Hidden Thames treats

Take a trip from some of London's lesser known piers and discover a wealth of local attractions.

Putney
Disembark at Putney Pier, walk across Putney Bridge and make your way to Fulham Palace Gardens (Bishop's Avenue, SW6 6EA). The site served as a residence for the Bishop of London for more than 12 centuries up until 1975. It is still owned by the Church of England, which allows free admission to the Palace and its Botanical and Walled Gardens.

Chelsea Harbour
Just a short walk from Chelsea Harbour is the stunning Roca Chelsea Gallery (Station Court, Townmead Road, SW6 2PY), designed by the

award-winning architect, Zahid Hadid. Until January 23 2016, it will be hosting the free, interactive exhibition 'Childhood ReCollections: Memory in Design'.

Photo: Mudchute City Farm

St. George Wharf
Grab a bite to eat at the wharf, and enjoy fantastic views over the Thames. From October, Vauxhall will be home to the new Damien Hirst Newport Street Gallery, which will offer free entry at all times.
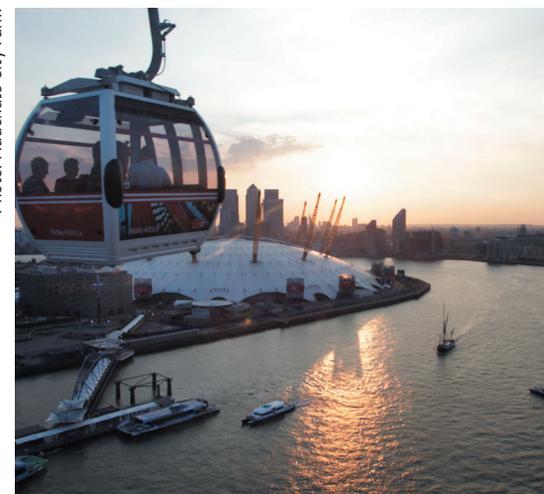
Masthouse Terrace
Mudchute Park is around a 15-minute walk from Masthouse Terrace Pier on the Isle of Dogs. Not only does it have 32 acres of parkland, there's also a city farm, which includes a pets corner, equestrian centre and canteen. Entry is free.

North Greenwich
Take the river bus to North Greenwich to enjoy a trip above the Thames on the

Emirates Air Line cable car. The cars ferry between Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks. The journey across the

Thames offers spectacular views and lasts for ten minutes each way. Tickets cost £4.50 per adult and £2.30 for a child.
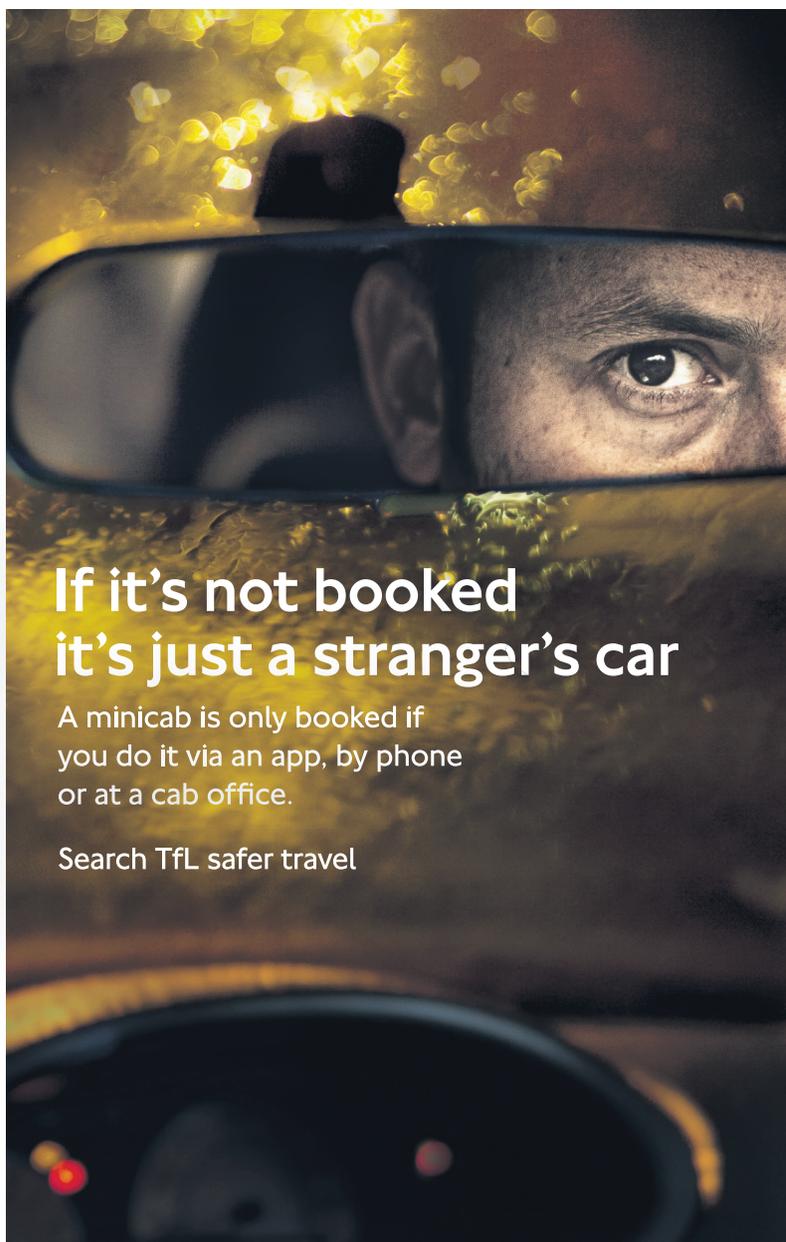

Photo: Roca London Gallery

Woolwich Arsenal
Find out more about this corner of southeast London at the Greenwich Heritage Centre (Artillery Square, SE18 6ST), which lies close to Woolwich Arsenal Pier. An exhibition running until the end of the year reveals the story of the Royal Arsenal and the Royal Woolwich Dockyard. Admission is free.

■ **River bus services to Putney and Chelsea Harbour run weekday peak hours only. Find out about MBNA Thames Clippers at www.thamesclippers.com**

Bike safety week cracks down on cycle crime

MORE than 3,000 bicycles were marked and registered for free this month at cycle security events held across the capital.

TfL, BikeRegister and the police offered advice on how to keep bikes safe, including the best locks to use and how to secure cycles to stands.

Bikes that are visibly marked deter thieves and enable the police to quickly identify and return recovered property.

TfL's director of enforcement and on-street operations, Steve Burton said: 'With the number of people cycling in London continuing to rise, I encourage everyone with a bike to take advantage of these free registering events and help us to lock out bike thieves.'

TfL has produced a short YouTube video to show people how quickly they can safely lock up their prized goods. For tips and advice, visit tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/cycling-in-london/avoid-theft

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