

Local Cultural Guide

Waltham Forest



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OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

Introduction

Hey there! Welcome to Waltham Forest,

Come and explore one of London's fastest changing boroughs. Where a vibrant food and drink scene, independent shops full of curiosities, and beautiful green spaces combine to make Waltham Forest a place that attracts visitors from far and wide.

That's why we've teamed up to create the Waltham Forest Cultural Guide. It's got everything you need to side-step the obvious and uncover the places you wouldn't find through search engines alone. In the following pages we'll take you through our top ten cultural institutions, and the hidden gems in food, coffee, shopping and nightlife.

This guide will help you to enjoy the open and welcoming spirit of Waltham Forest, because we believe the best way to get to know a neighbourhood is through the people who know it best: us locals. With this in mind, we hope you'll experience the kind of tourism that extends beyond the city centre to every diverse and wonderful borough, showing that #LondonIsOpen.

Happy Exploring!

Waltham Forest Council does not endorse or recommend any particular product, treatment, services or business listed in this guide.



North



1. Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge and The View

8 Rangers Road,
Chingford E4 7QH
Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm
Free entry

Step into a building first built on the orders of Henry VIII and walk through in awe of its beautiful timber-framed structures. The Hunting Lodge sits on the edge of Epping Forest, and views of this borough's stunning green space can be seen from the View visitor centre balcony next door. Be sure to pick up Tudor fashion and food tips from the exhibitions frequently held at the Lodge, too.



2. Pympe Hall Dovecote

Pympe Hall Nature Reserve, off 48 Kings Road,
Chingford E4 7HR
Free to view

For a curious slice of history it's worth paying a visit to this standalone structure from the 17th Century. And stand it does, in all its original timber and brickwork glory. This Dovecote - originally a place to house doves and pigeons for food - has been passed down through generations of families, and even Kings, in the case of Henry VIII!



LUNCH/DINNER

3. Robins Pie & Mash

50 Station Road,
Chingford E4 7BE

'Some of the best pie & mash I've ever tasted'
— Jo, Airbnb Host

If you're looking for an authentic taste of East End it doesn't come more traditional than at Robins Pie & Mash, who have been serving this staple with their famous Parsley liquor for five generations. For the full experience we'd recommend trying the jellied eels too, but don't be a slippery customer if they're not quite to your liking.

4. Wilson's Fish & Chips

101 Station Road,
Chingford E4 7BU

'My Friday night treat' — Stephanie, Airbnb Host

We'd like to think you don't know the true mettle of a London neighbourhood until you've tasted this other British classic, and they don't come much better than at Wilson's Fish & Chips. A family-run business since 1930, they've picked up multiple awards for their sustainably sourced fish, and chips from locally grown spuds; all made to their own special recipe. Someone pass the ketchup please.



GROCERIES & SHOPPING

5. Kalm GreenGrocers

89 Station Road,
Chingford E4 7BV

'Brilliant, fresh produce' — Stephanie, Airbnb Host

Committed to providing fresh organic fruit and veg to the local community at a price that's as palatable as their produce, Kalm GreenGrocers also provide a delivery service of their goods to your door. Or if you're passing through and need a fix of something fresh, try one of their smoothies, juices or coffees.



COFFEE

6. Pantry & Co.

7 Winchester Road,
Chingford E4 9LH

'Their cosy and homely shop has some amazing local produce and a seriously good brunch menu (try the avocado on toast)' — Mark, Airbnb Host

As well as being stocked full of interesting and delicious goods from home and abroad, you can also get involved in one of their community events, such as Wine Club and Cookbook Club. Usually taking place in an evening, you can come and meet other interesting locals whilst sampling some scrumptious supper.





ROBINS PIE & MASH

“Waltham Forest is the best-located borough in London. It’s far enough out, with Epping Forest on the doorstep, to feel like you’re a part of the countryside but close enough in that you’re really part of the vibrancy of the City.”

Joanna,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest



WALTHAM FOREST

Central



1. William Morris Gallery

Forest Road,
Walthamstow E17 4PP
Wednesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm
Free entry

The jewel in Waltham Forest's cultural crown is a world class museum dedicated to William Morris, arguably the borough's most famous resident. It's a short stroll from Walthamstow Central station and is home to the world's best collection of his work. For a man famed as a designer, craftsman, and socialist, there's so much of his incredible work to sink your teeth into. Not literally of course, though if a locally sourced lunch is what you're after, pop into the Gallery's Tea Room.



