

LONDON

CITY WALKS

Pathfinder® Guides 



A low-angle photograph of St Paul's Cathedral in London, showing its iconic dome and classical facade. In the foreground, a red double-decker bus is partially visible. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue.

Walks
bringing
the city
to life



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The Square Mile

WALK

The City of London. Founded as a trading centre by the Romans: in area, street plan and international feel, little has changed in 2000 years. Now, Europe's financial capital and probably the wealthiest square mile on Earth. During the week it buzzes with the activities of workers from every corner of the world: at weekends you can have it to yourself.

Start 
Bank

Finish 
Bank

Distance
1 mile (1.7km)

Refreshments
The Old Doctor
Butler's Head



The Duke of Wellington and Copenhagen

ON THIS WALK



Royal
Exchange

Lombard
Street

Lloyd's of
London

Jamaica
Wine House

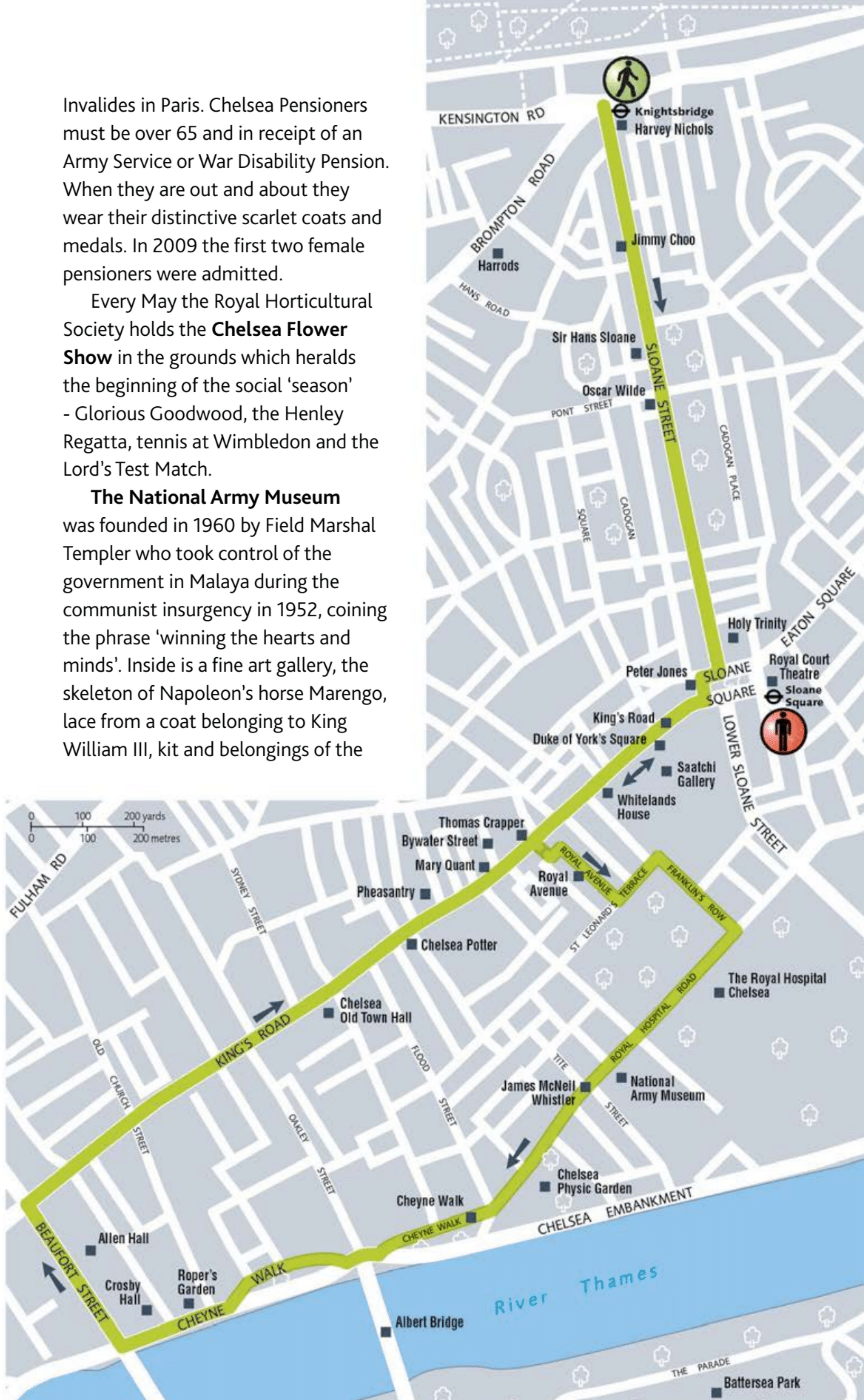
Leadenhall
Market

St Andrew
Undershaft

Invalides in Paris. Chelsea Pensioners must be over 65 and in receipt of an Army Service or War Disability Pension. When they are out and about they wear their distinctive scarlet coats and medals. In 2009 the first two female pensioners were admitted.

Every May the Royal Horticultural Society holds the **Chelsea Flower Show** in the grounds which heralds the beginning of the social 'season' - Glorious Goodwood, the Henley Regatta, tennis at Wimbledon and the Lord's Test Match.

The National Army Museum was founded in 1960 by Field Marshal Templer who took control of the government in Malaya during the communist insurgency in 1952, coining the phrase 'winning the hearts and minds'. Inside is a fine art gallery, the skeleton of Napoleon's horse Marengo, lace from a coat belonging to King William III, kit and belongings of the



The South Bank

WALK 6

