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MAYFAIR Walk

A self-guided heritage walk
with map, photo ideas, and
I-spy visual quiz



Interactive
Guide

MAYFAIR Free Walk

heritagewalks.london

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(The cover illustration shows Shepherd Market).

Interactive ipointr Guides

This new interactive, printable walk from comes with a QR code link to a smartphone version. Once you've used the code below to download this walk to your smartphone you'll find special ipointr web pages that carry text, images, audio/video files, web links and more.

They're easy to read and easy to access - all you need is a 4G or wireless access on your smartphone and these individual ipointrs then become portals to all kinds of interesting facts on the internet about the people and places along this walk.

For each walk in this London series there will be a special group QR code (shown below) leading to a home page like the one shown opposite. Or you can put this URL into your phone or iPad browser:

ms0867.wixsite.com/freemayfair

You can also download a free QR scanner from the App or Android stores that will enable you to access the group ipointr QR code for this walk shown below...



ipointr icon actions

These smartphone icons appear on every walk...



This icon button, when clicked, takes you back to the Home Page.



This icon button opens up a clickable list of iPointr web pages each describing a section of the walk.



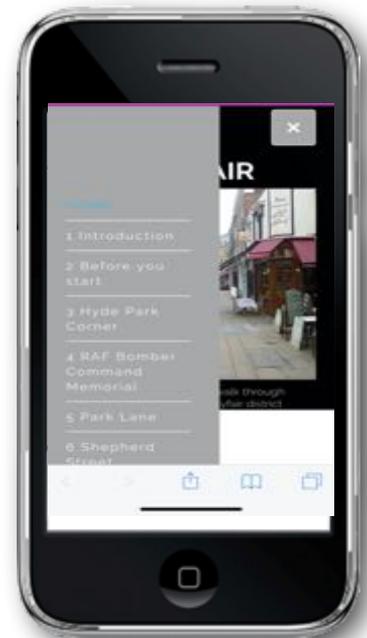
Clicking this button on any page leads to a media clip...



This button leads to an audio clip - often the spoken text for the opened iPointr.



Home Page



iPointr menu

TIP

Once you have downloaded this walk use 'Add to Home Screen' to store it.

Mayfair Free Walk

2.0 km
1.2 miles
1-2 hrs

If printing out,
do staple these
pages together
for ease of use.

From Hyde Park Corner, with its striking memorials, this walk takes you from the Constitution/Wellington Arch, celebrating the famous Duke of Wellington's achievements, through the 'village' streets of Shepherd Market, where the original May Fair was held, to Green Park and Piccadilly.



Wellington Arch 1920s



Shepherd Market



Site of May Fair

Mayfair was the site of an annual May Fair and Spring cattle market first held in the late 1600's. They took place in Trebeck Street, which runs into what is now Shepherd Market. The fair and market were curtailed in the reign of George III because of the notorious behaviour of the 'lazy rascals' and 'sluttish strumpets' who thronged there.

The valuable real estate that became available was developed between 1700 and 1750 by landlords such as the Dukes of Westminster (the Grosvenor family) and, by the 1800s, it was established as London's most fashionable area for politicians, diplomats and the very rich, with shops, restaurants, coffee houses, gaming clubs and hotels to cater for their every need.

In the early twentieth century it became the haunt of the young and idle rich and the setting for many of P.G Wodehouse's novels featuring Bertie Wooster and his valet Jeeves.

Today, Mayfair retains an air of exclusivity with a high proportion of 5-star hotels and fashionable restaurants and shops selling luxury goods to residents and visitors from all over the world.

It is also a fascinating and historic area to wander around, with the mews and little streets containing interesting houses and architectural details from previous centuries juxtaposed with modern residential and business premises.



Start at Hyde Park Corner Underground station. (Piccadilly line)



End at Green Park Underground station. (Piccadilly, Victoria & Jubilee lines)



Use the Transport for London [\(TFL\) planner](#) to plan your route to the start point.

Planning Your Walk

- If possible, walk with a friend
- Tell someone where you are going
- Take care when walking at night
- Wear sensible clothes and footwear
- Always take a bottle of water to avoid de-hydration
- Don't try and do too much in one visit
- Check the opening times of all Museums and Galleries online
- Don't forget to take your camera with batteries fully charged

Your Route



To make your walk even more interesting we have added some fun challenges:

-  I-spy Quiz This is a picture quiz and you need to look out for interesting objects such as 'street furniture', statues and architectural features shown in the cropped pictures in the right-hand side panel, in the order that they appear on the walk.



