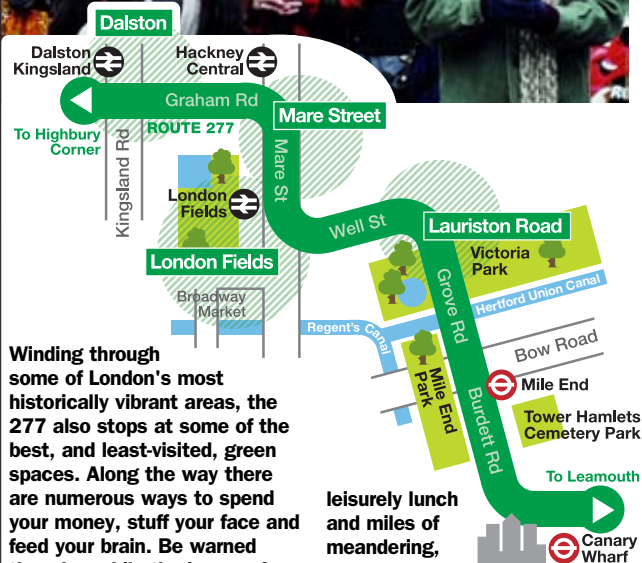


# Art, music, shopping and parks

## Route 277: Highbury Corner to Canary Wharf



Winding through some of London's most historically vibrant areas, the 277 also stops at some of the best, and least-visited, green spaces. Along the way there are numerous ways to spend your money, stuff your face and feed your brain. Be warned though – while the journey from Highbury Corner to Canary Wharf takes less than an hour, once you factor in a requisite

leisurely lunch and miles of meandering, you'll most likely just make it home for bedtime. It's a great route to follow for an all-day jaunt.

### Dalston

Starting at Highbury Corner, the 277 soon passes through Dalston, where you'll find some of London's best music venues, including the **Vortex** (11 Gillett Square, N16 8JH, 020 7254 4097, map: R1), one of the top places to catch new jazz talent, with a



busy programme of gigs. There's also **Bardens Boudoir** (38-44 Stoke Newington Rd, N16 7XJ, 020 7249 9557, map: R1), the party palace of choice for the thinking (and drinking) indie fan. These were recently joined by **Café Oto**, (18-22 Ashwin St, E8 3DL, 020 7923 1231, map: R1) with film, music and spoken word.

### Mare Street

Staying on the 277, you arrive at Mare Street. This is one of the best places for authentic Thai and Vietnamese food, with several top-quality, bottom-price-bracket eateries. Our favourite is Vietnamese restaurant **Green Papaya** (191 Mare St, E8 3QE, 020 8985 5486, map: T2), which serves up some of London's best pho, along with pancakes, braised meats and even banana flowers. It's also hard to miss the lovingly refurbished **Hackney Empire** (291 Mare St, E8 1EJ, 020 8985 2424, map: T2) which has stood magnificently on this spot for over 100 years and continues to host comedy, music and theatre shows as well as local community events.



Hackney Empire

include a branch of luxury butchers **Ginger Pig** (99 Lauriston Rd, E9 7HJ, 020 8986 6911, map: U2) and fancy gift shop **Sublime** (225 Victoria Park Rd, E9 7HD, 020 8986 7243, map: V2). There are plenty of good pubs too, including the **Royal Inn on the Park** (Victoria Park, E9 7HJ, 020 8985 3321, map: U2) which has a leafy terraced beer

### London Fields

London Fields (turn off Mare Street at Richmond Road) is a firm favourite with east Londoners, partly due to its proximity to the stalls, shops and pubs of **Broadway Market** (see Route 394, p14, map: T2), which means the park is often a bustle of locals enjoying gourmet picnics and reading the weekend papers.

### Lauriston Road

The village area of Lauriston Road and Victoria Park Road throngs with boutiques and cafés that are busy from Monday morning coffee to Sunday dinner. There's a great childrens' bookshop and craft studios, while other favourites



Ginger Pig, Lauriston Road

garden overlooking Victoria Park. On the other side of the park, check out the reopened gastro delight **The Crown** (see box, below).

### Mile End to Canary Wharf

The bus heads south alongside Mile End Park (see Route 25, p6 and Route 8, p8). Stop off for a budget bite at the **Orange Room Café** (63 Burdett Rd, E3 4TN, 020 8980 7336, map: W5); their Lebanese fare is a local favourite.

Get back on the bus and in less than ten minutes you're right in the middle of the iconic skyscrapers of **Canary Wharf**. There are over 200 shops spread across several vast, mostly underground **indoor malls** (020 7477 1477, map: Y8). The 277 stops right by the entrance to One Canada Square, a brilliant place to start your shopping spree among the high-street names and independent stores on offer. There are some great restaurants and cafés here too and special free events through the year.

## Victoria Park

### The Regent's Park of the East



One of London's quintessential parks, the 200 acre-plus site has been open to the public for over 160 years. It has landscape and facilities to rival Regent's Park, but is far enough removed from central London's tourist attractions to make it feel like a local secret. It's not all natural serenity, though. On the fringes are some excellent pubs, including **The Crown** (223 Grove Rd, E3 5SN, 020 8880 7261, map: V3), which serves food all week and popular roasts on Sunday. In recent years, Victoria Park has hosted outdoor gigs by the likes of Radiohead, as well as a number of boutique festivals including **Lovebox**, earning it a great reputation with revellers. *Victoria Park, Approach Road, London E9, 020 8985 1957, map: V2.*

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## Dalston nightlife

### London's newest party capital



Dalston is definitely where it's at for nightlife. During London Fashion Week, the queues were halfway up the road to get into the tiny basement club at **Visions Video Bar** (588 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AH, 020 7275 7520, map: R1) to listen to DJs spin reggae, indie and electro tunes and catch sets from emerging bands. Up the road from here is the **Moustache Bar** (58 Stoke Newington Rd, N16 7XB), an irreverent celebration of the hirsute upper lip that's relaxed during the week and rammed at the weekend. For cabaret-style theatrics and film screenings, there's the delightfully bohemian arts collective **Passing Clouds** (020 7168 7146, map: R1), just off Kingsland Road near the disused railway tracks. You need to phone in advance and be vetted by email to get in, but that's all part of the fun. **The Haggerston** (438 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AA, 020 7923 3206, map: R2) works the grotty-chic look well into the small hours, with DJ sets from Thursdays to Saturdays. Also good for partying through to morning (almost) is the **Russian Bar** (267 Kingsland Rd, E2 8AS, 07916 119541, map: R3), where DJs spin electro, techno, minimal and house to a mixed crowd. Further along, find everything from deep house to disco as well as indie bands at **Bar 512** (512 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AE, map: R4), above.