In Tudor times the City of London frowned on theatre, prostitution and bear baiting: Southwark, on the south bank, did not. As London Bridge closed for the night, watermen did a roaring trade carrying passengers across the river: but if the Thames froze, you could walk onto the ice and entertainment was brought to you!

Start 
Embankment

Finish 
London
Bridge

Distance
2 miles (3.2km)

Refreshments
The George Inn



St Paul's Cathedral from the South Bank

ON THIS WALK



Royal Festival
Hall

OXO
Tower

Tate
Modern

South Bank
Arts Centre

Gabriel's
Wharf

Millennium
Bridge

At the foot of Pudding Lane is a **plaque**. A belated apology for the fire issued by the Bakers' Company in 1986. Well, better late than never.

Part way up Pudding Lane take St George's Lane to the right.

Before you cross Botolph Lane, take a moment to study the distinctive, flamboyant **City of London street signs**. The coat of arms shows the cross of St George, with the sword of St Paul, London's patron saint, in its top left quadrant. The Latin motto can be translated as 'God Guide Us' and the two creatures supporting the shield are dragons. On every main road into The City there are dragons facing outwards to deter evil doers and protect Londoners.

Cross Botolph Lane into Botolph Alley. At the end of the alley turn right down Lovat Lane.

Picture the street in 1665. The walls of the houses would be where they are now, but the first and perhaps second floors cantilevered out to make more living space upstairs. This 'jettying' on both sides would result in only a metre's width for daylight to brighten the gloom. Horses were ridden along the middle of the street, and slops and 'night soil' thrown from upper windows accompanied by the traditional euphemistic warning of 'Gardez l'eau'. Wise pedestrians walked under the eaves of the first floor and consequently could hear the domestic disputes in the wooden houses. They became known as 'eavesdroppers'.

Continue down Lovat Lane.

Enjoy the framed view of London's – and for the moment – Western Europe's

tallest building, Renzo Piano's '**Shard**' at London Bridge.

Turn left along Lower Thames Street.

