

**Starting point** Tower Hill Tube Station/Tower Gateway DLR

**Finishing point** Shadwell Station/DLR

**Estimate time** 2.5 hours

- 1 Ivory House
- 2 Dockmasters House and Swing Bridge
- 3 The Dickens Inn
- 4 Telford's Footbridge
- 5 Wapping Pierhead Houses
- 6 The Town of Ramsgate Pub
- 7 Wapping Old Stairs
- 8 St John's Church
- 9 Captain Kidd Pub
- 10 King Henry's Wharf
- 11 Gun Wharves
- 12 Towerside and St Hildas Wharf
- 13 New Crane Wharf
- 14 The Prospect of Whitby
- 15 London Hydraulic Pumping Station
- 16 St Paul's Church
- 17 Tobacco Dock
- 18 St George in the East



From Tower Hill or Tower Gateway make your way to the left side of The Tower of London. Take some steps down and through an underpass to Commodity Quay and into St Katharine's Conservation Area. Carry on until the walkway ends and turn right to skirt the dock and through **Ivory House (1)**. Turn right to cross a wooden drawbridge and left continuing across a second bridge. **Dockmasters House and Swing Bridge (2)** can be seen on the right. The house was built in 1830 by Philip Hardwick and is still lived in.

Keep left until you reach Marble Quay, **The Dickens Inn (3)** and **Telford's Footbridge (4)**. Do not cross the small footbridge nearby, but retrace your steps a little, turn left into Mews Street, continue until you reach Thomas More Street. Turn left to reach St Katharine's Way. Take the riverside walkway opposite and follow the walkway, which has magnificent views across the Thames to Butlers Wharf and Tower Bridge. The walkway will take you back to St Katharine's Way. Turn right and continue along Wapping High Street and into the Wapping Conservation Area.

Along on the right are the attractive **Wapping Pierhead Houses (5)**. These handsome Georgian houses were built in 1811-13 for senior dock officials on either side of the entrance to the original London Docks, opened in 1805 and now filled in. Wapping High Street was first built in 1570, and once held 36 pubs catering for sailors, dockers and assorted trades linked to the thriving shipping industry.

**The Town of Ramsgate Pub (6)** is adjacent. The notorious Judge Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes was caught in the pub trying to escape after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The pub changed its name to The Town of Ramsgate in the 19th Century, after the fishermen of Ramsgate who landed their catches at **Wapping Old Stairs (7)**, which



you can see if you squeeze yourself down the alley at the side of the pub to the river shore. Convicted pirates' bodies were taken here after execution and tied to the stake at the bottom of the stairs, and left for three tides to wash over them. Captain Kidd, the naval officer turned pirate, suffered exactly that fate here in 1701.

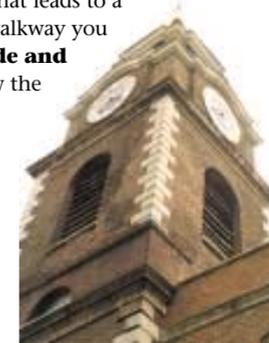
It's worth taking a left turn diversion into Scandrett Street to **St John's Church (8)**. Built in 1756 and heavily damaged during the Second World War, only the distinctive tower remains. The contrasting stone and dark brick of its tower was deliberately designed by architect Joel Johnson in order to make it visible through river mists.



Return to Wapping High Street and on to the **Captain Kidd Pub (9)**. The pub is housed in the ground and first floors of a warehouse conversion, next to St John's Wharf, a very attractive conversion of a warehouse formerly used to store coffee, dried fruit and gum, as well as Australian wool bales.

To the left as you walk on is **King Henry's Wharf (10)**, the only working warehouses in London Docklands. **Gun Wharves (11)** is next door.

After Wapping underground station and opposite Clave Street is a gate that leads to a riverside walkway. Along this walkway you will find on your left **Towerside and St Hildas Wharf (12)**. Follow the walkway until it returns to Wapping High Street. As you enter the High Street you will see on your right **New Crane Wharf (13)**, one of the loveliest warehouse developments in Docklands.



Continue past New Crane Wharf and turn right on to Wapping Wall, so named after the tidal defences built in 1570-71, when the area first came into serious maritime use. This street has several more warehouse conversions. Further on is **The Prospect of Whitby (14)**. This famous pub was once the scene of bare knuckle and cock fighting. Turner, Whistler and other leading artists of their time sketched the Thames from here. There is a noon-dial anchor in the courtyard of Prospect Wharf, on which you can mark mid-day in both Greenwich Mean Time and British Summer Time.

