



Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Exploring the ends of the earth

A self-guided walk around Greenwich



Discover a centre of navigation and exploration
Visit world-famous landmarks and hidden corners
Enjoy spectacular views across London

Find out how Greenwich links many countries and divides the Earth

www.walktheworld.org.uk

Find Explore Walk





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Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. The digital and print maps used for Walk the World are licensed to RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey.



The
Heritage
Alliance



Exploring the ends of the earth

Discover how maritime Greenwich shaped the world

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Greenwich is one of 20 in different parts of the UK. Each walk explores how the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries.

Along the routes you will discover evidence of how different countries have shaped our towns and cities.



The Royal Observatory
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Greenwich is one of the world's most famous maritime sites. As the home of the Royal Observatory, Old Royal Naval College, the National Maritime Museum and the Cutty Sark, the area attracts thousands of visitors from worldwide.



Cutty Sark mast and rigging
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

This walk traces Greenwich's maritime development by following the footsteps of sailors and soldiers, kings and queens, inventors and explorers. Along the route you can hear about their feats of navigation and exploration.

See Britain's first classical building and the world's last tea clipper. Visit the 'finest dining hall in Europe' and the wharf that wired the world. Stand on steps that welcomed Europe's royalty and the line that divides the Earth.

Practical information

Location	Greenwich, Greater London
Getting there	<p>DLR - The nearest station is Cutty Sark on the Lewisham branch</p> <p>Train - Nearest mainline stations are Greenwich and Maze Hill (the nearest stop to Greenwich Park). Regular services run to both between Dartford, London Bridge and Cannon Street.</p> <p>Bus - Greenwich town, the maritime sites and Maze Hill are served by a variety of routes from central and east London.</p> <p>Bicycle - The riverside section is on the Thames Path National Trail</p>
Start point	Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre, SE10 9LW
Finish point	Viewpoint, Observatory Hill
Distance	3 ½ miles
Directions from DLR station to start	Turn left from Cutty Sark station and pass the shopping arcade. Turn left and head into the pedestrianised area by the Cutty Sark. Pass the Cutty Sark visitor entrance at the back of the ship and go through the railings into the grounds of the Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre.
Onward journey	<p>To return to Cutty Sark DLR station, retrace your steps to the time line marker by the Royal Observatory at Stop 22. Follow the path downhill through the park. There are various forks but each will lead to the back of the National Maritime Museum and Queen's House.</p> <p>Turn left and continue to King William Walk. Follow this road towards the Cutty Sark then turn left into College Approach. The DLR station is on the right hand side of the path through the shopping arcade.</p>

Level	Moderate - Riverside and park walk with some steep slopes
Terrain	The route is on urban and riverside pavements with some gravel paths
Conditions	Watch for traffic around the DLR station and be aware of cyclists by the riverside and in the park. The maritime attractions can be very busy, especially in tourist seasons. Take your time on the steep slopes at Croom's Hill and Maze Hill.
Suitable for	Families - Lots of open spaces and spectacular attractions Pushchairs / wheelchairs - step-free but some steep slopes
Refreshments	Plenty of cafés and shops in the town and the museums. You may like to have a picnic in Greenwich Park.
Facilities	Public toilets in the museums, St Alfege Park and Greenwich Park. Most have disabled and baby changing facilities
Places to visit	<p>For admission information to the maritime and World Heritage sites on the route see the websites listed under Further Information</p> <p>The Ranger's House is open 11am to 3.30pm Mon to Wed and Sundays. Entry by booked guided tour only. Tel: 0870 333 1181 (English Heritage) or 0208 294 2548 (Eltham Palace)</p> <p>The Fan Museum is open 11am to 5pm Tue to Sat, midday to 5pm Sun. Entry fees apply. Afternoon Tea by advance booking. Tel: 020 8305 1441 Email: info@thefanmuseum.org.uk</p>
Tourist Information	Greenwich Tourist Information Centre , Pepys House, 2 Cutty Sark Gardens SE10 9LW. Tel: 0870 608 2000 Email: tic@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

First half of the route



Stopping points

1. Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre
2. Sir Walter Raleigh statue
3. The Cutty Sark
4. The Cutty Sark figurehead
5. Bellot memorial
6. Water Gate, Old Royal Naval College
7. Anchor sculpture, Ballast Quay
8. View of Enderby's Wharf
9. The Trafalgar Tavern
10. The Painted Hall
11. National Maritime Museum
12. The Queen's House



