



LONCON 3

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention

Doctor Who began in London. The fog, the junkyard, and the school (whether Coal Hill was Shoreditch, Hammersmith or a BBC studio) were all set and recorded in London. Of all the places the Doctor ever visits, which is the one he comes back to more than any other? Not Skaro, Peladon, nor New New Earth – not even Cardiff – but London.

So if you ever want to travel in space and time to *Doctor Who* locations throughout the last fifty years – or the next five hundred – there is no better place to visit. Here's a selection of the twelve most distinctive places for visitors to the British capital who want to follow in the Doctor's footsteps....

THE FIRST DOCTOR – *THE DALEK INVASION OF EARTH*: WESTMINSTER (BELOW) AND TRAFALGAR SQUARE

If you only make one *Doctor Who* tourist trip in London, this should be it. The Doctor (William Hartnell) lived in 1960s London, but his most visually striking visit to the city came two centuries later. Start at the south end of Westminster Bridge by looking left along the Albert Embankment to check: if you see zeppelins and signs for Newport, you're in the wrong London. No? Then you're where the cameras shot the series' most iconic publicity photos: Daleks looming before the Palace of Westminster and St Stephen's Tower – the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben – as the very image of democracy overthrown by fascism. From there, you can follow (or anticipate) Barbara across the Bridge, along Whitehall and to Trafalgar Square, a memorable landmark not just in this story but in others from *The Chase* to *Rose*.

Why? The Houses of Parliament – London's most iconic buildings. The Daleks – *Doctor Who*'s most iconic foes.

Where? Nearest Tube: Westminster for the Houses of Parliament (Map Reference 1a) / Charing Cross Tube or Mainline Station for Trafalgar Square (Map Reference 1b)

THE SECOND DOCTOR – *THE WEB OF FEAR*: THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

The Second Doctor (Patrick Troughton) has most of his episodes lost and virtually all of his landmarks changed beyond recognition. But there's one location that's still worth visiting – the Tube itself. It's true that the BBC didn't record the story there, but when the sets were so good that London Underground complained of guerrilla filming, does that matter?

Why? A dark, enclosed scary space in which you can imagine one of *Doctor Who*'s most dark, enclosed scary stories.

Where? Nearest Tube: To start, Covent Garden (Map Reference 2a) / Goodge Street (Map Reference 2b)



THE THIRD DOCTOR – *FRONTIER IN SPACE*: THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

The most Earthbound of them all, the Third Doctor (Jon Pertwee) defended London against threat after threat, though rarely big landmarks (just as Londoners don't spend all their time at the tourist traps). Many of his locations have been heavily rebuilt, so visit somewhere guaranteed to stand until 2540 (though architect's plans can be rewritten): the concrete splendour of the Hayward Gallery.

Why? It still looks like part of a dystopian future, and those walkways are fun to run around (if you were to do such a thing, which we do not of course recommend).

Where? Nearest Tube / Mainline Station: Waterloo (Map Reference 3)

THE FOURTH DOCTOR – *THE SEEDS OF DOOM*: BBC TELEVISION CENTRE

The Fourth Doctor (Tom Baker) didn't come back to London much, so Tom Time Tourism is best-served counterintuitively: take a fond look at the location used for the World Ecology Bureau. It is, of course, *Doctor Who's* greatest recording site, BBC Television Centre.

Why? Now foolishly sold off, this site was where *Doctor Who* lived for a long time.

Where? Nearest Tube: White City or Wood Lane (Map Reference 4)

THE FIFTH DOCTOR – *RESURRECTION OF THE DALEKS*: SHAD THAMES (TOP)

The Fifth Doctor (Peter Davison) spent far too much time trying to get to Heathrow Airport, but as you may, too, consider visiting Butler's Wharf on the riverfront, with Tower Bridge in the background and Shad Thames' distinctive criss-crossing walkways between warehouses, now gentrified but still familiar at a glance.

Why? Distinctive architecture that's unlikely to be milling with tourists.

Where? Nearest Tube / Mainline Station: London Bridge, though it's a bit of a walk (Map Reference 5)

THE SIXTH DOCTOR – *THE MARTIAN CONSPIRACY & JUBILEE*: THE TOWER OF LONDON (MIDDLE)

The Sixth Doctor (Colin Baker)'s most distinctive London location wasn't on TV but in two of his finest audio adventures, both at the Tower of London. There is also plenty more for other Doctors: an Ice Warrior King enthroned there in *The Dying Days*, as well as the Eleven-Day Empire extending unkindly out that way; the Tenth Doctor finding a UNIT base underneath it in *The Christmas Invasion*; and his Eleventh self returning there almost bang up to date in *The Power of Three*.