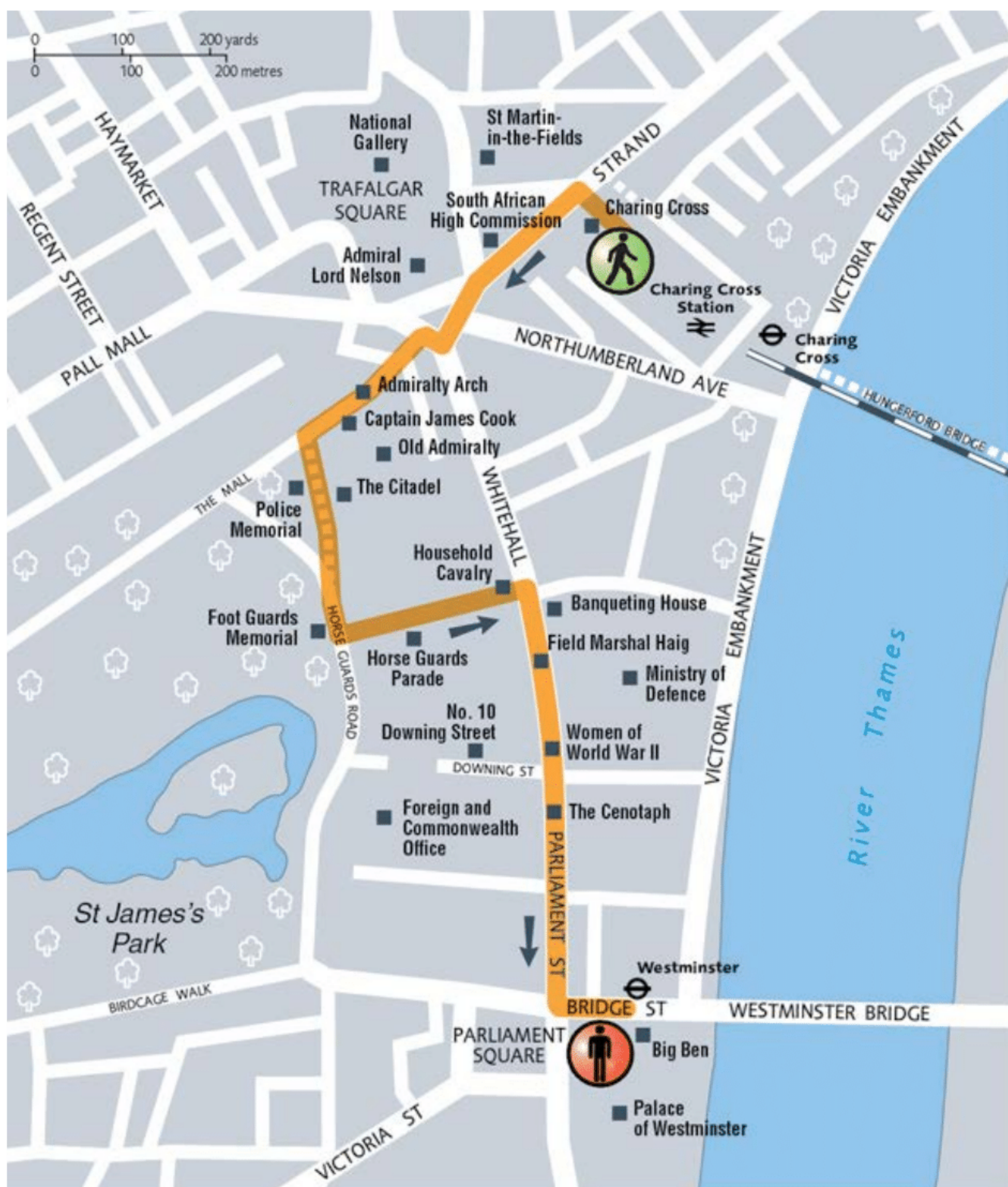
Across the road is architect Horace Jones's **Billingsgate Fish Market**, closed in 1982 and refurbished by Richard Rogers as an exhibition space. The market has moved to the Isle of Dogs and the Corporation of London pay the borough of Tower Hamlets annual rent of 'one whole salmon' for the privilege.

Turn left up St Mary at Hill.

Immediately on your left is the hall of the **Guild of Watermen and Lightermen**. The present Hall dates back to 1780 and remains the only original Georgian Hall in the City of London.

Watermen carry passengers and Lightermen carry freight. They undergo an arduous apprenticeship to master the dangerous quirks of the tidal River Thames. Thomas Doggett, an actor manager, backed his young boatman against all comers and in his will of 1715 established an annual race for graduating apprentices four miles (6.4km) upriver from Swan Lane Pier at London Bridge to the Swan pub in Chelsea. The winner has the honour of wearing the scarlet coat, breeches and silver arm badge that are based on the original costume of an eighteenth century Waterman.

Continue up the hill and take the first right into St Dunstan's Lane. This brings you to the ruined church of **St Dunstan**. Enter the churchyard to the left of the tower that houses the **Wren complementary medicine**



500 war horses in the British Army, but I hasten to add, they are only used for ceremonial purposes.

You are in Whitehall.

