

Walthamstow		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
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Walthamstow (Walthamstow Central Circular)

Start & Finish: Walthamstow Central Station

Length: 4.6 km (2.9 mi)

Ascent: 43m

Time: 1 ¼ hours walking time.

Transport:

Walthamstow Central (Zone 3) is the easterly terminus of the Victoria Line (journey time 19 minutes from Oxford Circus) and a stop on the Chingford branch of the Weaver Lines of the Overground from Liverpool Street (journey time 15 minutes). The station is linked to Walthamstow Queen's Road station on the Suffragette Line of the Overground (Gospel Oak to Barking) by a broad footpath, the Ray Dudley Way.

Walk Notes:

This short walk through the lively suburban town of Walthamstow leads along quiet and not-so-quiet streets to the pretty Lloyd Park with its landscaped gardens, moated island and the famous William Morris Gallery. After a short circuit through the park, quiet streets are followed to the small but impressive Walthamstow Village Conservation Area with its charming cottages, the parish church with stunning memorials in its churchyard, the Vestry Museum and The Ancient House, London's oldest dwelling. The route back to the station passes numerous pubs, cafés and restaurants along the renowned Orford Road, as well as brewery taprooms and the one-of-a-kind God's Own Junkyard in a small industrial estate.

Note: Lloyd Park gets locked at night, check opening hours here: <https://www.friendsoflloydpark.org/about-lloyd-park/opening-hours>

Walk Options:

- **A loop** past the impressive Town Hall adds 470m.
- **A longer walk** of 8.8 km (5.5 mi) and with 75m ascent/descent is described, this includes an easterly loop up to Walthamstow Common and around Hollow Pond.
- **Bus stops** are never far away.
- **Wood Street Station** (Weaver Line) is passed early on along the looped extension and not far off route near the end of it.

Notes:

Walthamstow

Walthamstow is recorded c. 1075 as *Wilcumbestowe* ("the Place of Welcome": on account of being a rest stop en route from London to Waltham Abbey and further north) and nowadays a town within the London Borough of Waltham Forest in East London, which was created in the Local Government Reform of 1965, when Walthamstow Municipal Borough was merged with Leyton and Chingford.

The town is located around 12 km north-east of Central London and borders Chingford to the north, Snaresbrook and South Woodford to the east, Leyton and Leytonstone to the south, and Tottenham to the west. The 2011 census shows a population of 109,424.

Old Walthamstow lies east of the town centre, with St Mary's (the town's parish church), the 'Ancient House' (estimated to be from 1435 and most likely the oldest house in London) and the Vestry House (now the Vestry House Museum but originally used as the first town hall).

Walthamstow Market dates from 1885 and occupies all but 100m of the town's east-to-west High Street. It takes place Tuesday to Saturday and is the second longest outdoor market in Europe.

Walthamstow Stadium was one of the foremost greyhound racing courses in London, but was demolished to make way for housing.

The Grade II*-listed William Morris Gallery is located in the Georgian Water House that from 1848 to 1856 was the family home of the teenage William Morris, later an Arts and Crafts designer and early socialist. Constructed in the 1740s, Water House and its grounds were then sold on to newspaper proprietor Edward Lloyd, whose son donated the house and grounds in 1900 to Walthamstow when it became Lloyd Park. The park includes an area surrounded by a moat which pre-dates the Georgian house. The William Morris Gallery was opened in 1950 and holds the most comprehensive collection of objects relating to all aspects of Morris's life and work. It was awarded the title of 'Museum of the Year' in 2013.

Famous residents, past and present: Keith Albarn, manager of Soft Machine and father of Damon; Clement Attlee, local MP when PM; Lethal Bizzle (grime artist); Peter Blake (artist); Frederick Bremer (built the first British motor car); Anjem Choudary (Islamist extremist); Benjamin Disraeli; Ian Dury; East 17 (band); Peter Greenaway (film director); Harry Kane (footballer); William Morris; Grayson Perry (artist); Ken Russell (film director); Baroness Scotland (former Attorney General).

WALK DIRECTIONS

The route **starts from Walthamstow Bus Station** on the north side of Selborne Road.

- **From the low-level Victoria Line platforms:** take the escalators up to the below-street-level concourse and *turn left*, signed 'Buses';
- **From the street-level Weaver Line platforms:** arriving on platform 2 from Liverpool Street, ignore the exit onto Selborne Road near the front of the platform and walk down some mid-platform steps to the below-street-level concourse. Ignore escalators ahead to the Victoria Line and *turn right*, signed 'Buses'.

