## St Nicholas Street

1 Baldwin Street/ High Street Junction
Outside St Nicholas Church, opposite Bristol Bridge. This is where the South Gate led into High Street, one of the four original main roads. *Go a short distance up High Street and turn left into St Nicholas Street.*

2 St Nicholas Church
The original 12th century church was built on the town wall. The later medieval crypt is entered from the lower level, on Baldwin Street. The present 18th century Gothic style church was restored after bombing. (Occasionally open). Next to the church, wide steps lead down to Baldwin Street, showing that the town stood well above the banks of the River Avon. The buildings on the left side of this street precisely follow the line of the medieval town wall. *Further on, on the right.*
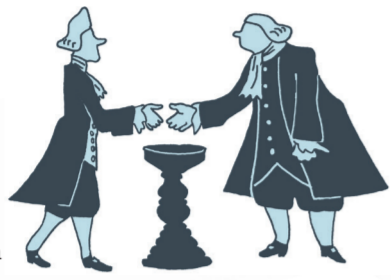
3 Market Hall
On the wall of this 1848 building, a cast iron drinking fountain celebrates Queen Victoria's 40th birthday, in 1859. This was Bristol's wholesale market area until the 1970s. Continue along this curving street, passing the former Fish Market building on the left, now a bar. On the right, notice elaborate Victorian commercial buildings with sculpted heads, including a veiled lady and an elephant's head, and opposite the 18th century Bunch of Grapes pub, now Seamus O'Donnells. *Carry on down street to 4.*

4 The Bristol Stock Exchange
A small but grand Italianate style building of 1903, this was the gift of Sir George White, founder of the Bristol Aeroplane Company. A restaurant now occupies the Art Nouveau style interior. *On to junction with Corn Street.*

5 Corn Street
Another of the four main roads of the old town. The junction of Corn and Clare Street is the site of the 12th century St Leonard's Church, which incorporated the West Gate. On the right is NatWest Bank. Built in 1852 for Stuckey's Bank, a plaque now names it Old Bank. Medieval vaults under the bank extend under Corn Street. *Straight across Corn Street into the narrow passage entrance next to Stanford's and into Leonard Lane.*

Leonard Lane

6 Leonard Lane
An atmospheric, curving lane, following the line of the old wall on the left. On the right, in former print works, Centrespace studios/ craft workshops and Gallery (open when there is an exhibition). *On left opposite Centrespace.*

7 Arched opening
Steep steps down through the town wall to St Stephens Street, at the original quayside level. *Optional detour here down to St Stephens Street. Not suitable for disabled or those with buggies.*

8 The Times and Mirror
Immediately on the left in St Stephens Street, the Arts and Crafts style home of this newspaper publisher, built in 1900. The paper was published from 1865 to 1932, it was one of several daily papers for Bristol. The bridge across Leonard Lane connected these editorial offices to the printing presses. The building is now the Bristol Backpackers' Hostel.

9 St Stephens Church
Built in the 14th century on land reclaimed by the diversion of the River Frome, and rebuilt c1470 in Perpendicular Gothic style. The slim and elegant tower is 152feet high. The 12 bells are rung regularly. Fine furnishings and memorials (normally open). *Return up the steps to Leonard Lane, then left, noting on right, the parish boundary marker (10).*

10 Parish boundary marker
At head height on the wall. The old town was served by eleven different parishes. St Leonard parish ends at Small Street, site of the former St Giles Church and Gate. *Go to the end of Leonard Lane, across Small Street into the cobbled Bell Lane, follow the line of the wall to Broad Street.*

Walk commentary continues at the top of the sheet (11).

Corn Street

22 Old Council House *(now Register Office)*
Built in 1827 by architect Sir Robert Smirke. Dignified Greek revival style building with fine Regency interior that includes the former Council Chamber. The medieval St Ewen's Church was demolished to create the site for this civic building (generally open during the day).

23 The West of England Bank
Next door to the Old Council House, this large flamboyantly decorated Venetian style building by architect WB Gingell, was built in 1857. An illusory display of solidity, the bank becoming bankrupt in 1878. This bank was built on the site of the Bush coaching inn, mentioned in Pickwick Papers. *On the opposite side of Corn Street.*

24 The Exchange *(now St Nicholas Market)*
Built in 1743 by Bath architect John Wood the Elder. This became the place for trading. Brass Nails from the Tolzey were moved in front of the Exchange, and traders continued to 'pay on the nail'. The clock has two minute hands, as Bristol worked to its own time, 11 minutes behind London time; the advent of the railways exposed this as a problem. The Exchange is now home to a large and varied indoor market. Corn Street is the location for the weekly Farmers' Market and other regular events (open during the day). Many of the stall holders take the Bristol Pound, a thriving local currency designed to support independent trade in the city.On the right of the Exchange is Bristol's first Post Office.

