

Stratford to North Greenwich (The Line: A Dedicated Modern and Contemporary Art Walk)		
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## Stratford to North Greenwich (The Line: A Dedicated Modern and Contemporary Art Walk)

**Start:** Stratford Station or Stratford High Street DLR

**Finish:** North Greenwich Underground

**Length:** 11.2 km covered, of which 8.3 km are walked

**Time:** 2 ½ hours total time.

**Transport:** Stratford Station is served by Main Line Services from Liverpool Street, by the Central and Jubilee Lines and by the DLR and the Overground. North Greenwich is served by the Jubilee Line. The two-stop DLR journey (Star Lane to Royal Victoria) often requires a change at Canning Town. The 'Emirates Air Line'-cable car closes at 22.00 hours in summer and 21.00 in winter (but 1 hour later on Fri and Sat; 09/2022 adult prices: £5.00 on Oyster Pay As You Go or online, £6.00 cash fare).

**Refreshments** (details last updated 30/09/2022)

**The Last Drop Café** Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, next to the Arcelor Mittal Tower, open 10.00-18.00;

**Miller's House Café** in the House Mill, Three Mills Lane, staffed by volunteers, usually open 11.00-16.00 weekends and sometimes also on weekdays;

**Riverside Café at Cody Dock** Cody Dock, 11c South Crescent, open 09.00-16.00 Mon-Fri and 10.00-16.00 weekends;

**Star Lane Pizza Bar** 12 Cody Road, open 12.00-22.00 Tue-Sat;

**The Cabin Café** Cody Road, open 06.00-14.00 Mon-Fri;

Plenty of options around Royal Victoria Docks and in North Greenwich, in and around the O2-Dome.

### Walk Notes:

This walk makes use of the The Line – London's first dedicated modern and contemporary art walk, which is fully waymarked and split into three parts, linked by a short DLR ride and the Emirates Air Line cable car across the Thames. It is displaying a changing range of sculptures, all by prominent artists, while including some large artworks already in place. There are currently about twenty of them, although some of those were pre-existing artworks, in situ before The Line was launched.

The route starts in the Olympic Park and initially follows the Bow Back Rivers downstream, passing Three Mills Green & Water Mill (the largest tidal mill in the world) and Film and Television Studios (London's largest) and then follows the River Lea to Cody Dock, a community project on a former Gasworks site. After a short ride on the DLR you reach Royal Victoria Dock and take the cable car across the Thames. En route the DLR journey, a new artwork has been installed on the City Island development, accessible from Canning Town Underground DLR and Station.

The route then finishes with a stretch along the Thames Path rounding the O2-Dome, before turning to North Greenwich Underground Station and the neighbouring wide range of eateries and waterholes on the plaza and inside the Dome itself.

For The Line's website click [here](#). For a sketch map of the route click [here](#).

### Walk Options:

You can cut the walk short at Star Lane DLR/Canning Town tube stations (4.9 km walked distance) or at North Greenwich tube station (before rounding the O2-Dome, 6.5 km walked distance).

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Follow signs for the **Town Centre Exit** (i.e.: **NOT** the exit for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Westfield Stratford City). This is the exit close to the Jubilee Line platforms. Once through the barriers *veer right* towards '**Robert**', a heritage locomotive displayed on the station forecourt. **This is an ideal meeting point for groups**. With the station in your back, *turn left* along the station forecourt and in 50m *turn left* up a flight of stairs. You pass the upper-level station exit and ascend another flight of stairs to continue along a very wide pedestrian bridge across the railway tracks.

Continue across the footbridge towards the **Westfield Shopping Centre** and in 180m on the other side *veer left* along **The Street**, a part-covered pedestrianised shopping street, ignoring the right fork through some doors into the covered part of the centre. In 200m *turn left* along a broad pedestrianised lane, ignoring the right bearing continuation of The Street. You walk between some food outlets and in 90m cross a road at some lights. Follow the broad path through part of the **International Quarter South** and in 100m cross a bridge over first some railway tracks (DLR, Overground and Mainline) and then a road and continue to the right of the **Aquatics Centre** (built on the site of an **Iron Age settlement** and burial ground: 4 skeletons up to 3,000 years old were found during the works).

