

EAST LONDON · E8 / E9



HACKNEY & LONDON FIELDS

edgy.

Where Broadway Market thrives on Saturdays,
where the lido swims year-round,
where warehouse conversions meet real East London.

A Eat & Drink

B Broadway

C Active

D Practicals

CUI
CITY & URBAN INTERNATIONAL

Eat & Drink

A

From Cafe Cecilia to Michelin stars. Canal-side dining, warehouse BBQ, real East London flavor.



■ COFFEE & BRUNCH

01

Towpath Cafe

Regent's Canal Towpath, N1 5SB

Tiny canal-side gem. Seasonal menu, natural wine, sun-trap terrace. Cash only. Closes 5pm. Celebrity magnet but no airs.

02

E5 Bakehouse

Arch 395, Mentmore Terrace, E8 3PH

Sourdough heaven. London's top kitchens buy bread here. Organic breakfast/lunch weekdays. Spanakopita weekends. Real deal.

03

Pophams Bakery

197 Richmond Road, E8 3NJ

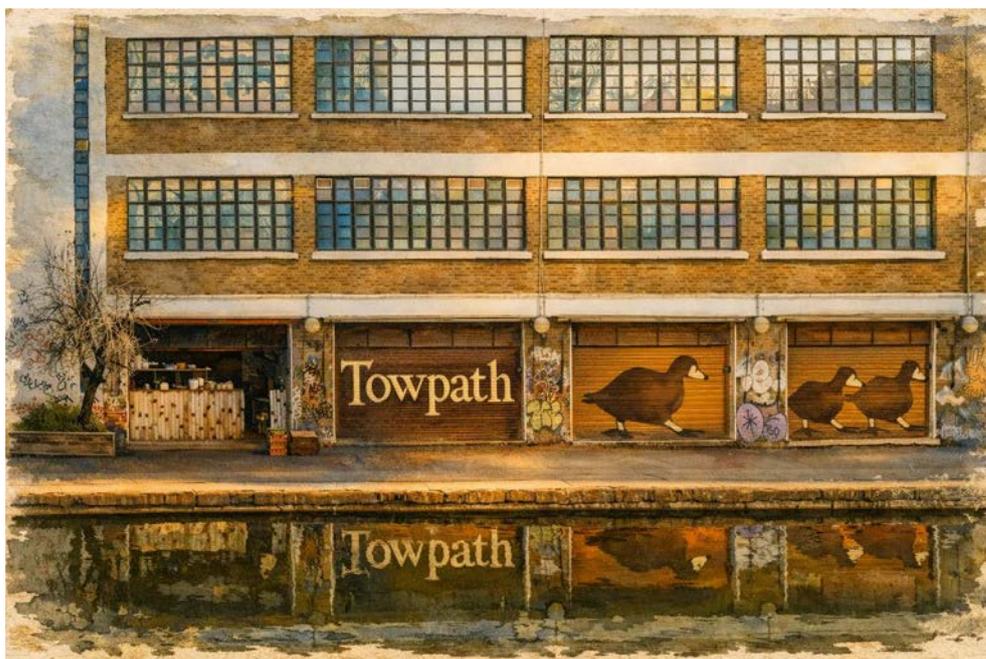
Artisanal pastries, sourdough, refined brunch. Light-filled space. One of three locations. Morning glory pastries legendary.

04

Simmos Coffee

Broadway Market, E8 4PH

Minimal design, serious coffee. Best roasters UK/Europe. Light-hearted vibe. Broadway Market regular spot.



■ THE ICONS

01

Cafe Cecilia

32 Andrews Road, E8 4FX

Max Rocha's Irish-European bistro. Canal views, Guinness bread, sage anchovy fritti. One of London's hottest. Still impossible to book.

02

Behind

256 Hackney Road, E2 8FT

Michelin star in 20 days. Andy Beynon's fish-focused tasting menu. 18 kitchen-table seats. Wine bar attached. Exclusive, intimate.

03

Ombra

1 Andrews Road, E8 4RL

Venetian bacaro bar. Canal terrace, seasonal small plates, fresh ravioli. Mediterranean wines. Hackney Road gem, always packed.

04

Papi

182 Mare Street, E8 3RH

Natural wine legend. Pandemic pop-up turned permanent. Regeneratively reared meat, sustainable seafood. Matthew Scott & Charlie Carr magic.

■ ITALIAN & EUROPEAN

01

Dalla

144 Hackney Road, E2 7QL

Cosy southern Italian. Rustic corner, vintage aesthetics, hearty cooking. Traditional dishes, perfect date spot. Stylish without trying.

