

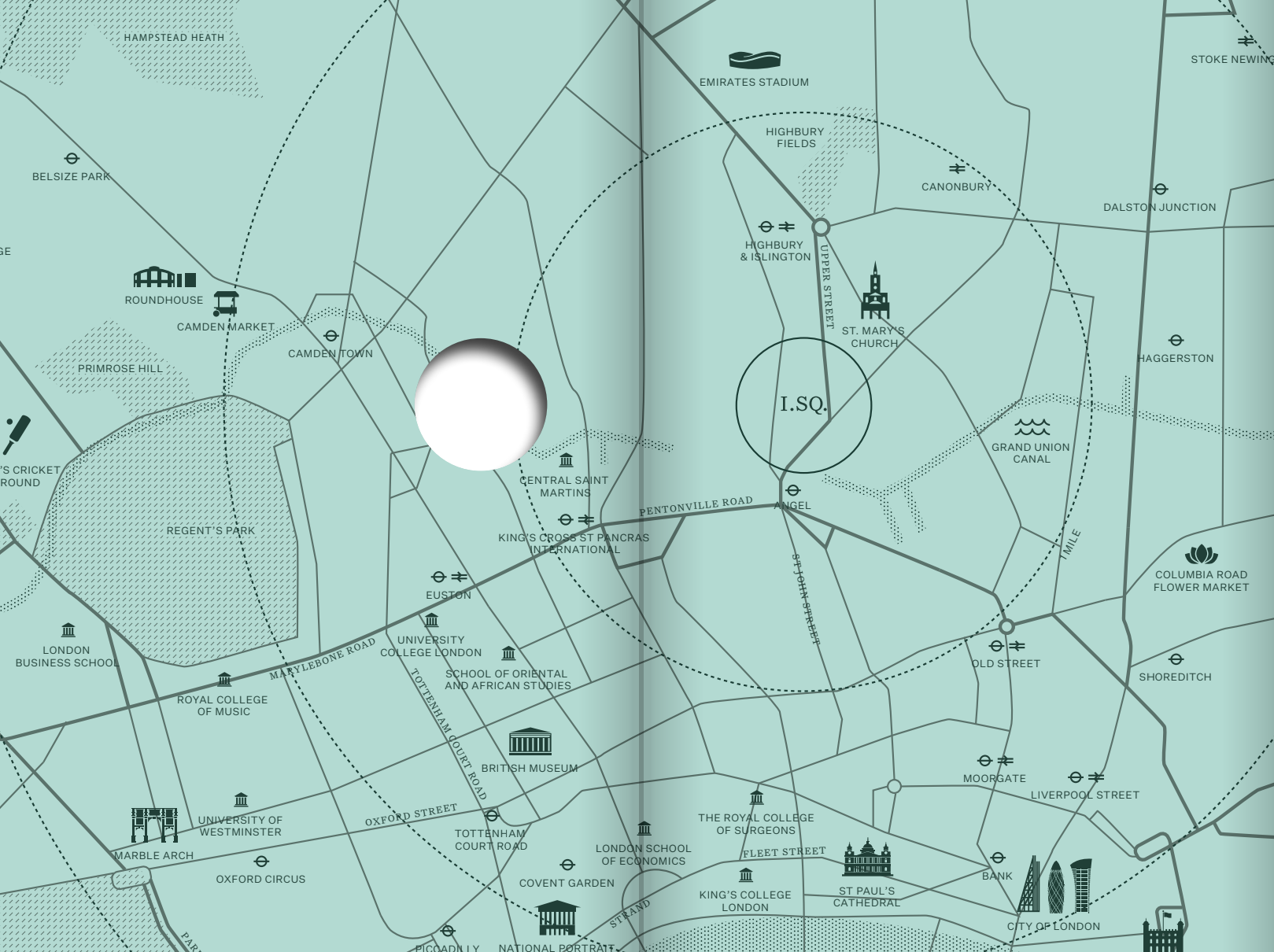
ISLINGTON AREA GUIDE

ISLINGTON
SQUARE ·

EXPLORE THE WHOLE OF LONDON



Islington is the perfect starting point for exploring the best of the capital, surrounded by the kinds of museums, galleries and shopping destinations that people fly halfway round the world to see.