This is the street of government: offices, memorials and ministries all the way. Opposite is Inigo Jones' **Banqueting House**: all that remains of the Whitehall Palace that burnt down in 1698. Throughout the 1640s a bitter civil war was fought in England between the armed forces of Parliament and those of the King. Oliver Cromwell led the Parliamentary army to victory, King Charles I was put on trial for treason

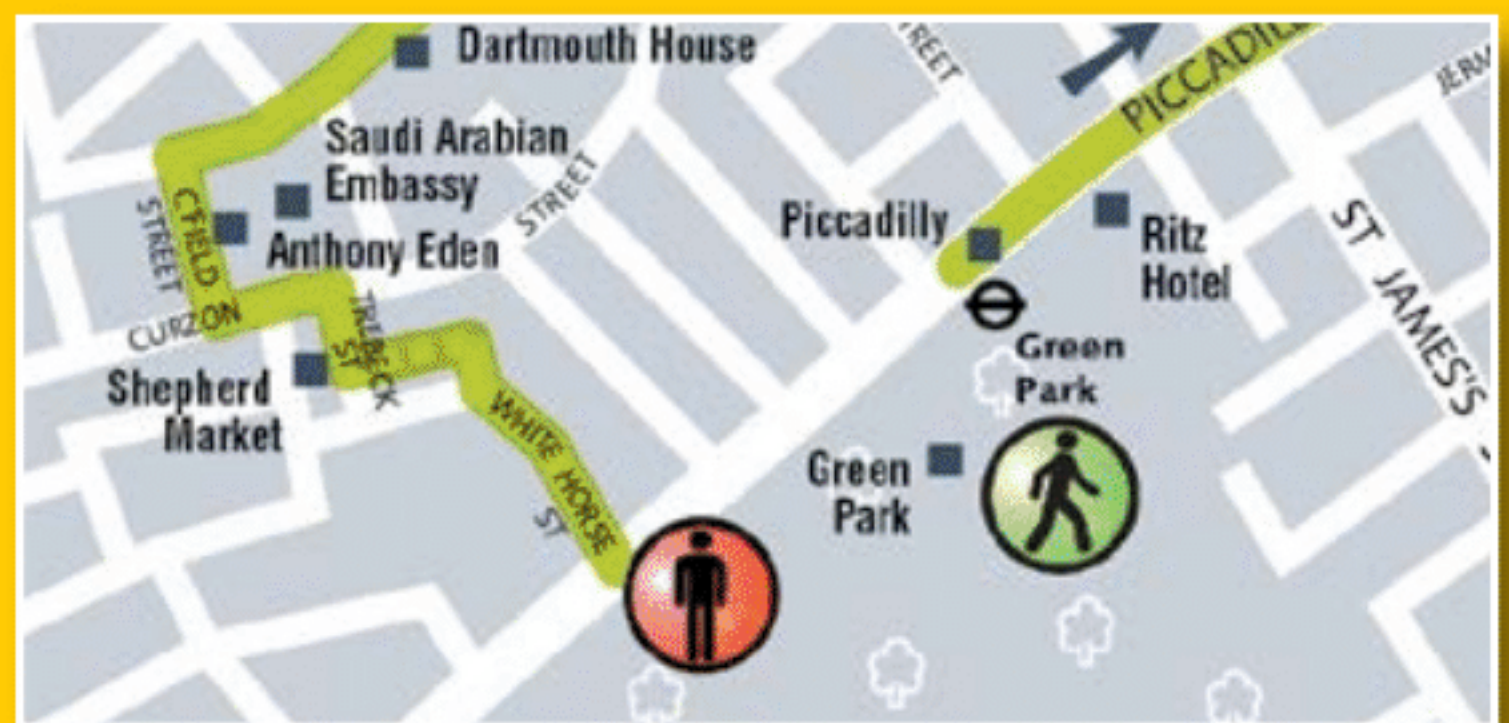
and on January 30th 1649 he stepped from these first floor windows onto a wooden platform, whispered a prayer before he paid and pardoned the axeman, who did his job efficiently in one blow. For the next 11 years England was a republic. Look at the clock face over the arch through which you've just passed and pick out a black circle above the Roman numeral II. It was at 2pm that Charles met his fate.





Turn right down Whitehall. Stay on this side of the road.

In the middle of the road is a mounted statue of **Field Marshal Haig**;

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