02

Albers

23 Mortimer Road, N1 4JY

De Beauvoir corner room. Big windows, candlelight, Edward Hopper vibes. Simple walls, warm wood, close tables. Your new local.

03

Elliot's

12 Lansdowne Drive, E8 3EE

Bar, restaurant, natural wine store. Rustic European plates, local produce. Informal, bustling, communal seating. Great conversation starter.

04

Sesta

62 Dalston Lane, E8 3AH

Wine bar & restaurant. Seasonal European cooking, natural wines. Intimate, welcoming, laid-back elegance. Slow dining heaven.



■ BBQ & DIVERSE

01

Lagom

Hackney Church Brew Co, E8 2EY

Industrial BBQ restaurant. Dimly lit, beer hall vibe, fire-cooked everything. Pew benches, boisterous groups. Sticky ribs heaven.

02

Barge East

River Lee, E9 5EN

Floating kitchen on 125-year-old Dutch barge. Canal views, seasonal menus, Cornish seafood, homegrown ingredients. Sustainable legend.

03

Uchi

51 Graham Road, E8 1BZ

Refined Japanese. Sushi, sashimi, seasonal small plates. Minimalist, intimate. Hackney's answer to upscale Japanese.

04

Buen Ayre

50 Broadway Market, E8 4QJ

Argentine steakhouse. John Rattagan's family grill mastery. Simple garnish, fine wines. Best steak in the capital, locals say.



■ BARS & NIGHTLIFE

01

Yuki Bar

Railway Arches, Mare Street

Beautiful natural wine bar under railway arches. Rare natural wines, Japanese-European small plates. Cosy, intimate, 20 guests max.

02

Hector's

112 Mortimer Road, N1 4BU

Intimate De Beauvoir wine bar. White Port & Gin. Effortlessly cool vibe, hip crowd. Summer drink central.

03

Blinds

122 Hackney Road, E2 8BT

Understated, deeply charming. Former blinds shop turned wine bar. Hackney Road treasure, low-key genius.

04

Cat & Mutton

76 Broadway Market, E8 4QJ

Broadway Market pub icon. Warm summer evenings, terrace packed. Local institution, festive year-round.



Broadway

B

Saturday market magic. 150+ stalls, 2-year waiting list. Victorian working street alive with flavor.



■■ BROADWAY MARKET SATURDAY

THE SCENE

Opens 9am-5pm Saturdays (10am-4pm Sundays). Victorian working street market since 1883. Awarded Best Food Market by National Association of British Market Authorities 2024. 150+ stalls, 2-year waiting list to get a spot. Street food from around the world: Deeney's Scottish toasties, Makatcha Indonesian-Malay, Zardosht Persian sisters, OSU coconut pancakes. Vintage clothes, vinyl records, Japanese stationery, screen-printed posters, handmade gifts.

Links London Fields park to Regent's Canal.

Car-free zone, people take over. Child-friendly, buzzing, alive.

PERMANENT FIXTURES

Even without market, street festive. Cafe Cecilia canal-side. Buen Ayre steakhouse. Cat & Mutton pub terrace packed summer. Netil Market (13-23 Westgate Street) - artisan courtyard, Bao Bar Taiwanese, Oli Baba halloumi fries. Netil House - creative studios, coworking. Nt's Loft bar (NYC-style warehouse-chic). Netil 360 rooftop (Friday/Saturday DJs, sunny day heaven). Artist studios throughout.

THE VIBE

Hackney hipsters, East End creatives, tourists from across London. Young families, old locals, everyone. Fashion kids, freelancers, off-duty creatives people-watching.

Summer: impossible to see grass in London Fields (park beers right of passage).

Winter: cosy pub crawl.

Saturday = pilgrimage.

Active

C

London Fields lido, canal runs, Victoria Park, Hackney Marshes football heritage.



■ PARKS & GREEN SPACES

01

London Fields

London Fields Westside, E8 3EU

30 acres, epitome of summer memories. Saturday beer right of passage. Can't see grass on warm evenings. Community hub, tower blocks around.

02

London Fields Lido

London Fields Westside, E8 3EU

Heated outdoor pool, year-round swimming. Temperature-controlled, beloved local attraction. Spring best (before summer crowds). Affordable, community vibe.

03

Victoria Park

Grove Road, E9 7DE

86 acres, East London's 'People's Park'. Scenic lakes, tree-lined paths. Perfect picnics, jogging, soaking up atmosphere. One of London's oldest.

