



The Royal Docks is full of intriguing stories – past and present – but sometimes they need a little help to be brought to life. We have created a series of walks around the area, unearthing the anecdotes and inspirations hiding under the surface.

A woman with long dark hair tied back, wearing a white long-sleeved top and sunglasses, is sitting on a bench by a river. She is looking out at a bridge in the background. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly blurred style, suggesting a peaceful and scenic environment.

Fill your day with a Royal Docks adventure

The trails



Scan me!

Or for more information and full maps of each walk, head over to: royaldocks.london/trails



Bring the family along for a fun exploration

Wondering Wanderers is a great choice to really get under the skin of the Royal Docks and all its hidden stories, especially if you're bringing children along. Brought to you by the Royal Docks Team with Patchlarks and Lunes, Wondering Wanderers comes with fun challenges to complete and interesting facts – from the "Seeking the Sleeping Giant" walking tour, we learned that a live elephant was once brought by ship into Royal Victoria Dock! Insider tip: pick up a Brompton bike to enjoy your Wondering Wanderers tour in style for the "Ride to the Heart of the Docks" route, which highlights the best sights of this amazing and vast area, as you'll want to be able to cover a bit more ground.



Take a walk along East London's open air gallery

The Line, East London's open air gallery, passes right through the Royal Docks. Wander on, either north up along the River Lea or south to Greenwich. One of our favourite moments along The Line is Bird Boy (without a tail), the little statue by Laura Ford that stands curiously right in the waters of Royal Victoria Dock. The Line, which is a registered charity, now has an audio component to it as well: a free app called Bloomberg Connects gives you three choices for your walk along The Line. You could delve deeper by listening to the artists themselves talk about it, or you could focus on nature and local history with interesting local anecdotes read by actor Bill Nighy. You could even turn your walk into a wellbeing experience by opting for one of the custom-made walking meditations.



Dive deep into local community history

Custom House Community Walks are one of the best ways to learn about the area's hidden histories. Run by Custom House Bookshop, this is a true local experience – previous walks have been to Woolwich Dockyard, and a walk from London and all the way to the sea (not all at once!). You'll have to see what's on the walking agenda for the day, but one of the most fascinating stories of the areas is the Millennium Mills, which started its life as a giant flour operation and is now a much sought-after filming location, including Hollywood blockbusters: some of the biggest scenes in Spider-Man: Far from Home were filmed at the Millennium Mills.



Discover stories from young locals on your way

ARGH! Mateys! There are a lot of portholes around the docks, and now they come with a layer of augmented reality. Created by researchers from UCL's Connected Environments lab, ARGH! Mateys is full of stories written by young people from local organisations including Fight for Peace, Youth Empowerment, West Silvertown Foundation and the Royal Docks Learning & Activity Centre. Enjoy the stories on your walk, and then stop off for a hot cocoa or coffee at one of the Royal Docks' best cafes. We really like the new Perky Blenders x Goodvibes in Royal Victoria Dock, the Well Bean Co cafe in Royal Albert Wharf (they make their own chocolate right here in the Royal Docks!), and Little Hudson Cafe in Silvertown.



Explore the sounds and music of the Royal Docks

MSCTY x Royal Docks is a soundtrack to the Royal Docks, enabling you to experience the area in a brand new way by combining music with architecture and cultural heritage. These tracks, created by music and architecture agency MSCTY alongside local musicians and sound artists, are inspired by various spots around the docks, and these places are now geo-tagged so people can listen to the tracks for free. There's also an audio walk connecting the music if you want to experience them all in turn (also available online). But even as you're lost in the sound, take a moment to look up at the Connaught Crossing – many locals say the view from there, with such big skies, is their favourite. Where else in London can you get such an uninterrupted view without having to climb a big hill?



The architecture that shaped Silvertown

Spaces of Silvertown explores the changing architecture of the Royal Docks. Created by UP Projects, this August walking tour provides a boost of critical thinking about how architecture responds to socio-political changes – that's the theme for the walk by writer Owen Hatherley. He argues that the approach to planning hasn't always been coherent in Silvertown, with successive developments laid on top of each other and not entirely joining up. Spaces of Silvertown will include stories about local icons such as the Tate & Lyle Sugars refinery and Brick Lane Music Hall, which despite the name is in Silvertown; tag along to find out how this came to be.

Saturday 7 August 2021
2–5pm

The Making Space walks

Book your place online for these August trails, available online from October: royaldocks.london/trails

A different light on our beloved community art

Play and Place is an opportunity to look at some of the Royal Docks' favourite public artworks in a new light. Created by UP Projects and taking place in August, Play and Place sees poet and playwright Inua Ellams guide people through a set of creative activities, inspired by Jessie Brennan's artworks Go the Distance, Custom House Is Our House and Take Your Place. The walk (which you can join by booking online) will have ice-breakers, games and mini workshops aimed at getting to the heart of how we build relationships, and the meaning of play and place. Collaboration with community groups in the Royal Docks is at the heart of Brennan's work. For example Take Your Place is displayed across the walls of Royal Docks Adventure, developed by the artist after talking with the people who use the sports centre – it's a call to action.