2. Lloyd Park

Forest Road,
Walthamstow E17 4PP
Monday – Sunday, open by 9am,
closing times vary throughout the year
Free entry

Another plentiful green space in Waltham Forest, Lloyd Park is the perfect spot for a picnic, a cycle, or even a skate; with more sporting facilities than you can shake a stick at. It's also home to the beautiful William Morris garden, and for a city escape away from the beaten track take a wander through the nature area.



3. Vestry House Museum

Vestry Road,
Walthamstow E17 9NH
Wednesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm
Free entry

Take a trip into Waltham Forest's past and stop by this 18th century former workhouse, where you can delve into the borough's archive of no less than 80,000 historic photographs. If you feel the need to clear your head from all that time travel, then take stock and relax in the museum's volunteer-run garden.



4. God's Own Junkyard

Unit 12, Ravenswood Industrial Estate,
Sternhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HQ
Friday: 11am – 9pm, Saturday: 11am – 9pm,
Sunday: 11am – 6pm
Free entry

'Amazing neon lights for sale - this junk yard is certainly not full of rubbish!' *Samantha, Airbnb Host*

Prepare to be mesmerised; this Walthamstow institution boasts the largest collection of vintage neon signs in Europe. It's grade-A instagram fodder, and a great opportunity to pick up something that'll bring life to any bare wall.



5. Gnome House

7 Blackhorse Lane,
Walthamstow E17 6DS
Opening times vary, see website for details

A great example of the local community coming together for the greater good, Gnome House was saved from being a derelict lift factory and is now a thriving creative arts venue that showcases family discos, dinners, and exhibitions. Interestingly, it takes its name from the Gnome du Rhone ending, a pioneering WWI fighter plane engine that was manufactured on the site.



6. Blackhorse Road Workshops

1–2 Sutherland Road Path,
Walthamstow E17 6BX
Monday – Sunday, 9.30am – 5.30pm
Charges vary

A vast public space dedicated to making and mending. As well as a fully equipped open access wood and metal workshop, there's an excellent café run by local baristas from Wood Street Coffee. Everyone's welcome, from dabblers to professionals, and there are highly skilled technicians on site to offer support. A varied programme of talks, workshops, makers' markets and even live music means there's always something new to discover.



COFFEE

7. Wynwood Cafe

2A Chingford Road,
Walthamstow E17 4PJ

'A simply superb, eclectic place of great coffee, food, art & culture - In my opinion there is no place better'
—Mark, Airbnb Host

