

## Travel 10

London, the east, Ragged School, Rotherhithe, Arsenal of Woolwich, Thames Barrier, Olympic

Travel 10 leads to the old poor quarters in the East of London. Very important places to visit.

We start with the historical school for the poor, then, we see the waters of the Thames, in many places.

Rotherhithe to Greenwich and to the Arsenal of Woolwich is a part London that is not marked in tourist guides, but how important it is and was!

Thames Barrier and the river Lea hidden many astonishing landscapes and historical spot, and non historical spot like the Olympic quarter.

Take the tube to Mile End, find the Regent's Canal and take the path along the canal towards the Ragged School Museum.

Mile End was the center of old East London, it was here that industries opened and it was here, where the industrial poverty was at its worst. It is an interesting part of London.

The name Mile End probably derives from the pest-time, where the deads were loaded upon a carriage and sent out of London for one mile, there they ended in mass burial places.



Entrance of the School

During weekend, an actress gives a lesson similar to the lesson given to children at Victorian time, 1850.

It is compulsory to book for attending a lesson.

Ragged means a person with a dress full of holes or miserably dressed person. Words often disclose the essentiality.

Ragged School was the school for the poor children of the East London. The school represented a great improvement for that time.

It was a school created by idealistic persons. Doctor Thomas Barnardo was famous for his pioneering work, he worked tirelessly to collect money for driving the school.



A Victorian time's lesson now, at Ragged School Museum

After the School, go down along the Canal to Limehouse and walk around the basin to Narrow Road and up to Branch Road until you find the Tube at Limehouse.

Take the Tube here and reach Rotherhithe station on the South of Thames.



A view of the Thames near Rotherhithe

At Rotherhithe, walk up to Brunel Museum, a MUST to visit. Then, go towards the Thames to visit the pubs there, fx. the famous The Mayflower Pub.

There are many interesting historical things to see in the pubs of Rotherhithe, plenty of personal stories of people, that took the travel (without return) to America.

Rotherhithe was one of the most notorious places for any kind of lawlessness. In Southwark the laws were different than in the North of Thames. Much more was allowed here. An example Shakespeare only played in Southwark, he built his theater here, the Globe. It would not be permitted in the north shore of the Thames.



Pub in Rotherhithe: "Poverty and Oysters always seem to go Together", Charles Dickens



A bluecoat school in Rotherhithe, where girls also were admitted

The Blue Schools have existed for centuries. They were organized by charity and by local parishes. The name blue was, because of the distinctive blue uniform worn by the pupils. The colour blue was traditionally the colour of charity. Now is the colour of the manual workers.

Outside these schools it was placed a sculpture of a boy or of a girl in uniform. It was rare, that a school took girls at the same place as boys. These bluecoat school buildings are now protected, as they can be found around London where ordinary people lived.

Take Rotherhithe Street and walk it, the all way to you arrive in front of Canary Warf Bank Center There is a beautiful view of it.





View of Canary Wharf from Rotherhithe

Continue along the Thames towards Greenwich.

At the corner between the Thames and its South tributary river, at Gleisher Street, there is a monument to the Russian Tzar Peter the Great and its inseparable dwarf.

Peter the Great traveled across West Europe wearing worker's clothes, to hidden himself from dangerous situations.

Monument to Peter the Great can be found in many countries.

Great man!



Tzar Peter the Great and his dwarf in Gleisher Street near Greenwich

Then, follow the direction towards Greenwich.

Here, you can, either visit Greenwich and finish the trip here or, to go directly to Woolwich for visiting the place, where guns were produced for the army, the Arsenal.

You can take the Tube at Greenwich and go out at Woolwich Arsenal Tube station.

Ones here, visit the Arsenal. It is very interesting and well refurbished.



The main entrance of the old Arsenal of Woolwich





This monster has surely killed many...



New sculptures in iron, Arsenal of Woolwich





Canons for every taste...

After the visit of Woolwich, go to the Thames.  
Take South Circular Road to Woolwich Ferry Pier.  
Take this little ferry to cross the Thames. It is an amusing ferry and an experience.



Woolwich Ferry

Once arrived, take the Store Road and then Factory Road, North Woolwich Road until you arrive at the Thames Barrier Park.



Thames Barrier Park, a very innovative garden.





## Thames Barrier

After the barrier, you can walk around in the zone. You can see the first airport of London, which still works.



