

Visit to Hays Galleria and Tower Bridge; Thursday 9th October 2003

This visit has been organised by Dennis Hill

Four tourist attractions are visited.

Built in the 1850's, Hay's Wharf took deliveries from ships from all over the world and the area became known as the 'Larder of London'. The great Hay's Wharf complex has been restored to its former glory and those who visit the Galleria today stand on the same spot where the tea clippers from India and China edged their way into the dock 150 years ago. Traditional craft and market stalls decorate the walkways, sharing the spectacular surroundings with the permanent shops. There are also some really good views of the new City skyline on this walk and you might wish to bring your cameras. For more "must visit" hype visit: <http://www.haysgalleria.co.uk>.

The City Hall is located on the south bank of the Thames, adjacent to Tower Bridge. On 15 July 2002, the Mayor and the London Assembly became tenants of one of London's most spectacular new buildings. Her Majesty the Queen opened the building on 23 July. Foster and Partners have designed the building and the structural engineers were Ove Arup and Partners. The design brief was to create a headquarters building that would become a new landmark for the capital. The design aims to express the transparency of the democratic process and promote the image of a modern vibrant world city. See http://www.london.gov.uk/approot/gla/city_hall/index.jsp.

The lunch stop is a large pub, the Pommeler's Rest, owned by J D Wetherspoon, who operates and develops pubs in strategic positions throughout the UK. The Company's priorities are to provide its customers with high quality, good value food and drink, served by well-trained and friendly staff. It further aims to create attractive surroundings that are clean, safe and excellently maintained.

Tower Bridge is one of the world's most famous bridges. 150,000 vehicles cross it every day. Over 900 times a year the roadway parts and lifts to let tall ships, cruise liners and other large craft pass through. The visit will take us through the colourful history of Tower Bridge from Victorian times to the present day. You'll find out more about why and how the bridge was built, including a visit to the magnificent engine rooms, which used to power the lifting operation. Then enjoy the superb London views and interactive displays on the high-level walkways. (Note: Warm clothing and flat shoes with good grips are essential; there are a lot of stairs.) <http://www.towerbridge.org.uk/>.

We aim to assemble in Hays Galleria near Café Rouge (for coffee) by 11.00. (Arrive via London Bridge Tube station; right into Tooley Street.) At 11 we walk along the River Thames Walk to the City Hall taking the lift to the 2nd floor to see the assembly chambers. (Loos are in the basement). Go into Pommeler's Rest for lunch around 12.00 - 12.15. After lunch we take the "Tower Bridge Experience Full Visit" starting around 13.30 - 13.45. The visit lasts about an hour.

The cost is £3 and numbers are limited to 25.