



## A Sunday walk in the City, through the historic gardens of the Square Mile and its environs

Map 4

2.5km, from The Charterhouse Courtyard Gardens to the Temple

*Recommended by Garden Co-Ordinator Marion Blair*

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This leisurely Sunday walk showcases some of the most historic sites in the Square Mile and beyond. You will explore hidden parts of the City dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, and discover the beautiful gardens of the most traditional and important institutions within the life of the Square Mile.

The joy of this walk is that you can start out with midmorning coffee and cake in the beautiful gardens of **The Charterhouse Courtyard Gardens (Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm)** – the nearest tube is Barbican or Farringdon. The planting is exquisite – exuberant herbaceous plants, stunning shrubs, glorious lawns and a wildlife walled garden. It is a garden rightly cherished and admired by everyone who visits. We are so delighted to welcome them back to LOG after over a decade.

From here it is a just few steps down Hayne Street and Kinghorn Street to a new garden for this year – **Cloth Fair Hidden Garden (Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm)**, which presents a total contrast but is again lovingly cared for and gardened by volunteers. This small garden for local residents is sunk into the spaces around the walls of the historic St Barts the Great church, dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and founded by Rahere. As well as being an exemplar of planting on vertical slopes, it is a delightful garden run by a small team of very enthusiastic volunteers. More coffee and cake and musicians await here!

Exit via Cloth Fair, and walk south-west through the now quiet area of Smithfield, home to the weekly meat market; on any other day it would be bustling with vans, traders and carcasses of meat. Soon all this will be gone, and the new Museum of London will open its doors inside this iconic Victorian building.

Turn left down Giltspur Street past St Barts Hospital on your left, then turning left again onto Newgate Street. Another historic landmark – The Old Bailey is across the road here. Walking along Newgate Street, look for Warwick Lane on the opposite side of the road; turn right here and walk down Warwick Lane until you see Amen Court on your right. Inside this courtyard is the hidden gem of the garden of **The Stationers Company (Sunday 10.30am-4pm)**; this is another historic institution with an excellent example of lush shade planting. Ferns, hostas and hydrangeas are encircled by the walls of this important Livery Company.

Returning to Warwick Lane, continue south to Ludgate Hill and turn right. Leaving the Cathedral behind you, walk west up Fleet Street. You are now approaching the last three gardens on our walk – all open from 1pm, they make a perfect end to the day. To access this area, turn left off Fleet Street down Bouverie Street, then turn right through the gateway on Tudor Street. Clustered together on a fascinating historical site – The Temple – the beautiful gardens of **Middle Temple** and **Inner Temple (both Sunday 1-5pm)** never fail to delight visitors. **The Masters House (Sunday 1-5pm)** is also a treasure of a garden, with stunning flower combinations and unusual shrubs.

The site's history stretches back to the Knights Templar. Barristers and judges now work here in their Chambers, surrounded by the stunning gardens belonging to these important Inns of Court. Wonder at the magnificent herbaceous borders with their riotous colours, and learn more about planting for biodiversity.

Once you have enjoyed these gardens, walk down the ancient Middle Temple Lane towards the river. Turn right through the imposing gateway, walking along the Embankment to reach Temple underground; or turn left along the Embankment to reach Blackfriars underground.