

For friends and single explorers (The Dollis Valley is suitable for families)

the journey begins...

A beautiful place to start your exploration is **The Dollis Valley Greenwalk**. Crossing the busy **Barnet Hill** from **High Barnet Tube**, walk across the sloping grass verge opposite and onto Underhill Road, pass down **Barnet Lane**, with **Barnet FC** and **Barnet Playing Fields** to your left and make your way across the fields to the far corner. Here, the nature reserve on a bright summer, or crisp winter day is perfect for peaceful walks.

Discover the fascinating range of plants, smell the flowers, and watch the sun arc over the old Hayfields, ablaze with colour and be transported to another time. In medieval times the Valley was an important stage on the High Road to London, a piece of ancient local grazing land that runs alongside **Dollis Brook** past the peaceful **Wyatts and Brook Farm Open Farm Spaces**. If you turn a blind eye to the excellent **South Hertfordshire Golf Course**, the scene is much the same today as it was 500 years ago.

What else about Barnet...

Barnet is the gateway to London. Travellers from the North have stopped here for hundreds of years, to graze their horses, rest their legs and sharpen their tools before they enter the City. Today of course, northerners are more likely to travel down the M1 by car than on horseback. But the area's great journeying past continues.

Signs of the area's rich heritage can be found throughout the borough. What's more, Barnet is constantly renewing itself; each generation of immigrants continue to leave their mark.

the journey continues...

The path forms part of the fantastic **London Loop Walk**, which you can follow all the way to **Hampstead Heath**, with only a small amount of road walking along the way. At the next major road, **Totteridge Lane**, however, it's well worth stopping to explore. To your left is **Totteridge and Whetstone Tube station** - sitting conveniently and equidistant to its two namesakes.

Turning right and a 15-minute walk down the hill is **Totteridge Village** - a pretty, parade of shops adjacent to an old style village green. Nearby there is a cricket and tennis club, and plenty of green spaces to let the kids run loose. And if you're in need of some refreshment, you can try out the extremely picturesque **Orange Tree pub**.

Some of the most expensive houses in London are to be found here and many famous people have made their home here - from **Frankie Vaughan** and **Hank Marvin** to top footballers. In Anglo Saxon times, it was known as 'Tatta's Ridge'. The ridge is the high ground between the valleys of the **Dollis Brook** and **Folly Brook** (and **Tatta** perhaps the top Angle footballer of his day!). **Ellern Mede** is a working farm and there are several, pretty duck ponds adjacent to **Totteridge Green** and **Totteridge Lane**.



artsdepot in Finchley

now the journey gets interesting...

Walk up the hill in the opposite direction and you'll discover **Whetstone** - a far busier, modern town. Even along its bustling long and straight, familiar looking high street, if you know where to look, ancient life stares right back at you. The main thoroughfare itself, the **High Road**, owes its straightness to the fact it once formed part of the medieval **Great North Road** that stretched all

the way from **London** to **Edinburgh**. And if you look carefully outside the **Griffin Pub**, on the pavement stands a **whetstone**, which was once used to sharpen knives and other tools. The activity gave the town its name. If you're hungry there are plenty of restaurants along the length of today's **High Road** to whet tools and appetites of a modern sort.

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RAF Museum

This may be a good time to take your thoughts of just how many people have walked along this road home with you. If so take the Northern Line Tube one stop back to High Barnet from Totteridge and Whetstone and you're quickly back where you started. If you're keen to discover even more history and maybe some contemporary culture, journey south instead. Take the Northern Line from Totteridge and Whetstone Tube, south to Camden Town, cross over to the Edgware Branch of the Tube line and travel up to Hendon Central.

the journey continues...

Hendon is a bustling interchange of traffic and people going to work and college, and back and forth into the city. This and Hendon's proximity to the M1 makes it a good candidate for today's version of the medieval High Road at Whetstone. But there is an older Hendon just minutes away. To get there, cross the main road and take the 326 bus and the short journey to Church Road and walk up Church Lane. Here, you'll discover an ancient

hamlet and the **Church Farmhouse Museum**. Inside this beautiful mid 17th Century building, near to the lovely **St Mary's Church**, you'll discover a fascinating array of themed period rooms. The kitchen is laid out as if it were 1820 with a grand open fireplace. Come December, the dining room is fully regaled in decorations fit for a Victorian Christmas. After your visit, you can grab a few minutes rest at **The Greyhound** pub next door.