You can also become a PastWalker by bagging all the plaques along this walk. You'll find a special score sheet in the Free Mayfair tab on our website:

<https://heritagewalks.info>

For an online version of this map click... [here](#)

The maps for this walk were created using plotaroute.com. It's used in over 190 countries with many advanced features, making it simple to quickly plot and share maps.

From Hyde Park Corner to Green Park.

- ✿ Having arrived at **Hyde Park** Underground station take exit 2 and walk straight up the ramp...

Along the ramp there are many pictures/murals of Wellington's battles carved into the stone on both sides. As you emerge you will see the imposing statue of the **Duke of Wellington** mounted on his favourite horse **Copenhagen**, and guarded by four sentries representing some of the famous regiments he commanded during the Iberian **Peninsular War**.



The focal point of the green is Wellington Arch (or Constitution Arch), built to a design by **Decimus Burton**, as a northern gate to the grounds of **Buckingham Palace**. Originally the arch was topped with an 8.5m equestrian statue of the Duke, but in 1912 it was replaced with The Angel of Peace descending on the **Quadriga of Victory** by the sculptor **Adrian Jones**. It commemorates the Duke of Wellington's victories in the Napoleonic Wars, especially Waterloo in June 1815.



- ✿ Walk across the slope to the **Royal Artillery Memorial**...

This memorial was placed here in 1925 in memory of the British gunners killed in World War 1. The stone structure was the work of architect **Lionel Pearson** and the sculptures were by **Charles Jagger**. The whole piece was completed in 1925.

- ✿ Continue down the slope to the **Australian War Memorial**...



This evocative design by a team of Sydney architects was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 2003. It is made from 200 tons of Verde Laguna granite from [Jerramungup](#), Western Australia. Its 8-foot (2.3m) high curved wall bears the names of 24,000 Australian towns and 47 battle sites around the world where Australian servicemen and women died.

✿ Walk back up the slope towards the **Constitution/Wellington Arch**. At this point you may wish to turn down to the crossing and walk into **Green Park** to view the Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial.

This commemorates the crews of [RAF Bomber Command](#) who flew missions during the [Second World War](#). It marks the sacrifice of 55,573 aircrew from Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries of the [Commonwealth](#), as well as civilians of all nations killed during raids.



The controversy over the tactics employed by RAF, under the command of [Air Marshall 'Bomber' Harris](#) during the Second World War meant that an official memorial to the aircrews had been delayed for many years. Despite describing bombers as "the means of victory" in 1940, British prime minister [Winston Churchill](#) did not even mention Bomber Command in his speech at the end of the war.

The sculpture of seven aircrew was designed by the sculptor [Philip Jackson](#) to look as though they have just returned from a bombing mission and left their aircraft.

✿ Return to the **Constitution/Wellington Arch**...

Until 1992 the arch housed London's second smallest police station but this has been replaced by an English Heritage shop where you can pay to climb the stairs and get a unique view.

✿ Once through the **Arch** turn left up the slope...

The set of dark pillars ahead form the striking New Zealand memorial. The memorial consists of 16 vertical, cross-shaped,



bronze 'standards' set out in formation on the grassy slope. Each standard is adorned with text, patterns and small sculptures.

As you continue up the slope to your left is the memorial to the men of the [Machine Gun Corps](#) of the British Army who died in World War 1.



Look north across the road for a good view of [Apsley House](#), also known as No. 1 London. It is a distinguished Georgian mansion, built in warm Bath stone from a [Robert Adam](#) design of 1777-1778. It was first owned by [Lord Apsley](#), the Lord Chancellor, and then acquired by the Duke of

Wellington. The large portico and elevated pillars in front were the Duke's improvements.

✿ Take the **Park Lane** subway entrance to the left of the memorial to the north side of **Piccadilly**...

Note the decorative panels in the underpass relating events from the lives of the two great opponents, the Duke of Wellington and [Napoleon Bonaparte](#).

✿ At the end of the subway, turn right, take the **Park Lane stairs** and walk North alongside the *Intercontinental Hotel* precinct...

This southeast part of Park Lane is home to some of London's most prestigious hotels. [The Hilton](#), a concrete and glass tower completed in 1963, is the most iconic. Note the Lions plaque set into the wall relating to a special tree planted in the central reservation. Look across Park Lane to see a set of ornate Hyde Park gates commemorating [Queen Elizabeth](#), the [Queen Mother](#).