The big river Lea, where it flows to the Thames near Canning/Leamouth



Near Bow

There are interesting landscapes here near the river Lea. The Lea is a major tributary of the Thames.



A tree planted inside a taxi cab, in East docks

The old harbor is a squalid zone, if you look with traditional eyes, but there are also new inspirations to eyes. Spend some time here.

If you do not like the old harbor, then, you can walk northwards to Stratford to visit the Olympic quarter.

Follow the Lea river, there is a path to walk on, not the all way, but of a big portion of the road.

There are many historical things to see, fx Saint Mary's Church of Bow.



Bow Church

Bow was an island in the Middle age, now an island between 2 roads, Bow Roads.

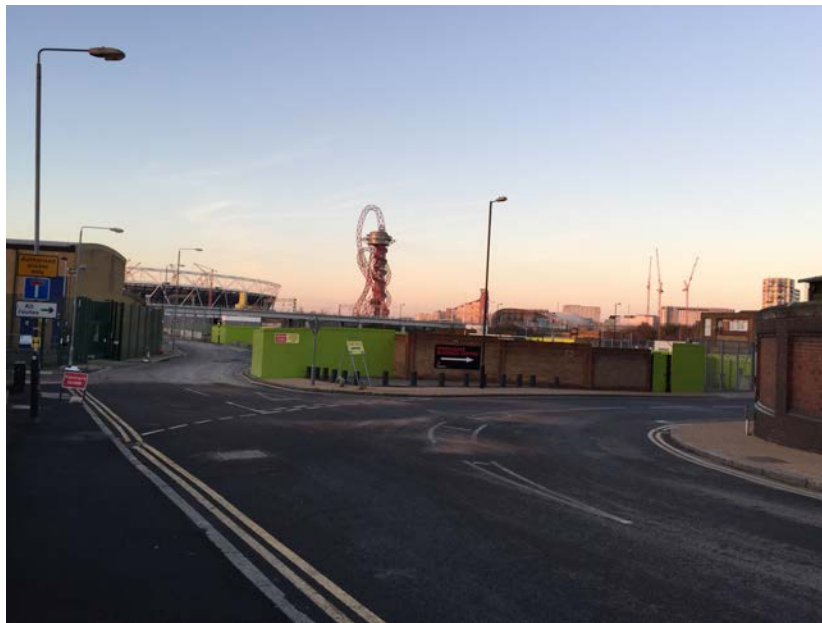


The church is fascinating, because it is very old (unfortunately the original church was bombed by the Germans in 1943).

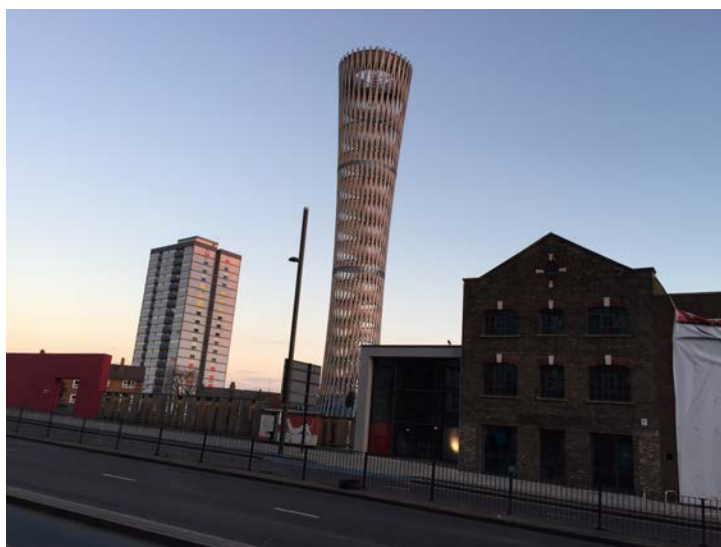
A big atrocity was committed here in 1556 under Queen Mary, the bloody Mary, the Catholic:

- 11 men and 2 women were burned on stake, like witches, in front of Bow Church, because they became protestants.

After Bow Church, go towards the Olympic quarter



The Olympic Tower



## Olympic buildings

This part of London, a real active part, is also a bit freighting, melancholic, decadent.

Take to Leyton and Epping Forest, just a bit further North-East.

Here was forest in the Middle-Age.

Unbelievable.



"Here was once the Great Forest of Essex", now Leyton

The end of travel 10