And you may well need it. Coming back the way you came, the bus takes you on past Hendon Central and to consumer heaven - the **Brent Cross Shopping Centre**. Back in 1976, Brent Cross was the UK's first experiment in mall shopping. And the innovation hasn't stopped there. Plans are afoot to re-imagine the whole centre, including opening its main thoroughfare to the air - a high street fit for the future. For now all your major stores can be found under the one roof from John Lewis and Fenwick to Marks and Spencer and H&M. Brent Cross is a civilized alternative to dragging your bags down Oxford Street.



Brent Cross Shopping Centre



RAF Museum

But if shopping isn't where your heart lies, then reach for greater heights at the famous **RAF Museum**. From Hendon Central, take the tube north to Colindale, and after a short 7-minute walk, immerse yourself in a fantastic display of over a hundred full-size aircraft from all over the world, all under cover of the historic site of the original London Aerodrome. These include the legendary Spitfire and Lancaster Bombers - truly incredible machines to behold.

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Once you've come back down to earth, its time to experience flights of fancy of a different kind. For your evening out, visit the most contemporary of North London venues - **artsdepot** in Finchley. This fantastic state of the art, new public theatre, gallery and teaching space present an ambitious programme of plays, music, dance and art.

By tube, alight at Finchley Central and walk up the station slip road and turn right into Nether Street, cross the road, and take any double decker bus from Tesco a few minutes down the road and get off at Waitrose. You can't miss artsdepot - it is the unmistakable new development ahead on your right, with modern apartments above. As there's a bar serving food, why not make a night of it. Or take the plunge and sign up for a course - from acting to Bollywood dancing. To get back to where you started take the Northern Line south to Camden, change on to the High Barnet Branch, and go north to High Barnet.



contact information

High Barnet Tube
Barnet Hill, EN5 5RP

Wyatts and Brook Farm Open Farm Spaces
T: +44 (0)7752 330 550
W: www.barnet.gov.uk
Tube. Totteridge and Whetstone

South Hertfordshire Golf Course
T: +44 (0)20 8445 2035
W: www.southhertsgolfclub.co.uk
Tube. Totteridge and Whetstone

Car. From Central London - Take the A1 through Highgate and join the A1000. Continue on the A1000 through Finchley, turning left onto Totteridge Lane (A5109) at Whetstone. Links Drive is the third turning on the right past Totteridge and Whetstone underground station

From M1 - Leave the motorway at Junction 4, taking the A41 towards Central London. At the second roundabout turn left onto the A1 and immediately right onto the A5109. Links Drive is approximately 3.5 miles on the left.

London Loop Walk
W: www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking

Griffin Pub
262 High Road, Whetstone, N20 9HH
T: +44 (0)20 8445 1110
E: griffin@massivepub.com

Church Farmhouse Museum
T: +44 (0)20 8203 0130
W: www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk
Buses: 113, 143, 183, 186, 326
Opening Times
Monday to Thursday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5, Friday Closed, Saturday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5.30, Sunday 2 - 5.30

St Mary's Church
Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4
E: theoffice@hendonstmary.co.uk
W: www.hendonstmary.co.uk

The Greyhound Pub
Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT
T: +44 (0)20 8457 9730

Brent Cross Shopping Centre
T: +44 (0)20 8202 8095
W: www.brentcross.co.uk
Car. Brent Cross is situated close to several major trunk routes including the M1, A41, A5 and A406, London's North Circular Road. It is easily reached from the M25.
Opening Hours:
Monday - Friday, 10am - 8pm; Saturday 9am - 7pm; Sunday 12noon - 6pm; Sunday browse time from 11.30am

RAF Museum
Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL
T: +44 (0)20 8205 2266 (General Information)
W: www.rafmuseum.org.uk

artsdepot
5 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 0GA.
T: +44 (0)20 8369 5454
W: www.artsdepot.co.uk

