



You're visiting during the weeklong City of London Festival, so your day should begin within the City's Square Mile. If you're feeling competitive, challenge your boyfriend to a contest of who can spot the most dragons that mark the City's boundaries.

Paternoster Square is one of my favorite places to hang out with a coffee and a book, but I rarely get much reading done because I'm too busy watching the tourists. There's a Starbucks in the square, but why go there?

When I first moved to London, I lived in the King's Wardrobe. Seriously. It's the closest to Narnia I'll ever get. One of my favorite coffee places, **Grace** (8 Creed Lane), was almost next door. Creed Lane is a stone's throw from the tourist hustle and bustle of St. Paul's, but you'd never know it. After you grab your coffee, walk up Carter Lane towards the infamous cathedral dome and admire the façade of the Youth Hostel. The beautiful building used to be St. Paul's Choir School.



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Twelve Noon

Now that you're caffeinated, get yourself back to **Paternoster Square** for a performance at noon. The area takes its name from Paternoster Row, the street walked by the clergy of St. Paul's in medieval times while praying aloud with their rosary beads. "*Pater Noster, qui es in caelis...*" (*Our Lord, who is in heaven...*)

Today, the square is part of the Mobile Orchard installation. It will move to four other locations within the Square mile in order to highlight the importance of trees in urban environments as well as the 60% decline in British orchards since the 1950s. At noon, the performing arts company Canopy will launch the

Mobile Orchard with a new piece for the occasion entitled Golden Apples.

Enter the opulent home of the Mother Goddess, Pomona, a gloriously decadent and vital being who bewitches all with her beauty.

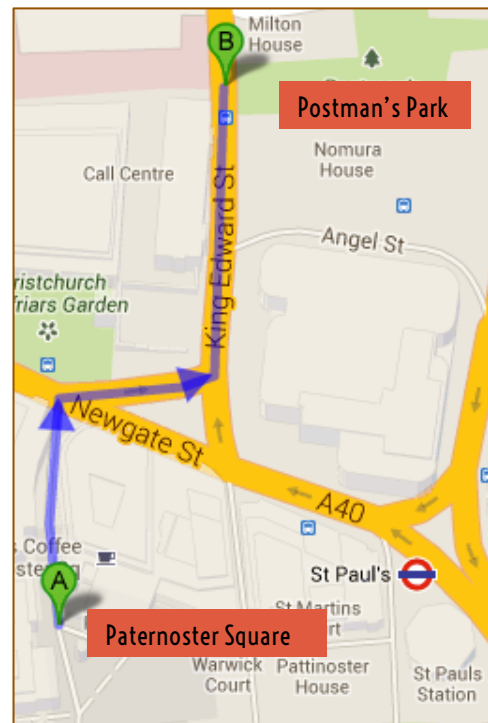
But be mindful; the goddess does not tolerate contempt, many men have fallen but there remains only one foolhardy mercenary, doggedly tortured and blinded by his desire to acquire goddess's golden apple. Will you be drawn into his odyssey or venerate the goddess?

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You don't need me to tell you that **St. Paul's Cathedral** is an impressive masterpiece. However, if you're trying to do London on a budget, the £16 entrance fee can be a bit much. If you want to take a peek for free, go in during mass. Eucharist on the 24th is at 12:30 so you may be able to catch the end of it after the performance. Although you can't take photos or have an in-depth exploration, you can see the church "at work." The architect of this and nearly 30 other churches in London, Sir Christopher Wren, is entombed in the church. His infamous epitaph reads, "*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*" (If you seek his monument, look around). Seeing as the city is laden with his work, his "monument" spreads throughout London.

