

Walks  
3 & 4



# Walks in the Isle of Dogs





## Walk 3

# North Isle of Dogs and Canary Wharf

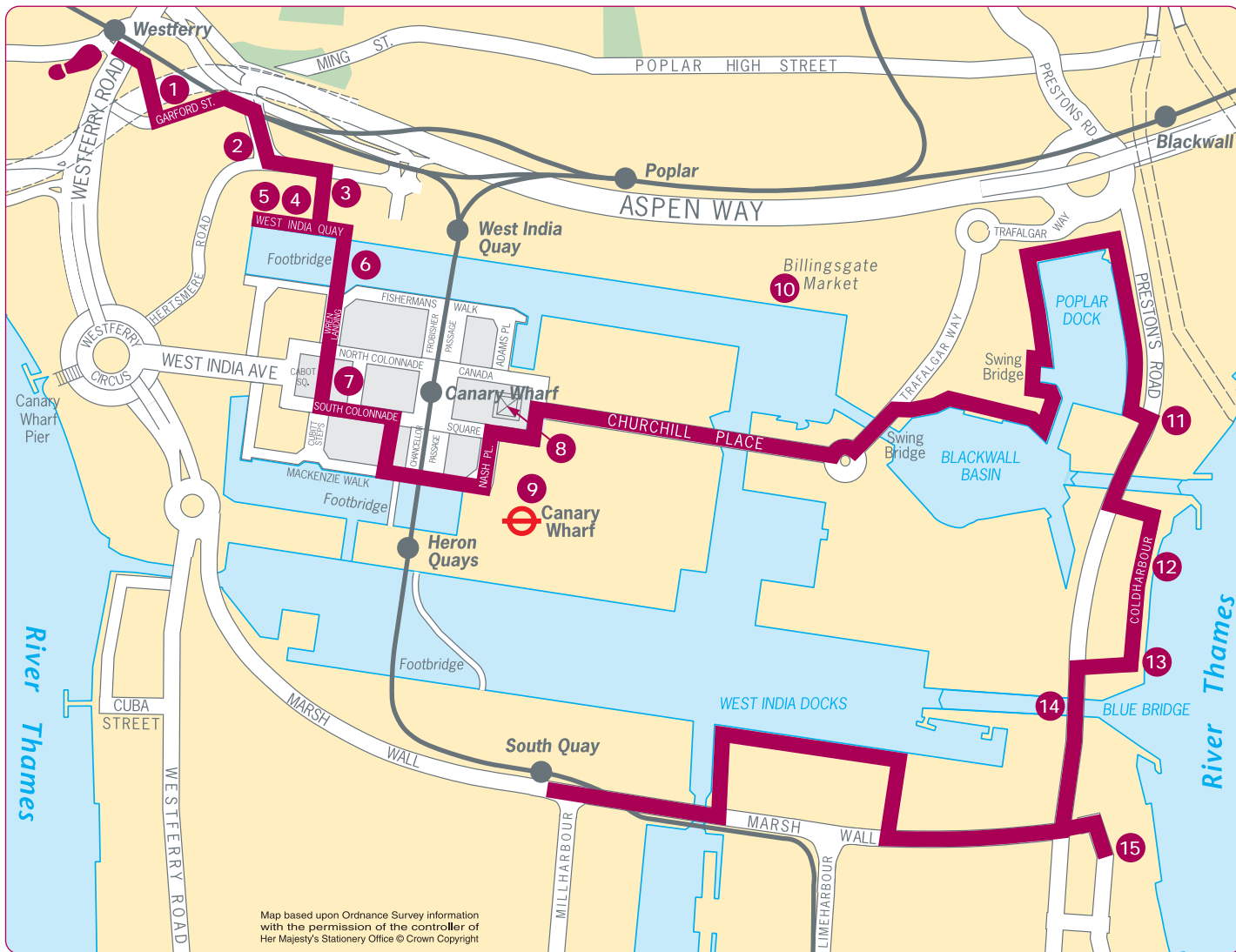
**Starting point** Westferry DLR Station



**Finishing point** South Quay DLR Station

**Estimate time** 1.5 hours

- 1 Dock Police Cottages
- 2 Dockmasters House
- 3 West India Quay Warehouses
- 4 Museum of Docklands
- 5 Ledger Building
- 6 Floating footbridge
- 7 Cabot Square
- 8 No. 1 Canada Square
- 9 Canary Wharf Jubilee Line station
- 10 Billingsgate Fish Market
- 11 Bridge House
- 12 Nelson House
- 13 Gun Pub
- 14 Blue Bridge
- 15 Storm Water Pumping Station



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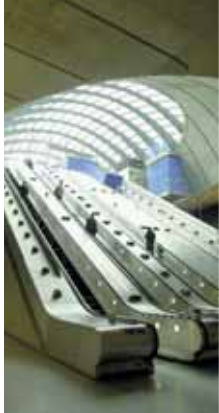
From Westferry DLR cross the Westferry Road and follow the path running between an attractive yellow and blue housing development. Turn right and left into Garford Street. On your right you will see the Dock Police Cottages (1) built in 1807 for the Dock Police Force, formed in 1802.