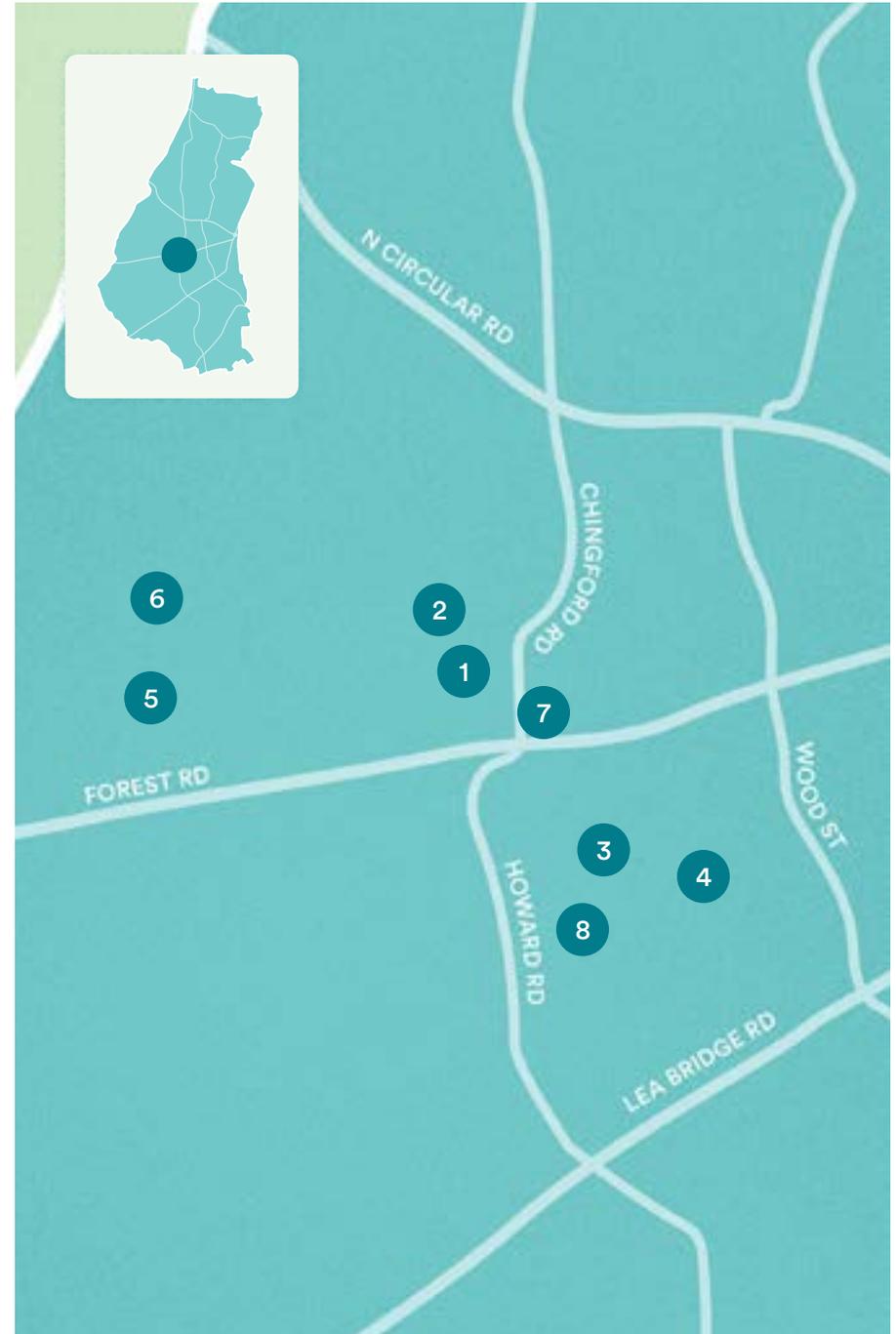
A true locals spot, the Wynwood cafe is run by people full of heart for the community, and offers a tasty selection of hot drinks, food, and art from nearby artists. For more of an idea of what they're about, check out their regular fanzine and in-store events, such as the 'Movie Soundtrack Covers Night'. As they put it themselves, "We are who we are and we love what we do. Spreading the love to the people in Stow."

8. Deli Cafe

69 Orford Road,
Walthamstow E17 9NJ

'Great place on Orford Road where you can get coffee first thing. Open early with cosy "Deli nights" too.'
—Lezaan, Airbnb Host

Whether it's afternoon coffee and cake, or an evening's three-course meal, the homely Deli Cafe in the heart of the effortlessly cool Walthamstow Village will cater to your appetite's needs. Be sure to grab a table outside too for the perfect people watching spot.





GOD'S OWN JUNKYARD

“Waltham Forest has such great links to central London, but it also gives you the feeling that you’re out of the business and hub and you can switch off surrounded by leafy quiet streets and pretty churches.”

Hattie,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest



WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY

“I think guests love the fact that Waltham Forest feels familiar and homely and offers relaxation and calm.”

Hattie,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest



LEZAAN, HOST

Central



9. Buhler & Co
8 Chingford Road,
Walthamstow E17 4PJ

'Bright and stylish cafe with an emphasis on great coffee, imaginative cuisine and super friendly service'
—Meg & Rosie, Business Owners

For a cafe with more of a stylish touch, head to this bright and airy spot on Chingford Road. They serve up imaginative dishes from around the world with locally sourced ingredients, and fresh coffee to savour. Stop by on a Sunday and you can also experience their live jazz for extra cool vibes.



LUNCH/DINNER

10. Sodo Pizza Cafe
Hatherley Mews,
Walthamstow E17 4QP

'My favourite newest addition to our neighbourhood. Amazing pizza and prosecco and all round vibrant atmosphere. It's the type of place that lights up the street.' —Lezaan, Airbnb Host

Head to this urban cafe for everything you want from a sourdough pizza specialist, right down to the wooden benches and exposed brickwork. The rustic no-thrills decor creates an atmosphere as hearty as the pizza. Order the Jon Bon Chovy for tasty anchovy special - we dare you to try saying it with a straight face.

11. The Saloon Tapas Bar
32 Orford Road,
Walthamstow E17 9NJ

'Great food and a range of coffees at reasonable prices in a trendy area.' —Hattie, Airbnb Host

If you've got a penchant for something more European, this tapas bar and deli in the heart of Walthamstow Village packs flavours in spades, from its bocadillos, cakes, charcuterie, and cheese selection. Doors are open every evening and you can grab lunch there on the weekends.

