

Bargain Hunt – A Stroll along Camden Passage

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Short Synopsis

Join us as we take a short yet detailed walk down the Islington hotspot that is Camden Passage. This pedestrian passage is the home of one of London's longest running antiques markets, keeping its tradition among its modern surroundings. We dive into the history that makes the area so special, and look into the finest shops, eateries and pubs in the area. The locals love it, and it may just become your new hangout.

Long Synopsis

Camden Passage was originally built in 1767, with the famous antiques market arriving in the 1960s. It's managed to keep its tradition and still sits on the map as one of London's best specialist markets. Whilst the markets remain, the surroundings have certainly changed – nowadays, you'll find an eclectic range of some of the best independent shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants London has to offer.

The Walk

We kick off our walk at the Tube station which houses the largest escalator on the London Underground network, Angel. We'll take the brief five minute walk along the huge offices and famous The York pub, and along the way, we'll learn about the local everyday market situated across the street from Camden Passage, Chapel Market – chatting to the regulars to find out why it's still a local favourite, 150 years after it was founded.

Camden Passage

Welcome to Camden Passage! Get ready to indulge in antiques galore, as well as discovering some of the finest food and drink that London has to offer. Once you enter via the narrow path, you automatically feel like you've been transported away from the hustle and bustle of the City. Enjoy a hot drink at the fantastic Coffee Works Project, or sit down for an Eggs Benedict at incredibly popular café, The Breakfast Club – be prepared to queue!

Antiques Market

This is what brings the thousands of tourists to the area – the antiques market. The market is split into three sections: Camden Passage Market, Charlton Place Market, and Pierrepont Arcade Market. The market was founded in the 1960s, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Borough of Islington. Here you'll find some of the finest art deco, vintage jewellery and contemporary clothing. We'll chat to some of the stall owners about how they've noticed the market changing, and if gentrification has had an impact on market. As well as this, we'll speak to pro bargain hunters, and see if we can come away with a gem!

Shopping

Camden Passage is full of the best independent shops – full of wacky and useful products to treat yourself, or someone else with. Buy yourself a little souvenir to remember your time in the area, whilst we chat to some of the more recent shop owners, to discover what they love about the shoppers in Angel.

The Camden Head

Time for a pint! After coming away with some bargains in the market, we head to Grade II listed pub, The Camden Head for a swift drink. This is a chance to take in some of the most traditional architecture that Islington has to offer. The pub was originally built in 1849, and hasn't swayed much from its original look. We'll hear about the history of the pub, including their nightly comedy show. You might spot George the ghost....

Tips

This walk is best carried out Wednesday's and Saturday's between 10am and 4pm. However, you can walk this any day of the week between 10am and 5pm. Be sure to bring appropriate

clothing and an umbrella – London weather can be unpredictable. You may also want to bring some money for a pint!