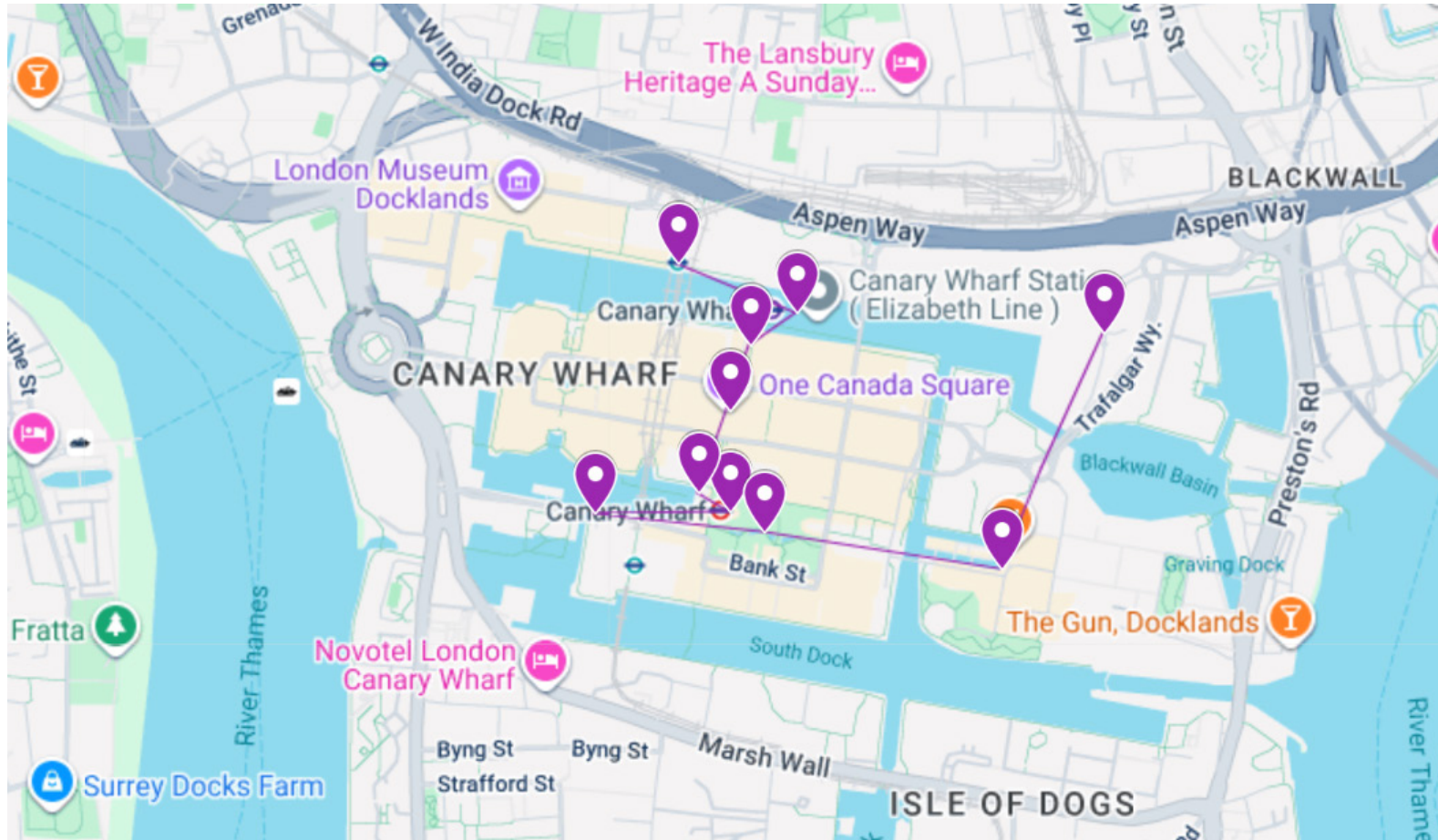


Billingsgate & Canary Wharf

Suggested photography walk



See the **purple** route in Google Maps (zoom in/out, etc):

[See map](#)

Timings

It all depends on how fast you walk, any detours you take, and how long you spend setting up your shots. If you do the Billingsgate part, it takes quite a bit longer. Allow at least an hour at Billingsgate + 30 mins there and back. For Canary Wharf, allow about 3 hours + some time to stop for a coffee.

