



Aerial view of the historic city walls (Esler, Crawford Photography)



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INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



today, the street pattern was regular, with four main streets crossing at a central square, later called

The walls are still owned by The Honourable The Irish Society today, although they are now managed and conserved by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

successfully withstood the attack.

advancing Jacobite troops and despite fierce fighting over the weeks, the city

shut the city gates against the thirteen apprentices famously

The Diamond', leading straight to the four gates in the walls. In 1689 the Catholic King James II and his supporters (Jacobites) laid siege to the city for 105 days, as part of his campaign to reclaim the English throne from the Protestant King William. Thirteen apprentices famously

**Derry~Londonderry has the most complete circuit of historic walls of any town in Ireland: they stand up to 8 metres high and measure almost one mile around.**

under the control of the English crown in 1611.

The rebellious Gaelic region firmly

ordered this colonisation with loyal, Protestant subjects in order to bring of the Plantation of Ulster. James I and Scots settlers of the new town that was established here as part

1613 and 1618 to protect the English

Derry~Londonderry: a guide to the historic city walls

# Derry~Londonderry

A guide to the historic city walls



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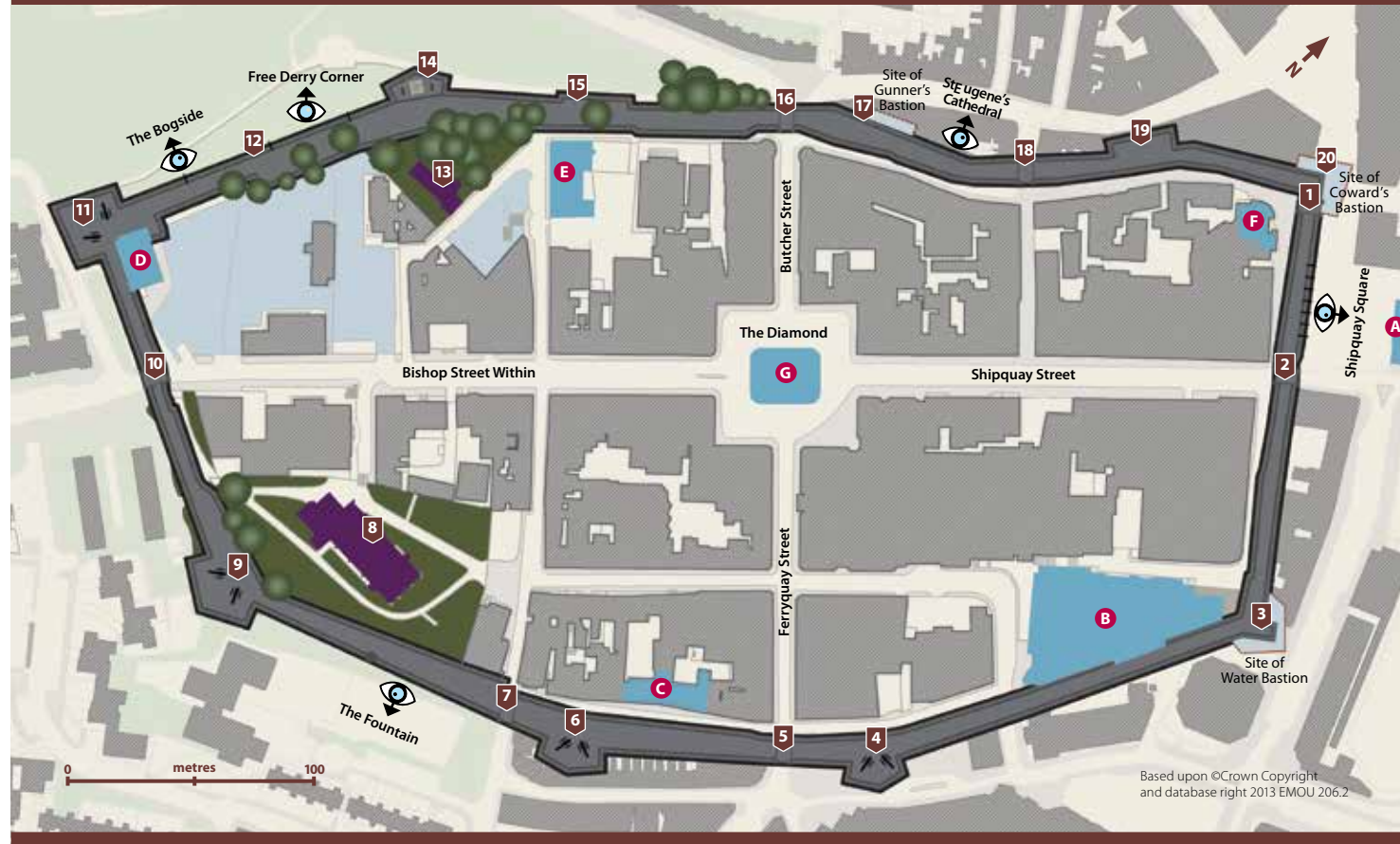