Second half of the route



Stopping points

- 13.** Samuel Ofer Wing, National Maritime Museum
- 14.** William IV statue
- 15.** St Alfege Church
- 16.** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
- 17.** Greenwich Park
- 18.** The Ranger's House
- 19.** Queen Caroline's Bath
- 20.** Vanbrugh Castle
- 21.** 111 Maze Hill
- 22.** Greenwich Meridian Line, Shepherd gate, Observatory Hill
- 23.** General Wolfe statue, Observatory Hill
- 24.** Viewpoint, Observatory Hill

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Greenwich Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre

Directions 1

Remain outside the Discover Greenwich building and stop beside the statue of Sir Walter Raleigh. Listen here to Track 2.

2. Raleigh's cycle Sir Walter Raleigh statue

Directions 2

With your back to the statue, take the path in front of the cannon and go through the iron gates. Turn left and go to the Cutty Sark visitor centre at the back of the ship. Listen to Track 3.

3. The price of a cuppa Cutty Sark visitor entrance

Directions 3

Make your way to the front of the ship and stop when you have a good view of the figurehead on the bow. Listen here to Track 4.

4. A witch's tale Cutty Sark figurehead

Directions 4

Walk between the restaurants and the grounds of Discover Greenwich building. Follow the riverside path up to the obelisk marked Bellot. Listen here to Track 5.

5. The royal riverside

The Bellot memorial, Thames Path

Directions 5

Continue along the riverside path a short way until you reach an ornate pair of iron gates. Stop in front of them to listen to Track 6.

6. School for sailors

Water Gate, Old Royal Naval College

Directions 6

Continue along the riverside path. Pass the Trafalgar Tavern and take the first path on the left (Crane Street). Continue through Highbridge. Keep alert for cyclists, especially where the path narrows. Pass the white Trinity Hospital building and Greenwich Power Station. Continue to the Cutty Sark Tavern and stop by the large anchor outside. Listen to Track 7.

7. Any old iron?

Anchor sculpture, Ballast Quay

Directions 7

Pass the Cutty Sark Tavern, keeping alert for cyclists. As the road turns to the right, stop by the riverside wall. Look across the river and listen to Track 8.

8. Wiring the world

View of Enderby's Wharf

Directions 8

Retrace your steps back along the riverside path. Look out for a strange creature on the wall of the Power Station! Stop when you reach the Trafalgar Tavern. Listen to Track 9.

9. Naval hero

The Trafalgar Tavern

Directions 9

With your back to Nelson's statue, walk into Park Row. Go through the large gates on the right and continue into the Old Naval College grounds. Take your time to enjoy the views of the grand buildings. When you reach the steps on the left, use them or the ramp at College Road nearby to enter the Painted Hall. Listen to Track 10.

10. Maritime murals

The Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College

Directions 10

When you are ready, leave the Painted Hall by the way you came in. Turn left and walk around the back of the building to Romney Road. Use the traffic lights to cross over then turn left. Enter the grounds in front of the National Maritime Museum. Stop outside the main entrance. Listen to Track 11.

11. The world at sea

National Maritime Museum

Directions 11

With your back to the museum, turn right and continue up the path until you are level with the white building on your right. Take the path up to it and stop outside when you have a good view. Stop beside it to listen to Track 12.

12. A regal residence

The Queen's House

Directions 12

Keep the Queen's House on your left and walk along the colonnade to the right of it. At the end of the colonnade turn left, then make your way to the back of the Maritime Museum. Stop by the ship in a bottle at the entrance. Listen to Track 13.

13. A generous Ofer

Samuel Ofer Wing, National Maritime Museum

Directions 13

Continue up to the statue of William IV. Listen to Track 14.

14. Sailor Bill

King William IV statue

Directions 14

From the statue cross the road at a safe place and continue into Nevada Street. At the end turn right and continue along Stockwell Street. Use the traffic islands to enter the grounds of St Alfege Church. Make your way to the clock tower and stop in the grassy area outside. Listen to Track 15.

15. Explorers, traders and soldiers

St Alfège Church

Directions 15

Feel free to go inside the church if it is open. When you are ready leave by taking the path at the side. Cross back over the road and turn right. Continue along the right hand side of Stockwell Street and on to Crooms Hill. Follow the pavement uphill alongside the Park. The pavement is very narrow in places and the hill is quite steep, so take your time. Just past King George Street you will see a large church spire on the right. When you see the church, stop opposite. listen to Track 16.