Bell Lane/John Street

11 St John's Gate (North Gate) and St John the Baptist Church *(Churches Conservation Trust, sometimes open)*
The only survivor of five wall churches. The tower and steeple stand over the main arched gateway, with small statues of Brennus and Belinus, mythical founders of Bristol. A full-size vaulted crypt is below the church, entered from Nelson Street, outside town wall.Until 1580 another church, St Lawrence, abutted St John's on the Wall, sharing the tower and steeple. *Short optional detour.*

12 St John's Conduit
Through arch down to Nelson Street then right to end of the church. One of the first public supplies of clean water, brought across the city in a wooden conduit in 1376. Until the 19th century the water outlet was located inside the town wall. *Return to Broad Street and continue along Tower Lane, through 1970s office development. Continue under the bridging office buildings to junction with St John's Steep.*

Broad Street

13 St John's Steep
This connects with Broadmead shopping centre. On the left is the large 1931 neo-Georgian style labour exchange, now Backpackers' Hostel. The medieval Blind Gate into the Old City was located here. *At this point the walk leaves the route of the old wall. The walk turns sharp right.*

14 John Street
The enclosed St Johns Burial Ground is on the corner. Burials here included victims of the 1665 Great Plague. Burials ended in 1852 due to health issues. At the end of John Street join Broad Street. This was one of the four original main streets. It was almost completely rebuilt in the booming mid-19th century, providing a showcase for many high Victorian architectural styles. *Go right for short distance along Broad Street.*

15 Edward Everard Printing Works
This dramatic façade was built in 1901 using ceramic tiles made by Doulton and Co. (later Royal Doulton). Flanking the winged Spirit of Literature figure are those of Gutenberg, the 15th century printing pioneer, and William Morris, who designed a new lettering style for the Kelmscott Press in 1890. *Return up Broad Street and turn left into narrow alley.*

16 Tailors Court
On the left is the 18th century Taylors Hall with shell hood and Guild crest. The Guild of Merchant Taylors, established in 1399, controlled the trade until the 19th century. This narrow court gives a good impression of the city before the 19th century redevelopment. Return to Broad Street, passing under the brown painted 'jettied' building, one of the very few surviving 14th century oak framed buildings in the Old City.

17 Guildhall and Assize Courts
Built in 1843 by the architect RS Pope. Like many other buildings in the area, this impressive Perpendicular Gothic Revival edifice was constructed on the substantial vaulted cellars of previous buildings, in this case the medieval Guildhall. It is to be a major hotel, with kitchens replacing basement prison cells. The Crown Courts are now in Small Street.

18 Bank of England
Built in 1846 by the architect Charles Cockerell, in Greek Revival style. Bristol was one of the first cities to have such a branch bank.

19 Grand Hotel
Built in 1865 by the architect Foster & Wood, in imposing Venetian style. One of Bristol's first purpose-built hotels. The ground floor was originally fronted by shops.

20 Christchurch
One of the oldest churches in the city, rebuilt in the 18th century by local architect William Paty. It has a fine classical interior and a clock with colourful quarter-jack striking bells (normally open). *Just past the church.*

21 Site of Bristol's High Cross
The High Cross was located at the highest part of the Old City, traditionally erected to mark the granting of the 1373 charter that gave Bristol the status of a county. This was the historic and symbolic centre of Bristol, at the crossing of the four original main streets, Broad Street, Wine Street, High Street and Corn Street. In 1634 it was extended in height to 48feet. It was removed in 1733, a public petition claiming it to be a 'ruinous and superstitious relick'. It was later erected at the Stourhead estate of Bristol banker Samuel Hoare.

Now turn right into upper part of Corn Street, an area that has played a major role in Bristol's civic and commercial life. On your left, a wall plaque records Joseph Cottle, bookseller and publisher in 1798 for Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey (Bristol poet and Poet Laureate). Walk commentary continues at the bottom of the sheet (22).

The medieval High Cross, removed in 1733. Now at Stourhead.

Now down All Saints Lane, between the Exchange and the Georgian coffee house on the corner. All Saints church dates from the 12th century. The lane leads to a group of 18th and 19th century buildings that make up the colourful St Nicholas Market area. This includes the Market Tavern, a rebuilding of the medieval Rummer Inn, and the 18th century Crown Inn.

25 The Glass Arcade
This runs across All Saints Lane and was an early example of the shopping arcade. The grand 18th century entrance to this from High Street was designed by local builder Samuel Glascodine.

The 80 metre arcade is aligned with the former Mary Le Port Street. This led to the medieval St Mary le Port church in the densely built eastern quarter of the Old City. This route is now present obstructed by post-war redevelopment.

The walk ends in the heart of Bristol's market area. This is also the scene of street entertainment and events, showing how the Old City continues to adapt to the needs of the times.

Map labels

NELSON STREET
BROADMEAD
ST JOHN'S STEEP
TOWER LANE
BELL LANE
ST STEPHEN'S STREET
SMALL STREET
BROAD STREET
TAYLOR'S COURT
WINE STREET
HIGH STREET
CASTLE PARK
ST MARY-LE-PORT
CORN STREET
CLARE STREET
ST NICHOLAS STREET
BALDWIN STREET
ALL SAINTS LANE
GLASS ARCADE
HARBOURSIDE
BRISTOL BRIDGE
START

WALLED CITY WALK

Route of walk
Route of the Old City wall

WOOL   LEAF TOBACCO   FINEST CEYLON TEA   CANE SUGAR   COTTON   RUM   FINO   PORT