

Travel 8 London, the North, Islington

Travel 8 leads to the north of London where farmers, workers, soldiers and ordinary people lived.

Tourists usually are interested in monuments, but... monuments don't say anything about ordinary people.

Monuments are similar everywhere, a copy of each other indeed, because they are the wish of the power. Power has been the same everywhere in this world.

There are no monuments dedicated to ordinary people. Heredity of ordinary people was cancelled on the course of the years.

Then, how to find out about life of ordinary people.

The only way is to visit the remains, if they can be found.

With the industrialisation, 1850 on, people moved from the north of UK to find a job in London. They settled where the trains stopped, in Islington, or in the north and east of London.

Travel 8 will lead you to these places, where workers and industries were.

Travel London 8, ISLINGTON and the NORTH

Visiting the north of London is possible to imagine how London was at the time of the 1850's first industrialisation. Here are beautiful places, with many, many interesting things to discover.

Travel 8 starts in Islington, where you reach it with the Tube at Angel Underground Station.

Outside the station turn on the right, towards Islington Town.

Here you find the monument to Hugh Myddelton, the man that in 1613 had the idea to create an aqueduct for selling fresh water to Londoners.

Water came only from the North, (this was the reason why the Romans founded London on the north shore of the Thames).

The remains of the Myddelton's aqueduct is still well preserved, it is the so-called the New River Walk. Now a very suggestive walk.



The statue of Hugh Myddleton, 1613, to the inventor of the first aqueduct of London.

There is a nice garden behind the statue, with many things to see. The centre of Islington has many cafés, restaurants, small shops, pleasant neighbourhoods, etc. for bohemians.

From Islington continue upwards on the Upper Street, towards Highbury.



Canonbury Square, one of the most beautiful squares garden.

Take a rest in the beautiful Canonbury Square. Many famous persons lived around it.

From Canonbury Square take few steps to Canonbury Place, to see the oldest building in this area, the Canonbury Tower, from 1509.

An intimidating building.



Canonbury Tower

Imagine, it was the only building in 1509, only surrounded by fields of farmland.

From Canonbury find your way back to Upper Street and walk up towards Highbury Field Park.

Just after the Tube station of Highbury and Islington, you arrive to a beautiful park, Highbury Fields, which is the remains of farm fields, that were here until for only 150 years ago.



A commemorative monument in Highbury Fields for their dead soldiers, 1899-03.

On the monument, it is written that 98 soldiers, out of a local population of few thousand, died during the Boer War in South Africa in 1899-1903.

Taking into consideration that Highbury was a village of farmers, 98 dead soldiers were an extremely high number of soldiers, a huge sacrifice for Islington. Shed a tear for these poor 98 young soldiers.

Then, start walking through the park until you arrive to Highbury Hill. In front of Christ Church Highbury, you will find a monument to Queen Victoria's 60 years 's anniversary of her reign, 1897.



Memorial of Queen Victoria's 60 y reign in Islington Vestry. Great devotion.

To return to the previous considerations about the, in vain, dead soldiers.

- Who will have such a great devotion to a head of state today?
- Which local community will make a monument for its monarch today?

Been confronted to these things: IS THE REAL WAY TO LEARN HISTORY.

Then, continue to the main streets, Highbury Grove, Blackstock Route, to Seven Sisters Route and here go to Finsbury Park.

Here around Finsbury Park settled the UK's industrial migrants in 1850.

Make a walk-through Finsbury Park to its end at the road crossing Seven Sisters Rd with Green Lanes.

Continue on Seven Sisters Rd until you arrive to Woodberry Grove on your right. It continues to Lordship Rd, that goes between 2 lakes.

This zone in plenty of water reservoirs, small lakes, rivers, and wet areas. It still provides drinking water to the capital.



Lordship Rd separates the 2 lakes, that are water reservoirs for London.

From Lordship Rd take the first street on your right hand, which is Queen Elisabeth's Walk.

After a good, long walk you will arrive to Green Lanes, where you can see a castle, a special one. It is the Castle Climbing Centre. One of the largest indoor climbing centres in Britain, if you like this sport.



Castle Climbing Centre

Take Green Lanes, (now an awful trafficked route, but, as its name suggests was once a lush rural retreat) towards Clissold Park. Another wonderful park!

Welcome to Clissold Park

Clissold Park is very nice, huge, beautiful, with restaurants, and everything's park.

The park leads to the village of Stoke Newington.

Very charming!

In Stoke Newington, you have to see at least these 3 places:

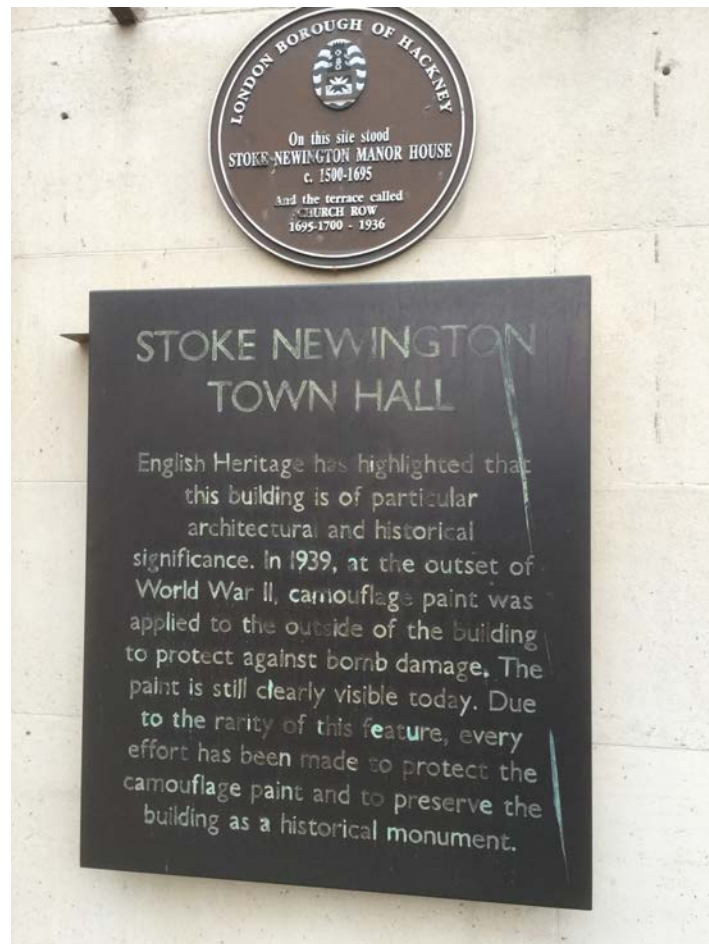
- the Church
- the Old Church, which lies just in front of the new, and
- the Town Hall.



Stoke Newington's new church



Stoke Newington's old church



Town Hall



Town Hall.

Survived the German bombing during the Blitz, because it was camouflaged by paintings

After your visit to these 3 places, take Stoke Newington Church Street, which goes along Clissold Park until you arrive to Green Lanes. Go first on the left and then, at your right, you arrive at Petherton Road.



Take Petherton Road



Petherton Road, was once a river.

Or the river that Hugh Myddleton built in 1613 for providing drinkable, fresh water to Londoners.

Carry on to Petherton Rd., it continuous to Wallace Rd and then to St Paul Rd. Cross it and go inside the New River Walk.



Map of the New River Walk



New River walk



New River, mostly like a rain forest!

It is a joy to explore this small piece of land.

The walk ends at Islington Library in Essex Rd, which is a parallel street to Upper Street, where you started.

Continue to this street until you arrive at Angel's Tube station.

Travel 8 ends here.