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ISLINGTON IS A GREAT
PLACE TO LIVE.

IN FACT IT HAS SO
MUCH TO OFFER THAT IF
YOU'RE NEW TO THE AREA,
YOU MIGHT NEED A LITTLE
HELP DECIDING WHERE TO
EXPLORE FIRST.

BUT OF COURSE, THIS IS
JUST THE BEGINNING.
START WITH THE CAREFULLY
CURATED CHOICES
IN THIS AREA GUIDE,
THEN HEAD OUT
ON YOUR OWN AND SEE
WHAT ELSE YOU DISCOVER...

AREA AMBASSADORS

TERESA GRIMES

NAOMI SCHILLINGER

PAUL ROSEBY

ANNA COLQUHOUN

CHRISTINE LOVETT

ROBERTA CREMONCINI

SIMON HARVEY

SHOBANA JEYASINGH

TERESA GRIMES
Director at Tintype Gallery



“ST MARY’S CHURCH
GARDENS IS A SECLUDED
OASIS IN AN URBAN
ENVIRONMENT. IT HAS A GREAT
CHARM AND A LOVELY SNAKING
PATH, CIRCULAR ROSE BEDS,
PROPER OLD-FASHIONED PARK
BENCHES – A SORT OF
SECRET PLACE.”

Teresa is owner and director of Islington’s contemporary art gallery Tintype. Since opening in 2010, the gallery has represented a number of UK artists including Suki Chan, George Eksts and Flora Parrott. Teresa’s background in directing and producing film and television helped with launching the Essex Road series of commissioned films now in its fifth year.



WATERSIDE CONTEMPORARY

Teresa thinks this very successful gallery is definitely worth visiting. She's impressed by the number of international connections it has, working with artists from all over the world, including Poland, Russia and Germany. It's an exciting place, she says, with a very strong programme of exhibitions.

ST MARY'S CHURCH GARDENS

She describes this as a secluded oasis in the urban environment. She's charmed by the snaking paths, circular rose beds and old-fashioned benches, where people take lunch on a sunny day and walk their dogs. Kids love it too, particularly with the puppet theatre right next door.

CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY

This society has been around for over a hundred years, working to broaden people's knowledge about contemporary arts. She urges people to join up as members to take advantage of exhibitions by well-known and emerging artists, studio visits and gallery tours. She's a particular fan of the talks held here too.





ArtReview

Elaine Zarembo

Art Basel
Parcours

gli artisti italiani della Collezione ACAC

Museums explore
the legacy of the Master of Waterloo

NAOMI SCHILLINGER
Gardener & Writer



“YIPIN CHINA IS
A FABULOUS CHINESE
RESTAURANT. THEY’RE
REALLY FRIENDLY AND
THE FOOD IS TO-DIE-FOR,
THE STUFFED
LUFFAS WITH GARLIC IS
ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL
SO IF IT’S IN SEASON,
HAVE THAT.”

Naomi is a gardener, writer and blogger who believes vegetable-growing can be tailored to urban spaces. In 2009 she started a community project that inspired fellow Islington residents to transform their gardens into vegetable patches, later turning the project into her first book ‘Veg Street’. Her second book called ‘Grow All You Can Eat In Three Square Feet’ focuses on how to grow fruit and veg when you haven’t much room to spare.

AU LAC

As a vegetable expert, Naomi knows when a restaurant gets their greens right, and she says Au Lac is a great example. The Vietnamese place in Highbury is one of her favourite go-to restaurants, perfect both for a meal out or for a takeaway if you'd rather stay in. Her tip? Try the Morning Glory greens.

