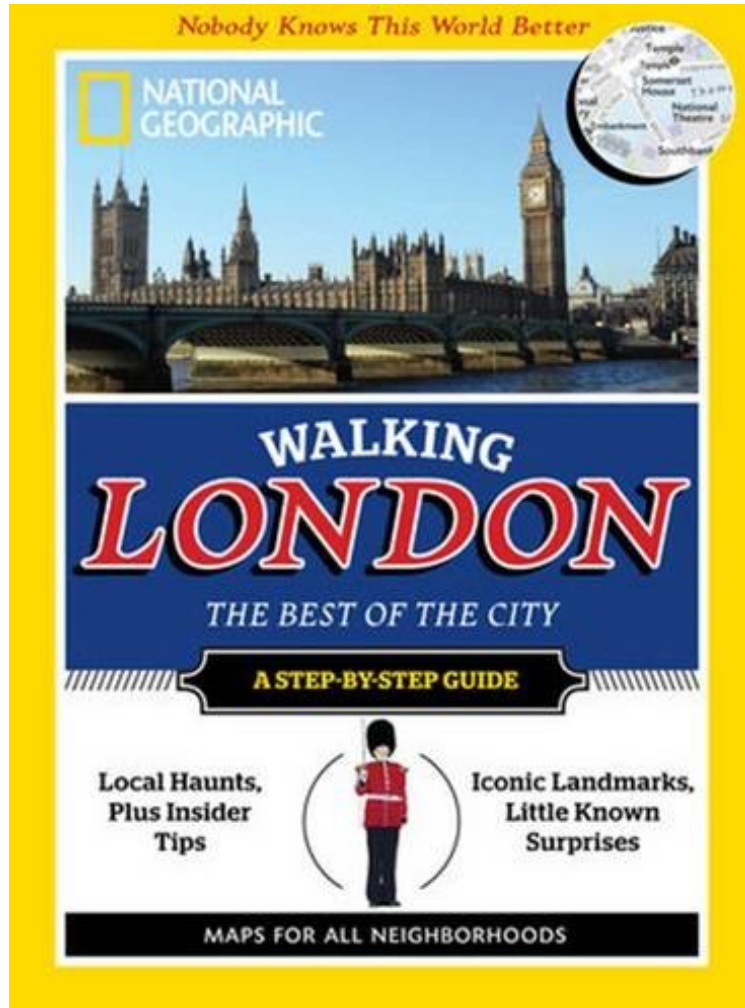


Walking London (Cities of a Lifetime)

National Geographic

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National Geographic : Walking London (Cities of a Lifetime) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking London (Cities of a Lifetime):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Tour Book of LondonBy MichiganderI bought three tour books for our trip to London, but this was the one we used most often. It divides the city by areas, and provides specific information about things distance between attractions within each area. As first time visitors, this was the information we needed most. We planned our days by picking an area, and setting priorities within that area. This saved us time and money on travel between attractions, and helped ensure that we wouldn't miss the things we most wanted to see. The book also provided detailed information on most major attractions, including costs, popularity, hours open, etc.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great introductionBy MBIt was a great introduction to the highlights of the city. It is easy to carry and not overwhelming amount of information. I would definitely agree when the book

notates you will be going at a fast pass. Sometimes trying to see too much can cause disappointment because you don't spend much time in one location. If you are wanting to actually go inside an attraction, take a tour etc then at maximum I would add only two attractions for the morning and afternoon. But allows you to see points of interest on the way. I gave it 3 stars because I needed additional material to have more details of the different sites and a better map to get around. I downloaded an online map, several actually (Ulmon, trip advisor, m trip), I did not find one that met all my needs. We spent 3 nights in the city and found using the tube really helped allow us to see more. There is a lot of walking and moving about which can be tiring. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. VERY Helpful and Useful By Crazy4Shoes This book was fantastic for our trip to London. It was perfect for helping us to plan our days. Very well put together and has all of the details for using public transportation.

See the best of London with this streamlined, itinerary-driven guide, created in a handy, take-along format. Part of a brand-new series from National Geographic that showcases the world's great cities, *Walking London* is divided into the following sections: The Whirlwind Tours section shows you how to see the entire city in a day or a weekend; what sights will interest kids most; plus, a hedonist's tour that's pure pleasure from dawn to midnight and beyond. The Neighborhoods section of the book presents the city broken down into 15-odd itineraries that lead you on a step-by-step tour to the best sights in each of the city's greatest neighborhoods--from The City and Westminster to Kensington and Knightbridge. Travel Essentials provides information on how to get to the city and how to get around, as well as hand-picked hotels and restaurants. Each itinerary includes the following features: Distinctly London: Explore the city through 2-page features that showcase the quintessential aspects of the city, such as Royal London, Shakespeare London, and London Pubs: Here you'll get intriguing background information to help you understand why this city is one of the world's greatest. Best of: Specific thematic groupings of sights are described, such as ancient markets, posh shopping, and London clubs. In-depth: These spreads take a deep dive into a major museum or other sight-- Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, the National Gallery--providing step-by-step guidance on what to see and how to plan your visit. Sidebars throughout give you the lowdown on shopping, eating, and going out on the town, offering insider tips and interesting asides.