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## A Tour of the City Walls



The best way to experience these magnificent 400 year old walls is by taking a stroll along the rampart walkway. To really appreciate them, however, you should also use some of the many access steps or ramps to come down and walk around the walls at ground level. We have used the current names of gates and bastions around the walls, but many of them had earlier names.



### 1 Magazine Gate

This gate was built in 1865. Recently restored cannon are mounted on replicas of mid-17th-century block carriages. The two cannon closest to Shipquay Gate bear the Tudor rose-and-crown emblem; one has a date stamp of 1590.

### 2 Shipquay Gate

This was one of the four original gates into the 17th-century city, although the structure we see here today was built in 1805. The River Foyle originally flowed up to the foot of the city walls here and ships that entered Lough Foyle moored close by for people and goods to be unloaded.

### 3 Water Bastion

Most of this bastion was demolished around 1850 and all that now remains is a small platform. Outside the Millennium Forum theatre is a sculpture by the artist Antony Gormley.



### 4 New Gate Bastion

Two demi-culverin cannon are mounted on replicas of 17th-century field carriages. Four embrasures (openings) would have allowed artillery to provide covering fire along the adjacent wall face.

### 5 Ferryquay Gate

Ferryquay Gate is located on the site of one of the four original gates. It probably led down to the ferry and later, to the first city bridge. It was this gate that on December 7th 1688 was closed by the 13 apprentices to prevent Jacobite troops entering the city, leading to the siege of 1689. The present gate was built in 1866, and the carved heads represent the Revs George Walker and James Gordon.

### 6 Artillery Bastion

Within Artillery Bastion are two cannon. The first is an English saker with a City of London shield on it, one of a batch sent by the City in 1620. The second is a demi-culverin sent to the city in 1642 by the London Salters Company, one of a group of 15 gifted by the London Companies to strengthen the defences.

### 7 New Gate

New Gate was first opened in 1787 and was later replaced by the present gate in 1866.

### 8 St Columb's Cathedral

St Columb's Cathedral was built between 1628 and 1633. During the 1689 siege the lead from the spire was used for artillery, and two cannon were mounted on the tower for defence. As you walk along the ramparts, note the sentry box. A firing platform for musketeers (banquette) may have been positioned here.



### 9 Church Bastion

It was from Church Bastion that King James II was fired upon as he approached the city on April 18th 1689, when the siege began in earnest. In the bastion you can see two demi-culverin cannon. Along the outer wall face is a small gateway, known as a 'sallyport'. Tradition has it that this gateway was used during the siege, and that it leads into St Columb's Cathedral.

### 10 Bishop's Gate

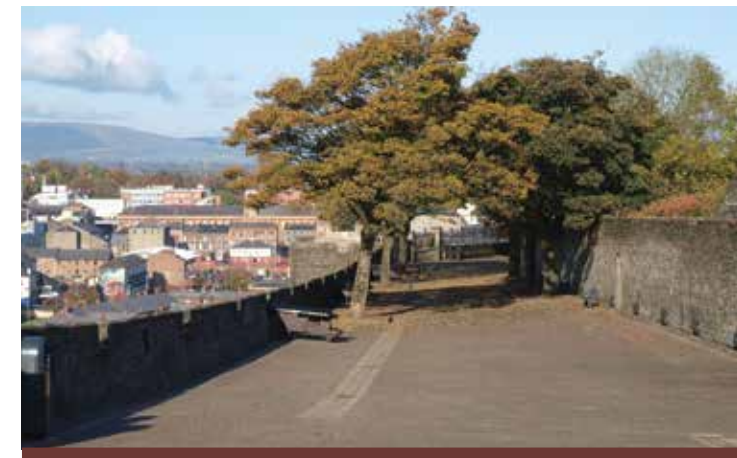
Bishop's Gate was one of the four original entrances to the city. The current gate was erected in 1789 in commemoration of the 1689 siege. The carved keystones represent the Rivers Boyne and Foyle.