HOUSE OF HODGE

This charity bookshop on Blackstock Road is affectionately described as a jumbled but welcoming place. Call in with an author in mind and you're bound to find one of their novels. Or just go to be inspired, and if you're like Naomi, you'll end up leaving with an armful of books. Money from sales goes to animal welfare charities.

YIPIN CHINA

This is another restaurant that really impresses the gardener with an appreciation of vegetables done well. Don't be put off by the slightly sparse decor, she says, because it's a really friendly place and the food is delicious. If they're in season, she recommends the stuffed loofas with garlic. Wonderful.





PAUL ROSEBY
Director at National Youth Theatre



“EVERY TIME I COME
IN I FEEL INCREDIBLY
CALM, RELAXED, AT EASE,
AND I JUST LOVE THE
FACT THAT ANYTHING
AND EVERYTHING YOU
SEE IS A SURPRISE.
IT’S NOT A MUSEUM,
IT’S AN EXPERIENCE.”

Paul is the CEO and Artistic Director of the National Youth Theatre. He has commissioned over 100 plays in 10 years at the helm, and directed the London 2012 Team Welcome Ceremonies. He’s also a broadcaster, with directing credits including When Romeo Met Juliet for BBC2 and Tom Stoppard’s take on Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice at the Royal Opera House.

TWENTYTWENTYONE

For Paul, this store typifies everything about Islington. It started very small as an unknown brand, it's become world-renowned, yet the shop is still on Upper Street. He remembers standing alongside the owners when they were all selling on Camden Market as teenagers, and loves the way their vision for a mid-century store has stayed true, while also encouraging new artists and designers.

FLASHBACK RECORDS

This is one for the true vinyl obsessives. He describes it as a sort of vinyl chaos, because it's very scratchy, very broken and very genuine. It's a real one-off, he says, without a polished or big brand feel. You go in there and you have no clue what you're going to get, but if you love vinyl, you have to go there before anywhere else.

D & A BINDER

He stumbled upon this store years ago when he was walking along the Holloway Road and thinks it's a fantastic and unique place. Every visit makes him feel relaxed and at ease, because everything he sees in there is a surprise, mixing history with a sense of great possibilities. It's not a museum, it's an experience, he says.





ANNA COLQUHOUN
Culinary Anthropologist



“THEY DO GREAT ETHIOPIAN
SPECIALS LIKE DORO WAT, THE
FAMOUS CHICKEN AND
ONION DISH. AND IF YOU
FANCY DOING YOUR OWN
ETHIOPIAN COOKING YOU CAN
GO THERE TO BUY
INGREDIENTS AND HAVE
A GO AT HOME.”

Anna is the Culinary Anthropologist — a food writer, cooking teacher, and proud food nerd. She’s author of *Eat Slow Britain*, consultant on BBC Radio 4’s *The Kitchen Cabinet*, and preserving guru for Riverford Organic, while also running cooking classes and a London supper club called the Secret Kitchen. A trained chef, she is currently writing several cookbooks.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

This is one of Anna's favourite pubs in the borough, and she loves it because it's the first and only organic pub in the country. Organic farmers generally take much better care of the soil and ecosystems than most conventional farmers, which she says is reassuring because it means her dining habits are helping support a healthy planet for the future

69 COLEBROOKE ROW

She's proud to say that the very best cocktails in London are served in her borough. With a drinks list of adventurous distillations, infusions and centrifuged potions combining things like clay, moss or pink peppercorns, she recommends getting a seat at the bar early and chatting to the bartenders for their expert advice.

HAMER ETHIOPIA

This authentic restaurant impresses with Ethiopian specials like the chicken and onion doro wat and the raw beef and spiced butter kitfo. But it's not just a place to dine out, because they sell ingredients too. So if you fancy trying out your own Ethiopian cooking at home, they've got what you need.





PACH CEF LINE
02/7/15 - 14/7/15
1 bottle Dolare K/L +
100 sugar + 90 bread +
20 leaves, same tota.