Why? One of London's oldest major landmarks, a magnificent set of buildings and a major part of the stories of several different Doctors in several different media.

Where? Nearest Tube: Tower Hill or Tower Gateway Docklands Light Railway. (Map Reference 6)



Photo: tolanee on Flickr



Photo: damiani on Flickr

Photo: ashlourey on Flickr



THE SEVENTH DOCTOR – *SURVIVAL*: HORSENDEN HILL

The Seventh Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) at last picked up a new best friend from contemporary London, and in some ways his TV adventures are as much Ace's as his. Travel to outer London to look out Ace's old haunts in Perivale, where Horsenden Hill is a pretty spot, with a great view across the rest of the city.

Why? This is where the Doctor and Ace walked off into the sunset for the very last story... Until all the others.

Where? Nearest Tube: Perivale (Map Reference 7a)

BONUS – *REMEMBRANCE OF THE DALEKS*: "COAL HILL SCHOOL"

Doctor Who TV and New Adventures author Ben Aaronovitch is today the best-selling author of fabulous books set in contemporary but very strange London. His first script took the Doctor and Ace to London to fight the Daleks, or to watch them fighting each other, back where it all started.

Why? Remembering. The 1960s with the story's setting and Coal Hill School; the 1980s and 1990s with the Doctor and Ace; the whole series with Daleks and big explosions.

Where? Nearest Tube / Mainline Station: Waterloo and Waterloo East to go under the railway bridge (Map Reference 7b) / Hammersmith for Coal Hill School, aka the Macbeth Centre (Map Reference 7c)

THE EIGHTH DOCTOR – *THE FLOOD*: CAMDEN TOWN (BOTTOM)

The Eighth Doctor (Paul McGann)'s London adventures were all off-screen, and in his last comic strip he visited one of the most obvious places for the Doctor to see. *The Flood* juxtaposes the Cybermen's emotionless conformity with the raggedy diversity of Camden Lock Market, and it's hard to find a more Doctor Who-titled pub than The World's End. That story even made friendly, ubiquitous London rain a threat; maybe it'll keep dry for you, eh?

Why? It makes a change from lots of grand old buildings, it's got an individual feel, and there's a chance to do some shopping at non-chain stores (though possibly for more than chain store prices).

Where? Nearest Tube: Camden Town (Map Reference 8)

THE NINTH DOCTOR – *ROSE*: THE LONDON EYE

We and Rose first meet the Ninth Doctor (Christopher Eccleston) blowing up bits of London, and her first trip in the TARDIS lands almost back where we started – the Embankment, Big Ben looming over you, its Slitheen damage repaired. Run the other way over the Bridge to the London Eye, which you didn't see back when you were on that side to begin with – it must have been completely invisible. Oh, please yourselves...

Why? A new series, a new Doctor, a new companion, the first trip. Fantastic.

Where? Nearest Tube: Westminster (Map Reference 9)

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THE TENTH DOCTOR *ARMY OF GHOSTS & DOOMSDAY:* CANARY WHARF (BELOW)

Your go-to Doctor for demolishing London landmarks has to be the Tenth Doctor (David Tennant). Heading the glamour that is the Isle of Dogs is what very privileged locals call the Torchwood Tower, most people call Canary Wharf Tower (even though there are now several of them), and which is properly 1, Canada Square.

Why? Almost a franchise-crossing trip (if only Torchwood One hadn't come such a cropper). Though don't try to find Sarah Jane's Bannerman Road in Ealing; that's secretly in Wales.

Where? Nearest Tube: Canary Wharf Tube, Canary Wharf or Heron Quays Docklands Light Railway (Map Reference 10)

THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR *VICTORY OF THE DALEKS:* THE CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

The Eleventh Doctor (Matt Smith) hasn't visited London that much, what with all the repair bills. Great Britain's four outstanding national myths apart from the Doctor are King Arthur, Robin Hood, Sherlock Holmes and World War II. Although the Doctor is a great friend of a Great Victorian Detective and her wife, he's also been seen palling around with Winston Churchill. So here's a wartime historical exhibition in the heart of London marking a bunker now only slightly less secret than a UNIT HQ.

Why? To finish a tour of time and space with something that goes back to the series' original educational purposes.

Where? Nearest Tube: Westminster (Map Reference 11)



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