

Shopping & Cafés

1 Mile | 1.6 km

Easy

Frome is full of independent shops and cafés. It is a destination town for stylish clothing, jewellery, bags and other accessories, homeware and art, as well as artisan food, bread and cakes and some excellent places to eat or have a coffee. This walk will take you through Frome's iconic medieval shopping streets.

START

1 Cheese & Grain

The Cheese & Grain is most famous for the markets and events it holds in its hall. Here you can find everything from music nights and comedy, to festivals, exhibitions and markets. You can also stop by the café bar for food and drink. **Head across the Cattle Market Car Park and up Justice Lane to reach The Black Swan Arts.**

2 The Black Swan Arts

A contemporary crafts centre with gallery, craft studios you can shop around and the River House Café. The building also features a vibrant exhibitions programme of contemporary and innovative art and crafts. The Discover Frome Information Point is also located here. **Walk along Bridge Street. Cross over at the pedestrian crossing and turn left by the Archangel into King Street.**

3 King Street

On the junction of King Street and the Market Place lies The Archangel. It is a medieval inn transformed into a boutique hotel, bar and restaurant. On your way up King Street you will be diverted by independent shops selling fashion, fabrics, modern designer household goods, and The Three Swans pub. **Follow the curve of King Street, then turn right into Cheap Street.**

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4 Cheap Street

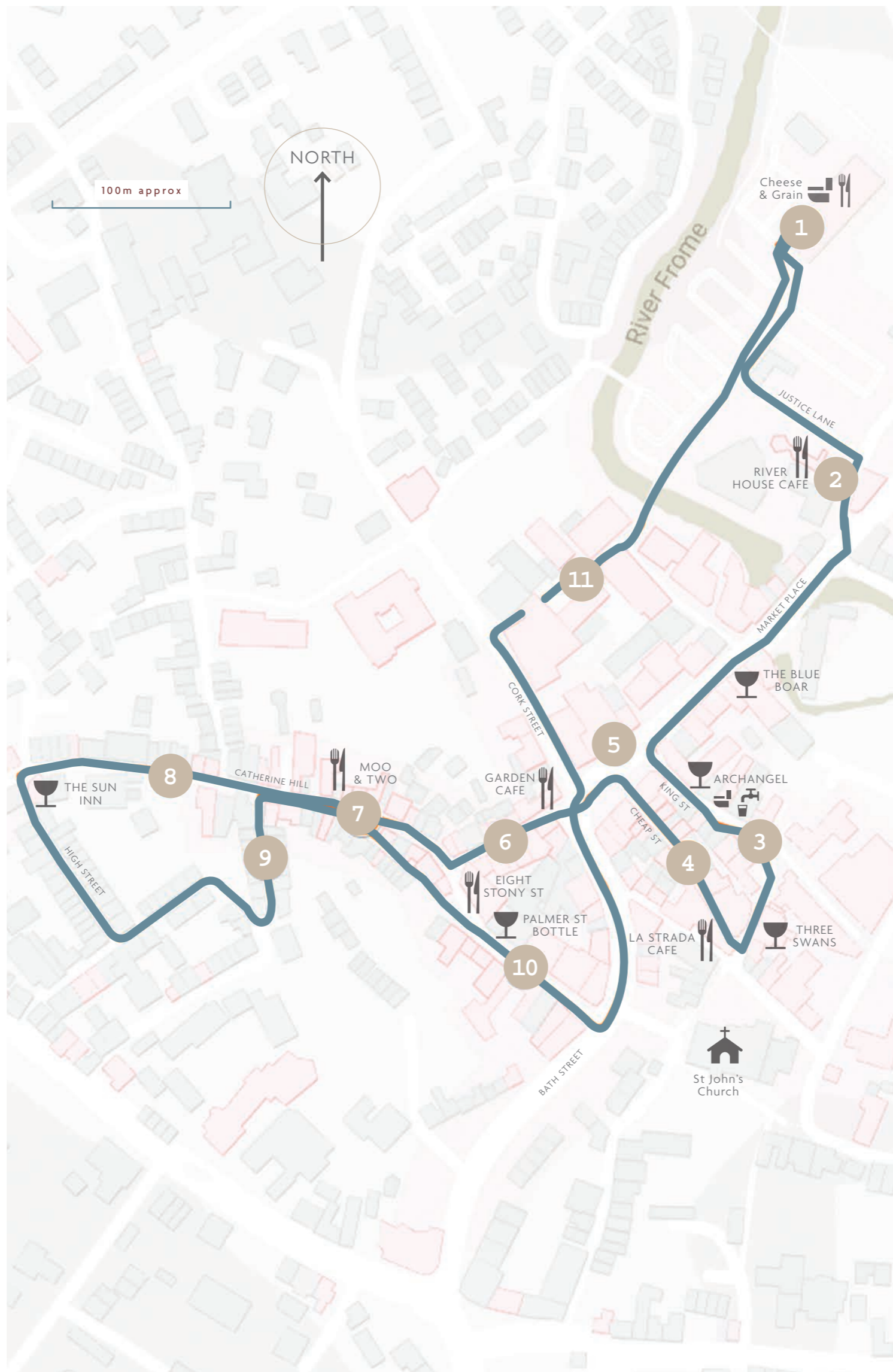
The street has retained its historic medieval character, with a leat running down the street, carrying water from the stream beneath St John's Church. You can find a wide range of independent shops and cafés, including books, clothing, records, jewellery, bags and other leather goods, homeware, artisan food, bread and cakes and some excellent places to eat or have a coffee. **Walk down Cheap Street to the Market Place and cross the road to reach The George Hotel.**