Opposite is the **London Hydraulic Pumping Station (15)**. Water from the dock and coal from Shadwell Basin next door once created the energy needed to drive the engines that raise and lower Tower Bridge as well as, amongst other things, the safety curtain at the London Palladium. The building today has been converted into a restaurant (Wapping Food) and an arts venue. The machinery has stopped, but can still be seen, in situ, as it now forms part of the décor.

Take the riverside walkway on the left of the pub and follow it until it ends at Glamis Road. Cross the road and turn right. Continue for a little way and then turn left into the new residential development of Shadwell Basin. When ships outgrew the original London Docks in the 19th Century, Shadwell Basin was built in 1858 to provide the space they needed. The Basin today is used by a watersports centre, and provides an attractive setting for waterside housing. The red bascule bridges across the entrances date from the 1930s.

Turn left and follow the path around the Basin. On your right and up a small flight of stairs is **St Paul's Church (16)**. Built between 1817-20 as a Waterloo church – churches said to be built in thanksgiving for victory in the



1815 battle, but also intended to be symbols of authority to keep the demobilised soldiery in check. The organ, still in use, dates from 1714.

Continue until you reach the start of the Wapping Wood Canal. Follow the path next to the canal. When the canal stops after a while carry on the main path and you will re-join the Canal Walk. Pass under Wapping Lane and up some steps to your right to **Tobacco Dock (17)** with two pirate ships in front. This Grade 1 listed building is well worth walking through, even though it is eerily quiet. Built in 1811, New Tobacco Warehouse, as it was called, was a store for tobacco, and in later years, sheepskins and furs. The unusual iron columns and superb brick vaults at the base of the building were nineteenth-century architectural innovations.

Turn right out of Tobacco Dock, if you walked through, and left onto Wapping Lane. Continue across The Highway (formerly The Ratcliffe Highway) to the churchyard of **St George in the East (18)**, one of six London churches designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor.

Walk through to the front of the church and exit right onto Canon Street Row and turn right at the Crown and Dolphin pub onto Cable Street, past Hawksmoor Mews and a well-preserved Georgian terrace on the right.

Shadwell station is a short walk further on the left, with the DLR station round the corner.



## Further information

For more detailed information take a look at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover)

### Eating and Drinking

Give your taste buds a treat in the many restaurants, bars and pubs. To find out more look for the **'Waterside restaurants, bars and pubs guide'** or visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/eating-drinking/data/waterside.cfm](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/eating-drinking/data/waterside.cfm)

### Canary Wharf restaurants and bars

[www.mycanarywharf.com](http://www.mycanarywharf.com)

### Brick Lane restaurants

[www.bricklanerestaurants.com](http://www.bricklanerestaurants.com)

### Shopping

Tower Hamlets is a great place to shop. For a definitive guide to the more unusual and unique shops in the area, pick up a copy of the **Quirky Shopping Guide** or visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/downloads/quirky-shopping-guide.pdf](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/downloads/quirky-shopping-guide.pdf)

For shops in Canary Wharf visit [www.mycanarywharf.com](http://www.mycanarywharf.com)

### Markets

Some of the best street markets in London are based in the east, find out where they are by visiting [www.eastlondonmarkets.com](http://www.eastlondonmarkets.com)

### Other Walks

For details of other history and cultural walks in Tower Hamlets visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/walks](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/walks)

### Getting here

All walks start at a London Underground station and/or Docklands Light Railway (DLR) station. A very attractive way of reaching the many sights of Tower Hamlets is to come by river. Many people like the idea of travelling by river one way and on the raised track of the DLR for the return. There are regular commuter cruises, for up to date riverboat schedules visit [www.thamesclippers.com](http://www.thamesclippers.com) or call 020 7977 6892



## Walk 2

# Shadwell and Limehouse Walk

**Starting point** Shadwell Tube/ DLR Station  
**Finishing point** Westferry Tube Station/ DLR  
**Estimate time** 2 hours

- 1 St George's Town Hall
- 2 St George in the East
- 3 Tobacco Dock
- 4 St Paul's Church
- 5 King Edward VII Memorial Park
- 6 Free Trade Wharf
- 7 Narrow Street Pub and Dining Room
- 8 Limehouse Basin
- 9 The Grapes
- 10 Booty's
- 11 The House
- 12 Ropemakers Fields
- 13 St Anne's Passage and Church
- 14 Limekiln Dock



From either Shadwell underground or DLR station, turn right along Cable Street. On the left you will see **St George's Town Hall (1)** which has a striking mural depicting the fight between local residents and the British Union of Fascists in 1936.