12. Mirth Marvel and Maud
186 Hoe Street,
Walthamstow E17 4QH

'Beautiful old cinema building serving a great range of drinks including some delicious cocktails.'
—Julia, Airbnb Host

Taking residence in a wonderful Grade 2 listed building, this once-cinema-now-restaurant guarantees a dining experience you'll be hard pushed to find anywhere else. With a bag of popcorn on arrival and cocktails served from ticket booths, you can also get involved in the many events they stage; from soul-spinning DJs, to designer markets and more.



GROCERIES & SHOPPING

13. Walthamstow Market
Cleveland Park Avenue and Pretoria Avenue
on the High Street, Walthamstow E17

'Dating from 1885, Walthamstow Market is the longest outdoor street market in Europe.'

It dates from 1885 and is quite simply it's the longest outdoor street market in Europe. So head here and take a stroll through its kilometre long stretch of stalls selling everything from food to clothes, and household goods. If you can't find what you're looking for here, good luck to you!

14. Second Nature
78 Wood Street,
Walthamstow, E17 3HX

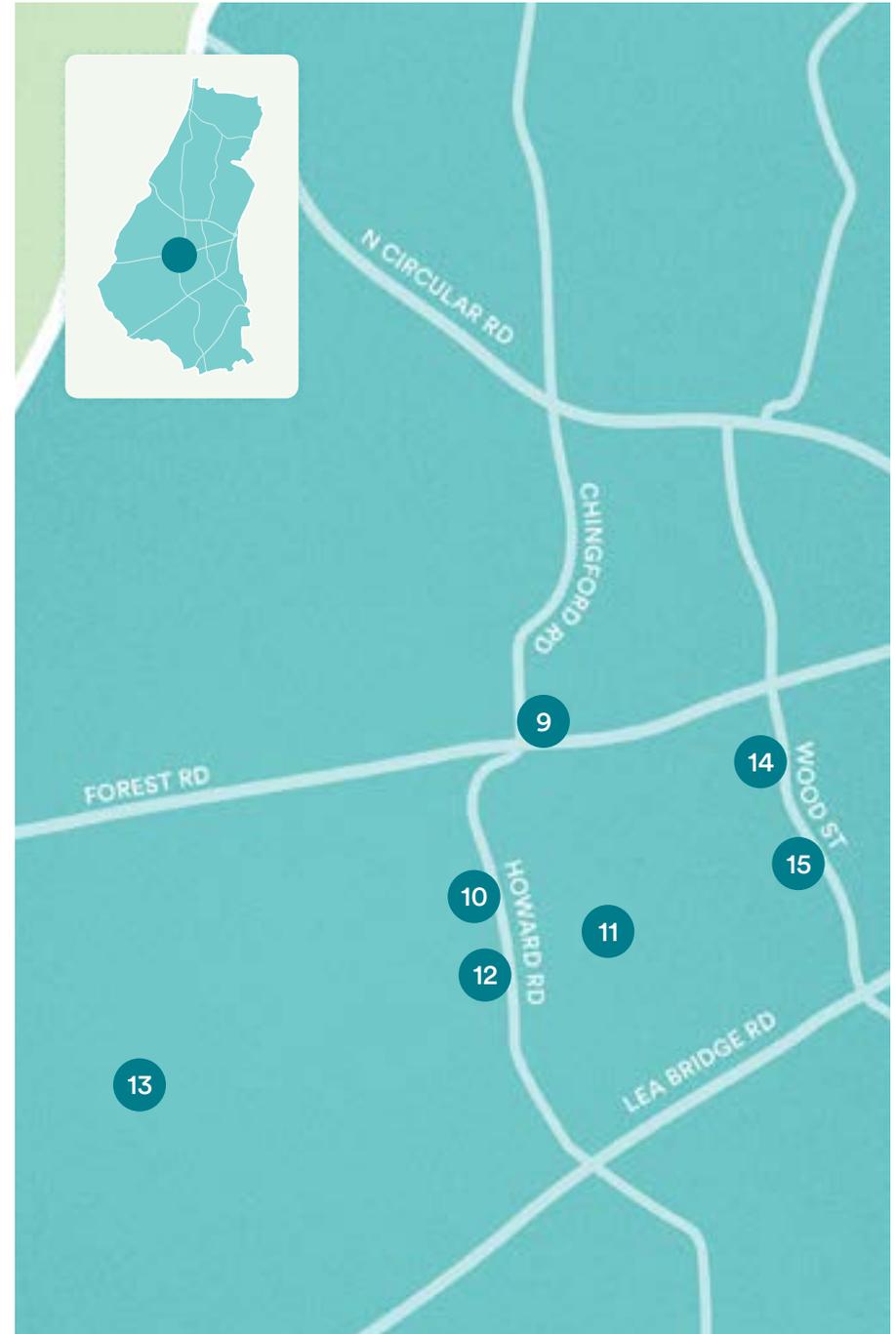
'Longstanding local wholefood shop, friendly service and competitive prices in an interesting old building.'
—Julia, Airbnb Host