Saturday 14 August 2021
2–5pm



Why the Royal Docks looks the way it does

One of the most planned-for spaces in the world is a real treat for those who have a big-picture view of the Royal Docks in the past, present and future. In this walk, sculptor and artist Eloise Hawser asks questions about how building roads and new rail lines has shaped what this area looks like – not to mention the choice to place the airport here, as well as things we might not consider such as sewer systems. Book via the website to join this walk by UP Projects, which takes place in August, where Hawser will share stories from the docks' history before turning to the future. Special emphasis is placed on the vast transformation that lies ahead for Albert Island, which will have a new commercial boatyard, marina, and a modern shipyard built with sustainability at its core.

Saturday 21 August 2021
2–5pm

See you in the Royal Docks!

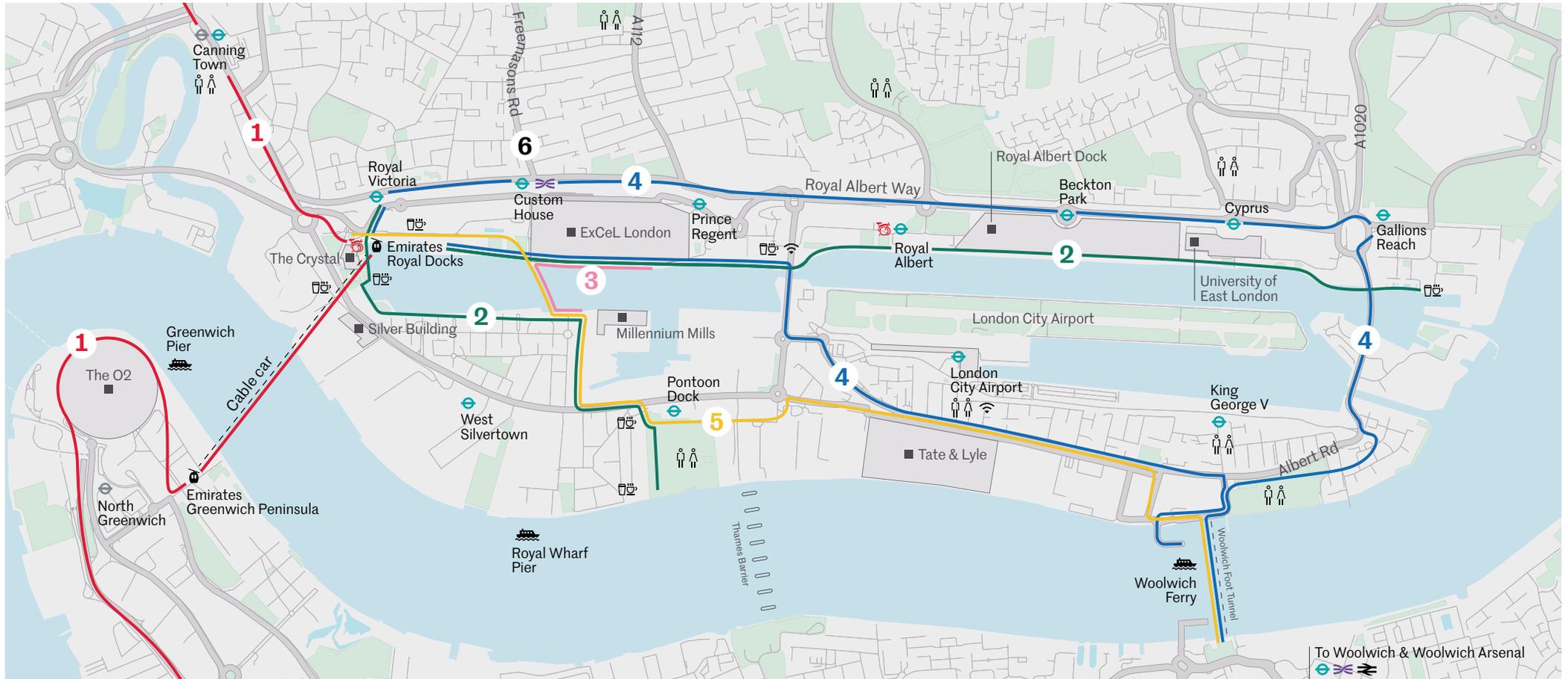
Lose yourself in audio dramas with a local flavour

This Is Who We Are is a truly unique way to experience the Royal Docks. Arts production hub Arch 468 created this audio trail stretching the length of the docks, with five audio dramas by local writers that all take inspiration from the dock environment. The stories focus on the history and future of the Royal Docks, its links to the wider world, as well as the experience of living here. It's a good show: the stories have been professionally recorded with actors. The QR codes can all be found in Thames Barrier Park – did you know the garden has its own microclimate? We've been planting lots of new trees there, and there are plans to make this park even better this year, including restoring the cafe. In the meantime, enjoy the sweeping views as you make your way towards the barriers for a photo opportunity.



