

Five reasons to visit Greenwich

HOME to a host of historic sites, a view of the Thames and a fabulous park, MetroTravel reveals the five reasons why the royal borough is well worth a visit.

It's easy to get to

Around 20 minutes from central London by Tube, bus, Docklands Light Railway or river bus, getting to Greenwich is easy.

For an alternative sight of the area, take the Emirates Air Line cable car from Royal Docks to Greenwich Peninsula (bottom right). At almost 300ft high, you'll get a bird's eye view of the Thames Barrier and the O2. An



adult return fare is £6.60 with a valid Oyster card.

To get there at a more leisurely pace, take a river tour from a central London pier and enjoy the capital's famous riverside sights along the way.

Drivers will be pleased to know Greenwich sits outside of the Congestion Charging zone, although getting there by public transport may be quicker!

History and heritage

The Royal Greenwich Observatory and Maritime Museum help make Greenwich one of London's four Unesco World Heritage Sites.

Visit the observatory to stand over the Prime Meridian Line – with a foot in both the eastern and western hemispheres at the same time.

The museum houses some of Britain's best seafaring artefacts and brings to life the stories of famous mariners through interactive displays. There's plenty for children too – youngsters can meet a character from history on Saturdays and on Tuesdays under-fives can join in the museum's crafts, music, dance and drama activities for just £3.

Admission to the National Maritime Museum is free. An adult ticket to the Observatory costs £8.50 and children can go for £4.

■ For more information, visit www.rmg.co.uk

Marvellous market

The bustling Greenwich market has been around since the 1800s and is a great place to find antiques, art, books, records, furniture and fresh meat and fish.

For art and food stalls, visit the market on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday.

If you're into vintage fashion, antiques or collectables, head to the market on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

■ To find out more, go online at www.Greenwichmarketlondon.com

Cutty Sark

The historic tea clipper was re-opened to the public by

HM The Queen in April 2012 after being gutted by fire eight years ago and undergoing a complete restoration.

Visitors can now see the Cutty Sark's hull as the ship is lifted more than 11ft above its dry berth.

There's something to suit all the family. Toddlers can enjoy songs, stories and playtime every Wednesday afternoon during term time. On April 2, older children can spend the night on-board, learning how to hoist flags and tie knots, and wake up to a ship's breakfast in the morning.

■ For details, visit www.rmg.co.uk/cuttysark

Fun in the park

We can't leave out the park. It covers 183 acres – of which 13 serve as a sanctuary for deer, foxes and birds – and is the oldest enclosed Royal Park in Britain.

The site has long been associated with royalty; Greenwich was the birthplace of Henry VIII, who introduced deer to the park.

It's now classed as a Grade 1 listed landscape and site of metropolitan importance for nature conservation.

On April 26, you can cheer on this year's Virgin Money London Marathon runners as the famous race starts in the park.

■ Plan your journey to Greenwich at tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner



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