In 25m go through the gate line and in 15m walk up a flight of steps to emerge in **Walthamstow Bus Station**.

In 20m *turn left* across a bus lane at a set of lights into a medium-sized green with some scattered trees, with Selborne Road away to the left and a shopping centre to the right ahead. In 25m *turn right* along a tree-lined paved path and in 110m at a T-junction with the traffic-calmed **High Street**, location of the famous **Walthamstow Market**, *turn right* along the High Street. In 50m you pass the **Central Library** on the right and in another 20m *turn left* along a quiet residential road, **Cleveland Park Avenue**. In 240m at a T-junction, *turn right* along **Hatherley Road** and in 80m *turn left* along the busy **Hoe Street** (the A112).

You pass a few cafés, shops and eateries and in 70m cross **Greenleaf Road**, after which the road starts to descend, by [Ye Olde Rose & Crown Theatre Pub](#) on the right hand side. In 50m *turn left* down **Jewel Road**, with some high rises visible in the distance in **the Lea Valley**. In 300m you cross the busy **Forest Road** (the A503) over a pedestrian crossing 10m to the left and – after crossing a cycle-path on the far side – continue along **Winns Terrace**, to the left of the fenced **Lloyd Park**, with the **William Morris Gallery** visible to the right in **Water House**. In 50m *turn right* into the park through a metal gate (the Winns Terrace South gate) and ignore the steps on the right leading up to a gate at the end of the brick wall around Water House's grounds.

Turn left, either along a broad tarmac path or wind your way through the **William Morris Garden** on the right, with several paths to choose from about 20m to your right. In 50m ignore the Winns Terrace North Gate out of the park and continue ahead along any of two wide paths, with a moated island away to the right. In 110m, by the Winns Avenue Gate on the left, *curve right* with the path, further following the moat on your right (i.e. ignore a bridge across the moat). In 60m a left turning path leads to the [Le Delice In The Park](#) café & restaurant in the Aveling Centre 50m away (open 9.00-17.00 summer, -16.00 winter), a couple of bowling greens and the **Aveling Fields**, some large tree-lined meadows suitable for an extended wander in the park.

But you *turn right* across a bridge over the moat onto the island and follow a straight path through it (ignore a left turn to a boating platform, as well as the right turn back to the bridge ignored earlier). Leave the island over another bridge and *turn left* along the moat. In 20m, just short of a little **waterfall** feature on the left, *turn right* through the **Terraced Garden** and in 50m, with the entrance to [Deeney's Café](#) away on the left (open 10.00-16.30 Tue-Sun), *turn right* along the brick wall. In 20m *turn left* through a metal gate into the walled grounds of **Water House** (the William Morris Gallery) and in 20m *turn left* along its drive past the entrance, either side of a circular green. *Turn right* out of the park past **The Lodge** onto Forest Road and *turn left* to a pedestrian crossing.

Here you have a choice:

For a loop via Walthamstow Town Hall, continue ahead along Forest Road and in 150m (notice the mural on the house wall on the right-hand side of the road) cross **Chingford Road** at a busy junction to [The Bell Pub & Kitchen](#) opposite and continue

along Forest Road. In 70m cross Kenilworth Avenue and in 60m Farnan Avenue and continue along the fence around the large grounds of the imposing Grade II-listed **Walthamstow Town Hall** (built 1942 in the 'Stripped Classicism' style), now Waltham Forest Town Hall (houses are currently being built to the sides of the Hall). The best view of it can be had from the main gate 120m along. Return along the road for 90m and *turn left* across it, using the road crossing island. Go up along **Hurst Road** and in 200m at the end of the road, at a T-junction, *turn right* along **Seaford Road**. In 130m *turn left* at a T-junction along **Howard Road** and in 30m *turn right* between metal bollards along **Aubrey Way**, a wide tarmac path. In 30m *turn left* along **Aubrey Road** and in 20m the **Main Walk** joins from the right along **Milton Road**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* across the road (cross the cycle paths on either side with care) and continue up along **Gaywood Road**. Notice the mural on the new-built block on the left and gently ascend back to the level of **Hoe Street**. In 140m *turn left* along the street and immediately cross over the right-hand side at a zebra crossing. In 20m you pass **Yard Sale Pizza** at the corner of Tower Hamlets Road (with **Walthamstow Trades Hall** up on the right) and in another 60m *turn right* along **Aubrey Road**. Notice the mural on the house on the right and immediately **[!]** *fork right* up along **Byron Road**. You get fine views into the Lea Valley on the ascent and at the end of the road, at a T-junction with **Milton Road**, *turn left* along it. In 60m *turn right* at a T-junction with Aubrey Road. The **Town Hall Loop** has joined from the left.