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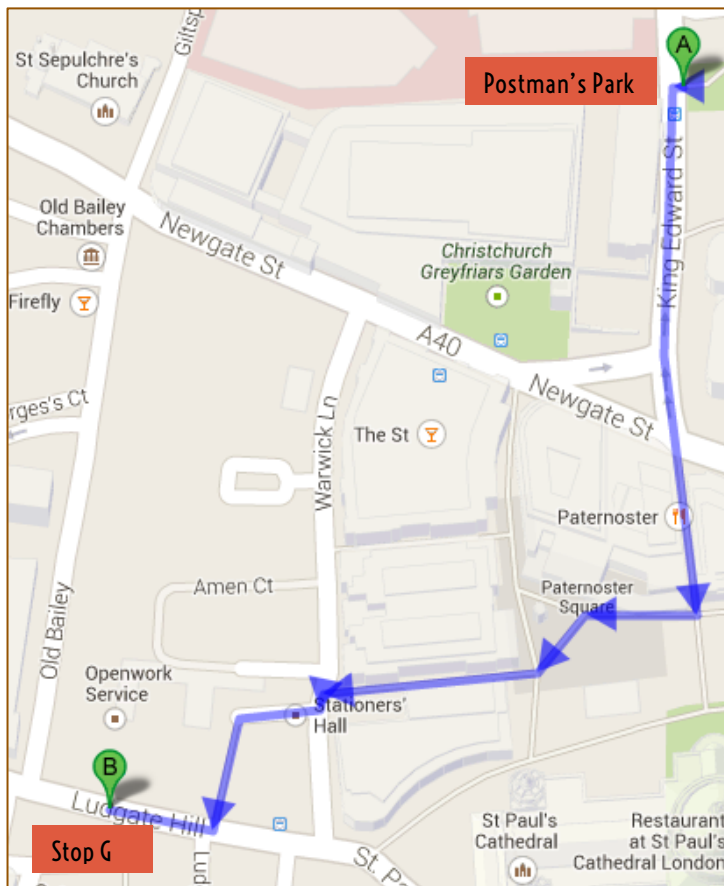
If you're not ready to leave the City, take a four-minute stroll up King Edward's Street and visit **Postman's Park**. Opened in 1880 on the site of the churchyard and burial ground of St Botolph's Aldersgate church, it is dotted with gravestones stacked around the edges of the park and the odd construction worker on break. Twenty years later, the extremely moving George Frederic Watts Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice was erected. Over 150 plaques honor those who lost their lives while helping others. If it looks familiar, you may have seen it in the 2004 film *Closer*.



There may be faster ways to get to Spitalfields, but it's not very often you get to ride on a Routemaster bus unless you're going to someone's wedding, so you may as well take advantage of the chance. If you're game for a bit of a trek, retrace your steps back through Paternoster Square until you reach **Bus Stop G** and catch one of the vintage busses that run an abbreviated version of route 15. The walk to the bus stop takes about six minutes.

Alternatively, turn right on Newgate Street and left on Old Bailey and left on Ludgate Hill. It's not as direct, but it allows you to see the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales.

The ride is only about 10 minutes, but it takes you past Monument and the Tower of London so you can pretend it's a semi-private tour. The heritage route stops at Tower Hill and lunch is a 20-minute walk away.

