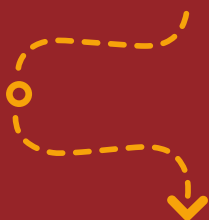




HAPPY HISTORY HOLIDAYS!

# HISTORY HEROES LONDON TRAIL



START: TRAFALGAR SQUARE  
END: SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Kick-off your holidays with a fantastic History-fuelled walk, exploring some of London's best landmarks, and getting to know some iconic figures from history, all the way from King Edward I to Nelson Mandela.

Throughout the walk, you'll learn about **LOADS** of amazing people from history, including 12 History Heroes across our brilliant card game packs.

History Heroes are indicated by a ★ throughout the trail - when you see a ★ make sure to stop and take in the history. If you've got your card games with you, why not quiz each other? Guess what you know, learn what you don't!

Pack your History Heroes cards (don't worry if you don't have any!) Let's get walking...





## START: TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Trafalgar square is jam packed with history! Let's take a look around... the tall plinth in the middle is Nelson's Column, which was built in 1843. It commemorates **Admiral Horatio Nelson's** death at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Fun fact: during WWII, the Germans didn't want to bomb the column because they hoped to move it to Berlin if they won the war.

Ahh the lovely lions! The four lions at the foot of Nelson's Column were finished in 1867 by painter **Edwin Landseer** - this was actually his first ever sculpture commission. Landseer studied lions in the zoo and even had a dead lion shipped to his studio so he could study its body.

Look around at the fountains. These have been around in some form or another since the mid 19th century, but in the 1930s, ★ **Sir Edwin Lutyens** started work on bringing them to life with mermaids. Lutyens, a famous architect, also designed the Cenotaph, the famous WW1 memorial in Whitehall.

Can you see the Christmas Tree? Every year since 1947, Norway has sent a tree as a sign of their appreciation for Britain's support during World War II. The Norwegian Spruce tree arrives each winter and stands tall in Trafalgar Square - you can't miss it!

Head South to Charing Cross for our next stop...





## 5 MINUTE WALK TO: CHARING CROSS STATION

We made it to Charing Cross - an area filled with thousands of years of history. It's practically overflowing! Can you see the bronze statue of ★ **King Charles I** on his horse? This was built in 1675 and stands today where the famous cross (of Charing Cross) used to be...

Nearly 400 years earlier in the 1290s ★ **King Edward I** built the Eleanor Cross as a memorial to his beloved wife, **Eleanor of Castile**. In fact, there were 12 total Eleanor Crosses in a line across the east of England, to mark the places her body rested overnight during her procession to Westminster Abbey. You can see a reconstruction of the Charing Cross, built in 1864, outside the station today.

Fast forward 300 years from Edward and Eleanor's time... have you heard of Wyatt's Rebellion? In 1554, **Thomas Wyatt** led a group of a few thousand rebels from Kent in an attempt to overthrow ★ **Queen Mary I** of England. This was the final battle place of the Wyatt's Rebellion, before they were defeated and around 200 of the rebels were executed for treason.

And that's not all! Remember the Eleanor Cross that used to be here? In 1647, ★ **Oliver Cromwell** and his revolutionary government destroyed it during the English Civil War. The railway station opened in 1864, with 30 million passengers per year travelling through it. We wonder how many know about all this history...



## 5 MINUTE WALK TO: JOSEPH BAZALGETTE BUST

Before (spoiler alert) we head over Hungerford Bridge to the South Bank, take a quick peek at the bronze bust of the great engineer ★ **Joseph Bazalgette** - whose construction of London's sewage system created the Embankment you're walking on!



2 MINUTE WALK TO:  
HUNGERFORD BRIDGE -  
THEN ACROSS!

Over the river we go... The bridge you're walking over is called The Hungerford Bridge, and the original version of it was actually the first pedestrian bridge to span the Thames. It was built by civil engineer ★ **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** in 1845, and was named after the Hungerford family (dating back to the 12th century) who lived where Charing Cross Station now stands.

The Hungerford Market was opened in the 17th century, and by the 1830s, steamboats were in place to carry people from one side of the river to the other. Brunel's new bridge in 1845 made it even easier for people from South of the river to visit the market. Unfortunately, the market was not the great success it was set out to be - but the bridge was considered to be brilliant, especially given the toll you had to pay to cross it - a halfpenny per person to cross each way.

Fun fact: the two original wrought iron chains in the Hungerford Bridge were used in the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, which Brunel also built.



5 MINUTE WALK TO:  
NELSON MANDELA  
STATUE

This brilliant bronze bust of ★ **Nelson Mandela** was placed here, outside the South Bank Centre in 1988, but it was commissioned a few years earlier when Mandela was still in jail. Mandela became South Africa's first black, democratically elected President in 1994.

Did you know Mandela wasn't removed from the USA terror watch list until 2008 when he was 89 years old?



## 10 MINUTE WALK TO: NATIONAL THEATRE

Standing ovation! We're at The National Theatre - Britain's flagship theatre from the 20th century. The National Theatre started with a production of Hamlet directed by actor and director ★ **Laurence Olivier**. Have you heard of London's most prestigious theatre awards, the Oliviers? That's him!

Can you see the statue of Laurence Olivier outside the theatre?



## 10 MINUTE WALK TO: THAMES BEACH

Did you know there is a beach right on the Thames? Today it's a lesser known spot, but when it opened in 1934, it was hugely popular. The beach was officially opened on July 23, and ★ **King George V** said that the area should always be free for London's children to use. It's possible that in the few years before World War II, there were almost 500,000 visitors to the beach.



In the summer months, sand artists often make masterpieces down there - probably too chilly for that now!

Head over to the Observation Point where you can sneak a lovely view across the Thames. What can you see? We'll name one - St. Paul's Cathedral, whose current structure was designed by ★ **Sir Christopher Wren** as part of the city's major rebuilding after the Great Fire of London.



## 15 MINUTE WALK TO: SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

You're nearly there! Off on the final stretch today, to the famous Shakespeare's Globe. The original Globe opened in 1599 and was built by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, the company that ★ **William Shakespeare** was a part of. The first play put on was Julius Caesar, and only 14 years later in 1613, the whole theatre burned to the ground!

Not to fear - the Globe was rebuilt, but disaster struck again when parliamentary decree closed down the theatre in 1642 at the start of the English Civil War. The Globe you see today, Shakespeare's Globe, was opened in 1997.

Did you know Shakespeare wrote 38 plays throughout his lifetime?



## END: SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

We made it to Shakespeare's Globe! Thank you for coming on History Heroes' London Trail this winter. Now for a last bit of fun...

What's the connection between these three questions?



How many Globe Theatres have there been?



How many times does Shakespeare use the word Christmas in his plays?



How many children did Shakespeare have?





# THANK YOU FOR WALKING WITH US!

## SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS AND SNAPS...

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