5 The George Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Frome, a warm welcome awaits you at The George Hotel. A well situated and comfortable hotel enjoying an excellent reputation for food, beer and coffee. The George dates back to at least 1650, and has been the centre of the social and business life of Frome for the past three and a half centuries. **Head left towards Stony Street.**

6 Stony Street

Stony Street is a lovely cobbled shopping street which is a part of the St Catherine's area of Frome. Here you'll find cafés and independent businesses including a butcher, tattoo artist and shops selling gifts and clothing. **At the top of Stony Street, turn right up Catherine Hill.**



7 Catherine Hill

This is one of the historic areas of Frome, composed of cobbled streets which used to be the main road into Frome. Now you will find classic gifts, stylish clothes and accessories, ceramics, haberdashery, vintage clothes, florists, ironmongery and cafés. **Continue onto Catherine Street. If you would like to visit the Rye Bakery, walk down Whittox Lane. Head back up to the Valentine Lamp to continue the route.**

8 Valentine Lamp

Nestled among the shops of Catherine Street, including the famous Deadly is the Female, is the historic Valentine Lamp. This is a working gas lamp, the only one in Somerset, that is dedicated to the memory of St. Valentine. Every year there are lighting ceremonies when the gas lamp is lit for the first time. A six-paned, three mantle gas lantern on a column cast in a local foundry, it is set amidst a heart-shaped ring of cobbled stones. The lamp even has a renovated George V posting box attached - for your love letter or Valentine card. **Continue along Catherine Street, then turn left on High Street. Turn left at Wine Street and follow the road to reach Sheppards Barton and walk down the Sheppards Barton steps.**

9 Sheppards Barton

Sheppards Barton gained its name from the cottages built there for weavers in the first half of the 18th century by the Sheppard clothier family. By the steps you can see a Cockey lamp, one of the architectural legacies of Frome. Made by the Cockey family, the 'art nouveau' light is recognisable by its distinctive leaf pattern. **Turn right and walk back down Catherine Street, and following along the raised pavement at Paul Street to reach Palmer Street.**

10 Palmer Street

Another one of Frome's distinctive shopping streets, Palmer Street is home to shops and restaurants offering a wide range of cuisines, from classic British dishes to Indian, tapas and Tibetan. **Join Bath Street and walk down the hill. Once you reach the Market Place, continue along to Cork Street and turn right into the Westway precinct.**

11 Westway Shopping Centre

Long established local businesses based here sell toys, stationery, art and homewares. You will also find other national retailers at this location. **Across the bridge you will find the Cattle Market Car Park.**

If you walk through the car park you will find yourself back at your starting point at the Cheese & Grain.