PACH CEF LINE
02/7/15 - 14/7/15
1 bottle Dolare K/L +
100 sugar + 90 bread +
20 leaves, same tota.

CHRISTINE LOVETT
CEO at Angel.London



“ISLINGTON GREEN IS
THE CENTRE OF ANGEL,
THIS IS WHERE
THE COMMUNITY
COMES TOGETHER. WE WILL HAVE
A SUPERB CHRISTMAS
MARKET AND PUT
ON OTHER EVENTS TO BRING
PEOPLE THERE.”

Christine is the CEO of Angel.London, an influential organisation that represents over 900 local businesses with the aim of promoting the area's vibrant high street. Previously she worked for Islington Council for 20 years, involved in major housing developments and the regeneration of King's Cross and Exmouth Market. More recently she managed a £2.5m improvement project for the centre of Angel that attracted multi-national companies to the borough.

FREDERICK'S

This family-run place has been going for over 40 years, which could make it the oldest restaurant in the borough. Christine is a big fan of the food, and not just because she works from the same building. She describes it as iconic, representing that independent spirit that runs through all of Islington.

ISLINGTON GREEN

For her, this is the real centre of Islington, where the whole community comes together. The triangle of green space where Upper Street and Essex Road meet is a place where you can just sit and watch the world go by, or attend one of the many events there, from VE Day celebrations to Christmas markets.

CHAPEL MARKET

Open daily, this is where she heads to when she gets a rare lunch break, wandering round the stalls and enjoying the buzz of vibrant and diverse market life. As far as she's concerned, the fresh fruit and veg on offer here can't be beaten in the whole of London. There's also an unmissable farmers' market on Sundays too.





ROBERTA CREMONCINI
Director at Estorick Collection



“GEM RESTAURANT IS
ONE OF MY FAVOURITES.
THEY DO A VERY NICE ARRAY
OF TURKISH FOOD AND
GREAT MEZE, AND THE
ATMOSPHERE IS ALWAYS VERY
RELAXED. WE SPEND
MANY EVENINGS THERE FOR
DINNER AND PARTIES FOR THE
ESTORICK COLLECTION.”

Roberta is the director of the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art. She has been with the Islington museum since 1997 and has curated many exhibitions including ‘Fortunato Depero: Carnival of Colour’, and ‘Giorgio Morandi: the Collectors’ Eye’. Roberta, who lives in Islington, also publishes articles and essays and is a regular contributor to various arts magazines.

NEW RIVER WALK

If you want to see a unique bit of Islington, Roberta recommends the New River Walk. Unlike some of the larger parks, she says it's got its own identity, which can feel almost surreal sometimes because it's so secluded and removed from the rest of the borough. Take a walk along the canal on a quiet Sunday and enjoy the calm, where there's likely to be just you and the ducks.

LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE

This small puppet theatre is the perfect introduction for children into live performance, and it feels like a very magical and special place. The shows are very impressive and likely to foster a love of theatre that will stay with them forever, she says. The performances are carefully targeted to different ages, the puppeteers are very talented, and the whole experience is normally very interactive because the children participate themselves.

GEM RESTAURANT

This restaurant on Upper Street is often the first choice for parties when Roberta wants to celebrate new exhibitions and events at her Estorick Collection gallery space. She says she loves the Turkish food and mezzes they serve, making it the perfect place for dinner when you want a welcoming restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere, all in an authentic Anatolian setting.





SIMON HARVEY
Vicar at St Mary's Church



“THERE’S AN AMAZING
RANGE OF BAKED CAKES
AND BREAD. I HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL BECAUSE IF I FILL MY
BASKET WITH
THREE OR FOUR DIFFERENT
LOAVES, I CAN GET
THROUGH THEM ALL IN
A DAY OR TWO.”