*The development area on the right is called '**Stratford Waterfront**', the future 'Education and Culture District': it will have a **V&A satellite** (dedicated to digital art and changing curated exhibitions), a second **Sadler's Wells** dance theatre and the **London College of Fashion** (part of the University of the Arts).*

You continue across a bridge crossing the **Waterworks River**, one of the **Bow Back Rivers** – a complex of channels connecting the River Lea to the River Thames.

*In the water on the left and right, a long row of 35 coloured posts is an artwork: **Steles** by **Keith Wilson**, also used as mooring posts.*

On the other side of the bridge, with the **London Stadium** ahead, *turn left* along a broad path, parallel to the Waterworks River on the left below. In 110m you pass the **Pixel Wall** artwork on the right and in 30m a path on the right between two buildings leading to Britain's tallest artwork, the **ArcelorMittal Orbit** (115m high and created by Anish Kapoor in 2012), with the World's longest and tallest tunnel slide, **The Slide** (178m long and created by Carsten Höller in 2016) wrapped around it.

**The Orbit and The Slide** are now incorporated as the first 'artworks' into **The Line**, and this is therefore the start point of the (very intermittently) waymarked route. You pass **The Last Drop Café** and in 35m cross **Thornton Street**, by Thornton Bridge on the left. Stay to the left of the UCL construction site and in 40m *fork left* gently downhill to the riverside and in 60m go down some steps (ignore a left turn across another bridge), following signs for 'Stratford High Street' and 'Greenway'. In 25m go with the narrowing path under first a road then a railway bridge and on the other side gently ascend with the path past some allotments on the right.

In 100m cross a tarmac lane by a bridge on the left and follow the path curving to the right with the river to in 170m meet a very wide tarmac path at a T-junction. This is **The Greenway**, an embankment over the **Northern Outfall Sewer**, built 1860-65. *Turn left* along it to cross the Waterworks River and at the High Street cross the road at a set of lights and *turn right* along the opposite pavement, in 150m reaching **Groves Bridge** over a river (with **Dane's Yard Tower**, a 40m wooden illuminated sculpture in the shape of an Olympic torch, on the far side).

This is the **Three Mills Wall River**, another one of the **Bow Back Rivers**. *Turn left* along a tarmac path *this side of the bridge* (signposted 'Towpath to House Mill'), with the river on your right-hand side. The island on the right across the water is **Sugar House Island**, named after a former sugar refinery. In 150m you pass – amongst all the newbuilds – a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brick warehouse on the right, the only remainder of the refinery business. In another 150m *turn right* to cross a bridge over the **Prescott Channel**, a left forking flood relief channel (4,000 tons of stone from the **Euston Arch** were dumped in it in 1962 to block a hole in the canal), onto **Three Mills Island** to continue in the previous direction, keeping the Three Mills Wall River on your right.

In 70m pass the **Wild Kingdom** playscape and in 115m the **Three Mills Memorial** and in 250m, with **Three Mills Studios** on the left, *turn right* to walk between the buildings of **Clock Mill**, **Custom House** and **House Mill**, with the **Miller's House Café**. [The granite slabs in the cobbled ground here form a trackway, 200 years-old and for use by grain carts; House Mill is the world's largest surviving tidal mill.] At the corner of House Mill, *turn left* along a riverside path, with the now tidal **Lea River** on the left, and the non-tidal **Lee Navigation** on the right.