Both routes continue: in 65m the road continues as a back lane with garden rear doors on both sides before the road starts to descend. This is a mini **Outdoor Gallery of Street Art**, including (on a garage door on the left) a painting of the first internal combustion engine car made in Britain, the **Bremer Car** (made in Connaught Road, Walthamstow). In 110m cross **Church Hill** (road) at a pedestrian crossing to the right, with some fine views on the right towards some high rises by the station. The road continues as **Folkestone Road** and in 200m you *turn left* at a T-junction with **St. Mary Road**. In 100m, at the end of the road by a fine converted industrial building on the left, continue in the same direction along the tarmac **Church Path**, past a row of quaint cottages. You pass a sign and info panel in the fenced garden of the **Vestry House Museum** and in 70m pass the far corner of the **Vestry**.

The museum entrance is 30m away to the right (but it is closed for refurbishment until 2026!). Notice the **Waltham Forest Heritage** plaques on the buildings opposite to the right: first the **National Spiritualist Church**, then the **Walthamstow Fire Engine House**, as well as the **Squire's Almshouses** from 1795 on the left. *Turn left* along a tarmac then paved path between metal fences through a churchyard with its imposing memorials to the church building. In 50m you reach **St. Mary's Church**, which is well worth a look inside and also has the **St. Mary's Café by Ruttle & Rowe** (open to 16.00 Mon-Sat). *Turn right* back on yourself along another fenced paved path back to Church Lane 40m away, with **The Ancient House** opposite, to the right of which starts **Orford Road**. A rare **Penfold Post Box** is just on the left.

Here you have a choice:

For the extended walk up to Walthamstow Common and around Hollow Pond, *turn left* along Church Lane and pick up the directions at the end under **Extension**.

For the Main Walk, continue down Orford Road. In 60m you pass **The Nag's Head** pub and then cross the Overground line on a road bridge. In 40m **Summit Road** joins from the left, which leads to the **Ravenswood Industrial Estate**. The Long Walk joins from there. You will find **Wildcar Barrel Store** (currently closed), **The Rolling Scones Café** in **God's Own Junkyard**, **Mother's Ruin Gin Palace**, **Real AL Company & Taproom** and **Pillars Brewery** (London's first craft lager brewery and taproom).

*) The road turns to the right and in 80m from Summit Road you enter a stretch of Orford Road that is full of cafés, pubs, restaurants and an upmarket supermarket: a **Gail's** bakery, [The Village](#) craft beer pub, [Bern's & The Beans](#) café, [The Kitchen](#) restaurant, [The Castle](#) (some way down Eden Road on the left), [Eat 17](#) supermarket, [Bargo](#) cocktail bar, [Orford's Fish & Chips](#), [Ruff's Bistro](#) at Orford Saloon, [Hometipple](#) wine shop, deli and bistro, [Peeld](#) ramen & poke, [The Village Bakery](#) and café and [The Queen's Arms](#) pub. Continue along Orford Road, gently descending for 350m to **Hoe Street** (the A112). Cross the road to a Turkish restaurant opposite and *turn right* uphill, passing more cafés and food outlets. **Cedars Avenue** and **Priory Avenue** join from the left and in another 50m you *turn left* down **Station Approach** and in 70m reach the street level entrance to **Walthamstow Central Station**, leading onto the Liverpool Street bound platform 1 of the Weaver Line. Walk down the steps on the left to get to the Victoria Line.

Extension

In 60m the road starts a gentle descent and in 200m you cross **Shernhall Street** to continue a little to the left along **Vallentin Road**, further downhill, with a wooded ridge visible ahead. In 350m, at a T-junction with **Wood Street**, *turn right* to go under the railway bridge and on the far side *turn left* along Upper Walthamstow Road, passing the entrance to **Wood Street Station** (Weaver Line). In 130m follow Upper Walthamstow Road forking right, ignoring the continuation ahead (Fyfield Road). In 40m you ignore **Dean Gardens** to the right and ascend to the wooded ridge seen earlier, and in 280m ignore **Bisterne Avenue** from the left. In 60m pass **Peterhouse** on the left and continue in the same direction along a tarmac path.