Simon has the oldest job in the borough as vicar of the Church of England parish of St Mary, Islington. The role in the parish dates back to 1327, though he wasn't around then. He's been living and working in the Upper Street church since 2010 and believes Christianity has real relevance in today's modern world. His hobbies include urban walking and enjoying fine beer, both of which he does at some of his favourite spots in the borough.

THE CRAFT BEER CO.

He makes sure he drops in to this pub on White Lion Street every couple of weeks to sample the latest additions. There's always something new, from wheat beers and IPA, to lesser-known ales from around the globe. Go here to unwind, read a book or play a board game, safe in the knowledge you'll be mixing with interesting people, and bar staff who know everything there is to know about beer.

RAAB'S THE BAKERS

This family-run business on Essex road is one of Simon's favourite spots for a bite to eat. It's always busy, he says, but that's part of the thrill, joining the queue and soaking up the atmosphere. He's just as impressed with the welcoming attitude of the owners as he is with their amazing range of baked cakes and bread. He says he doesn't go in too often though as he'll end up going home with four different loaves.

PARKLAND WALK

When he wants to escape the hustle and bustle and get close to nature without leaving the city, the Parkland Walk is where he goes. It's 4.5 miles of greenery following the path of an old railway line, which he describes as beautiful, secluded and quiet. It's such a secret place that you wouldn't think you were in the middle of a city, he says.



*Open Thou mine eyes
that I may behold wondrous things
out of Thy law*



REMEMBRANCE OF ME

SHOBANA JEYASINGH
Choreographer



“IT’S ONE OF THOSE
SHOPS THAT PERSUADES
YOU THAT YOU REALLY
NEED EVERYTHING
IN IT BECAUSE IT’S SO
BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED.
YOU CONVINCE YOURSELF
THAT YOU COULD NOT POSSIBLY
COOK ANYTHING IN YOUR
KITCHEN WITHOUT IT.”

Shobana is a choreographer who has created over 60 critically acclaimed pieces for theatre and film. Her work has toured the world from Europe to Hong Kong, commissioned by flagship institutions including the Southbank Centre and The Royal Opera House. Her company, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance based in Islington, has won numerous accolades including two Time Out Dance Awards and three Digital Dance Awards.

CANDID CAFE

It's all about surprise with the Candid Cafe. The first time she met a friend there, she couldn't understand where she was supposed to go, but after finally spotting the hidden door and heading up two flights of stairs, she was amazed by the place. A complete contrast to the more corporate coffee places, she says it's so relaxed it feels like sitting in someone's front room.

GILL WING COOK SHOP

This is a place Shobana tries to avoid, because she says that once she's inside, she's quickly convinced that she needs to buy everything in there. It's all so beautifully designed — whether it's an egg timer, a pan or a grater — that it suddenly feels like you couldn't possibly cook anything in your kitchen without it.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

She feels very lucky to have one of the leading dance theatres so near where she works. The theatre showcases dance from all over the world so is ideal for her to keep up-to-date on what's happening in choreography both in Britain and abroad. She loves the place so much that she has a favourite seat that she knows will give her the best view.





Sadler's Wells Theatre

CURATED WALKS

MARKET STROLL
COFFEE AND CULTURE
NEW RIVER WALK
CANAL STROLL
MORNING WALK
EVENING WALK

Reading about the much-loved spots of Islington gives you a real taste of the area, but there's no substitute for taking to the streets and exploring for yourself. We've put together a selection of curated walks that call into cafes, restaurants and galleries, while at the same time giving you a sense of how this borough of arts and culture all fits together. There are routes to suit everyone, whether you want a 20-minute stroll after lunch, or you've got the whole afternoon to wind your way through the neighbourhood.