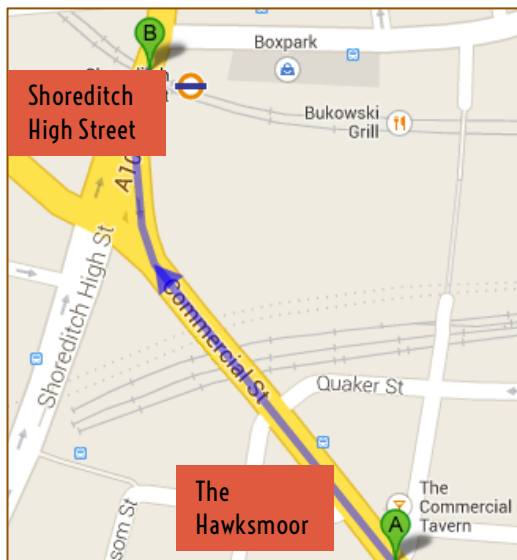
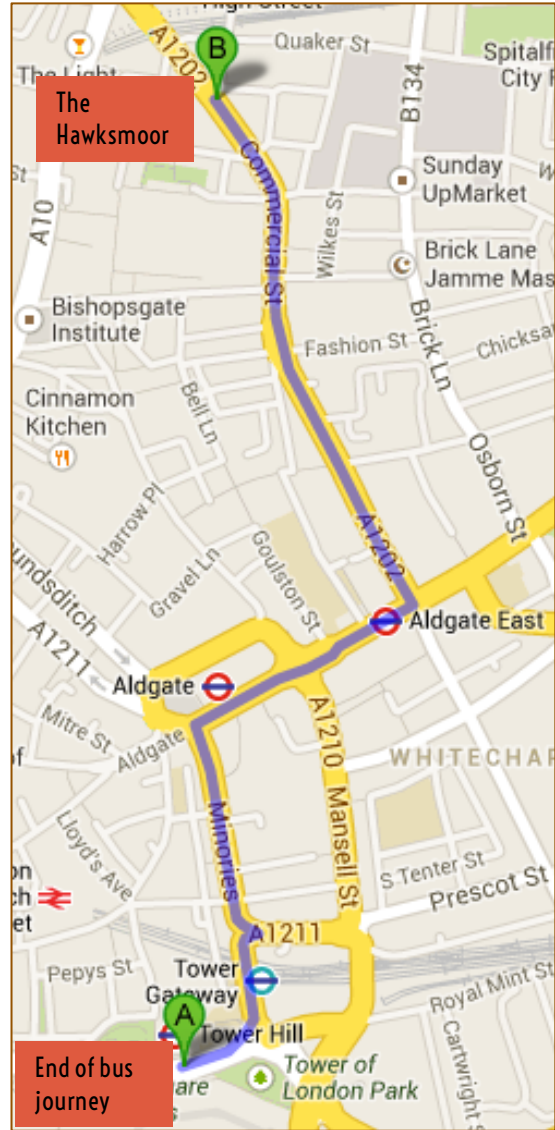


The Hawksmoor in Spitalfields is offering 50% off food in the downstairs bar until the end of the month to celebrate their new menu. You can't get one of their steaks at the bar, but you can indulge in London's new obsession with kimchi by having some on a burger for £4.75. If you're still hungry, you can celebrate Canada Day early by indulging in some poutine. The Hawksmoor doesn't trot out the traditional way of serving it, which is with brown gravy and cheese curds. They get a pig's head involved as well. (Poutine also seems to be a mini-trend popping up so you can say you tried it before it was all played out.)

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8pm

An Escape Plan is playing at **The Shaklewell Arms** in Dalston at 8pm. Based on your recent playlist, I think you'll enjoy their show. The band is a bit folky and the band includes someone with neck tats and another person with a crazy moustache. Unfortunately, you may recognize them from an Ikea commercial, which erodes their street cred a bit. If they're not to your taste, there's nothing lost because tickets are free ([download them here](#)) and the show takes you to Dalston, which is just a 15 minute bus ride or a 19 minute walk from where you're staying tonight.



To get to the show, take the overground train from the Shoreditch High Street station towards Highbury & Islington or Dalston Junction and disembark at Dalston Junction.

Depending on the time, you can make your way to the gig at **The Shaklewell Arms** (71 Shaklewell Lane), find yourself a cocktail or get some dinner. Following are a few solid options.

White Rabbit (16 Bradbury Street) specializes in sharing plates that go beyond the usual charcuterie or cheese options. Here, you can choose platters with hake, wild garlic and potato dumplings or travel to Spain with an Iberico pork shoulder and migas. Platters range from £8.50 to £15.50.

Physic Burger (33-35 Stoke Newington Road), a pop-up takeover of the kitchen at Birthdays, is a more casual option. I looked longingly at their burgers before heading downstairs to catch a show last week and vowed to return to check it out. The burgers will set you back £6.50 – £8.50.

If you'd rather spend your money on booze, head to 76 Stoke Newington Road and go down the stairs that are under the cinema sign. You'll find yourself in **Ruby's**, where you can get a damn fine cocktail (£8), craft beer or a glass or wine.

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And that's all from me. I hope you have an amazing time in London! Drop me a line and let me know how your day unfolded.

