



# LONDON BRIDGE WALKING TOUR

Lake Havasu City, AZ

## 1. Start the Self-Guided Tour.

Begin your tour in the Visitor Center where you can see a display of Robert McCulloch's chainsaws, view photos on the history wall and watch a video about the relocation of the London Bridge.

## 2. Go to the gate.



Walk out the front door and turn left. The gate at the entrance of the English village was a part of Witley Court in Worcester, England. Witley Court was remodeled as a grand Italianate palace for the Earl of Dudley in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Following a fire in 1937 Witley court changed hands several times, eventually falling into the hands of a salvage dealer. Robert McCulloch bought one of the gates and shipped it to Lake Havasu City.



Scan the QR code or  
visit [golakehasasu.com/london-bridge](http://golakehasasu.com/london-bridge)  
to learn more.

### 3. Walk to the pedestals with the dragons.



When the London Bridge was dedicated in 1971, McCulloch gifted one acre of land next to the London Bridge to the City of London. The City of London placed the pedestals on the border between their land and the village. The City of London also built the Pub (now the Visitor Center). After a few years, they sold their gift...but we kept the pedestals!

### 4. Walk to the fountain.

The fountain was built in 1999 with stones from Mexico and the lions from a Las Vegas landscape company. While it is a lovely addition to the English Village, it has no relevance to the London Bridge.

### 5. Walk down to the channel's edge.

Check out the little shops and eateries. Stroll to the first arch of the London Bridge.

### 6. Go to the concrete steps on the left.

Look up and see the large granite blocks. These granite blocks are from Haytor Quarry in Dartmoor, England. Workers created them without the convenience of electricity or steam, just manpower.

### 14. Stop when halfway across the bridge and look to the right.

- In the distance you can see Cupcake Mountain that resembles a cupcake, especially when dusted with winter snow.
- The golf course you see, Bridgewater Links Golf Course, was created using the dirt removed when the channel under the bridge was dug.
- Kokomo is a popular night club at the London Bridge Resort.
- The smooth, polished granite stone at the end of the London Bridge is the first stone laid. The last stone is on the other side.
- Walk down the steps, and your tour is complete!

### Fun Facts

- The London Bridge is rumored to be haunted. For years, visitors have claimed seeing a British police bobby patrolling the bridge and a woman in black roaming the night.
- The London Bridge is a movie star! It's been featured in such horror films as *Bridge Across Time*, aka *Terror on the London Bridge* (1985) and *Day of the Wolves* (1971).
- The London Bridge is home to hundreds of bats, which inhabit the nooks and crannies of its hollow interior.
- Also calling the London Bridge home are thousands of swallows who, on the underside of the bridge, have built their nests out of mud pellets gathered from the shoreline of the Bridgewater Channel.
- With its opening in October 1971, the London Bridge became known as the world's largest antique, making Lake Havasu City a world-famous attraction with the second largest tourist attraction in Arizona.
- A top new sneaker release for 2018, the *Concepts x New Balance Made in UK 991.5 "Lake Havasu"* athletic shoe, was inspired by the story of the London Bridge's relocation to Lake Havasu City.



- Looking to the right across the lake you can see Havasu Landing where the Chemehuevi tribe owns a casino, hotel and restaurant. A pedestrian ferry regularly crosses the lake to Havasu Landing. The ferry dock and kiosk are just north of the bridge, where you can purchase a round-trip ticket.
- On the right at the end of the channel you see one of the 28 lighthouses that are located along the shores of Lake Havasu. They are US Coast Guard approved navigational lights, and all are replicas of lighthouses from around the US and Canada. The lighthouses on the east side of the lake are from the east coast, the ones on the west side are from the west coast. The ones on the island are from the Great Lakes area.

**10. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.**

**11. Walk towards the steps.**

**12. At about 10 steps from the bottom, look back at the abutment.**

You can see where two American soldiers from the First Infantry Division carved their names into the London Bridge when they were in London during World War II.



**1942**  
**SGT. FITZWATER**  
**PFC SMITH**



**13. Go up the steps.**

Stay on this side and cross the London Bridge again.

**7. Count the steps as you go up!**

**8. Walk to the statue.**



Robert Paxton McCulloch was born May 11, 1911, in Missouri to Richard McCulloch and Mary Grace Briggs. He is well known for manufacturing a “light weight” chainsaw. He also manufactured outboard boat engines, and he purchased lakeside property on Lake Havasu along Pittsburgh Point to test his boat engines. He left Los Angeles and moved his business to Lake Havasu. In 1963, on the courthouse steps of Kingman, Arizona, McCulloch purchased a 26-square-mile (67 km<sup>2</sup>) parcel of barren desert for under \$75 an acre. That land would become the site for Lake Havasu City.

In 1964 McCulloch opened a chainsaw manufacturing facility here, and within two years there were three facilities with approximately 400 employees.

As a way of encouraging new residents to Lake Havasu City, McCulloch bought 10 Constellation and Electra airplanes and invited people from all over the country to visit Lake Havasu City. By providing a free flight and complimentary lodging and meals, he tried to sell parcels of land. The city grew, but not as fast as he’d hoped.

## Purchase of London Bridge

The search for a unique attraction for his new city eventually took McCulloch to London in 1968. By the early 1960s it was apparent that John Rennie's 1831 London Bridge was sinking into the River Thames, and the City of London Corporation determined that a new bridge was needed. Rather than demolish the existing bridge, they decided to auction off the historic landmark. McCulloch bought the London Bridge for nearly \$2.5 million.

It took three years to complete the project. The structure was dismantled block by block, with each section marked and numbered. It was then shipped through the Panama Canal to Long Beach, California. From Long Beach, the granite blocks were trucked inland 300 miles (500 km). The bridge was reassembled by matching the numbered stones. After the reconstruction, the channel was dug under the bridge.

The London Bridge was opened on October 10, 1971. With the purchase of the London Bridge, McCulloch accelerated his development campaign, increasing the number of flights into the city. At the time, the airport was located across the London Bridge on the island. The free flights to Lake Havasu lasted until 1978; approximately 2,702 flights brought 137,000 prospective buyers to the city.

A popular urban legend is that McCulloch mistakenly believed that he was buying the more impressive Tower Bridge. However, that is not the case; he knew which bridge he was purchasing.

Robert P. McCulloch passed away February 25, 1977 in Los Angeles.



Robert Paxton McCulloch (left) and C.V. Wood (right)

Cornelius Vanderbilt "C.V." Wood (December 17, 1920 – March 14, 1992) was an American developer of amusement parks and planned communities. He is most noted as the chief developer of Disneyland, having been hired by Walt Disney to become vice president and general manager of Disneyland.

Wood was also the chief designer for Lake Havasu City.

In addition to his success as a developer, Wood won the International Chili Society's 1969 and 1971 Annual World Championship Chili Contest.

## **9. Cross the London Bridge.**

- On the right, you see the October 1971 dedication plaque.
- Stop at one of the streetlights and read the inscription. Note the City of London coat of arms (red cross and sword).
- The bridge was dedicated in London in 1831. In 1815 Napoleon escaped from Elba. With the French army behind him, he fought the battle of Waterloo against the British and lost. A British general, the Duke of Wellington, brought Napoleon's cannons to England. They melted the cannons and made them into streetlights, which are now on the London Bridge.