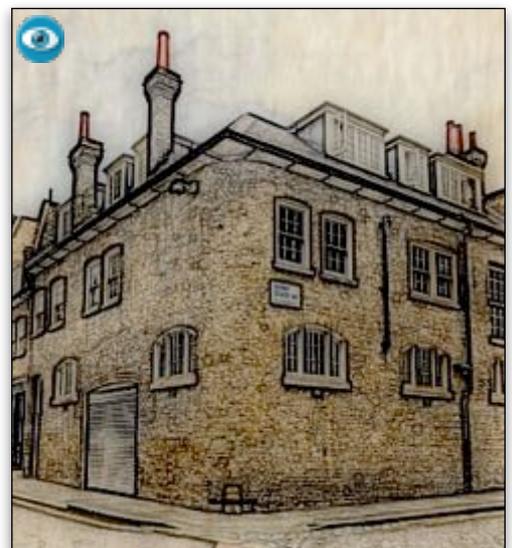
✿ At the mini roundabout, turn left across the front of the *Hilton Hotel* and walk into **Pitt's Head Mews**...

The mews gets its name from the Pitt's Head, a pub that once stood here, commemorating the Prime Minister of 1766–1768, [William Pitt \(the Elder\)](#). Look out for [number 21](#), shown in the illustration opposite.



Duke of Wellington

For information about visiting Apsley House [please click here...](#)



This is one of the buildings that survived [the Blitz](#) of 1940 and is grade 2 listed. It was probably built around 1905 as stabling, coach houses and accommodation above.

✿ *On your left is **Derby Street**...*

If you wish, enter this street to view some fine [Georgian houses](#) and an interesting feature above the doorway of **No.6**. Classic Georgian features are flat fronts, yellowish bricks, attractive doors and entrances, sash windows of decreasing size, basements and steps with railings.

✿ *Follow **Pitt's Head Mews** round to the right into **Park Lane Mews**...*

Ahead of you is the front of Park Lane Mews Hotel. Note the curious, empty Georgian house tucked away in the corner.

There is a Westminster Council plaque here on the hotel facade commemorating the destruction of the oldest house in Mayfair during the 1940 Blitz raid.

✿ *Go through the little archway into **Shepherd Street**...*

One of the first buildings on your left is the home of [Stirling Moss](#), the famous [Formula 1](#) British racing driver. Note the juxtaposition of styles of other buildings in this mews: some original Georgian houses and features alongside major refurbishments or developments of others.

✿ *Continuing along **Shepherd Street**...*

On the corner is the handsome [Shepherd's Tavern pub](#), (shown opposite), built in 1735 as part of the original redevelopment of the area by [Edward Shepherd](#) (after the May Fair was moved to Bow in 1686). Note the Westminster plaque remembering [Wendy Richard](#), a well-loved English actress who lived here.

✿ *Continue across **Hereford Street** then turn left into **Trebeck Street**...*

Ahead, in **Curzon Street**, you can see the Saudi Arabian Embassy housed in what was an original Mayfair mansion – Crewe House.

You are now standing on the site of the original May Fair...



☀ Take the first right turning into **Shepherd Market** – a narrow alley which then opens out...

During the 1920's, this area was a very fashionable address for some of London's most refined inhabitants, who lived there like characters in an [Evelyn Waugh](#) novel or a play by [Noel Coward](#).

The writer [Michael Arlen](#) (pictured opposite) rented rooms opposite Ye Grapes public house, and used Shepherd Market as the setting for his best-selling 1924 novel "[The Green Hat](#)".

The book also went on to become a hit Broadway play and a film starring [Greta Garbo](#), re-named as "[A Woman of Affairs](#)".



Shepherd Market in the 1920s

Shepherd Market was for many years notorious for its sex trade, much of which was allegedly based in properties owned by a major [public school](#).

The brothels and prostitutes have gone, replaced by restaurants, bars and shops. This is now an area of restaurants and up-market boutiques.



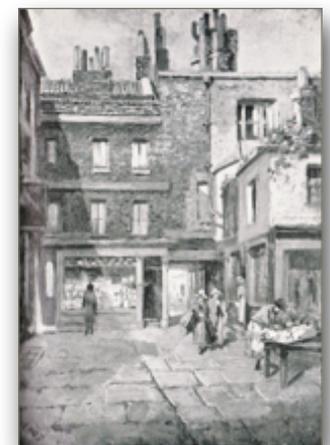
Note the buildings on your right with Shepherd Market named in plasterwork at the top, rebuilt in the 1860s in the original 18th-century style. At lunchtimes, the square is filled with people from surrounding offices who come to eat, drink, shop or meet.

☀ Turn left towards **Ye Grapes** pub...

This handsome Victorian pub retains some of the original external features, such as leaded windows and glazed tiling.

☀ At *Ye Grapes* pub, bear left and exit via the passageway to **Curzon Street** and turn right...

Note the interesting building at **46 Curzon Street** alongside the passageway.



Shepherd Market 1910



Two shops stand out directly across **Curzon Street**. One is a famous bookstore - **Heywood Hill**, where the writer **Nancy Mitford** worked. Nancy grew up in the 1920s of the 'Bright Young Things' and in the politically polarised 1930s. Her sisters **Diana** and **Unity** were drawn to the extreme Right and **Jessica** to the Left. Nancy wavered between the two but could never take politics – or indeed anything– very seriously.

'Novelist, essayist and historian, Nancy Mitford was one of the funniest writers of the 20th century. Read and re-read by devoted fans, her bestsellers – which include **The Pursuit of Love** and **Love in a Cold Climate** – continue to enchant new generations of readers.'



Trumpers

Nancy's novels evoke a lost world of English upper-class elegance and endearing eccentricity, which she observed with the same razor-sharp wit and infectious gaiety that she brought to her historical studies of France'.

The other is **Trumpers** - perhaps the most famous gentlemen's hairdresser in London. This is the area where author **P.G. Wodehouse** placed the home of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves (Half Moon Street).



☀ Turn right down **Curzon Street**...

Note the imposing **Church of Christ, Scientist**. The building dates from 1910–1912. It is a branch of the Mother Church in Boston, Massachusetts.



☀ Continue along **Curzon Street** crossing **Half Moon, Clarges** and **Bolton Streets** then bear right along **Lansdowne Row**...

☀ Turn right into **Berkeley Street**, (unless you wish to divert into **Berkeley Square** where there are many interesting buildings and plaques - covered in 'An American Walk in Mayfair').

The Fleming Collection, housed at **13 Berkeley Street**, is the finest collection of Scottish art in private hands and the museum grants public access to Scottish art all year round.



☀ Turn right into **Stratton Street**...

Just as you turn, look up to see an interesting plaque on the site of a wartime club where [Bert Ambrose](#) and his band used to play. Born in Warsaw, Ambrose (shown above) spent his youth in America where he learned his trade as a jazz musician before returning to Britain and forming his own group.



✿ Continue around **Stratton Street**...

Note the imposing red brick Victorian building in the corner with iron railings on the balconies and windows at every level.

There is an interesting mixture of many architectural styles in this section of the street - Victorian, Georgian, Edwardian and modern.

Number 15 - Green Park House - is a Grade 2 listed building - now serviced offices. Note the very unusual downpipes. The street was first laid out between 1693 and 1720, but only **No.6** dates from that time.

✿ At the top of **Stratton Street** this short walk ends at the entrance to Green Park Station on your left or on **Piccadilly** at the main entrance.



Mayfair Score

Become a PastWalker by 'bagging' these plaques

Bagging is an old sporting term given new life by walkers and climbers in the Scottish Highlands who indulge in 'Munro Bagging' to claim each mountain ascent. This unique London village walk includes a number of plaques which can be 'bagged' by the intrepid walker. However, in order to keep this 'sport' under some sort of control we have set up some rules and guidance.

Scoring



Old RSA or early LCC plaques	3 points each.
LCC or English Heritage Blue plaques	2 points each.
Local Authority plaques	2 points each.
Society and Friends plaques	1 point each.
Other plaques	1 point each.

The plaques included in our 'bagging' scheme are rated by their age, distinctiveness and rarity. If you have a comment or think that another plaque should be added (or removed) please contact us using the email address given below. Please remember that only plaques approved by MJL will count towards your score. Proposals for new inclusions to the listing are welcome but our decision is final.

(Monuments are not normally included but there are some exceptions such as Mozart's charming statue near Sloane Square and Dick Whittington's cat on Highgate Hill.)

If you have downloaded this walk and submitted a score claim by email, (see below), you will be notified of your inclusion as a PastWalker by return and your score will be listed and published online.

ms@digitalpublishers.co.uk

PLAQUE	LOCATION & DESCRIPTION	SCORE
	Quercus Robur Park Lane The tree in the central reservation of Park Lane was planted by the London Lions to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.	1
	Mayfair's Oldest House Stanhope Row Dating from 1618 and destroyed in the blitz of 1940.	2
	Wendy Richard MBE (1943 - 2009) The Shepherd's Tavern, 50 Hertford Street English actress Lived here 1948 – 1953.	2
	May Fair 17 Trebeck Street On this site stood the historic May Fair.	1
	Nancy Mitford (1904 - 1973) 10 Curzon Street Writer worked here 1942 - 1945.	2
	Bert Ambrose (c1896 - 1971) The May Fair Hotel, Stratton Street Dance Band Leader lived and played here 1927 - 1940.	2
Congratulations!	TOTAL SCORE	10

Please visit www.heritagewalks.london
for further information