For all of your organic fruit and veg needs, this is your place. Despite a reputation for being a pricey preference, Bob the owner is determined to prove that an organic lifestyle needn't be that. And they don't just stop in the shop, as they can tailor a vegetable box sent to you and the family for as little as £10 a week. Cheap as organic chips.

15. The Georgian Village
100 Wood Street,
Walthamstow E17 3HX

'The Georgian Village has been a Waltham Forest staple for the last 50 years - i love that our customers find a great buy and that our retailers always have something unusual and unique to offer them'
—Yvonne, Business Owner

In keeping with Waltham Forest's reputation for great markets, this indoor run of stalls, cafes and bars is the perfect retreat for when the heavens open up. It's particularly worth taking cover with tea and cake in the popular Hillman's Tearoom, or book ahead for Afternoon Tea; a real tasty treat.





THE MIRTH MARVEL & MAUD

“It’s green, it’s cycle friendly, it has everything you could need!”

Samantha,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest



VESTRY HOUSE



THE SALOON TAPAS BAR

Central



NIGHTLIFE

16. **The Chequers**

145 High Street,
Walthamstow E17 7BX

'An array of craft beer on tap, with some really good southern BBQ on the menu (go for the ribs!)

—Mark, Airbnb Host

It's been a popular meeting place for Waltham Forest locals since 1699, and continues to be a great spot in the neighbourhood for its selection of beers and pub grub. Head there on Wednesday evenings for 'FarmDrop', with companies selling their wares - from cheese to fish, and fresh-pressed juices - at prices fair to farmers and suppliers alike.

17. **The Wildcard Brewery**

Unit 7, Ravenswood Industrial Estate,
Sternhall Street, Walthamstow E17 9HQ

'Lovely down to earth place to sample great British Ale. This is always a treat to go there.' —Eric, Airbnb Host

A micro-brewery and bar that grew from community backing, this is a popular spot for those looking for no-nonsense tasty beers made by people with a passion for it. You can even go behind the scenes for a brewery tour and tasting to see that the proof really is in the pudding.