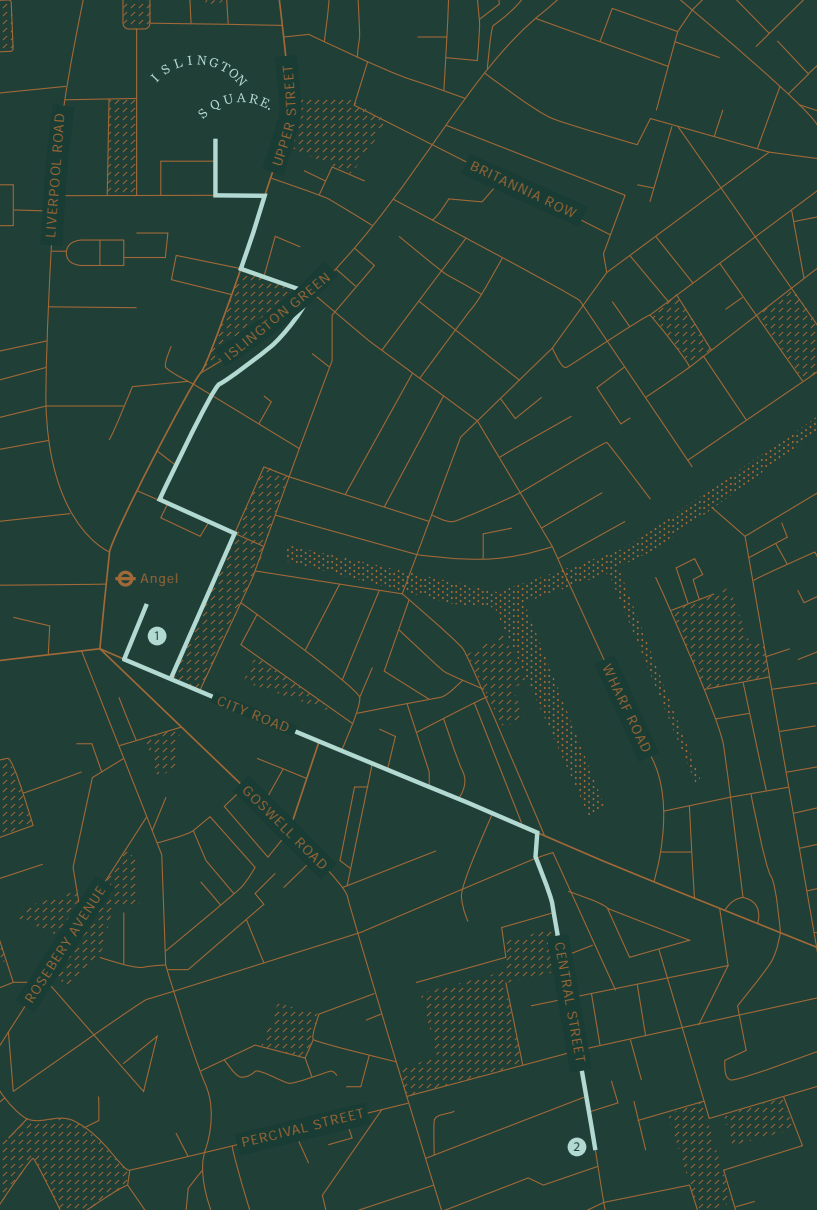
MARKET STROLL

20 MINUTES

Head south from Islington Square to browse Chapel Market, which is also the home of London's most established farmers' market every Sunday. From there it's just a couple of minutes to The Craft Beer Co., a pub dedicated to the kind of pint it's named after.

- 1 Chapel Market
Chapel Market,
London N1 9EZ
- 2 The Craft Beer Co.
55 White Lion Street,
London N1 9PP





COFFEE AND CULTURE

20 MINUTES

Make your way down to the Candid Cafe where you can sink into a sofa with a coffee or food. It's hidden away though, so keep an eye out for the horse's head above the door. After that it's a short stroll to the Contemporary Art Society where you'll find exhibitions, talks and special events.