04

Regent's Canal

Towpath through Hackney

Peaceful walks/runs. Little Venice to Limehouse. Pass Towpath Cafe, houseboats, locks. Green escape, cycling route.



■ GYMS & FITNESS

01

The Gym Group

187-189 Mare Street, E8 3QE

Budget chain. 24/7 access, weights, cardio, classes. £20-30/month. No frills but does job. Popular with locals.

02

Better Gym Clissold

Clissold Leisure Centre, N16 9EX

Council-run. Pool, gym, fitness classes. Affordable, community vibe. Just north in Stoke Newington. Good value.

03

Everyone Active

Britannia Leisure Centre, N1 5SD

Pool, gym, fitness studios. Classes from yoga to spin. Council rates, accessible. Near Shoreditch border.

04

1Rebel Victoria Park

97 Cadogan Terrace, E9 5EG

Boutique fitness. Ride, Reshape, Rumble classes. Premium, motivating. Great if you like class-based training.

OUTDOOR FITNESS

London Fields Lido year-round swimming (heated). Victoria Park running loops (flat, scenic). Canal towpath running/cycling (Regent's Canal east-west). Hackney Marshes football pitches (88 pitches, football heritage). Outdoor bootcamps London Fields summer. Free community yoga events.

Practicals

D

Transport links, character, what makes Hackney real East London.

WORKING-CLASS ROOTS

The Real East End

1883: Market served overcrowded working-class community. Victorian terraces, council estates still here. Not all gentrified - real mix. 2005: Locals occupied buildings protesting gentrification. Debate continues but community persists. This isn't fake 'edgy' - it's actual East London history.

CREATIVE EXPLOSION

Warehouse Culture

1980s-90s: Artists moved in (cheap rent). Warehouse conversions became studios. Fashion kids, designers, freelancers followed. Now: Hackney hipster stereotype born here. But also real creative industries - Netil House coworking, design studios, galleries. Creative energy authentic, not manufactured.

DIVERSE BOROUGH

Multicultural DNA

One of London's most diverse boroughs. Turkish community on Ridley Road. Vietnamese, African, Caribbean, Eastern European populations. Not a monoculture - actual multiculturalism in action. Markets reflect this: global food stalls, languages, vibes. Why the food scene is so good.

TODAY'S HACKNEY

Contradictions Accepted

Warehouse bars next to council estates. Michelin stars (Behind) next to Turkish grocers. £4 coffee shops, £1 samosas coexist. Young professionals, artists, longtime residents, families. Everyone claims it's 'over' (gentrified), but it keeps evolving. That's the point - it never stands still.

WEEKDAYS

Work/Life Blur

Freelancers in cafes with Macs. Coworking spaces (Netil House) buzzing. Canal walks lunch breaks. 6pm: pubs fill quickly. Less corporate than City/Canary Wharf. Creative industries, startups, design studios. Warehouse offices, converted spaces.

WEEKENDS

Market Madness

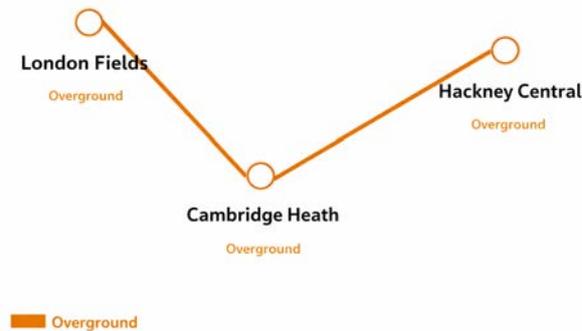
Saturday: Broadway Market pilgrimage. 9am-5pm chaos (good kind). London Fields packed if sunny - beer, picnics, music. Sunday: slower, pared-back market, recovery mode. Lido swims, brunch queues. Evening: bars/restaurants stay busy.

WHO LIVES HERE

The Mix

Young professionals (creative industries, tech, media). Artists (fewer now - priced out). Longtime residents (council estates, old East End). Families (Victoria Park School crowd). Students. Everyone coexisting, sometimes tensely. Rent: £1,800+ for 1-bed. Buy: £500k+ 1-bed, £800k+ 2-bed. Not cheap.

■ Transport



YOUR STATIONS

London Fields

Overground

Heart of the area. North to Highbury (1 stop), south to Shoreditch High Street (2 stops). Broadway Market 5-min walk.

Hackney Central

Overground

Mare Street hub. Same line as London Fields. North to Dalston, south to Shoreditch. Buses everywhere.

Cambridge Heath

Overground

South end. Quick to Shoreditch/Liverpool Street (change). Victoria Park direction. Well connected.