This route takes in:

- The underground station (arriving here, depending on tube line)
- Billingsgate Fish Market
- Whale on the Wharf sculpture
- Jubilee Park
- Mirrored Canary Wharf sign & the grass couple of Eden Dock
- Middle Dock
- Adams Plaza Bridge
- Crossrail Roof Garden
- West India Quay (leaving)

Photography at Billingsgate

You'll need to apply for a [free permit](#). Tripods are not allowed, but you'll be warmly welcomed and, despite the strict permit, no one bats an eye as you're taking your photos.

Tip for using the custom map

(purple pins for this route): Click on the pins to show you what's at each location, and use the map to guide you. You can zoom in and out - use it like any other Google Map.

A note about Billingsgate

The market will move (presumably to be swallowed up by Canary Wharf) in 2028. It'll be the end of an era, so it's worth seeing it before it goes. The atmosphere will disappear forever.

There may not be as much to photograph as you might think - but shoot it while you still can, soak up the atmosphere, and revel in it if you like markets, or street photography.

Getting there is quick - take the Elizabeth Line or Jubilee Line.

Arrive as early as you can - most business is done in the early hours of the morning. By 8am, some stalls are empty and many are closing up.

The café does the biggest cooked breakfast you've ever seen - including tea & toast - for £10.

We found the atmosphere fantastic. The people working there couldn't have been warmer, kinder or friendlier.

The permit conditions are strict, but barely enforced. We didn't need to ask permission to take people's photos (but when we did, they couldn't have been happier to agree); didn't have to wear hi-vis vests, etc.

Do go out the back as well - there are trucks, the famous weathervane, and great shots of people loading or cleaning down vans. They will want to chat and pose for you.

A note about Canary Wharf

After Billingsgate, Canary Wharf is a world away - not just 10 minutes' walk away. The skyscrapers hulk over low-level Billingsgate, encroaching on it with just a chain-link fence in-between.

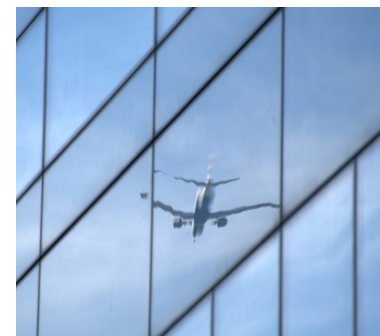
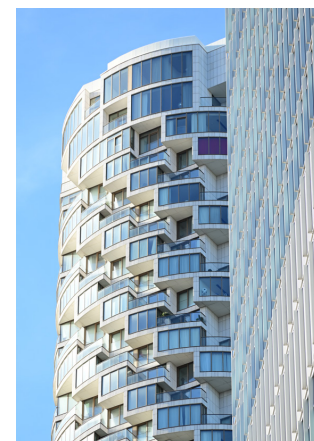
The fish market is everything you hoped East London would be - full of cheeky, cheery people and a warm welcome. Canary Wharf, on the other hand, takes itself extremely seriously and is considerably less welcoming.

Spend too long on a pavement and a huge security guard will come out of the nearest office block, ask what you're doing, and move you on. They are anxious about cameras.

Nevertheless, it's very much worth a visit. If you've never been, then it's far bigger, busier and higher than you imagined. And it's growing fit to bust.

There are some great buildings, very colourful public art, a stunning Tube station, and loads of bits to discover here and there.

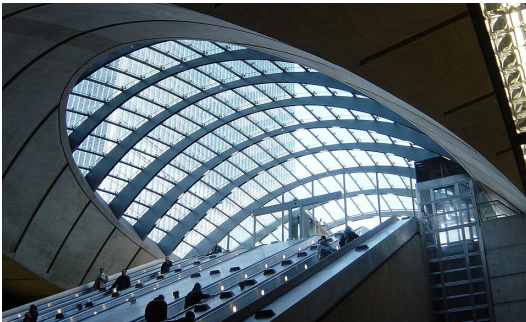
Always look up - for people at their desks, amazing reflections in buildings, and very low aircraft coming and going at City Airport (often reflected in the buildings).