At the end of the road turn right to Dockmasters House (2). This Georgian building has had many uses. The current restaurant and bar it houses is being refurbished and is due to reopen mid 2008. Designed in 1807 by Thomas Morris, the engineer to the West India Dock Company, it was first used as an excise office, then a tavern, then a Dock Managers office, but strangely never used by a Dockmaster!

At the end of the road, turn left onto Hertsmere Road where you will see the imposing West India Quay Warehouses (3). These magnificent Grade 1 listed buildings are two of an original group of nine warehouses built in the early nineteenth century – the other seven warehouses were destroyed during bombing in the Second World War. They have been carefully restored and converted into an attractive development of apartments above and a mix of shops, bars and restaurants below. Locate the entrance and make your way through to West India Quay – a great place for outdoor eating.

Turn left to the Museum of Docklands (4) housed within this spectacular Georgian warehouse, and home to a vast collection of objects and materials spanning 2,000 years of 'London's River, Port and People'. Next door is the Ledger Building (5), another Grade 1 listed building, once used to keep the records on everything that came in and out of the docks. It has been converted into a restaurant.





Cross the green floating footbridge (6) to Wren's Landing, up some steps and across the road into Cabot Square (7). This pleasant tree-lined open space is a popular lunchtime spot, and during the summer is a setting for outdoor arts and events. From here are fine views of the City. Pause for a moment to take in the scale of Canary Wharf. The 240-metre tower that dominates the skyline is No. 1 Canada Square (8), designed by American Architect, Cesar Pelli.

Make your way to the right of the Canary Wharf Tower, turn right into Chancellor Passage and left past several bars to bring you to Canary Wharf Jubilee Line station (9). Designed by Norman Foster Associates, this vast underground building feels more like a cathedral than a tube station with its huge columns and curved glass entrance canopies.

Go up the steps in front of the Tower and turn right along Churchill Place to Cartier Circle Roundabout and Trafalgar Way. From here are fine views across to Billingsgate Fish Market (10).

Locate a pedestrian bridge on the right of the road through a colourful tall development to bring you to Blackwall Basin. The walkway bends round to the left to reach Poplar Dock, now an attractive marina full of colourful canal boats.

Continue to follow the path around the dock, past two restored dock cranes and into a tree-lined walkway. The wall to your left is the top of part of the original dock wall, built in 1828-29 to protect the docks. It has recently been renovated and is now Grade 1 listed.



Exit onto Prestons Road and turn right past Bridge House (11). This Grade 2 listed building was designed by the engineer John Rennie and was completed in 1819 as a home for the Superintendent of the West India Dock Company. In the 1950s it became a police training college.

Continue over the original entrance to Blackwall Basin, where there are good views of Canary Wharf and, to the left, the O<sub>2</sub> Arena, formerly the Millennium Dome.

Turn left into Coldharbour. Immediately in front of you are two superb 18th century houses, Isle House and next door, Nelson House (12). Endless scandalous stories abound about Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton using Nelson House as a tryst, as well as underground passages to the Gun Pub. Unlikely, but amusing tales nonetheless.

This very attractive lane ends at the Gun Pub (13).

This area used to have a foundry called Gun Yard and the original inn would have been built to serve gunsmiths, foundry workers and sailors.

Turn right past a row of dockers cottages and left back onto Prestons Road across the Blue Bridge (14), to the junction, then left into Stewart Street, where you will immediately see the imposing Storm Water Pumping Station (15), designed in 1989 by John Outram Associates and winner of several architectural awards. Here storm water is pumped up into a big surge tank from where it drains by gravity into the Thames. The jet engine type fan in the pediment is functional and expels sewer gases from the station.







Retrace your steps back to the junction and cross the road into Marsh Wall. Turn right past Jack Dash House, and into Lawn House Close and follow the Dockside Walkway which will bring you back to Marsh Wall. Turn right, South Quay DLR Station is a short distance from here.



# 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 area's 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)

Customer information line: 020 7477 1477

Brick Lane restaurants

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



## Shopping

For a fun 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/Quirky](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Quirky) to view an online version. To request a hard copy of the Guide, please email [tourism@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

For shops in Canary Wharf visit

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



## Other walks

Why not try our Movie Map? Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/walks](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/discover/data/walks)

## Getting here

All walks start at an Underground station or DLR (Docklands Light Railway) station. Or you could travel by river one way and return on the raised track of the DLR. Regular commuter cruises call at the piers at the Tower, Canary Wharf, Masthouse Terrace and QE2 (next to the O<sub>2</sub> Arena). For up-to-date riverboat schedules visit [www.thamesclippers.com](http://www.thamesclippers.com) or call 0870 781 5049.