Continue on past a rather handsome row of Georgian Houses and Hawksmoor Mews and turn left into Cannon Street Road. At the bottom of the street is one of Nicholas Hawksmoor's masterpieces, **St George in the East (2)**.

Walk through the churchyard to the rear and turn right to exit onto the Highway. Cross into Wapping Lane to **Tobacco Dock (3)**. This Grade 1 listed building is well worth walking through, even though it is eerily quiet. Built in 1811, New Tobacco Warehouse, as it was called, was a store for tobacco, and in later years, sheepskins and furs. The unusual iron columns and superb brick vaults at the base of the building were nineteenth-century architectural innovations.

Exit in front of two pirate ships and locate the steps to the left down to Wapping Wood Canal and turn left. Follow the canal and signposted footpath to Shadwell Basin. When ships outgrew the original London Docks in the 19th Century, Shadwell Basin was built in 1858 to provide the space they needed. The Basin today is used by a water sports centre, and provides an attractive setting for waterside housing. Follow the path around the Basin. shortly on your left, on the north side, and up a small flight of steps is **St Paul's Church (4)**. Built between 1817-20 as a Waterloo church – churches said to be built in thanksgiving for victory in the 1815 battle, but also intended to be symbols of authority to keep the demobilised soldiery in check.

The Bascule Bridges across the Basin entrance date from the 1930s. Cross over Glamis Road and turn left then right along Shadwell Dock Place, south of **King Edward VII Memorial Park (5)**, following the Thames Path Trail. At the bottom turn left along the riverside walkway which offers excellent views of Rotherhithe.

Follow the riverside walkway, past **Free Trade Wharf (6)**, along to Narrow Street. A short distance further on take a right turn to bring you back to the riverside and the **Narrow Street Pub and Dining Room (7)** which was once the Dockmaster's House, at the entrance to Limehouse Basin.

A set of steps returns to Narrow Street. Ahead of you is **Limehouse Basin (8)**. Built in 1812 to serve inland waterway barges using the Regents Canal, it was enlarged in 1820 to accommodate seagoing vessels. The Basin also connects the Grand Union Canal to the Thames

Retrace your steps to continue along Narrow Street, and it's easy to see why it's one of the most attractive and famous streets in London. At the centre of the street is a terrace of



eighteenth century buildings with the rest of the street being predominantly nineteenth century brick houses, and it provided a setting for several of Charles Dickens' books, most especially 'Dombey and Son'. These former merchants' houses have all been sympathetically restored.

It's worth stopping here for refreshments. **The Grapes (9)** is almost certainly the same riverside pub as the one Dickens calls The Six Jolly Fellowship Porters in 'Our Mutual Friend'. While in Dickens' words 'the available space in it was not much larger than a hackney-coach'; it has been extended sideways. **Booty's (10)** next door opened as a wine bar in 1979; this was formerly a pub called The Waterman's Arms. Nearby is Duke's Shore (a corruption of 'sewer'), a small dock for barges awaiting repair.

Diagonally opposite, past the steel and copper sculpture of the Herring Gull, is a building that is all that remains of a terrace of houses, known as The House They Left Behind, now called **The House (11)**. Next to the pub is a gate into **Ropemakers Fields (12)**. A new park named after one of the area's important shipbuilding activities in the days of the docks – rope fibres needed a large open space to be first laid out so that they could then be twisted together. A copper roofed bandstand incorporating 19th Century warehouse columns is a feature of the park along with gate columns and railings with cast rope motifs.



Turn left onto the walkway. When the walkway splits into three, take the right path to skirt round the elevated grassed area and right along a canal path alongside Limehouse Cut Canal called Maize Row. Turn right at a small gate, up the steps and straight ahead to Newell Street and **St Anne's Passage and Church (13)**. The buildings around St Anne's Church all date from the early eighteenth century and are in excellent condition. The magnificent church itself is another of Nicholas Hawksmoor's, built in 1714. The clock face came from the same workshop that provided Big Ben's faces and is one of the highest church clocks in the country.

Turn right along Newell Street and follow it to the end. Turn right down Three Colt Street and cross over Limehouse Causeway and continue down Emmett Street.

On your right is **Limekiln Dock (14)**. Limekiln Wharf is built on the site of England's first soft paste porcelain factory, dating from the 1740s. The first passengers for Australia left from Dunbar Wharf nearby.

Return to Limehouse Causeway and turn right until you reach Westferry DLR station.

