

ROUTE 5

A Tale of Three Boroughs

This walking route begins at Wanstead Park in Newham and weaves through Redbridge before ending at Leytonstone in Waltham Forest. Experience some of the quieter streets that have been created as part of the South Leytonstone Low Traffic Neighbourhood before exploring the wonders of Wanstead Flats in Epping Forest. You'll end in the new Business Low Emission Neighbourhood (BLEN) in Leytonstone where you'll be able to visit a range of local amenities and businesses.



	Walking	Cycling
Distance	3.8 miles	
Time	60 to 75 minutes	30 to 40 minutes
Accessibility	The route is flat however the middle section goes through Wanstead Flats which may be uneven and/or muddy depending on the time of year.	
How to get here	The route starts at Wanstead Park Station and ends at Leytonstone High Road Station which are both on the Gospel Oak to Barking Riverside Overground Line. Both Wanstead Park Station and Leytonstone High Road Station are accessible by numerous local bus routes.	



This route begins at Wanstead Park Station.

1. If you arrived via Overground, exit the station onto Woodgrange Road and turn right to begin walking north. After approximately 100m you will reach a pedestrian crossing – cross Woodgrange Road here and turn left into Dames Road.
2. At the junction of Dames Road and Woodgrange Road you will notice a large, raised flowerbed that is maintained as part of the 'Bloomin' Forest Gate' initiative.

BLOOMIN' FOREST GATE

The programme was initiated via the Forest Gate citizens assembly and developed by local residents and partners, with thousands of flower bulbs planted by the Forest Gate Greening and Gardening group, local residents and community groups throughout Forest Gate in parks, raised beds, schools, churchyards, verges and more. Keep your eyes open and see how many different locations you can find them in, and why not take a photo and share the beauty on social media using #Bloominforestgate.



3. Turn left into Dames Road and walk past the Forest Gate Learning Zone which offers a range of courses for adults. Ahead of you on your right is Vera Lynn Close.

DAME VERA LYNN

Dame Vera Lynn was born in Thackeray Road, East Ham, in 1917, and to mark the milestone of her 100th birthday in 2017, Newham Council erected new signs in streets with a connection to Dame Vera, including Thackeray Road, Ladysmith Avenue, and Dame Vera Lynn Close in Forest Gate, where the unveiling was supported by members of Newham-based G Company 7 Rifles.

- Next, turn left into Bignold Road where the former Forest Glen pub used to be, then right at its junction with Station Road onto Station Road. Continue along Station Road onto Winchelsea Road and into Waltham Forest (but beware of the Bengal Tiger!) This stretch of Winchelsea Road is home to several bars and cafés including The Wanstead Tap and Burgess and Hall Wines. Why not take a break and relax in the parklet outside!



- Turn left into Huddlestone Road opposite the parklet, then right into Odessa Road. Continue along Odessa Road until you reach Cann Hall Road, then turn right. Opposite you will see Cann Hall Park which features a skate park, a café, and a farmer's market which takes place on Sundays.

- Continue along Cann Hall Road until you reach the crossroad with Dames Road, Harrow Road and Lakehouse Road. At this point you can either cross Dames Road at the pedestrian crossing and walk straight ahead onto Wanstead Flats, or alternatively take a short detour to The Holly Tree on Dames Road where you can ride on their miniature railway in their garden.

- When you reach Jubilee Pond (and Redbridge) turn right and follow the path around the pond anti-clockwise – keep an eye out for the aquatic plants and wildfowl such as coot, mallard and moorhens.



- Once you have completed your lap of the pond, turn right towards the car park and follow the track, keeping the car park on your left. Go through the trees to a clearing and keep going straight until you reach a crossroads in the tracks. Keep walking straight ahead until you reach Lakehouse Road. Cross the road (there is no pedestrian crossing here so be careful of the traffic) and turn right towards the mini-roundabout.

- At the mini-roundabout bear left, then turn left onto Blake Hall Crescent. Follow the road around and then turn right at the junction with Belgrave Road and then immediately left onto Blake Hall Road. Walk to the bus stop, and immediately behind the bus stop there is an entrance to Bush Wood.

10. From Blake Hall Road a long avenue of trees stretches in an easterly direction towards Leytonstone. This is Evelyn's Avenue, part of the elaborate system of tree-avenues that radiated from the estate of Wanstead House. The remains of secondary avenues, leading off the main one, are also present in Bush Wood and include the remaining specimens of sweet chestnuts that were planted over 300 years ago.
11. Bear left at the fork in the track and continue walking along the path past the holly trees.
12. When you arrive at the next crossroads, bear left and walk towards the clearing in the trees.
13. Continue walking straight ahead – if you look closely you'll be able to see The Shard between the trees!

London Skyline between trees



14. After approximately 0.5km (5 minutes) you will reach an open expanse of land with a crossroads. Turn right at the crossroads and walk towards Davies Lane (you should be able to see the large buildings of Davies Lane Primary School ahead of you). At this point you are now re-entering Waltham Forest.

METROPOLITAN DRINKING FOUNTAIN

On your right you will be able to see one of the few surviving drinking fountains provided by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association in Leytonstone, constructed of polished red granite. The association itself was established in 1859 by philanthropists Samuel Gurney MP of Ham House and Edward Wakefield to provide free drinking water.

15. Continue walking down Davies Lane, past the new rain gardens which have been introduced as part of the Business Low Emission Neighbourhood 'Green Links' project to provide a nature corridor between Leytonstone High Road and Wanstead Flats.
16. At the end of Davies Lane, you can either turn right onto Leytonstone High Road into Leytonstone Town Centre or left towards Leytonstone High Road Overground Station. The Station is accessed via the black gates on the right immediately after the 'Leytonstone' railway bridge.

WHAT TO DO AFTERWARDS?

If the walk has whet your appetite you can walk a little bit further into Leytonstone for a drink and something to eat at one of the many cafés or pubs.

Route length: 3.8 miles