Even if you've lived in the Royal Docks your whole life, there's always something new and exciting to experience in this emerging part of London. Step outside and see for yourself.

Trails at a glance



- 1 — The Line**
- 2 — Wondering Wanders**
- 3 — ARGH! Mateys**
- 4 — This Is Who We Are**
- 5 — MSCTY x Royal Docks**
- 6 — Custom House Community Walks**

Transport

- Jubilee line
- DLR
- Elizabeth line
- National rail
- Emirates Air Line
- River Bus
- Brompton Bike Hire

Scan me!

Or for more information and full maps of each walk, head over to: royaldocks.london/trails



See what's happening next at: www.royaldocks.london/whats-on

Search for "YourRoyalDocks" on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #RoyalDocks to share your pictures and stories with us.

Sign up to our newsletter at: www.royaldocks.london

So many choices – but where to go?

20 mins

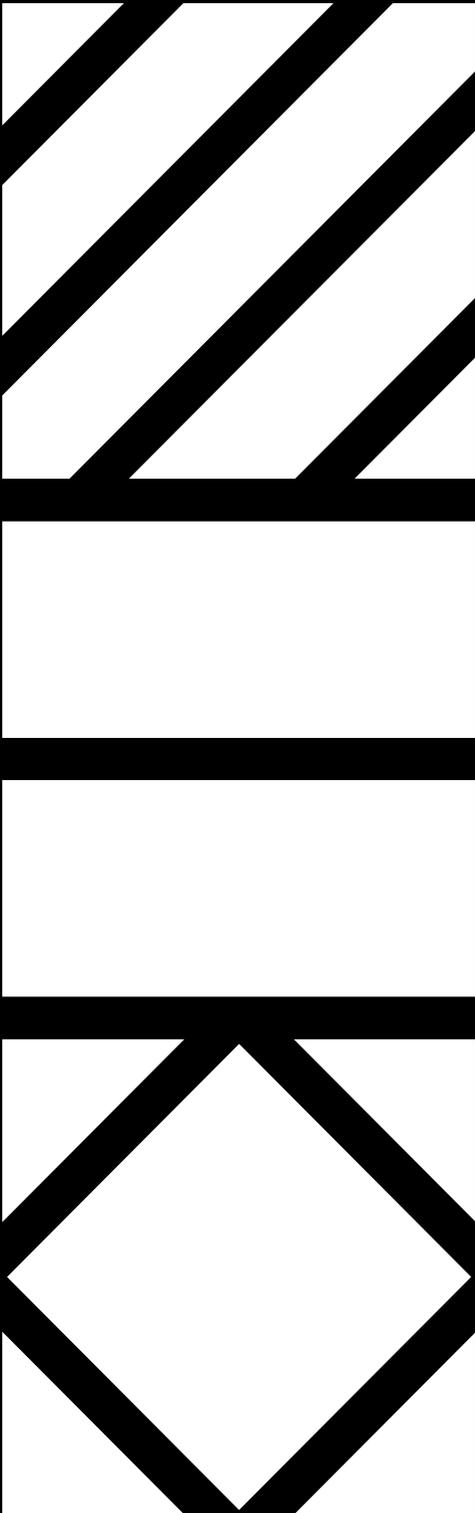
If you have **20 minutes**, wander out past the Gallions Point Marina and listen to “He Comes to the River to Breathe”, on the **This Is Who We Are** walk.

60 mins

If you have **an hour**, rent a Brompton bicycle and loop around the western docks with the **Wondering Wanders**, from Gallions Reach to Thames Barrier Park and back again.

3 hours +

If you have **all afternoon**, make it a **MSCTY x Royal Docks** day: start with a slow meander across the Royal Victoria Dock Bridge and listen to “Passing Currents”. Loop around North Woolwich and take your pick – we especially like “Deep Time” which is intended for listening while moving through the foot tunnel.



The Royal Docks is a place full of stories, discovery and exploration

For your next story, we've made this handy tear-off bookmark for you to colour in.

Post it on Instagram using the hashtag #yourroyaldocks – we'd love to see your creation!

See what's happening next at:
www.royaldocks.london/whats-on

Search for "[YourRoyalDocks](#)" on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use [#RoyalDocks](#) to share your walks with us.

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www.royaldocks.london