

Route from Brockley, Crofton Park and St Johns

A family-friendly walking route to Blackheath in less than an hour



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DESCRIPTION	This is a direct but hilly route, which offers pleasant views of residential Lewisham. Two significant church spires help to guide your way and part of the route follows the River Ravensbourne along the Waterlink Way. The route starts from Crofton Park Library, beside Crofton Park rail station (SE4 2PH), and is equidistant from the Brockley Jack Pub and Theatre (SE4 2DH) and Brockley Overground station (SE4 2RW). <i>Bus service information is provided so if you live off the route, you can choose to take the bus to the walking route, and walk from there to Blackheath.</i>
TOTAL DISTANCE	2.45 miles/3.95 kms
TIME	52 minutes
CONDITIONS/TERRAIN	All firm and in parts steep. Some path surfaces are cracked by tree routes.
WHAT TO LOOK FOR	River Ravensbourne and several church spires.

1 Start: Crofton Park Library (SE4 2AG)

Turn right out of the library along Brockley Road, away from the railway. After passing Brockley cemetery on your right, take the **third right** into St Margaret's Road with its pretty Dutch style houses. Take the **first left** into Tressillian Road which climbs gently (*take care here as the pavement is cracked and roots are visible at some tree surrounds*). At the crossroads **turn left** to continue along Tressillian Road.

 12 minutes  0.6 miles/1.0 kms

Make a note of the time on your watch.

Across from here is the aptly named Hilly Fields. Hilly Fields was saved from development by the protests of

local residents and the support of influential people, including Octavia Hill, one of the founders of the National Trust. The site was opened in 1896. In the early 1900s the park was used as a meeting place for the Suffragettes.

2 Walk the whole length of Tressillian Road gently downhill, with the spire of St John's with Holy Trinity Church (SE8 4EA) as your beacon.

Just off Tressillian Road at 6 Tressillian Crescent is the childhood home of Edgar Wallace, the writer of 'King Kong'. Many of his 170 novels are set in Deptford and Greenwich. When you reach the T-junction with Lewisham Way check the time on your watch again. You have just covered 800 metres – Lord Seb Coe did

the same distance in just over 1 minute and 41 seconds in 1981, still the third fastest time ever.

3 Cross Lewisham Way at the pelican crossing to your right and **turn left** down St John's Vale. Pass St John's rail station (SE8 4EW), on your right, then **turn right** at T-junction into Brookmill Road. **Cross** at the zebra crossing and **continue right** to go into Brookmill Park through an iron arch labelled Ravensbourne Park 1953.

 30 minutes  1.5 miles/2.4 kms

Immediately turn right in the park, along the Ravensbourne River towards Elverson Road DLR (SE8 4LA).

Directions continue >

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You are now on the Waterlink Way, a strategic path for walkers and cyclists that runs from Deptford Creekside and the Thames all the way to Beckenham Place Park.

- 4** Continue to Elverson Road DLR station and **cross** the tracks either by the steps or ramp to **turn right** along Connington Road. Connington Road curves to the left and becomes Morden Hill. It is straight uphill from here all the way to Blackheath. **Cross** Lewisham Road by the pelican crossing and then **continue** straight up Morden Hill (*the left pavement is wider and in better condition*).

- 5** At the T-junction with Dartmouth Row, **turn left** and go past the fine Church of Ascension (SE10 8DT), and then **right** along Dartmouth Grove (*gravel pavements on both sides, the right pavement is firmer*).

On Dartmouth Row you can find Dartmouth House, once the home of the Earls of Dartmouth and the manor house of Lewisham.

Take care **crossing** Wat Tyler Road to the path on the other side that soon runs beside Hare & Billet Road (*the path is a little rough and broken in places*) and past the

Hare & Billet pub.

Wat Tyler Road is named after the famous leader of the Peasant's Revolt, Wat Tyler, who led a national uprising against the poll tax in 1381. His 'army' of some 100,000 followers camped on Blackheath before marching on the City of London where they were defeated and he was killed by the Mayor of London.

Continue straight on the foot path and at the railings some may wish to cross left over the road and grass directly to All Saints' Church, Blackheath (SE3 0TY). Otherwise, continue along footpath to the first crossing on your left, to a grass traffic island, and **turn right** down the pavement to the church.

End