Lane was unharmed. Notables buried at St Olave’s: Samuel Pepys, his wife - and a pantomime Goose. Note the grinning skulls over the entrance.

- E into Crutched Friars, L to stay on Crutched Friars into Jewry St., R at Aldgate High St. 150m on R is:

The Hoop and Grapes (EC3N 1AL) - 9mins **RG 13.30-13.45**

The fire stopped 50 yards from Aldgate High St. Originally called Hop and Grapes, it sold wine and beer, and was saved by a change in wind direction.

- Cross the main road into St Botolph St. by following the ring road past the church on L **St. Botolph without Aldgate**, and continue straight via Dukes Place into St. James’s Passage: then R at Mitre St., L at Creechurch Lane and into Leadenhall St. Immediately L is:

St Katherine Cree (EC3A 3BP) - 8mins

A fire survivor

- Turn R on Leadenhall St., and R into St Mary Axe. On R is:

St Andrew Undershaft (EC3A 8BN) - 3 mins

A fire survivor. The shaft refers to a very large Maypole that used to be nearby.

- N on St Mary Axe, L at ‘the Gherkin’ and R on Gt. St Helen’s to

St. Helen’s Bishopsgate (EC3A 6AT) - 2mins

A fire survivor

- Cross the churchyard NW, through St Helen’s Place and R on Bishopsgate. Cross at crossing and continue R along Bishopsgate, then L into Wormwood St. at horse statue. L after 100m into Old Broad St., R Gt. Winchester St. and L into Austin Friars Passage - 5mins.

So now into a tour of the City alleyways

- S on Austin Friars, R onto Old Broad St., R onto Threadneedle St. Cross at crossing and take L into Royal Exchange Avenue. (The Royal Exchange was burnt down, rebuilt and burnt down again in 1667.) R at Finch Lane and R again into Cornhill, then immediate L across road into Birchin Lane. 1st L at Cad the Dandy into Castle Court, E on Castle Court and into St. Michael’s Alley.

The Jamaica Wine House was London’s first coffee house, in 1652.

- Carry on S on St Michael’s Alley, leaving the wine house on your L, into George Yard. Cross the yard R into Lombard St., and L at Pret into Post Office Court (for KitKat.) Exit into King William St., L and cross King William St. at Abchurch Lane. Head S into Abchurch Lane and R into

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- Abchurch Yard - 5mins. N across Abchurch Yard into Sherbourne Lane. L into King William St., L into St Swithin’s Lane and R into Mansion House Place.

(The Mansion House, residence of Lord Mayor of London Sir Thomas Bloodworth, who was responsible for organising fire fighting. It burnt down.)

- R to stay on Mansion House Place, cross Mansion House St. into Princes St., past the Bank of England, and L into Lothbury. Continue into Gresham St., R into Basinghall St. and L into Guildhall Buildings. Nice area for a picnic...

The Guildhall (EC2V 7HH) - 8 mins

A fire survivor and open to the public

- Leave Guildhall Yard, R into Gresham St. then R onto Wood St. (crossing London Wall); continue on Wood St. and L at the corner into St Giles Terrace.

St Giles-without-Cripplegate (EC2Y 8DA) - 5mins

A survivor outside the city wall. Daniel Defoe’s house is nearby; he was 6 years old at the time. Have a wander around this 1960’s site before

- Taking the public lift or steps to Postern Skywalk and the Museum of London, via route on wallmaps. Descend stairs then follow chalk marks into Postman’s Park (KitKat again!) on the left next to Presbyterian church. R on King Edward St., continue L into Little Britain, past St Bart’s hospital on your L, and into West Smithfield. On R is

Great St Bartholomew’s Gatehouse (EC1A 7JQ) - 1 min

Saved from the fire by the Priory walls

- Continue past gatehouse and turn R into Cloth Fair.

41 Cloth Fair (EC1A 7JQ)

The oldest house in London – 1597.

The Rising Sun pub - not to be missed.....**RG 14.30-14.45**

- Return to West Smithfield, cross Long Lane and go through covered market (Grand Avenue); then L on Charterhouse St. Cross Farringdon Road and take 2nd R into Ely Place.

St. Etheldreda’s Church - 8mins

Fire survivor

- Retrace steps to Charterhouse St. (B500), R on A40 at Holborn Circus and continue. On your L is:

The Staple Inn - 6 mins

This is where wool was weighed and taxed.

- Continue on Holborn 200m, and L at Gt. Turnstile immediately after Penderel’s Oak (JDW pub.) Continue via Newman’s Row into Lincoln’s Inn Fields. Walk SW through park and exit at Portsmouth St. On L at 13-14 Portsmouth St. is

The Olde Curiosity Shop - 10 mins

Inspired the Charles Dickens novel, and is now a shoe shop.

- E on Portsmouth St., L onto Portugal St. and 2nd R Carey St. – abbreviated to ‘Queer St.’, as the site of the bankruptcy courts.

The Seven Stars pub, 53 Carey St. - 3 mins. Do not miss this pub! **RG 15.30-15.45**

A fire survivor, situated behind the Royal Courts of Justice

- E on Carey St., R into Bell Yard and R onto Strand. On R across the road is:

229 The Strand (WC2R 1BF) - 3 mins - near the Pelican crossing

Originally the home of the Gatekeeper of Temple Bar. Now a Thai restaurant., it was the home of the Wig and Pen Club, where journalists were sold ‘scurrilous gossips’ from the court opposite.

- Turn E on The Strand: slight R onto Strand/Fleet St. On your R is:

Prince Henry’s Room (EC4Y 1AF) - 2 mins - at 17 Fleet St., by Inner Temple Lane

Used to be Fountain’s Inn, frequented by Samuel Pepys. Named after James I son, the Prince of Wales.

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- Continue E on Fleet St., and on your L is

Red Lion Court (EC4A 3EB) - 3 mins

Another of the city alleways. Opposite, Ye Olde Cock Tavern was another watering hole of Samuel Pepys, and later Samuel Johnson and Dickens. The original pub was on the N side of Fleet St.

- Continue along Fleet St. to

Wine Office Court (EC4A 2BU) - 3 mins

Another city alleyway. Do not miss Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese pub which sits above the Fleet river, now underground and visible from within the pub. This was the smelliest part of London at the time, the river draining the slaughterhouses and tanneries of Smithfield, as well as carrying street refuse to the Thames.

- N up Wine Office Court, then R into Shoe Lane and R at Stonecutter Court into Stonecutters St. L into Farringdon St./A201, under viaduct R into Snow Hill (off West Smithfield), then L into Cock Lane.

Golden Boy of Pye Giltspur St (EC1A 9DD) - 9mins

On the corner of Cock Lane and Giltspur St. This statue marks where the fire stopped, and is the end of your tour. As the fire started in Pudding Lane, and ended at Pye Corner, gluttony was thought to have been the cause, and thus the Golden Boy is a bit of a porker, as a reminder of God’s punishment to the greedy. Cock Lane was the only legal whorehouse north of the river, and its name is no coincidence.

S down Giltspur St., L into Newgate St./A40, R at Warwick Lane, L White Hart St. and R Paternoster Row to

St. Paul’s Churchyard (EC4M 8AY) - 8 mins

On On at The Cockpit: from St. Paul’s YHA head W on Carter Lane and L on St Andrew’s Hill - 1 min.

or The Rising Sun in Carter Lane.

Directions to Bridewell theatre: W on Carter Lane, R at Ludgate Broadway, L Pilgrim St. Cross New Bridge St. into Bride Lane - 5 mins.

Doors open 6.30pm - bar downstairs.