

Time Hunters

	MEDIEVAL	1066
	TUDOR	1485
	GREAT FIRE	1666
	GEORGIAN	1714
	VICTORIAN	1837
	MODERN	1986

1 Holborn Viaduct
Farringdon Street

3 The Golden Boy of Pye Corner
Giltspur Street

2 The Watch House
Giltspur Street

4 Henry VIII Gate
St Bartholomew's Hospital

5 St Bartholomew's Gatehouse
West Smithfield

6 St Bartholomew the Great
Cloth Fair

7 Smithfield Market
3 St John Street

8 Charterhouse Square
Charterhouse Square

9 Lakeside Terrace
Barbican Centre

10 St Giles Cripplegate
Fore Street

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Time Hunters audio

Smithfield & the Barbican

Holborn Viaduct to St Giles Cripplegate · 10 stops · about 2 hours with the podcast

Become a Time Hunter

Professor Horatio Pendulum, keeper of the Timeaporium Clock Shop, built the Chronosphere — a machine for peering safely into history. But it has overloaded, scattering time fragments across the City. History is leaking! Follow the numbered stops and the podcast's riddles to find the lost fragments and set everything back in its rightful time.

How the hunt works

Listen to the podcast.

Every stop has a riddle, read aloud in the Time Hunters podcast, that points you to the next place on the trail.

Hunt down all the stops.

There's no route drawn on the map, on purpose — the best ways go down tiny alleys we didn't want to give away. Follow the numbers and explore.

Solve the missions.

Each stop sets a mission — a plaque to find, a carving to count, a detail to spot. Grown-ups get a printable answer key to check them.

Cross the eras.

The map is torn into coloured shards, one for each era, Roman through Modern. Cross from one colour to another and you've time-travelled.



Holborn Viaduct

Farringdon Street

The world's first flyover — a Victorian iron bridge built to carry the road over the Fleet valley.

DID YOU KNOW?

Its four bronze ladies stand for Commerce, Agriculture, Science and Fine Art.

MISSION

On Farringdon Street, find the stone laid by Henry Fry. Note the date.



CHRONO BONUS

Count the bridge's winged lions — then draw one.



The Watch House

Giltspur Street

A little hut where a watchman once guarded the graveyard against body-snatchers.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 'resurrection men' dug up fresh corpses and sold them to anatomy schools.

MISSION

Find the plaque and its three years: built, destroyed, and rebuilt.



CHRONO BONUS

Spot St Sepulchre's church opposite — the City's largest.



The Golden Boy of Pye Corner

Giltspur Street

A plump golden statue marking the spot where the Great Fire of 1666 finally burnt itself out.

DID YOU KNOW?

People blamed the Fire on gluttony, so the boy was carved deliberately fat as a warning.

MISSION

Under the boy, find the pub's name and the year it was pulled down.



CHRONO BONUS

Copy the Golden Boy's pose for a photo.



Henry VIII Gate

St Bartholomew's Hospital

The only outdoor statue of Henry VIII in London, over the gate to Britain's oldest hospital.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Bartholomew's has healed the sick on this very spot since 1123 — over 900 years.

MISSION

Go through the gate and find the plaque with the year it was built.



CHRONO BONUS

Strike a mighty pose like King Henry VIII.



St Bartholomew's Gatehouse

West Smithfield

A Tudor timber gatehouse hidden for centuries behind a brick front, revealed by a wartime blast.

DID YOU KNOW?

A First World War bomb shook off the tiles and exposed its ancient oak beams.

MISSION

Inside the gatehouse, find the plaque and the year it was restored.



CHRONO BONUS

Spot the crooked timbers — not one is straight.



St Bartholomew the Great

Cloth Fair

London's oldest parish church — its great Norman arches have stood since 1123.

DID YOU KNOW?

It has starred in films from Four Weddings and a Funeral to Shakespeare in Love.

MISSION

Outside the door look up: a date is carved, two numbers each side.



CHRONO BONUS

Find Cloth Fair's crooked old house — it survived the Great Fire.



Smithfield Market

3 St John Street

London's meat market for 800 years — once a field of jousts, fairs and public executions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rebels, knights and Protestant martyrs were burned or beheaded on Smithfield's open ground.

MISSION

Look up for the carved stone boar, a name and a date.



CHRONO BONUS

Spot the market's colourful iron dragons and griffins.



Lakeside Terrace

Barbican Centre

A concrete city-in-the-sky raised on WW2 bombsites — home to Europe's largest arts centre.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Barbican hides a lake, a tropical conservatory, and three towers 42 storeys high.

MISSION

By the walkway over the water, find the stone the Queen laid. What day?



CHRONO BONUS

Follow the yellow line on the floor around the estate.



St Giles Cripplegate

Fore Street

A medieval church stranded in the Barbican — it survived the Great Fire but not the Blitz.

DID YOU KNOW?

The poet John Milton, who wrote Paradise Lost, lies buried inside.

MISSION

Find the glass showing when Elizabeth Bourchier married Cromwell.



CHRONO BONUS

Find the statue of Oliver Cromwell outside.

Keep your eyes peeled

Tick these off anywhere along the walk.



A golden dragon

the City's guardian — on posts and shields



A ghost sign

an old painted advert fading on the bricks



A blue plaque

'someone remarkable was here'



A boundary mark

a little plate where two old parishes meet



A date carved in stone

buildings are proud of their birthdays



A livery badge

each ancient guild has its own crest



A weather-vane

which way is the wind, up on the roofs?



A narrow alley

the best ways through the City hide down these