

Fetcham U3A

Explore London Group 6

JACK THE RIPPER WALK



It is the autumn of 1888, and a sinister serial killer is loose on the streets of London's East End. At first he is known simply as 'The Whitechapel Murderer'. But in time, thanks to a mysterious letter sent to a London news agency, he would become known as 'Jack the Ripper,' in which capacity his name will become famous throughout the world.

START AT ALDGATE EAST UNDERGROUND STATION

Within one minute we are passing a building that survives from 1888 and where one of the major suspects actually worked!

This is The White Hart Pub, a true Jack the Ripper landmark, in the basement of which George Chapman worked as a barber in 1890.



Once past the pub, we turn through a sinister arch, and wander along a cobblestoned alley where Martha Tabram (who some maintain was Jack the Ripper first victim) was murdered in August 1888.

Five minutes later we have arrived outside the Princess Alice Pub, itself connected with the police's main suspect, Leather Apron.

Less than five minutes walk from there is the Frying Pan Pub where Mary Nichols the first accepted victim of Jack



the Ripper was seen shortly before her body was discovered.

Moments later we have turned into a warren of atmospheric old streets where all the houses look exactly as they did in 1888. These delightful old streets lead us to Hanbury Street where Annie Chapman, the second victim of Jack the Ripper was murdered.

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The Jack the Ripper Tour offers you more atmosphere than any other Walk In London. We leave the Toynbee Hall Exit of Aldgate East Underground and turn left out of the exit to cross over the traffic lights onto **Whitechapel Road**.

A little way along we arrive at the White Hart Pub. It was here that major suspect George Chapman worked as a barber in 1890.

Immediately after the pub we turn left into **Gunthorpe Street**. This cobbled little alley still has the ambience of 1888 and a little way along on the left we pause outside a

building that dates from 1886.

Straight away the ambience of the Victorian era engulfs us as we begin our introduction to Jack the Ripper's London.

Continuing along Gunthorpe Street, which in 1888 was known as George Yard, we pass the site of George Yard Buildings where in August 1888 Martha Tabram was murdered. At the time she was considered a victim of Jack the Ripper, and some experts still maintain that she was, indeed,



the first victim of the Whitechapel fiend.

Exiting Gunthorpe Street we cross over **Wentworth Street**, and pause alongside a red brick archway that displays the date it was built, 1886. Jack the Ripper's victims, and no doubt Jack the Ripper himself, would have passed this archway on a daily basis.

On the opposite side of Wentworth you will see the City Darts pub, which in 1888 was known as The Princess Alice and was a haunt of the police's main suspect Leather Apron.





Continuing down Wentworth Street we turn left into **Thrawl Street**, and right into what is still Thrawl Street where Mary Nichols, now widely acknowledged as the first of Jack the Ripper's victims was living at the time of her murder.



At its end is the Sheraz Indian Restaurant which occupies a building that in 1888 was The Frying Pan Public House. Mary Nichols was seen leaving this pub shortly before her mutilated body was discovered in nearby **Bucks Row**. Although the usage of the building has changed, we point out the two Frying pans that can still be seen high up on its exterior, as well as the name Ye Frying Pan.



From here we turn left along the colourful and bustling **Brick Lane**, where the appetising aroma from the Indian curry houses that line it hangs tantalisingly and appetisingly in the air.

We take the second left into **Fournier Street**, to look up at a huge 18th century building that truly reflects the changing demographics of the area. Now a Mosque, it has in the past been a Christian Chapel and a synagogue.



We pause opposite it and look along **Fournier Street** where the houses have survived from 1888 and are typical of those in which the victims of Jack the Ripper and the people who lived in this area lived when terror stalked these streets.



Having explained how these houses and their layout helped Jack the Ripper evade detection and capture we take a slow stroll along Fournier Street and turn right into **Wilkes Street**. A little way along we pass Puma Court on the left and Princelet Street on the right, both of which are lined with houses that have survived from 1888.



At the end of Wilkes Street we turn right onto **Hanbury Street** and pause at the site of number 29, in the backyard of which Annie Chapman, the second victim of Jack the Ripper, was murdered on



8th September 1888. Although the murder site has now been obliterated by an ugly brewery building, several houses opposite are as they were in 1888, and because you have walked through streets that are more or less identical to what Hanbury Street looked like, you will be able to picture what the house was like. But even if you can't we pass round photographs of number 29, and of Hanbury Street itself, taken shortly after the murder.

Next we walk to the end of Hanbury Street and turn right onto **Commercial Street**. A little way along, on the left, you will find the former Commercial Street Police Station, where many of the detectives who investigated the Jack the Ripper murders were based.



Backtracking along Commercial Street we pass **Spitalfields Market** on the right, which dates back to 1887 and was, therefore, in existence as a functioning market in 1888. If it's raining we often shelter underneath its main entrance.



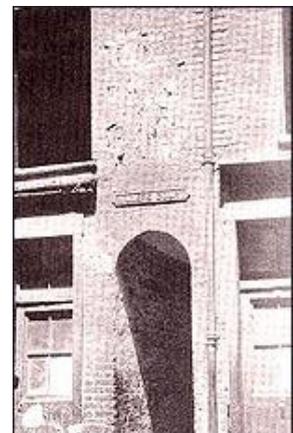
Opposite stands the Ten Bells Pub which is indelibly linked with the Jack the Ripper Story and which still looks much like it did in 1888.

Crossing Commercial Street, we pause by the Whites Row Car Park and pass round a photograph of Commercial Street which was taken shortly after the murders. You will see the Ten Bells and Spitalfields market, as horse drawn carts and carriages pass by them. You will also see the Britannia Pub, which stood on the corner of Dorset Street where Mary Kelly, Jack the Ripper's final victim, lived in Millers Court.



We make our way along what was **Spitalfields Market** and pause by what was the entrance to **Millers Court** (it is still visible!) to tell you of Mary Kelly's last hours and of the discovery of her horribly mutilated body.

We continue to the end of the former **Dorset Street** and turn left. The looming bulk of the Providence Row night Shelter towers over us on the opposite side of the road. In 1888 this was a Convent that offered shelter to the poor and destitute of the district. It also features in one of the more bizarre theories concerning the identity of Jack the Ripper.



From here we keep ahead over **Wentworth Street** and into **Goulston Street** where, on the left, we pause outside the Wentworth Street Model

Dwellings, built in 1886. It was in a doorway of this building that Jack the Ripper left his only clue and where a chilling chalked message was found scrawled upon the wall.

A little further along we turn right and then left into **Middlesex Street**, better known the world over as Petticoat Lane. It stands on the boundary of the City of London and the East End of London. At the end of Middlesex Street we enter the night of the double murder (30th September 1888.)

Elizabeth Stride body was found at 1am in nearby **Berner Street**. Although Berner Street has now changed beyond recognition, we show you a photograph of it taken shortly after the murder. We also reveal how a witness may well have seen Elizabeth Stride in the act of being murdered.



We pass through a subway and re-surface in the City of London. Here we explain how the night of the double murder brought another police force, the City of London Police, into the hunt for Jack the Ripper.



We walk along **Aldgate High Street**, where Catherine Eddowes, Jack the Ripper's third victim, was arrested for being drunk and disorderly on the evening of the 29th September 1888. We pass the building to which she probably headed after her release at 1am on 30th September. We stand by the site of



the passageway outside which a witness saw her talking to a man at 1.30am. Then we walk into **Mitre Square** and stand on the site where her body was discovered at 1.45am.