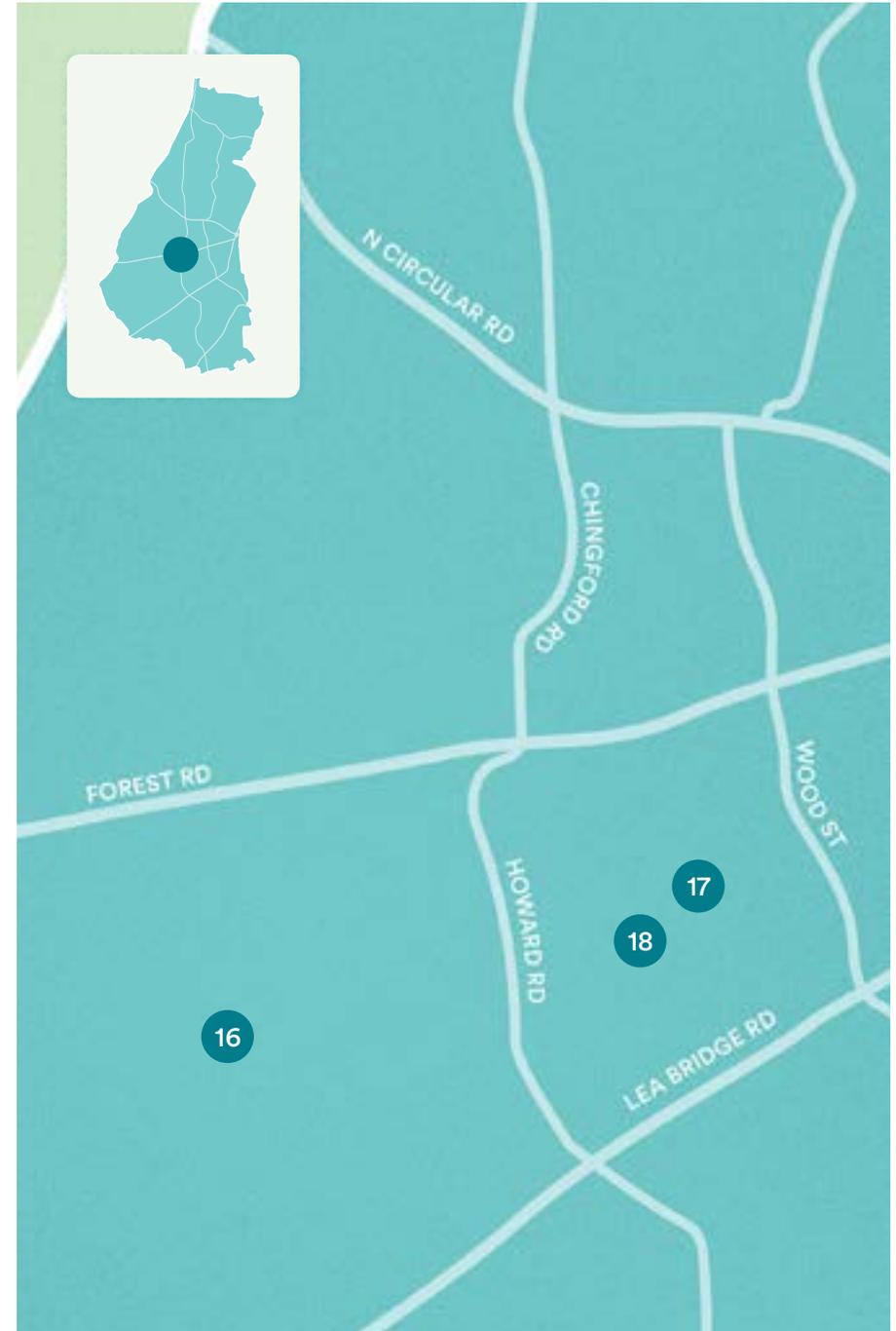
18. **The Queen's Arms**

42 Orford Road,
Walthamstow E17 9NJ

'A lovely, friendly pub with a tasty menu.'

—Samantha, Airbnb Host

One of a new crop of gastro pubs in the Walthamstow neighbourhood, this place is well worth heading to for the scrumptious food on its continually-changing menu. The exposed brick walls and leather sofa surroundings make it a cosy spot to relax in after a hearty meal, too.



South



1. Stone Space, Leytonstone

Church Lane,
Leytonstone E11 1HG
(next to main entrance for Leytonstone Library)
Thursdays and Fridays between 2–6pm, on
Saturdays 12–5pm and Sundays 12–4pm
Free entry

This independent gallery grew from the Leytonstone Arts Trail, an annual festival of visual art where local artists display their work in dozens of venues around Leytonstone. Since opening in 2011, Stone Space has built a reputation for high quality shows that provoke and welcome debate. Exhibitions usually last a month and launch parties are open to all – perfect if you're looking to engage in the local art scene.



2. Hitchcock mosaics in Leytonstone

Tube Station
Church Lane,
Leytonstone E11 1HE
Open from first to last tube trains
Free to view

Commissioned by Waltham Forest Council to mark the centenary of local boy Alfred Hitchcock's birth (he was born in Leytonstone in 1899), these stunning mosaic murals in Leytonstone Tube Station depict scenes from the legendary director's films, including the Birds, Vertigo and Rebecca. Using 80,000 tiles and taking seven months to complete, they are one of the borough's best loved pieces of public art.



LUNCH/DINNER

3. Marmelo
169 Francis Road,
Leytonstone E10 6NT

'Marmelo kitchen, is about using the best and freshest ingredients to make the experience as delicious and nourishing as possible.' —Natalie, business owner

What originally grew out of a passion project for producing seasonal jam, has now evolved into Marmelo Kitchen. It follows the same principles it always has, using the best and freshest ingredients to make the experience as delicious and nourishing as possible. We're a big fan of the raw beetroot salad, but the whole menu pops with flavour and freshness.

