

# The East End & Docklands

WHITECHAPEL | BETHNAL GREEN | HACKNEY | MILE END | VICTORIA PARK | HACKNEY WICK | STRATFORD | WAPPING | LIMEHOUSE | DOCKLANDS

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Stopping to smell the roses at London's most fragrant market, **Columbia Road** (p237).
- 2 Seeing the latest brilliant exhibition at the groundbreaking **Whitechapel Gallery** (p224).
- 3 Taking in the landscaped majesty, incredible architecture and fauna-filled wetlands of East London's mighty **Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park** (p228).
- 4 Having a summertime supper by the Regent's Canal at **Towpath** (p231).
- 5 Heading to **Whitechapel** (p224) for a burst of multicultural London and authentic Bangladeshi cuisine.



For more detail of this area see Map p453 and p454 →

## Explore: The East End & Docklands

A vast area, the East End and Docklands has a few standout sights but will really repay those happy to wander and soak up the unique character of each of its neighbourhoods. Handily, the opening of the overground lines has made East London much easier to traverse. The three main areas to head for are the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (and neighbouring Hackney), the Docklands (and adjoining waterside Limehouse and Wapping) and Whitechapel (from which Bethnal Green is just a short hop away). Each of these has a few don't-miss attractions, but also plenty of places to linger over a coffee, lazy lunch or a few jars of ale.

### Local Life

- ➔ **Picnics** On a sunny Saturday, East Enders of all ages grab some goodies from Broadway Market (p237) and head to London Fields (p225) for a picnic and a dip in the lido.
- ➔ **Gallery** With no permanent collection, there's always something new to check out at Whitechapel Gallery (p224), before heading to Tayyabs (p231) for the daily special.
- ➔ **Hang-outs** Mix with the local art cognoscenti, sip a cocktail and take in the views at the arts hub Platform Cafe, Bar & Terrace (p235).
- ➔ **Cabaret** From lip-synching trannies to trashy burlesque, Bistrottheque (p237) and the Bethnal Green Working Men's Club (p235) always provide a fun reason to get your glad rags on.

### Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Underground** Central Line runs from the West End and the City to Bethnal Green, Mile End and Stratford.
- ➔ **Overground** From Camden and Highbury, the overground affords a quick link to Hackney, Hackney Wick and Stratford. A separate branch connects Dalston and the southerly stops of Whitechapel and Wapping.
- ➔ **DLR** Starting at Tower Gateway or Bank, the DLR provides a scenic link to Limehouse and Docklands, as well as joining the dots with Stratford Domestic and International stations further north.
- ➔ **Bus** The 55 from Oxford St is a handy route to Hackney, as is the 38 from Victoria via Islington. The 277 runs from Hackney to the Docklands, via Victoria Park.
- ➔ **Train** A quick ride to London Fields, Cambridge Heath or Stratford from Liverpool St. The high-speed link from St Pancras whisks you to Stratford International in just seven minutes.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The most genial way to get around the East End is along the water. Cyclists and pedestrians can drop down to Regent's Canal at the bottom of Broadway Market and follow the waterway to Limehouse. Branching east of this at Victoria Park, the Hertford Union Canal will deliver you to Hackney Wick and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. From Limehouse Basin you can also pick up the Thames Path and follow it along the river to St Katharine Docks.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wapping Food (p234)
- ➔ Formans (p234)
- ➔ Viajante (p233)
- ➔ Towpath (p231)
- ➔ Whitechapel Gallery Dining Room (p231)

For reviews, see p230 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dove Freehouse (p235)
- ➔ Grapes (p236)
- ➔ Carpenter's Arms (p235)
- ➔ Royal Inn on the Park (p236)
- ➔ Palm Tree (p236)

For reviews, see p234 ➔

### Best Places for East End History

- ➔ Museum of London Docklands (p229)
- ➔ Sutton House (p225)
- ➔ Ragged School Museum (p227)
- ➔ House Mill (p227)

For reviews, see p224 ➔