

For families, friends, couples and singles

### the journey begins...

A beautiful place to start any exploration is Highgate Wood. Taking the left entrance from Highgate Tube, up the steep pathway and across the busy Muswell Hill Road, the wood on a bright summer or leafy autumn day, is

perfect for romantic or family walks. The 70 acres of woodland originally formed part of the ancient forest of Middlesex, which once covered much of London. Today it offers the chance to take a trip back to an earlier age.

### What else about Crouch End...

*Crouch End is in one of London's best kept secrets. Sitting in a valley between Crouch Hill and Highgate to the south and west, and Muswell Hill and Alexandra Park to the north, it has all the qualities of a small rural village. Its friendly street bistros and pretty and quiet areas of parkland all give the area a leafy suburban character. But this belies the cosmopolitan edge of its residents and attractions. Crouch End is very much part of the city too. Famous residents have included Simon Pegg who filmed his cult classic film *Shaun of the Dead* in the area.*

### the journey continues...

Walking under the dense foliage, kicking the leaves on an autumn day, or hiding from the summer sun, you can forget you're in a modern city altogether. The wood encloses an impressive playing field, where young people can let off some steam while adults chat on the terrace of a delightful café that serves substantial hot food and

drinks (there's a handy toilet too). And of course, there's plenty of nature here to keep the whole family busy for a good few hours - or a simple 30-minute walk. The wildlife notice board near the café charts wildlife sightings as diverse as Red Kites to Hedgehogs.



Alexandra Palace

If the kids don't tire you out, you can take a leisurely 40-minute walk along the quirky 'Parkland Walk' to Crouch End Hill. This disused railway line winds between Finsbury Park all the way to Alexandra Palace and is a truly magical way to discover this part of the city. To find the walk, leave Highgate Wood at Gypsey gate, the entrance closest to Highgate Tube, grab hold of any toddlers and cross the busy Muswell Hill Road. Head on down the Archway Road, but look out for white signs displaying green arrows. These indicate the direction of The Capital Ring. This is a fascinating walking ringroad encircling London of which the Parkland Walk forms a part. Take a left down Holmesdale Road, where, a minute or so down, the trail begins.

### now the journey gets interesting...

Fifty years ago, this disused railway line was busy ferrying passengers overground from Finsbury Park to Highgate and was the planned route for a Northern Line extension. Today such bustling activity seems almost unimaginable. The 'Walk' has returned almost completely back to nature, sheltered by mature trees;

like a country lane underfoot, it wends its quiet way between the backs of houses. Occasionally you come across what must once have been a railway cottage with all the surprise of a rural idyll. Young people bike the route and young couples walk their dogs in near peace and quiet. It is one of London's hidden gems.

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An excellent place to come off the Parkland Way is Crouch End Hill. From here you can pick up the bus or take a short walk into Crouch End itself. A redbrick late 19th century clock tower dominates the view and the north end of Crouch End Broadway. Its stone placard is dedicated to a local councillor Henry Reader Williams, who led the campaign to preserve Highgate Wood.

### the journey continues...

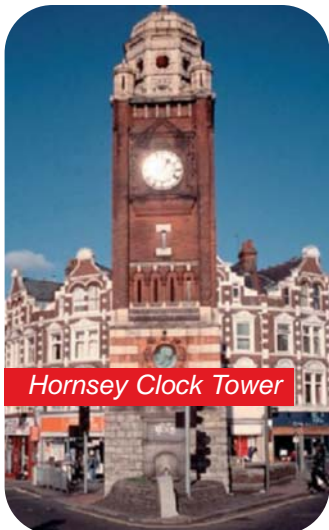
Fashionable Crouch End is a very special part of old London. Its traditional shops from art material sellers to timber merchants; fashion boutiques to bistros are reminiscent of a time long lost. Its once frequently used railway station is now a stop on the 'Parkland Walk' and, as there is no Tube, the whole area feels somehow left to those 'in the know'.

There is a seemingly endless parade of shops to pop in and out of. They exhibit real individuality. Like **Prospero's Books** - an aptly named independent bookshop. Or the glorious traditional sausages with a twist - 'Creole and Smokey' and 'Pork and Spinach', displayed in the window of **Freeman's Sausages**.

