Saint Paul Cathedral Map
Walk the Cathedral Floor

The Nave

The first breathtaking view that visitors encounter when they enter the cathedral is from the Nave, which is the long central section of the cathedral that leads to the dome.

This is a public and ceremonial space, designed for congregations at large services. The Great West Door is nine metres high and is now used only on ceremonial occasions.

There are three chapels at this end of the cathedral - All Souls' and St Dunstan's in the north aisle and the Chapel of the Order of St Michael and St George in the south aisle.

The North Aisle

The North Aisle is located to the left of the Great West Door entrance. This area houses The Chapel of All Souls, The Chapel of St Dunstan and Wellington's monument (pictured right).

Wellington's Monument

A monument to one of Britain's greatest soldiers and statesmen, the Duke of Wellington, is on the north aisle. Wellington died in 1852 but his monument was not completed until 1912, when the figure on horseback was unveiled.

The South Aisle

The Chapel of St Michael and St George is situated on the south aisle, to the right of the Great West Door Entrance. The chapel was originally the consistory court - the place where the bishop sat in judgement over the clergy, or priests.

The North Transept

The short, central arms of the cathedral's ground-plan are called transepts. William Holman Hunt's painting *The Light of the World* (pictured right) dominates the north transept. It dates from around 1900 and is the third version that Hunt painted. The figure of Christ knocking on a door that opens from inside suggests that God can only enter our lives if we invite Him in.

Regular services are held here in the Chapel of St Erkenwald and St Ethelburga.

The South Transept

Admiral Nelson's monument shows Britain's greatest naval hero - who died at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 - leaning on an anchor. His monument features a handsome lion, a symbol
that means the person commemorated died in battle. Other memorials commemorate the landscape painter JMW Turner and the explorer Captain Robert Scott, who died returning from the South Pole in 1912.

There are three death's heads over the entrance to the crypt, where the dead are laid to rest.

**The Quire**

The quire (pictured) is at the east of the cathedral's cross-shape. This is where the choir and clergy - the priests - normally sit during services. The quire was the first part of the cathedral to be built and consecrated. The choir stalls on both sides of the chancel feature delicate carvings by Grinling Gibbons, whose work is seen in many royal palaces and great houses. The Bishop's throne, or cathedra, is on the south side. A cathedral takes its name from the Bishop's chair.

**The Grand Organ**

The organ was installed in 1695 and has been rebuilt several times. Its case by Grinling Gibbons, is one of the cathedral's greatest artefacts. The third largest organ in the UK, it has 7,189 pipes, five keyboards and 138 organ stops.

**The High Altar**

Originally, the cathedral had a simple table for an altar. The present high altar dates from 1958 and is made of marble and carved and gilded oak. It features a magnificent canopy based on a sketch by Wren. It replaces a large Victorian marble altar and screen, which were damaged by a bomb in World War II.
Saint Paul is seen holding his letters upon which Saint Paul’s Cathedral is carried. Above him is his tent and on his shoulder an exotic bird. The Huia, an indigenous bird of Aotearoa, New Zealand is clearly not a typical orthodox image but has been included as the Huia, above all other species in the forest, was sacred to Maori. It was believed a gatekeeper to the seventh heaven and was also closely associated with the great chiefs of the land and only chiefs of distinction could properly wear its tail. When it became rare Maori declared it *tapu* (sacred) but sadly this was not enough to save it as its tail feathers became sought after in Europe as well. The Huia became extinct in the early part of the 20th century. As well as its plumage the Huia’s call was very beautiful. The Huia that sits on Saint Paul’s shoulder reminds us that even though its song has been silenced, we are all still called to listen for the inspired beauty of God’s song found in creation and Holy Scripture. The flowers on St Paul's tent encourage us to smell the sweet scent of heaven. St Paul himself looks directly at you the viewer. He waits to hear what you have to say. His hand, which is about to bless points towards heaven and also appears to be waving. The swirling pattern on his right side is the *koru*. An image inspired by an unfolding fern frond it symbolises eternal life.

**North Quire Aisle**

The wrought-iron gates in the North Quire Aisle were designed by the French master metalworker Jean Tijou, who was responsible for most of the decorative metalwork in the cathedral.

It also contains the sculpture Mother and Child (pictured right) by Henry Moore who is commemorated in the crypt. The memorial to modern martyrs honours Anglicans who have died for their faith since 1850.

**South Quire Aisle**

This aisle contains the effigies of two Bishops of London and also a marble effigy of John Donne (pictured right). Donne was a Dean of the cathedral and one of Britain's finest poets, who died in 1631. It is one of the few effigies to have survived the Great Fire of London - scorch marks can be seen on its base.

**The Apse**

At the east end of the cathedral, behind the High Altar, is the Jesus Chapel. This is also known as the American Memorial Chapel. It honours American servicemen and women who died in World War II, and was dedicated in 1958.