- 1 Candid Cafe
3 Torrens Street,
London EC1V 1NQ
- 2 Contemporary Art Society
59 Central Street,
London EC1V 3AF

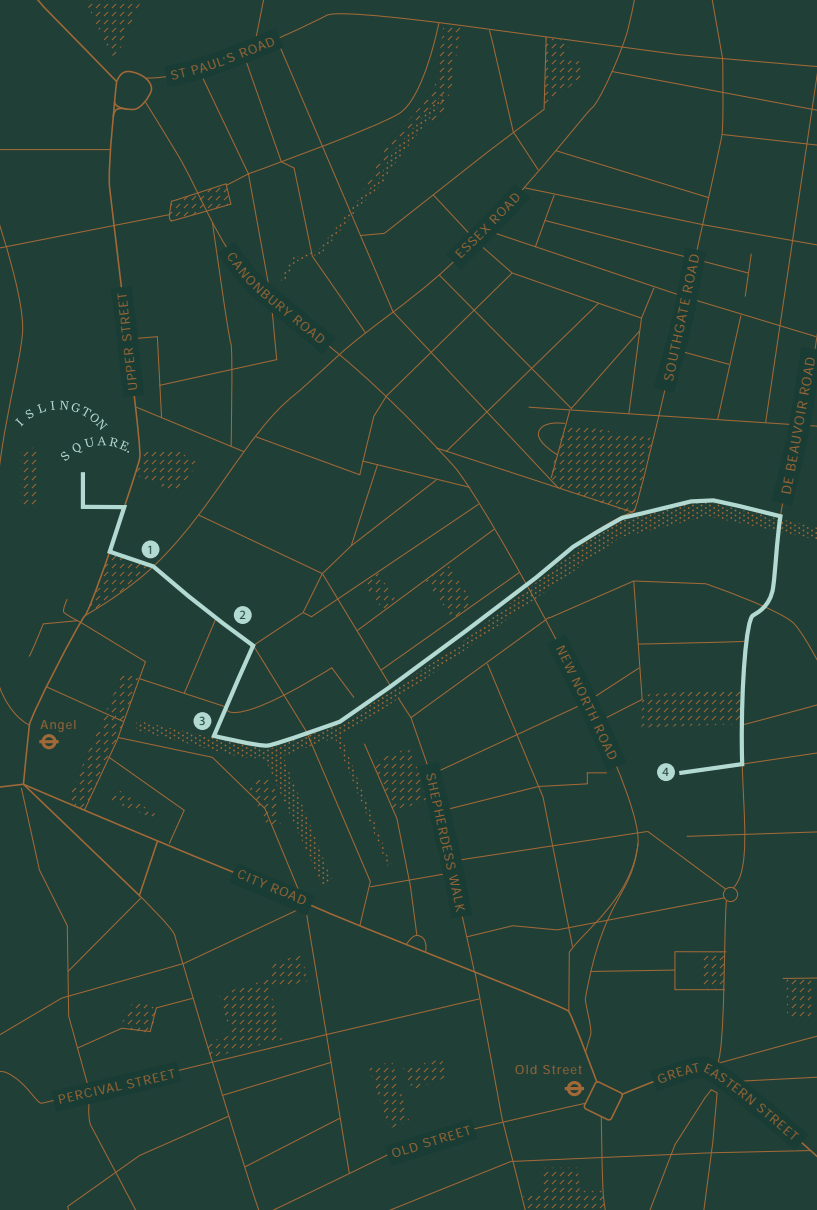
NEW RIVER WALK

40 MINUTES

First stop is a walk around Saint Mary's Church Gardens, then along Essex Road to Raab's the Bakers for a bite to eat. Next it's the New River Walk, taking you further north before doubling back towards two shops perfect for transforming your home and the meals you cook there — interior design specialists Twentytwentyone and Gill Wing Cook Shop.