FINISH

Key

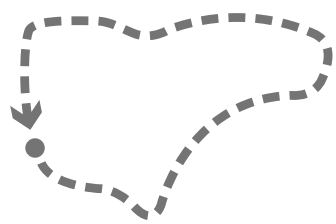
- Church
- Public Toilet
- Water Refill
- Refreshments
- Take Care
- 27 Route Marker
- Walking Route
- Pub



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FROME WALKS



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Respect

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Follow paths where crops are growing. Use gates or stiles if possible.

Avoid climbing walls or fences. Don't disturb ruins or historic sites. Don't interfere with machinery or livestock.

Protect

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home. Be careful not to drop matches or smouldering cigarettes.

Keep your dog under effective control so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife.

Always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly.

Enjoy

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.

You may be interested to know...

The wall to the right of the Cheese & Grain marks the line of the old spur from the railway. Goods sold at auction on the lower floor of the market hall would be lifted to a platform at the back and loaded straight onto the train. The spur is gone but the line is still there, now the privately owned quarry line.

The round tower, now part of Black Swan Arts was once a drying tower for the Olive family who ran the dye works on Willow Vale. The town was once famous for its blue cloth, dyed with woad.

Above the row of shops on Bridge Street you can see windows blocked up to avoid the window tax. These buildings were built in the late 1700s when the bridge was widened to align with the newly built North Parade. There are only a handful of bridges in the UK with buildings on them and these are the only ones which are three storeys.

On the ground between the Blue House gate and The Blue Boar you can see the change in paving that marks the site of the old lock-up. As you walk towards King

Street you are passing through the lower market, where the cattle market was held from medieval times up to the 1870s. Look down again between Julian House and Dorothy House charity shops and you will see a boot scraper, handily positioned to scrape the resulting mess from your boots!

The bus shelters on either side of the road here are engraved with images taken from the negatives of the Singer collection held at the Frome Museum. The Singer Foundry produced famous public statues such as Lady Justice on the Old Bailey and Boudicca and Her Daughters on the Embankment. The dragon, seen on the bus shelter, is from the statue that sits on top of Cardiff City Hall; the whereabouts of the

original angel depicted on the other bus shelter is a mystery!

Opposite the Archangel is Apple Lane a cut through to Cheap Street. To the left is Apple Alley, take a look down here to get an

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idea of what late medieval Frome may have looked like. You can see the backs of the buildings

At ground level Cheap Street is mainly Victorian and modern frontages. Make sure to look up to see some of the remains of the Tudor buildings of the 16th century.

Before crossing to The George stroll left to the corner. You can see 'Singers' over the door of no. 25, recalling that this is where JW Singer lived for most of his life and where his business began - it was re-gilded in 2019 for the Casting the World Project. On the building on the corner you can see the ghosts of the signs of Aldhelm Ashby, a photographer and fine art dealer who traded here from 1917 into the late 50s.

Catherine Hill is said to be riddled with



Catherine Hill

Foundry Barton Camel



culverted streams and tunnels, many explored by the local tunnels group. Inside Bonbon Chic you can see one of the springs in action through a glass panel in the floor in front of the till.

There are drain covers on the corner of Palmer Street that say Cockeyes - the foundry that made these and the famous lamps was where the new houses on Rook Lane are now, behind buildings to your right.

If you ever wondered why Bath Street is not on the Bath side of town, at the end of Palmer Street if you look

to the right, up Bath Street you can see the line of the old Rook Lane in the row of terraced buildings up to Rook Lane Chapel.

The other side of the street was demolished to create Bath Street. Over the road above Fiat Lux, you can see the cartouche of Thomas Thynne, the 2nd Marquess of Bath who sold the land so the new road could be built and after whom it is named.

Before turning right into the Westway you could take a detour down Waterloo to see the old site of the Singer Foundry. There are several displays giving information about the company on the corner of Henley Way and round the corner up the steps in Foundry Barton. Look out for the camel!