...let's get started!

Canary Wharf Tube Station

Arriving ultra-early - eg for Billingsgate - will also mean more chance to photograph the interior (and even the exterior) of this beautiful station, designed by Sir Norman Foster. You can photograph stations as long as you don't get in the way and don't use a tripod.



Above image via Wikipedia. Photo by David Iliiff. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

Billingsgate Fish Market

It's a 10-minute walk from the tube station. Go in the gaping hole in the front - it's not really a door! Make yourselves known to someone and show your permit. Try not to buy the amazing - and amazingly cheap - fish (although they do sell to the public).



Whale on the Wharf

Returning from Billingsgate, you'll take the Trafalgar Way bridge. Go straight over the roundabout with the hedges & poles, and bear left down Charter Street. Then turn right down Water Street (after The Cube). The whale will be just ahead, outside the Dishoom restaurant.

Installed in 2025, this huge blue whale sculpture is intended as a striking reminder of all the plastic waste swimming in our oceans.

Side note: Before turning down Charter Street, look to your right - there are great views beyond the round Brewdog building - worth a quick detour.



Image via Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International [license](#).

Jubilee Park

Head away from the whale along Water Street, in the same direction as before. Don't miss all of the buildings and sights around you. Cross over Montgomery Street and keep going - there will be signs to the park and Tube station. You'll enter the east end of Jubilee Park. Look out for the vibrant water in the fountains, dappled light and shade, and the light-up benches.



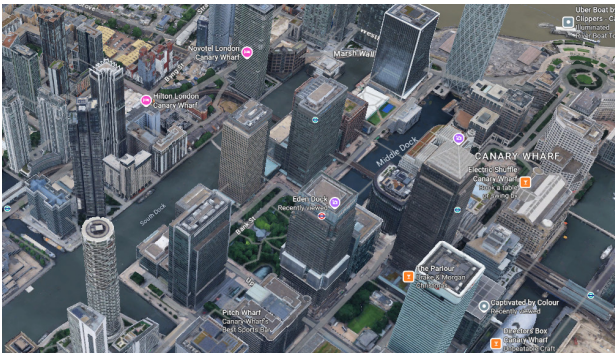
Mirrored Canary Wharf Sign

Positioned opposite the entrance to the Tube station, in Eden Dock Square, this chunky mirrored sign is a street photographer's dream. Just behind it is Eden Dock - where a couple of grass humans live! They occasionally change positions and locations, so you may need to look around.



Middle Dock

Allow some time just to wander and take in the water, the incredible buildings, the reflections, the people, trains going across bridges right in front of you, etc. Never forget to look up.



Adams Plaza Bridge

French artist Camille Walala transformed the bridge using colourful geometric patterns - fantastic for photography. From back at the Tube station (where you arrived earlier), head north to Crossrail Place - best way is through the massive One Canada Square building - the lower ground floor is a public right of way. It's the iconic building with the pyramid on top. There are shops etc and it throngs throughout the day with city types (an eye-opener). Once you reach Adams Plaza, you'll see the multicoloured bridge struts. Head upstairs for the interior.



Crossrail Place

Crossrail Place is the name for Canary Wharf's Elizabeth line station, in the West India Docks. There are shops and restaurants inside, but head for the large roof garden on the top, which has a lattice roof with open slats = ideal for photographing City Airport planes low overhead.



West India Quay DLR station

This service will take you back into the City - terminating at Bank. There are good views of all the tall buildings as you approach, but also don't miss the elevated section as soon as you pull out of West India Quay - the views are great. Have your camera ready, and be quick!



Tip

If you're not too exhausted after your morning at Canary Wharf, getting off the train at Bank could be a bonus. You're just 10 minutes from the Gherkin - which is where we start our companion City of London photowalk (see separate PDF).

If you're not up to the full City of London experience right away, try to plan ahead by getting tickets for one of the free viewing platforms in buildings on Bishopsgate - just a 7-minute walk from Bank (towards the Gherkin).

[8 Bishopsgate](#)

[22 Bishopsgate](#)

Tickets are released 14 days ahead, and go fast.

