

## Caring for West India Docks

We're the charity working to protect and bring to life this 250-year-old network of canals and rivers spanning England and Wales. Not so long ago many canals were abandoned, and some lost forever. Today, with your support, wildlife is recovering, history is alive, boats are plentiful and spending time in this environment is contributing to our health and happiness.

Our mission is to keep this extraordinary network of canals and rivers alive, teeming with wildlife, transforming places they run through and enriching all of our lives. Your support today could help us care for West India Docks and many more places, for today and generations to come.



DONATE



Please support our work & donate today

SCAN ME



The task of protecting the finest examples of working industrial heritage including West India Docks, and the wildlife that calls it home, is growing all the time. As a charity we need you by our side more than ever. Please support our work today.

Registered with



FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR



Canal &  
River Trust

Making life better by water

## Keeping history alive

West India Docks were built in 1802. An enormous undertaking, it was the largest and most expensive building project in the world, costing £82m in today's money.

For nearly 200 years ships from the West Indies unloaded their cargo of rum, sugar and coffee into the warehouses, where it was transferred onto barges and delivered all over the country via the canal system.

Closed in 1980, the old wharves have since been regenerated into shops, restaurants and of course, Canary Wharf.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to [canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers)

Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

[canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1146792

March 2023



Canal &  
River Trust

## Welcome to West India Docks

A trading hub for over 200 years.



We're the charity making life better by water

More commonly known as Canary Wharf, West India Docks was the first purpose-built docks in London, which in the early 1800s was the busiest port in the world.



## 5 things to do at West India Docks

- 1** Take a stroll around the docks and see the different boats moored there.
- 2** Have a coffee or a bite to eat and enjoy spending time by water.
- 3** Pause and see what wildlife you can spot – cormorants, coots and wagtails are frequently seen and a seal is often spotted in the Thames.
- 4** Visit the London Museum Docklands and discover the history of the area from Roman times to the present day.
- 5** See One Canada Square, at 770ft (235m) it is the third tallest building in the UK.

### Did you know?

Working in the docks was brutal. Sugar leaking from the sacks rubbed docker's necks, shoulders and hands raw. This gave the quayside the name of Blood Alley. Today, Blood Alley is home to the London Museum Docklands.



### Find your way around

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| path              | museum                          |
| lift bridge       | marina                          |
| café              | trip boat                       |
| pub               | ferry terminal                  |
| food & drink      | parking                         |
| toilets           | London Underground station      |
| shopping          | Docklands Light Railway station |
| bench/picnic area | Elizabeth Line station          |
| point of interest |                                 |

**Visit us at:**  
West India Docks, Lawn  
House Close, E14 9YQ

Allow half to a full day for your visit

Map not to scale:  
covers approx.  
1 mile / 1.6km

**Stay SAFE**  
**Stay Away From the Edge!**

For more information on visiting safely:  
[canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety)

Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling.