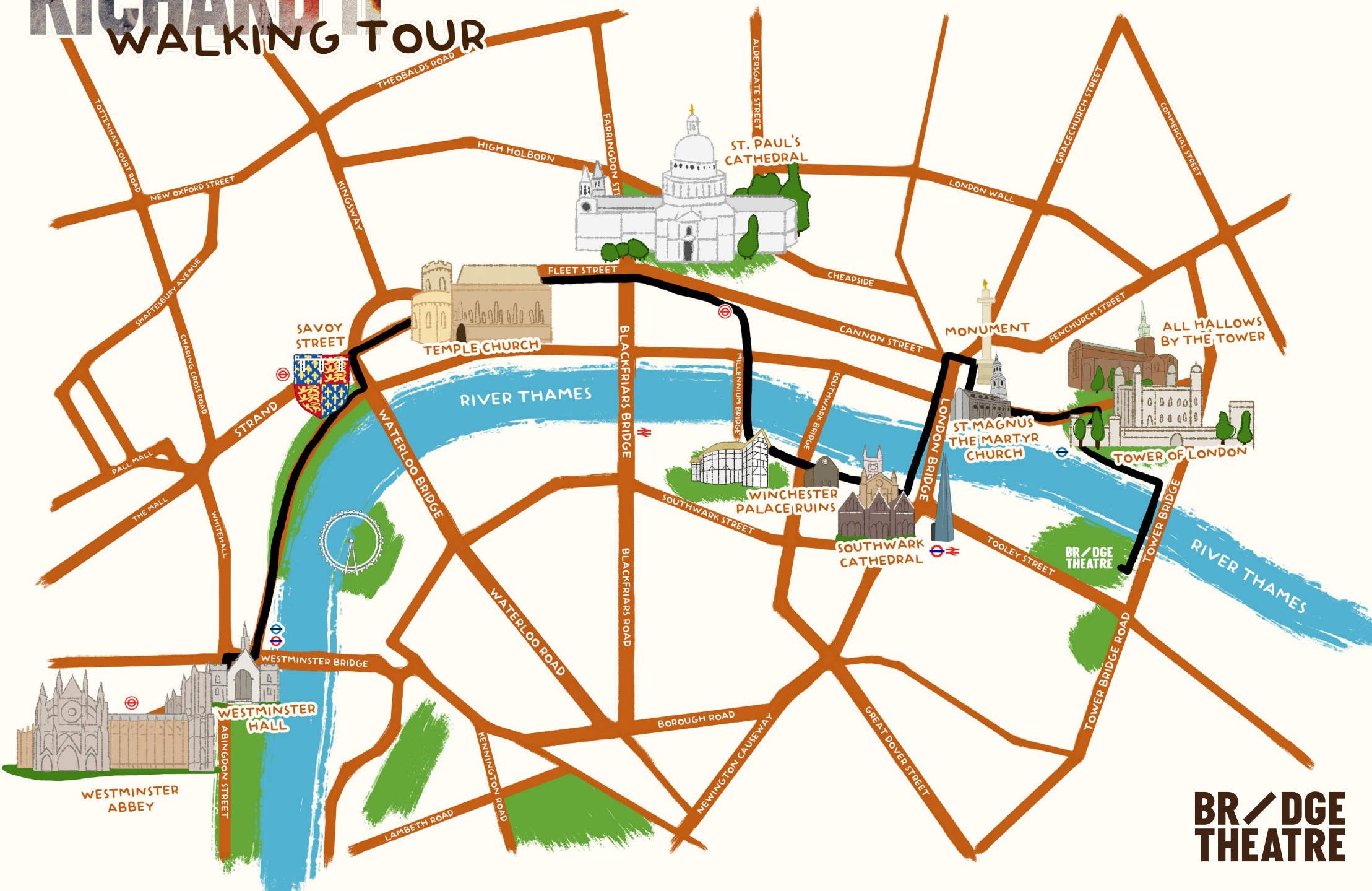


# RICHARD II

## WALKING TOUR



# RICHARD II WALKING TOUR

Step into the world of Richard II, the historical figure who inspired Shakespeare's tragic play, on this Thames-side walking tour.

We begin on Abingdon Street, a short walk from Westminster tube station



## Westminster Abbey

On 16 July 1377, the ten-year-old Richard II was crowned here. During his reign, Richard rebuilt the northern entrance and commissioned an elaborate tomb for himself to share with his beloved first wife, Anne of Bohemia. Although initially buried in King's Langley Priory, his wish to be buried next to Anne was fulfilled during the reign of Henry V. A rare portrait of Richard can be discovered in the nave.

Walk north along St. Margaret's Street, passing the Houses of Parliament on your left. Westminster Hall is the medieval building at the far end.



## Westminster Hall

One of Richard II's most ambitious building projects. The hammer-beam roof spans over 73 metres and is a masterpiece of medieval design. Look out for Richard's emblem, the white hart, carved around the interior of the hall.

Walk north along the Thames, passing the Jewel Tower and Westminster Bridge. Continue along Victoria Embankment, and Savoy Street is on your left.



## Savoy Street FREE

(Site of the Savoy Palace)

John of Gaunt's spectacular Savoy Palace was one of the grandest residences in medieval England. It was while working here that Geoffrey Chaucer began writing *The Canterbury Tales*. The palace was destroyed during the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

Continue up Savoy Street and turn right onto the Strand. Keep going straight onto Fleet Street. Watch

for the arched doorway on your right. Here you'll find Inner Temple.

## The Temple Church



Built in the 12th century, the Temple Church would have been familiar to Richard II and the elite of his court.

During his reign, it was used by the legal profession for meetings and worship.

Walk around Inner Temple, return to Fleet Street and turn right. Continue onto Ludgate Hill, until you see the iconic dome of St Paul's.



## St Paul's Cathedral

Completed in 1314, the medieval St Paul's Cathedral was where Richard's body lay in state before being buried in King's Langley Priory. The Cathedral was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Head towards the Thames. Cross Millennium Bridge, turn left onto Bankside, pass Shakespeare's Globe, and continue west onto Clink Street.



## Winchester Palace Ruins FREE

Destroyed by fire in 1814, Winchester Palace was once the residence of the Bishops of Winchester. It was a major center of political and ecclesiastical power in Richard II's London.

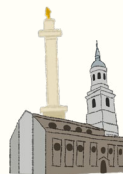
Carry on walking west, turn right at the Golden Hinde, and then left. Follow Montague Close around Southwark Cathedral until you reach the entrance.



## Southwark Cathedral FREE

Known as St Mary Overie in Richard II's time. Inside, you'll discover a statue of William Shakespeare and the Shakespeare stained glass window. His younger brother, the actor Edmund Shakespeare, is buried here. The poet John Gower's tomb is also here. Early editions of his *Confessio Amantis* were dedicated to Richard, before he switched allegiance to Henry IV.

Cross over London Bridge. On the north side, turn left. Find Monument before heading south again on Fish Street Hill, following the route of the old London Bridge to the church.



## Monument / St Magnus the Martyr's Church FREE

This path follows the start of the medieval London Bridge, where the Peasants' Revolt would have crossed to the north bank of the Thames on 13 June 1381. The arch on the west side of the church was the old pedestrian entrance to the bridge.

Head east towards Lower Thames Street. As the road curves onto Byward Street, follow it until you reach the church on your right.



## All Hallows by the Tower FREE

This ancient church is the oldest in the city. The bodies of those executed at the Tower were sometimes brought here for temporary burial. Venture down into the crypt to see its treasures and hidden chapels.

Walk around to the back of the church. Turn right and head towards the river, then turn left to walk along the man-made wharf.



## Tower of London

The Tower served as both a royal residence and a prison. Richard began his coronation procession here in 1377 and returned four years later during the Peasants' Revolt. In 1399, he was brought back after his deposition, this time as a captive. The wharf was commissioned by Richard during the final decade of his reign.

Climb the stone steps up to Tower Bridge. As you cross the river for the final time, you'll see the Bridge Theatre appear on your left.

## Shortcuts

This walk is about 4.7 miles long and will take several hours to complete, not including time spent exploring the fascinating locations along the way. If you're short on time, we recommend the following shortcuts to help you make the most of your walk.

### Westminster to Savoy Street

Take the number 26 bus from St James's Park Station to Southampton Street / Covent Garden.

### Westminster to St Paul's

Take the number 26 bus from St James's Park Station to St Paul's Cathedral.

### Westminster to the Tower of London

Take the RB1 or RB6 riverboat from Westminster Pier to Tower Pier.

Opening times may vary. Please check ahead of your walk.