4. The Red Lion Pub

640 High Road,
Leytonstone E11 3AA

'Wonderful Gastro pub with a lovely beer garden to soak up the sun. A great place for kids in the days and after 7pm on Friday's and Saturday's they throw the best parties!' —Kirsty, Airbnb Host

This gastro pub is a new fixture on the Waltham Forest scene, but has quickly become a popular spot in the local community. Whether it's Monday's quiz night, a



COFFEE

5. Wildgoose Bakery
654 Leytonstone High Street,
Leytonstone E11 3AA

'Best cake and bread in the area. Good coffee served with a smile.' —Eric, Airbnb Host

A lovely local spot for coffee, cake, and lunch, which has a rustic warmth about its vintage leather sofas and Victorian fireplace decor. Local artists can display their work on the walls here, with profits split between the artist and a charity of their choosing; and you can pop along to some of the events held here, ranging from a Gingerbread House class to a tempering and ganache workshop with their in-house chocolatier.

6. Yardarm
238 Francis Road,
Leyton E10 6NQ

'One of my favourite spots in the borough. You're really spoilt for choice and the Yardarm team are wonderful' —Jo, Airbnb Host

Cleverly named after the time of day when it's permissible to start drinking alcohol, this is an independent wine shop that brings fun and accessibility to a world which can be hard to crack for many of us. Drop in on one of their informal tastings to find a wine that doesn't cost the earth and is the perfect match to a dinner you're planning. Or if craft beer is more your thing, these guys have got you covered for that, too.



GROCERIES & SHOPPING

7. Jo & Kesi
26A Browning Road,
Leytonstone E11 3AR

'I always find something I love here - it's my local treasure trove' —Stephanie, Airbnb Host

Catering to all of your homeware needs, this is a little independent shop on Browning Road that produces and sells everything from colourful cushions to hand-made Nepalese coasters. So if you're looking to inject some colour and character into your home, this should definitely be a first port of call.



South



NIGHTLIFE

8. North Star

24 Browning Road,
Leytonstone E11 3AR

'As you walk down the road you feel as though you've stepped into a Cornish village - and yet the high street is visible at the end of the road! It's a snug, family-friendly pub that captures what it is to be a local.'

—Jo, Airbnb Host

Even though it's moments from High Road Leytonstone, this wooden clad pub sits in a tranquil bubble among Victorian cottages. Worth popping into for its inviting beer garden, and it's even more inviting selection of ales which change on a regular basis. If you can time your visit on a Sunday, the kitchen will be open for a range of tasty Thai dishes, too.

9. Leyton Technical

265 High Road
Leyton, E10 5QNA

'Beautiful building and lovely surroundings.'

'If you fancy testing your general knowledge skills their brilliant Wednesday night quiz night is a must!'

—Kirsty, Airbnb Host

This is a pub located in what used to be the Town Hall, and once you step inside and see the original features maintained - from the marbled mosaic floors, to the high ceilings and chandeliers - it's easy to see why Waltham Forest Council awarded it the title of 'Best Heritage Scheme'. Once you're inside, there's a range of cask ales on tap and craft beers in the fridge to quench your thirst in style.