In 200m you walk under some railway bridges, carrying the **District Line** and **Main Line** services out of Fenchurch Street, and in 190m walk under **Twelvetrees Crescent** road bridge to *veer left* immediately on the other side up a ramp (Twelvetrees Crescent Bridge) to street level, ignoring the continuation of the waterside path towards **Bow Tidal Locks**. At the top of the ramp, *turn right* along Twelvetrees Crescent with a **Leaway South** marker stone in the ground, towards some of the 7 (of formerly 8) cast iron gas holders of the **Bromley-by-Bow Gas Works**. In 60m *turn right* down some steps *and right again* to join the riverbank and *turn left* along it.

Follow the tarmacked path – with the river on your right and warehouses and office buildings on your left – for 1 kilometre until you go over a narrow bridge onto **Cody Dock**, constructed in the early 1870s to enable trans-shipment of coal from Newcastle onto smaller lighters going further upriver to the Bromley-by-Bow gasworks. It is nowadays an interesting community project. Follow the obvious path through it (past the **Riverside Café at Cody Dock** on the left) and in 100m walk through the gate on the far side (**open 08.00-21.00**) and continue in the same direction along **South Crescent**. In 260m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Cody Road**, in 150m pass the **Star Lane Pizza Bar** and in another 15m **The Cabin Café** and in another 100m you reach **Star Lane DLR** station.

Take the **DLR** to **Royal Victoria** (often this requires a change at **Canning Town** [change here for the Jubilee Line, if you want to cut short the walk]).

**For the new artwork displayed on City Island**, interrupt the DLR journey at Canning Town, leave the station through the 'Bow Creek/City Island' exit and at the top of the stairs (or the lift), *turn right* along **Bow Creek**, the tidal mouth of the River Lea. In 15m go up some stairs onto a red steel bridge and cross the river on the bridge onto **City Island**. On the far side, go down some steps and continue in the same direction. In 40m cross **Hopewell Square**, aiming to the right of the large **English National Ballet** building ahead (the Mulryan Centre for Dance). In 150m, at the far end of the building, enter **Botanic Square** along a path and in 60m you find the artwork installed right in the middle of the square. Return to Canning Town Station and continue the journey.

Leave Royal Victoria DLR, following signs for '**Seagull Lane**', '**City Hall**' and '**Emirates Air Line**'. From the steps down to street level *turn left* to cross Seagull Lane and *turn right* along its opposite pavement. In 120m, by the **Tidal Basin Pumping Station** on the right, cross **Western Gateway** (road) at a set of lights and *bear right* to continue through some bollards and to the right of a water basin (**Royal Victoria Dock**) to have

a look at one sculpture in the water on the left on a pontoon. **You may want to continue** for about another couple of hundred metres past the large glass-and-steel **City Hall** building with its **London's Kitchen Café**, and then an **Open Water Swimming** business and **The Oiler Bar** (on a barge), to a Thai restaurant and the **Royal Victoria (sandy) Beach**, with the **Perky Blenders X Goodvibes** coffee shop on the other side of the Expressway.

**Else turn left** to the cable car station and – unless you want to first check out **The Living Room** Bar & Terrace on the top of **The Good Hotel** 50m further along – take it across the **Thames River** [one of the artworks on The Line, a 10-minute-long audio work, has been written for the journey; you can find a link to it on The Line's website].

From the exit on the other side *turn right* (signposted Greenwich Pier) and in 30m *right again* to join the **Thames Path/Olympian Way** in 130m and *turn left* along it, soon passing – on a small part of the original coaling jetty of the **East Greenwich Gas Works** – the first of another 5 sculptures (some made especially for The Line but a couple have been here before) – while enjoying some fantastic views across the river and (with some luck) up to some people walking across the O2-Dome in their harnesses – and in 1.2 km reach the end of The Line at a path corner.

*Turn left* with the path and continue along it, always keeping the fence around the Intercontinental Hotel and then the O2-Dome on your left, until you reach **North Greenwich Bus & Underground** station (in 420m). There are plenty of options for **refreshments** around the plaza on the other side of the station and even more inside the O2-Dome.