16. Prayer for the decayed

Our Ladye Star of the Sea Church, Crooms Hill

Directions 16

Keep on the left hand side and continue uphill for about 200 metres. Turn left into Park Walk, a wide gravel path which curves into Greenwich Park. Stop at the round bench and look towards the left. You should be able to see two redbrick buildings in the distance, one with a domed roof the other with a black flagpole with a red globe on it. Stop when you can see these roof tops. Listen to Track 17.

17. Observing the time

View of Greenwich time ball, Flamsteed House

Directions 17

Turn to the right and find an iron signpost that indicates Queen Caroline's Bath. Follow this sign and pass Macartney House. Go through the metal gates to stop in the Rose Garden outside the Ranger's House. Listen to Track 18.

18. Blood and diamonds

The Ranger's House

Directions 18

Continue through the Rose Garden through a second set of gates. Follow the path for 100 metres up to a small hedged area by the wall on the right. Look for a stone plaque in the wall to the right of Queen Caroline's Bath. Listen to Track 19.

19. The queen and the composer

Queen Caroline's Bath / Ignatius Sancho plaque

Directions 19

With the plaque behind you go across Rangers Field towards Blackheath Avenue. At Blackheath Avenue, turn left and continue up to a roundabout just before the Tea House. Turn right at the roundabout then in 300 metres take the path on the left. Pass the Roman Temple site on the left and follow the path up to an arched wall gate. Go through it and look across the road at the large redbrick building opposite. Listen to Track 20.

20. Rooms with a view

Vanbrugh Castle, Maze Hill

Directions 20

Cross Maze Hill at the traffic island outside the Castle gates. Turn left and continue downhill then stop outside house number 111, a three-storey redbrick building. Listen to Track 21.

21. The African

111 Maze Hill

Directions 21

Retrace your steps back to Maze Hill Gate. Take the middle path of the three ahead, signposted 'Café and Royal Observatory'. When another path crosses, continue straight on and uphill to Queen Elizabeth's Oak.

Take the path straight ahead which emerges at the statue of General Wolfe. Pass the statue and go up to the Royal Observatory. Find the clock in the wall then go through a small metal gate to the right. Stop on the brass line in the ground. Listen here to Track 22.

22. The Prime line

Greenwich Meridian Line, Observatory Hill

Directions 22

Go back through the metal gate and stop beside the statue of General Wolfe that overlooks the hill. Listen to Track 23.

23. Conqueror of Canada

General Wolfe statue, Observatory Hill

Directions 23

Walk towards the railings and look out over the view of Greenwich and beyond. Listen to Track 24.

24. A changing view

View from Observatory Hill

Directions 24

You may like to explore the World Heritage sites, such as the Royal Observatory, the Cutty Sark, the Old Royal Naval College, the Queen's House and the Discover Greenwich centre. We also recommend exploring the park and the town, including the Fan Museum on Crooms Hill. To return to the riverside and Cutty Sark DLR station follow the directions on page 6.

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route

East Greenwich History Map

www.eastgreenwichhistorymap.co.uk

The Fan Museum

www.thefanmuseum.org.uk

Greenwich Guide

www.greenwich-guide.org.uk

Greenwich Park

www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park

The Greenwich Phantom

www.thegreenwichphantom.co.uk

Old Royal Naval College and Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre

www.ornc.org

Royal Museums Greenwich

(Cutty Sark, National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory, The Queen's House)

www.rmg.co.uk

St Alfege Church

www.st-alfege.org

Trafalgar Tavern

www.trafalgartavern.co.uk

Visit Greenwich

www.visitgreenwich.org.uk

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Rich Sylvester** for creating the walk and providing the audio commentary
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The
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The UK is an island nation but we are by no means isolated -
we are a hub of worldwide connections.

Walk the World is an exciting series of free geographically-themed
walks that show how the UK is linked with the 206 countries which
competed at London 2012.

Each walk explores how the Olympic and Paralympic Nations
and their people have shaped our surroundings -
often in surprising ways.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring.
Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and
to find the unexpected.

Visit www.walktheworld.org.uk

Submit your own links

Search for other walks

Find out how to create your own walk