



# History of London's Prisons

*Geoffrey Howse*

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London has had more prisons than any other British city. The City's 'gates' once contained prisons but probably the most notorious of all was Newgate, which stood for over 700 years. The eleventh century Tower of London was used as a prison for a variety of high profile prisoners from Sir Thomas More to the Krays. Discover the background of a variety of historic places of incarceration such as The Clink, the King's Bench Prison; and debtors prisons such as the Fleet Prison and the Marshalsea. 'Lost' prisons such as the Gatehouse in Westminster, Millbank Penitentiary, Surrey County Gaol in Horsemonger Row, The House of Detention, Coldbath Fields Prison and Tothill Fields Prison are also described in detail; as are more familiar gaols: Holloway, Pentonville, Brixton, Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs. In his *A History of London's Prisons* Geoffrey Howse delves not only into the intricate web of historical facts detailing the origins of the capital's prisons but also includes fascinating detail concerning the day-to-day life of prisoners - from the highly born to the most despicable human specimens imaginable - as well as those less fortunate individuals who found themselves through no fault of their own 'in the clink', some soon becoming clients of the hangman or executioner.

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