- 1 St Mary's
Church Gardens
London N1 2TX
- 2 Raab's the Bakers
136 Essex Road,
London N1 8LX
- 3 New River Walk
Canonbury Grove,
London N1
- 4 Twentytwentyone
275 Upper Street,
London N1 2UA
- 5 Gill Wing Cook Shop
190 Upper Street,
London N1 1RQ





CANAL STROLL

40 MINUTES

Start with a wander to Islington Green before making your way along St Peter's Street to The Duke of Cambridge, Britain's first and only certified organic pub. After enjoying the Riverford food on offer, walk it off along Regent's Canal before calling in to see the art on display at the Waterside Contemporary.

- 1 Islington Green
Upper Street,
London N1 8DU
- 2 The Duke of Cambridge
30 St Peter's Street,
London N1 8JTX
- 3 Regent's Canal
London N1
- 4 Waterside Contemporary
2 Clunbury Street,
London N1 6T

MORNING WALK

90 MINUTES

Along Holloway Road is D & A Binder, an Aladdin's cave of traditional furniture, then it's 20 minutes across Highbury Fields and up Blackstock Road to a haven for booklovers, House of Hodge. Stop off at Hamer for authentic Ethiopian cuisine, then stray off the beaten track for some peace and quite along the Parkland Walk.

- 1 D & A Binder
101 Holloway Road,
London N7 8LT
- 2 House of Hodge
174 Blackstock Road,
London N5 1HA
- 3 Hamer Ethiopia
1B Rock Street,
London N4 2DN
- 4 Parkland Walk
Florence Road,
London N4 3EY



EVENING WALK

60 MINUTES

Start this circular walk with a visit to independent store Flashback Records to browse the vinyl, then onto Yipin China for their traditional Hunanese dishes. Next head south to take in a performance at the renowned Sadler's Wells Theatre, before rounding things off with a cocktail or two at 69 Colebrooke Row.

- 1 Flashback Records
50 Essex Road,
London N1 8LR
- 2 Yipin China
70 – 72 Liverpool Road,
London N1 0QD
- 3 Sadler's Wells Theatre
Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1R 4TN
- 4 69 Colebrooke Row
69 Colebrooke Row,
London N1 8AA

69 Colebrooke Row
69 Colebrooke Row,
London N1 8AA

Au Lac
82 Highbury Park,
London N5 2XE

Candid Cafe
3 Torrens Street,
London EC1V 1NQ

Chapel Market
Chapel Market,
London N1 9EZ

Contemporary Art Society
59 Central Street,
London EC1V 3AF

The Craft Beer Co.
55 White Lion Street,
London N1 9PP

D & A Binder
101 Holloway Road,
London N7 8LT

The Duke of Cambridge
30 St Peter's Street,
London N1 8JT

Flashback Records
50 Essex Road,
London N1 8LR

Frederick's
106 Camden Passage,
London N1 8EG

Gem Restaurant
264 – 265 Upper Street,
London N1 2UQ

Gill Wing Cook Shop
190 Upper Street,
London N1 1RQ

Hamer Ethiopia
1B – 1C Rock Street,
London N4 2DN

House of Hodge
174 Blackstock Road,
London N5 1HA

Islington Green
Upper Street,
London N1 8DU

Little Angel Theatre
14 Dagmar Passage,
London N1 2DN

New River Walk,
Canonbury Grove,
London N1

Parkland Walk
Florence Road,
London N4 3EY

Raab's the Bakers
136 Essex Road,
London N1 8LX

Sadler's Wells Theatre
Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1R 4TN

St Mary's Church Gardens
Upper Street
London N1 2TX

Twentytwentyone
274 – 275 Upper Street,
London N1 2UA

Waterside Contemporary
2 Clunbury Street,
London N1 6TT

Yipin China
70 – 72 Liverpool Road,
London N1 0QD

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Just off Upper Street, two new double-height arcades open out onto a tree-lined boulevard with new restaurants, shops and grand public spaces.

Join our aspirational mix of fashion and leading lifestyle brands; tenants include premium health club Third Space, luxury cinema by Odeon and a flagship store for Scandinavian label COS.