As you grow a little weary from all your walking and shopping, there's a fantastic choice of venues where you can get a bite to eat or something to drink including places popular with the locals such as **Banners** on Park Road, which rumour has it serves up a great breakfast. Or if you'd like to eat to a musical accompaniment there's a range of friendly, musical bistros where you can rest your weary legs such as **Florians**, a Jazz restaurant on the colourful **Topsfield Parade**.



*Hungry?*



*Hornsey Clock Tower*

Rested and satiated you can either take the numerous buses back to Finsbury Park Tube or move on to visit another piece of historic North London. Alexandra Palace, once home to the early BBC, and the site from which the first public television broadcast made its way into British homes. Take the right fork past the Clock Tower up Middle Road to Palace Road - the third turning on your left. Then take the W3 bus (from stop Q) for a 30-minute ride up to see this fantastic old building.

At the moment it is partly in ruin, like a grand dilapidated Victorian railway station, but it's a hive of activity too. There's a busy working ice rink, café and the view is really something. From the long, grand balcony that runs the length of the building there are panoramic vistas of the capital. From Hampstead and the tip of the Post Office tower to the West to Canary Wharf in the East. On a clear day it's breathtaking.

From here, pop onto the W5 bus towards Crouch End and make the short journey down the windy Alexandra Park Road. Get off at the first left turning into Priory Road. Then cross the road and pick up the 144 bus. It's a really steep fun ride that will drop you off in the bustling centre of Muswell Hill. There are plenty of shops for some end of the day retail therapy. It's pretty too.

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

Make sure you pause off Muswell Hill Road at Hillfield Park Rise - a lovely steep Edwardian street; houses piled one on top of the other, cascading down the hillside. And if you fancy some film culture the Muswell Hill Odeon is close by. Or if independent cinema is more your thing, once you get back to Highgate take the Northern Line up to East Finchley to visit of the oldest cinemas in the UK - The Phoenix Cinema. Behind its modern foyer lies an historic auditorium, built in 1910 with some unique art deco features.

To get back to Highgate Tube from Muswell Hill take a leisurely 25-minute stroll down Muswell Hill Road past or through Highgate Wood. Or a 12-minute bus ride on the 43 or 134.



The Phoenix Cinema

## contact information

### London Transport

T: +44 (0)20 7222 1234

E: [travinfo@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:travinfo@tfl.gov.uk)

W: [www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner)

### Highgate Wood

Highgate Tube

W: [www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner)

### Parkland Walk

W: [www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking)

### The Capital Ring

The Ramblers Association (with maps)

W: [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

### Transport for London

W: [www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking)

### Prospero's Books

32 The Broadway, Crouch End, N8 9SU

T: +44 (0)20 83 48 89 00

F: +44 (0)20 83 48 36 04

E: [prosperosbks@aol.com](mailto:prosperosbks@aol.com)

W: [www.muswellhillbookshop.com/prospero.htm](http://www.muswellhillbookshop.com/prospero.htm)

Finsbury Park Tube/rail then W7 bus

Opening times

Mon-Sat 9.30am-6pm

Sun 11.30am-5.30pm

### Freeman's Sausages

9 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham Lane, N8 8PR

T: +44 (0)20 8340 3100

Finsbury Park Tube/rail then W7 bus

### Banners

21 Park Road, N8 8TE

T: 020 8348 2930 (Booking recommended, even for breakfast!)

W: [www.bannersrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.bannersrestaurant.co.uk)

Finsbury Park Tube/rail then W7 bus

Opening times

Bar 11am-11.30pm Mon-Thur; 11am-midnight Fri, Sat; 11am-11pm Sun

### Florians

4 Topsfield Parade, Middle Lane, N8 8PR

T: +44 (0)20 8348 8348

Finsbury Park Tube/rail then W7 bus/91 bus

Opening times

Noon-11pm Mon-Fri;

11am-11pm Sat;

11am-10.30pm Sun

### Alexandra Palace

Alexandra Palace Way, Wood Green, N22 7AY

T: +44 (0)20 8365 2121

F: +44 (0)20 8883 3999

W: [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

Wood Green Tube / W3 Bus

Alexandra Palace Rail/ W3 Bus

First Capital Connect

W: [www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk](http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk)

### Phoenix Cinema

52 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9PJ

Information Line: T: +44 (0)20 8883 2233

Box Office: T: +44 (0)20 8444 6789

E: [management@phoenixcinema.co.uk](mailto:management@phoenixcinema.co.uk)

W: [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

East Finchley Tube