■ GETTING AROUND

Overground dominates. Buses: 26, 55, 106, 254, 394 (Mare Street/Cambridge Heath Road).

Cycling huge - dedicated lanes, flatter than North London. Canal towpath cycling east-west.

Cars rare - CPZ everywhere. Most residents cycle or Overground.

15-20 min walk Broadway Market to Victoria Park.

■ PRO TIPS

Overground gets packed rush hour - earlier trains less awful. Broadway Market best before 11am Saturday (or after 3pm when tourists leave). Book Cafe Cecilia 2 weeks ahead minimum. Lido quietest spring mornings. Buses faster than you think. Cycling >>> driving always.

■ ■ COMMUTE TIMES

Shoreditch

8 min

Overground from London Fields. 2 stops to Shoreditch High Street. Tech hub accessible.

Liverpool Street

15 min

Overground to Cambridge Heath, change to Overground. Or bus 26/48.

Bank/City

25 min

Overground to Liverpool Street, Central Line. Or bus + tube.

King's Cross

20 min

Overground north to Highbury, Victoria Line south. Or direct buses.

Canary Wharf

35 min

Overground to Stratford, then Jubilee or DLR. Doable not ideal.

West End

30 min

Various routes via Liverpool Street or King's Cross. Buses work too.

■ ■ Best Streets & Areas

Broadway Market

Saturday Pilgrimage

THE street. Victorian market since 1883. Cafe Cecilia end. Canal at bottom. 150+ stalls Saturday. Permanent restaurants/bars amazing. Car-free, alive, essential.

Mare Street

Main Artery

Hackney's high street. Mare Street Market (food, retail, podcast studio). Papi restaurant. Five Points Brewery. Buses everywhere. Shops, grit, realness.

Hackney Road

Warehouse Cool

Ombra, Blinds wine bar, Behind Michelin star. Converted warehouses, creative studios. Shoreditch direction. Edgier vibe, less touristy.

Regent's Canal

Linear Park

Towpath walking/cycling. Towpath Cafe icon. Barge East floating restaurant. Ombra terrace. Houseboats, locks, peaceful escape.

Victoria Park

Park Side

Surrounding streets lovely. Victorian terraces, Cadogan Terrace. 1Rebel gym. Park access gold. Family territory but expensive.

De Beauvoir

Hidden Gem

North of Broadway Market. Gorgeous Georgian squares. Albers restaurant. Hector's wine bar. Quieter, residential, pricier. Low-key elegant.



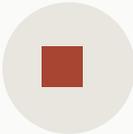
Broadway Market

Saturday institution, Best Food Market award 2024. 150+ stalls, 2-year waiting list. Victorian working market since 1883. Street food world tour. Links park to canal. Car-free, alive, essential Hackney. Locals, tourists, everyone.



London Fields Lido

Heated outdoor pool, year-round swimming. Temperature-controlled, community treasure. Spring mornings quietest. Summer packed. Affordable (council prices). Community of swimmers. One of best lidos East London. Epitomizes area vibe.



Warehouse Culture

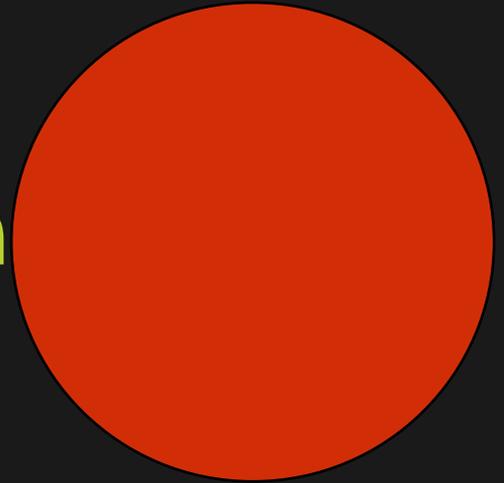
Actual warehouse conversions, not fake industrial. Creative studios, coworking spaces (Netil House). Railway arch bars (Yuki, Forest Road Brewery). Converted industrial spaces everywhere. Artists-before-cool legacy persists.



The Reality

Not cheap. 1-bed £500k+, 2-bed £800k+. Rent £1,800+/month 1-bed. Gentrified but not fully sanitized. Council estates still here. Real mix of people. Working-class roots meet creative influx. Tensions exist. Not Instagram-perfect - actually alive.

Where East London gets real.



Explore Hackney & London Fields.

[HOMES FOR SALE](#)

[HOMES TO RENT](#)

[GET A VALUATION](#)

[ASK OMAR](#)

