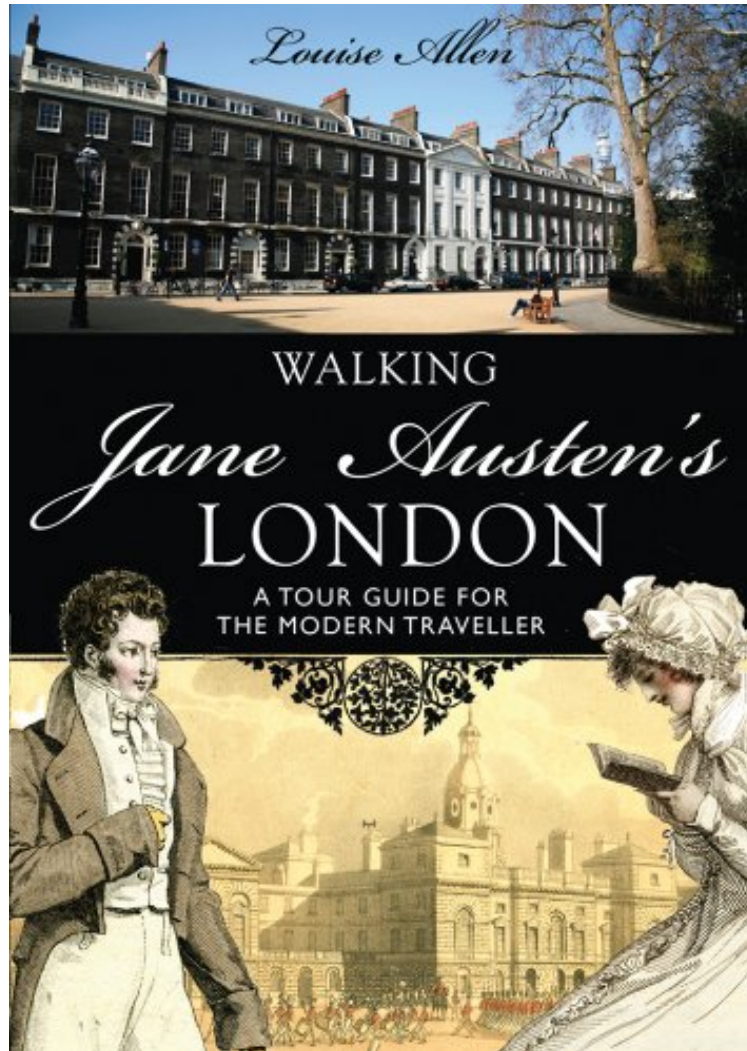


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Walking Jane Austen's London (Shire General)

Louise Allen

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Louise Allen : Walking Jane Austen's London (Shire General) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Jane Austen's London (Shire General):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tourists Will Love It, Austen Fans Will Love It More
By Goybabe
I'm often not a fan of Shire books, or others of the type, that try to take on a huge subject in a very limited number of pages. But that opinion doesn't take Louise Allen into account. She's a solid novelist, but like all of us novelists she's drifted into other sorts of writing out of necessity. I've drifted into doing historical research, for all sorts of businesses, including cable TV. That's why I have such enormous respect for her. She's able to do something astonishing, giving a deep and thorough view of a subject in a very lean package. I knew Paris far better than London, and I was very nervous, doing my first book set there. I actually ordered two books, at great expense, that were contemporaneous, both of them period guidebooks of London. They were great, of course. But I still found myself

consulting this little book, constantly. It ended up on my desk rather than my bookshelves, along with four or five others I used constantly. And for a traveler to London it's an eminently packable size, thin and lightweight, easily slipped into a backpack. She does a terrific job of cutting this large and cosmopolitan city down to size. With the terrific arrangement of photos and maps, you feel as if you're there, truly. At first I was irritated that all the maps were modern - it didn't help that I was having a hard time finding good period maps of both England and London. But surprisingly, as time passed, I saw that it was a better way. Not just for an Austen-loving tourist, who can walk these areas now and see them through her lens as you follow her text, but for a modern researcher. Much of London hasn't changed all that much, and when it has, the places are still there, with something else on them. It's not Bridewell anymore, it's a hotel. But it's still there, and the maps combined with the description of your walk brings it to life. I've since discovered other of her books along these lean lines. Two of my favorites are Stagecoach Travel, an attempt to explain their complex and vitally-important coaching system of the period, and Regency Slang, an invaluable book that takes a half-dozen major sources of the cryptic Regency slang and lays them out, blessedly, by topic rather than alphabetically. Both are a godsend for any writer or researcher. I wish Ms. Allen a long life and the energy to do many more of these books, despite the mess the publishing business is in. Apart from the large Regency audience, writers need her, very much. I'd love to meet her someday, someplace like a Romance Writers of America conference. She should have a large display table at all of them.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Walking in Jane Austen's footsteps
By Customer I followed Walk 5 from Soho to the British Museum on a recent visit to London. It was relatively easy to follow the map and directions. There is less information about Jane Austen and more about the history of the period in general. London has been rebuilt a lot so it was helpful to have a guide to point to some of the layers that otherwise I might walk past and not notice. It doesn't take so long to complete the walk, except I was distracted by shopping opportunities along the way! I am going to share this book with other Jane Austen enthusiasts at my local library. The photo is of the place where the poet Shelley lived after he was sent down from Oxford. He chose the location because he was sympathetic to the Polish revolutionaries and these lodgings are on Poland Street.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Terrific little book
By dizzheart The likelihood that I'll ever visit London is very slight, but I almost feel as if I've been there. This is a slight little book with a lot of stuff of interest in it for anybody who loves Jane Austen and the regency. Well worth having.

From prize-winning historical novelist Louise Allen, this book presents nine walks through both the London Jane Austen knew and the London of her novels! Follow in Jane's footsteps to her publisher's doorstep and the Prince Regent's vanished palace, see where she stayed when she was correcting proofs of *Sense and Sensibility* and accompany her on a shopping expedition – and afterwards to the theatre. In modern London the walker can still visit the church where Lydia Bennett married Wickham, stroll with Elinor Dashwood in Kensington Palace Gardens or imagine they follow Jane's naval officer brothers as they stride down Whitehall to the Admiralty. From well-known landmarks to hidden corners, these walks reveal a lost London that can still come alive in vivid detail for the curious visitor, who will discover eighteenth-century chop houses, elegant squares, sinister prisons, bustling city streets and exclusive gentlemen's clubs amongst innumerable other Austen-esque delights.

Top 5 Austen-inspired Nonfiction Book of the Year—Austenprose.com
About the Author Louise Allen is an award-winning author of historical novels and expert on Regency England. She lives in North Norfolk and often does period research by exploring the streets of London with an 1808 guidebook in hand.