This is **St. Peter's Path** and it enters the **Walthamstow Common part of Epping Forest** while the road curves away to the right. In 80m you cross a forest path with a yellow-topped marker post 30m to the left. This is the course of the **Epping Forest Centenary Walk** (now 'The Big Walk'), see [SWC Walk 259 – Manor Park to Epping](#). In 40m pass the entrance to the churchyard of the Grade II-listed **St. Peter-in-the-Forest Church**, founded in 1840 as a chapel of ease to St. Mary's, Walthamstow, and follow the tarmac path to a main road 50m ahead, by [My Shish Restaurant & Lounge](#) away to the left. Cross **Woodford New Road** (the A104) at a set of lights and enter a wood a little to the right. *Fork left* immediately along a narrow earthen path.

In 50m cross a broader grass and earth path and in 70m cross a streamlet on an earth bridge. In 40m *turn right* at a T-junction, in 30m entering a linear clearing. Follow the right-hand side trees, in 50m passing a small clump of trees on the left. The clearing widens out on the left and in 110m you cross an often dry ditch and then *turn right* along a path joining from the left. You have the fenced grounds of **The Forest School** on the right and in 80m a path joins from the left. Pass an often dry pond on the left and in another 40m continue ahead at an oblique crossing, now with trees on both sides. Ignore all ways off until you pass a metal car barrier and cross **Snaresbrook Road** carefully to a car park opposite. Follow a footpath along the right of the car park and in 15m *fork right* along an earthen path.

In 15m ignore a right fork, then cross a couple of minor paths and in 80m cross a wide clearing of gravel, sand and grass to in 50m pick a up a gravel path through gorse bushes. In 60m you have the **Hollow Pond** on the right. You now walk along three sides of the pond: in 40m cross an outflow of a reed-filled pond on the left into Hollow Pond; in 50m a couple of paths join from the right and in 60m you *veer right* with the gravel path along the pond, now with the grassy **Leighton Flats** on the left. In 110m ignore a faint left fork across the grass and continue towards the audible **Whipps Cross Road**. In 100m pass an info panel on the right and in 40m – with a car park ahead housing the **Lakeside Diner** and **The Log Cabin** food kiosk – you *turn right* with the pond side path. Follow any path between pond and road and in 230m a right fork leads onto a small peninsula jutting out into the pond (up to 100m each-way) and in another 170m you pass to the right of a boathouse.

In 30m join an engineered gravel-on-tarmac path to the right of the road, a shared cycle and footpath. In 100m *turn left* across the road at a set of lights and *turn right* on the far side along a tarmac path, immediately crossing the drive into the **Whipps Cross University Hospital**. In 50m continue ahead along pavement, where the road curves to the right and follow the path past a bus stop and across a cycle-track. Ignore residential roads to the left and continue to the right of a **Cadet Training Centre**. In 75m, at a T-junction with **Lea Bridge Road** (the A104), you *turn left* to the left of the cycle-path and in 40m *turn right* at the second set of lights across the road. Ignore Wood Street ahead and *turn left* along the road. In 30m you cross the cycleway on your right and *fork right* along **Raglan Road**, passing the **Lamb's Café** on its right.

Ignore all right turns and in 200m you reach a four-way road junction opposite **The Lord Raglan** pub. *Turn right* uphill along **Shernhall Street**. The road curves to the left in 120m and to the right in another 220m. Ignore Addison Road to the left and in 60m *turn left* along the drive into the Ravenswood Industrial Estate, site of the **Ravenswood Collective** (there is a pedestrian crossing a little further along). In 40m *curve to the right* to then pass **Pillars Brewery** (London's first craft lager brewery and taproom), **Real AL Company & Taproom**, **Mother's Ruin Gin Palace**, **The Rolling Scones Café** in **God's Own Junkyard**, **Wildcar Barrel Store** (currently closed). *Turn left* with the road and in 50m leave the estate through a metal pedestrian gate and continue uphill along Summit Road. In 140m you reach Orford Road at a T-junction. The Overground railway line and **The Nag's Head** pub is away to the right. The Main Walk joins from that direction.

Turn left and pick up the directions above at the asterisk *).