

XAUUSD London Session strategy

First London hour range breakout for gold, with IST timings, LBMA auction times and a free Pine Script. By M. A. Horaira, updated 10 October 2026.

THE RULES

- **Market:** XAUUSD on the 15-minute chart
- **Range:** the high and low of the first London hour, 8 to 9 a.m. London time
- **Entry:** the first 15-minute candle between 9 a.m. and noon London time that closes beyond the range by at least a tenth of the ATR; enter at that close
- **Stop loss:** the other side of the range (its middle is an option in the settings)
- **Target:** twice the risk (2R); anything still open is closed at 4 p.m. London time
- **Skip the day:** if the range is wider than half the daily ATR, or big news is due in the window
- **Optional:** skip signals from the 10:30 a.m. London candle, when the LBMA morning gold price auction runs

WORKED EXAMPLE

First hour 4,279.60–4,291.80 (\$12.20, under half the \$58 daily ATR). Candle closes 4,295.80. Stop 4,279.60 (\$16.20), target 4,328.20 (2R). \$10,000 at 1% = 0.06 lots: – \$97 / +\$194.



Illustrative chart drawn to show the rules, not a real day's prices.

TIMES IN IST

	Summer	Winter
First London hour	12:30 – 13:30	13:30 – 14:30
Breakout window	13:30 – 16:30	14:30 – 17:30
LBMA auctions	15:00, 19:30	16:00, 20:30
Close open trades	20:30	21:30

Summer = BST for London times and US daylight time for US times.
UK clocks change on 25 Oct 2026, US clocks on 1 Nov 2026.

BEFORE EVERY TRADE

- ☐ Range from 8 to 9 a.m. LONDON time?
- ☐ Range no wider than half the daily ATR?
- ☐ Candle CLOSED outside the range, 9 a.m. to noon?
- ☐ First breakout today?
- ☐ No big news due before 4 p.m. London?

BACKTEST IT BEFORE YOU TRADE IT

1. Open the chart on TradingView.
2. Pine Editor → paste the free script → Add to chart.
3. Settings → Properties: add your commission and slippage.
4. Look for 100+ trades, a profit factor above 1 after costs, and a drawdown you can live with.
5. Check the same settings on other dates, then demo trade for a few weeks.
6. Free script: pipledgerfx.com/downloads/xauusd-london-session-strategy.pine

For education only, not investment advice. Trading forex and gold on margin carries a high risk of loss, and no strategy wins every time. No backtest results are claimed here: test the rules yourself with your own costs. In India, residents may trade currency pairs only through SEBI-registered brokers on recognised exchanges (NSE, BSE, MSE) and gold on MCX; offshore forex and CFD platforms aren't allowed under FEMA. Full guide:

pipledgerfx.com/xauusd-london-session-strategy