### 11 Double Bastion

The Double Bastion holds two demi-culverin cannon, one of which is the famous Roaring Meg. There is a fine panoramic view over the Bogside and the slopes above, where Jacobite guns were positioned during the 1689 siege.

### 12 Grand Parade

Grand Parade was used as a promenade in the 19th century. The sycamore trees commemorate the 13 apprentices who closed the gates on King James' soldiers during the 1689 siege: the fruit of the sycamore tree resembles a bunch of keys; symbolic of the locked gates. One of the cannon sent over in 1620 bears a City of London shield.



### 13 St Augustine's Church

It is likely that this church was built upon the site of a ruined medieval church known as the Dubh Regles (Black Church).

### 14 Royal Bastion

The Governor Walker memorial pillar was erected in 1828 to commemorate the shutting of the city gates by the Apprentice Boys of Derry during the 1689 siege. The pillar was surmounted by a statue of the Rev George Walker, Governor of the city throughout the siege. It was blown up in 1973. There are also two late-18th-century 6-pounder cannon within the bastion.

### 15 The Platform

A long rectangular gun platform protrudes out from the walls here. Just opposite the Platform stands the Memorial Hall of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, and nearby is First Derry Presbyterian Church, built before 1780 on the site of an earlier church founded in 1690. The pediment was added in 1828.

### 16 Butcher's Gate

Butcher's Gate was one of the four original city gates, but the structure you see here today was rebuilt in 1810.

### 17 Gunner's Bastion

Not far past Butcher's Gate was a demi-bastion, known as the Gunner's Bastion. It was removed sometime between 1843 and 1873.

### 18 Castle Gate

Castle Gate is the smallest and one of the least elaborate of the city's gates. It was opened through the walls in 1802.

### 19 Hangman's Bastion

Hangman's Bastion took its name from an incident during the 1689 siege when a man, trying to escape over the walls, got caught in the rope he was using and almost hanged. Further along, the wall kinks outwards, probably to incorporate the late medieval O'Donnell tower house which once stood here.

### 20 Coward's Bastion

At the corner was the last of the bastions, removed during the first half of the 19th century. This area was attacked least during the 1689 siege and so was a popular posting for some members of the garrison, giving the bastion its name.



### Other places of interest close to the city walls

- A** Guildhall
- B** Millennium Forum
- C** Playhouse
- D** Verbal Arts Centre
- E** Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall
- F** Tower Museum
- G** Diamond War Memorial

To enhance your tour you can also take advantage of the free apps that are available to download, filled with unique features and historical images.

#### • Walk the Walls

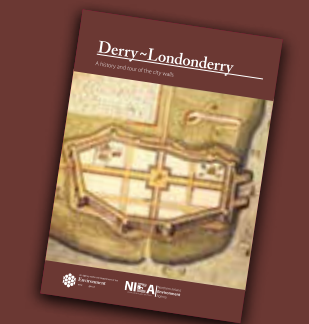
Blending CGI, videos, photos and 3D animations, this app provides a unique guide to the history of the city, 'Before and After' visualisations show how parts of the walls might have originally looked, while a photo library displays photographs, illustrations and historical maps of each location.

#### • Siege of Derry

This app uses contemporary, real life accounts and reactions of townspeople to bring the 1689 siege to life. Survive the siege as a Jacobite spy and listen to accounts of the siege as you walk around the walls.

These Apps can be downloaded free at the Google Play, Android or Apple App stores or alternatively from [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com)

**This historic city and its impressive walls have a long and varied history. This is celebrated in a booklet published by the NIEA.**



#### • Derry Londonderry

**A History and Tour of the City Walls**

Incorporating a more indepth version of this tour and a brief history of the settlement of Derry Londonderry. The booklet is available to purchase at various locations around the city.