“New urban series presenting must-do neighborhood itineraries along with insider tips on how to visit recommended sites.” –Publisher’s Weekly About the Author NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC is one of the world’s leading nonfiction publishers, proudly supporting the work of scientists, explorers, photographers, and authors, as well as publishing a diverse list of books that celebrate the world and all that is in it. National Geographic Books creates and distributes print and digital works that inspire, entertain, teach, and give readers access to a world of discovery and possibility on a wide range of nonfiction subjects from animals to travel, cartography to history, fun facts to moving stories. A portion of all National Geographic proceeds is used to fund exploration, conservation, and education through ongoing contributions to the work of the National Geographic Society. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Neighborhood Walk: Trafalgar Square Soho 1. Trafalgar Square: Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson was cut down at the moment of victory in the naval battle off Cape Trafalgar in southwest Spain in 1805, while engaging the combined Spanish and French fleets of Napoleon Bonaparte. Glory lives on in the square, a place of enjoyment for all Londoners and a frequent focus for rallies and demonstrations, festivals, and concerts. Nelson’s Column, designed by William Railton, was erected in 1843. Four lions by the Victorian artist Sir Edwin Landseer guard the column, and friezes illustrating Nelson’s sea victories, cast in bronze from captured cannon, decorate the base. The Fourth Plinth, in the square’s northwest corner, features a changing exhibit of contemporary sculpture. 2. The National Gallery: The National Gallery houses one of the world’s great art collections, tracing the story of Western European painting from the early 13th century to the turn of the 20th. The collection is arranged chronologically, starting with the early Renaissance galleries in the Sainsbury Wing, continuing in the main building with the great masters of the 16th to 19th centuries, and ending with the postimpressionists. Free admission to the permanent collection underpins the gallery’s founding principle of “art for all.” 3. National Portrait Gallery: Studies of famous living people and heroes from British history, politics, sports, and the arts feature among the National Portrait Gallery’s ever-expanding showcase. Seek out Marcus Gheeraerts’s painting of the richly attired Queen Elizabeth I, highlight of the Tudor collection, and don’t miss the only known contemporary portrait of playwright William Shakespeare. The ground floor shows an eclectic selection of 21st-century figures. 4. St. Martin-in-the-Fields: If this royal church built by James Gibbs in 1726 looks familiar, it is because it has been much copied, especially in New England. The royal coat of arms above the colonnaded entrance indicates that it is the parish church for Buckingham Palace—you can see the royal box on the left as you enter the restrained interior. Known for its music, the church hosts regular concerts. The Café in the Crypt pulsates to jazz on Wednesday nights. 5. Leicester Square: The red carpets are rolled out here for movie premiers. The square has long been an entertainment hub—the Empire on the north side was once a Victorian music hall—and now boasts several movie theaters and the MTV UK studios. Movie stars’ limousines aside, this is a pedestrianized area, and on the sidewalks you can stargaze for handprints of Clint Eastwood, Helena Bonham Carter, and others. Statues of William Shakespeare and Charlie Chaplin grace the gardens. The half-price ticket booth, tkts

(www.tkts.co.uk), is the place for same-day theater seats. 6. Piccadilly Circus: A few steps west of Leicester Square, the figure of Eros, erected in Piccadilly in 1893, marks the heart of the West End's theaterland. Around this timeless statue, ever-changing entertainment venues come and go. The sites of the former London Pavilion music hall and neighboring one-time Palace of Varieties have been transformed into the Trocadero shopping mall and entertainment center. Other venues are reassuringly constant: The Criterion Theatre remains sited below ground, and the fabulously decorated Criterion bar and restaurant is a visual treat. Piccadilly's neon Coca-Cola sign has beamed across the Circus since 1955. 7. Shaftesbury Avenue: Philanthropist Anthony Lord Shaftesbury cleared slums in the 1880s to create Shaftesbury Avenue, running northeast from Piccadilly Circus. Many West End theaters have congregated here. All exude Edwardian grandeur—take a peek at their foyers. The Lyric (No. 29) is the oldest, built in 1888; the Apollo (No. 31) houses the steepest upper gallery in London. The two giants, both seating around 1,400 and dating from 1911, are the Palace Theatre (No. 109) and the Shaftesbury (No. 210). Built as the Royal English Opera House, the Palace has long been popular for musicals—*Les Misérables* ran here for 18 years—while the Shaftesbury throbbed to the 1960s musical, *Hair*. 8. Chinatown: On Sundays, St. Martin-in-the-Fields holds services in Cantonese and Mandarin for the local Chinese population. Red-and-gold gateways herald the way to a collection of pedestrian streets based around Gerrard Street on the south side of Shaftesbury Avenue. More than 70 restaurants, serving Cantonese, Szechuan, Japanese, Thai, and Malaysian foods, among others, provide ample choice. Have a specialty tea in Jen Café, where you can see dumplings being rolled in the window. Always lively, Chinatown explodes with excitement during Chinese New Year (late January or early February). 9. Soho Square: Workers and shoppers alike are drawn to the attractive garden in Soho Square, a summer venue for free concerts and festivals. The statue of King Charles II is a reminder that the square was once called King's Square and was one of the most fashionable addresses in town. Today it lies at the heart of the U.K.'s film industry.