A large print version of this leaflet is available by contacting 020 7364 4958 or visiting [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)







The Thames Path is a national trail extending 180 miles from the river's source in Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier in London. This section of the path, just under 3 miles long, runs on the north side of the Thames from Limekiln Dock to Island Gardens, taking in some of the most interesting riverside in London.

From Westferry DLR Station, turn left into Limehouse Causeway, and left into Three Colt Street. Turn right before Limekiln Wharf to bring you into Limekiln Dock (1). 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. The charming old warehouses here give an impression of how many of the old London docks and wharves once looked.

The contrasting modern footbridge was built in 1996 to provide a riverside pedestrian link between Canary Wharf and Limehouse. Turn left to follow the river down to Canary Riverside (2).

Make your way up some steps to Westferry Circus (3). The railings and gates surrounding this peaceful garden were designed by Guiseppe Lund and symbolise the seasons.

Return to the river. From Canary Wharf Pier, various ferry services stop here on their way up, down and across the river. On the opposite bank you can see Columbia Wharf, now part of the Hilton London Docklands.

Continue on round the old dock entrance to see on your left the Traffic Light Tree (4) by Pierre Vivant that stands in the middle of Heron Quay roundabout. Continue back round to the river, past Cascades (5), a building whose style reflects its nautical surroundings with turrets and portholes. It was the first residential development of its kind on the Isle of Dogs.

Turn left into Cuba Street. This street was opened in 1812 and was once the main road into the heart of the Isle of Dogs, which until then was almost totally uninhabited. A former landlord reputedly haunts The Rogue Trader (6) (formerly called The Blacksmiths Arms), the oldest pub on the Island at the end.

Turn right into Westferry Road and past Sir John McDougall Gardens (7). As the road bends to the left you will pass Westferry Printers (8). The Daily Telegraph is amongst the newspapers printed here. The Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre (9) is next door.

Opposite the Sailing Centre is the former lock onto Millwall Dock (10). Built between 1865-1867, this was at the time the largest lock in London. It was 80 ft wide, and had two chambers of 247 and 198 ft. Badly damaged in the War, it was dammed up in 1956, but has recently undergone major refurbishment.

Continue along Westferry Road to a small brick Italianate chapel on your left, St Paul's Presbyterian Church (11). Thomas Knightly built this charming little chapel in 1856. John Scott Russell who was building Isambard Kingdom Brunel's ship 'The Great Eastern' nearby, laid the Foundation Stone. The church was built for the Scottish shipyard workers. It is now an arts centre, The Space, and hosts a variety of events from classical music recitals to contemporary art exhibitions. The small, relaxed café upstairs is good for a cup of tea and light meals.

Turn right after St Edmunds Primary School and into Napier Avenue to return to the riverside and the Thames Path to reach the launching site of 'The Great Eastern' (12) – Brunel's magnificent





and ill-fated ship. Her great size, at 680 ft long and 18,915 tons gross, meant she had to be launched sideways. Several of the original timber balks forming the slipway can still be seen.

The building on the right forms part of Burrell's Wharf (13), a former shipyard built in 1885 specialising in building iron ships, the most famous of which was the Great Eastern. Inside Burrell's Wharf there are several unusual and listed buildings; an octagonal chimney and the Gantry House and Mast House, both Grade 2 listed Victorian Buildings.

As you continue walking along the riverside, Greenwich and the Cutty Sark comes into view. The path once more turns away from the river into Rainbow Avenue. Turn right and immediately left to bring you back to Westferry Road. At the junction with East Ferry Road is Millwall Fire Station (14), built in 1904-05 in the Queen Anne style characteristic of fire stations of that period; the original stables for horses were converted into a mess room and offices in 1925. Turn right here into Ferry Street. The Ferry House pub once served the needs of people like Samuel Pepys crossing to and from Greenwich by ferry.

At the end of Ferry Street is Johnson's Draw Dock (15). Much of the area close by was occupied by industries that required access to the river, which was extremely limited and mainly provided by Johnson's Draw Dock. Later used as a scrapyard, it was refurbished in 1988.

Continue on into Saunders Ness Road and Island Gardens (16). This area was originally a dump and became known as 'Scrap Iron Park' in the early 19th century. The pollution and growth of industrial developments on the Island caused concern at Greenwich Hospital across the river and the area was cleared and laid out as a much-needed riverside park space



in 1895. Today, it is the Canaletto-style view across the Thames to Greenwich, the Royal Observatory and the Cutty Sark which makes Island Gardens such a pleasant place to visit.

The Greenwich Foot Tunnel (17) was built between 1900-02 by the London County Council – the tunnel replaced the ferry service between the Isle of Dogs and Greenwich. The walk under the river takes about 10 minutes, including rides in both lifts. Return to Saunders Ness Road and turn right to

Island Gardens DLR station.