The roll of honour contains the names of more than 28,000 Americans who gave their lives while on their way to, or stationed in, the United Kingdom during World War II. It is kept in front of the chapel's altar.
Explore the Dome and the breathtaking views from the Golden Gallery with our Virtual Tour

The Dome
St Paul's is built in the shape of a cross, with a large dome crowning the intersection of its arms. At 111.3 metres high, it is one of the largest cathedral domes in the world and weighs approximately 65,000 tons. The area under the dome is the principal place for worship in the Cathedral.

St Paul's has a three-dome structure. This allows the inner dome to rise in proportion to the internal architecture and the outer dome to be much larger and impressive. It is this outer dome shell that is prominent on the London skyline. The inner dome is the painted dome one can see looking up from the cathedral floor. Between these two domes is a third; a brick cone which provide strength and supports the stone lantern above.

It has been suggested that Wren had intended to decorate the inside of the dome in mosaic. But in 1708 the cathedral commissioners appointed James Thornhill to paint it in monochrome, partly because mosaic was expensive, time-consuming and considered too elaborate.

Thornhill began work on the dome in 1715 and finished four years later. His murals are based on a series of pen and ink sketches on the life of St Paul's. What we see today are reproductions from Thornhill's designs that were repainted in 1853. The originals deteriorated as a result of the British climate and London smog.

The Whispering Gallery
Climb 259 steps up the dome and you will find The Whispering Gallery, which runs around the interior of the Dome. It gets its name from a charming quirk in its construction, which makes a whisper against its walls audible on the opposite side.
The Stone Gallery
The Stone Gallery is the first of two galleries above the Whispering Gallery that encircle the outside of the dome. The Stone Gallery stands at 173 ft (53.4 metres) from ground-level and can be reached by 378 steps.

The Golden Gallery
The Golden Gallery is the smallest of the galleries and runs around the highest point of the outer dome, 280ft (85.4 metres) Visitors who climb the 528 steps to this gallery will be treated to panoramic views of London that take in the River Thames, Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

The Ball and Lantern
The original ball and cross were erected by Andrew Niblett, Citizen and Armourer of London, in 1708. They were replaced by a new ball and cross in 1821 designed by the Surveyor to the Fabric, CR Cockerell and executed by R and E Kepp. The ball and cross stand at 23 feet high and weigh approximately 7 tonnes.
Discover the Crypt

The crypt is the cathedral's foremost burial place, and the place where those who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the nation now rest.

The crypt has monuments to conflicts and other outstanding achievements in the cause of a better world. In some cases the names on these monuments are still cherished by loved ones. We are reminded of the human cost paid by those who have striven for what they believed in.

Nelson's Tomb
Lord Nelson was famously killed in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and buried in St Paul's after a state funeral. He was laid in a coffin made from the timber of a French ship he defeated in battle. The black marble sarcophagus that adorns his tomb was originally made for Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor during the reign of Henry VIII in the early sixteenth century. After Wolsey's fall from favour, it remained unused at Windsor until a suitable recipient could be found. Nelson's viscount coronet now tops this handsome monument.

Wellington's Tomb
Lord Wellington rests in a simple but imposing casket made of Cornish granite. Although a national hero, Wellington was not a man of glory in his victories. 'Nothing except a battle lost can be held so melancholy as a battle won,' he wrote in a despatch of 1815, the year in which he defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. The Duke was known as The Iron Duke and as a result of his tireless campaigning, has left a colourful list of namesakes - Wellington boots, the dish Beef Wellington and even a brand of cigars. He also coined some memorable phrases. He gave the expression ' . . . and another thing' to the English language and declared 'The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.'

The banners hanging around Wellington's tomb were made for his funeral procession. Originally, there was one for Prussia, which was removed during World War I and never reinstated.

Sir Christopher Wren's Tomb
Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's, is buried in the south aisle at the east end of the crypt. His tomb is marked by a simple stone and is surrounded by memorials to his family, to Robert Hooke (Wren's associate and intellectual equal) and to the masons and other colleagues who worked on the building of St Paul's. The Latin epitaph above his tomb, written by his son famously addresses us: 'Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you.'

In the same section of the crypt are many tombs and memorials of artists, scientists and musicians. They include the painters Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir John Everett Millais; the
scientist Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin; the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan); and the sculptor Henry Moore.

**The Chapel of St Faith: Chapel of the Order of the British Empire**
The original St Faith's was a parish church attached to the old cathedral destroyed in the Great Fire of London. During the rebuilding of St Paul's, this chapel was dedicated to St Faith close to the foundations of the former church and offered parishioners their own place of worship in the building.

In 1960 this chapel became the spiritual home to the Order of the British Empire. The Order was created by King George V in 1917, in recognition of the contribution made by women during the First World War. Until then no woman had been eligible for an award, although an exception was made for Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern British nursing. The OBE was separated into military and civil divisions in 1918. Today, award-holders of the OBE and members of their family may be married and baptised in the chapel.