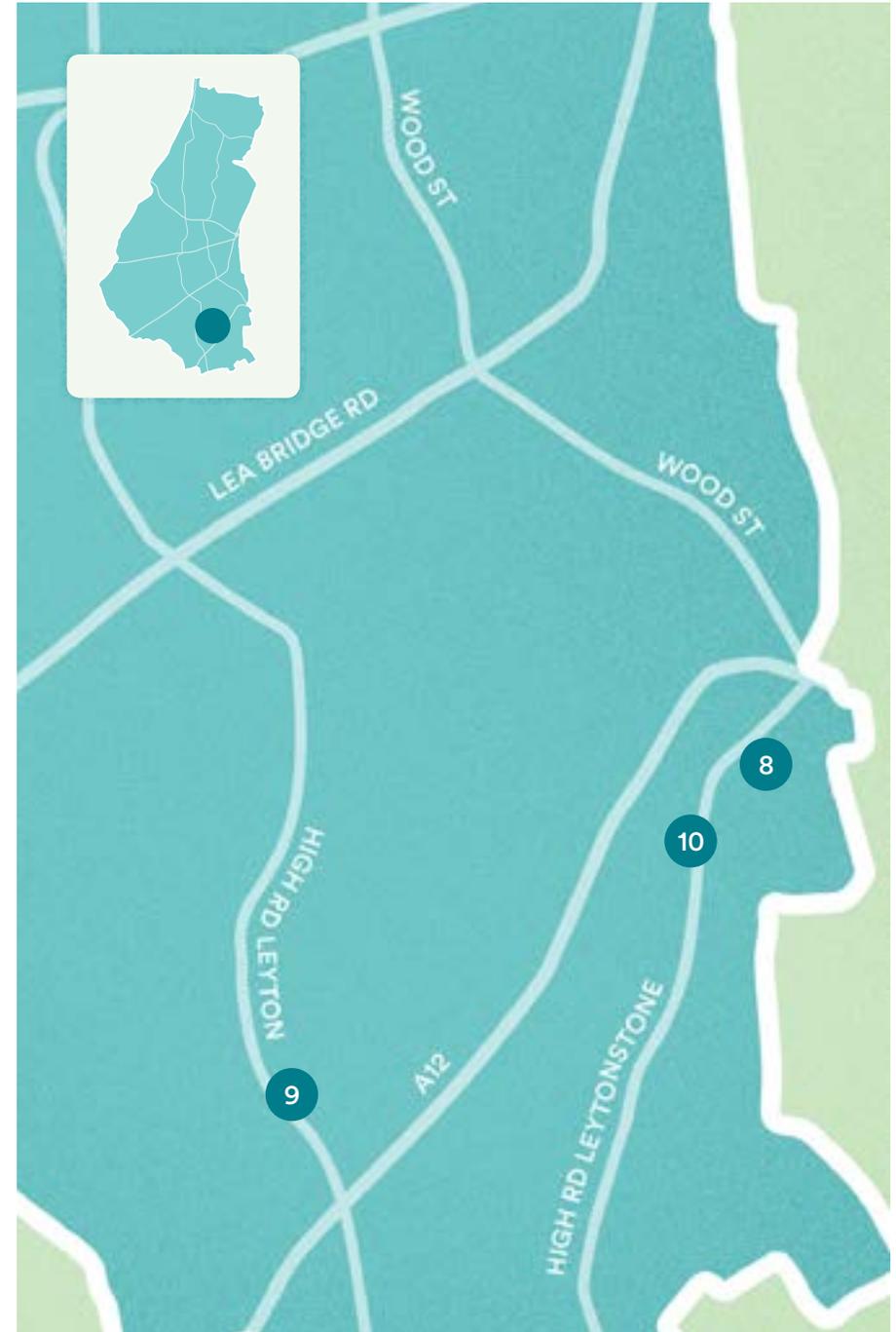
10. Luna - The Home of Live Music

7 Church Lane,
Leytonstone E11 1HG

'Luna Lounge is East London's Number 1 live music venue located in the heart of Leytonstone. Our main focus is on hosting live music performances with talented musicians from the United Kingdom and all over the world.'

—Suja, business owner

A place that can genuinely lay claim to being one of London's best live music venues, Luna Lounge has a fantastically eclectic events calendar that surely caters to everyone's tastes. From reggae to jazz and blues, there's even open mic if you fancied showcasing your own musical talents.





NORTH STAR

“Guests love the greenery of the borough and that you can while away the day in our parks, forest and the common.”

Joanna,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest



MARK, HOST

“Waltham Forest hasn’t just got a huge cultural past with Hitchcock, William Morris & Silent Cinema, but a vibrant present and an exciting future. It’s becoming a go-to location for more creative professionals, with independent shops, home grown produce, Arts Trails & Music Festivals and events.

Mark,
Airbnb Host in Waltham Forest

About Airbnb

Founded in August of 2008 and based in San Francisco, California, Airbnb is a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodation around the world—online or from a mobile phone or tablet.

Whether a flat for a night, a castle for a week, or a villa for a month, Airbnb connects people to unique travel experiences, at any price point, in more than 34,000 cities and 191 countries. And with world-class customer service and a growing community of users, Airbnb is the easiest way for people to monetise their extra space and showcase it to an audience of millions.

About Waltham Forest Council

The birthplace of William Morris and Alfred Hitchcock, Waltham Forest is east London's cultural hotspot. Together with our communities we're building on this creative past to shape our future.

Located in the north east of the capital, Waltham Forest comprises four neighbourhoods: Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow and Chingford. Our borough is diverse and distinctive, making it a fantastic place to explore and invest in. With more green space than any borough north of the Thames and great transport connections to the city and beyond, it's also a place that people want to call home.

Our vision is for Waltham Forest to be the lead outer London borough for arts and culture, known for an ambitious cultural scene that involves local residents and attracts visitors from elsewhere in the capital and around the world.

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