

## 1 ANERLEY HILL

Welcome to Bromley. Here you are at a point of connection, where the borough meets the boundaries of Croydon, Lambeth and Southwark and where the park meets the 'The Triangle' of vibrant shopping streets. Here you can see the stump of the 'Vicar's Oak', the oak tree which originally marked the boundary of four ancient parishes: Lambeth; Camberwell; Croydon and Battersea.

## 2 CRYSTAL PALACE PARK DINOSAURS

Can you spot the 30 prehistoric animal sculptures in the tidal pools in Crystal Palace Park? Revealed in 1854 alongside the opening of the relocated Crystal Palace glasshouse, these installations were the first ever attempt at life-sized reconstruction of extinct animals anywhere in the world. Out of the 30 Grade I listed sculptures, only four represent 'dinosaurs' in the strict zoological sense.

## 3 NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

Discover the UK's first purpose-built sports centre designed by the London County Council Architects' Department. Completed in 1964 the complex was designed to provide training facilities for Olympic and national teams. Grade II listed. To the North, the unique 2018 skatepark—the product of collaboration between skatepark firm Canvas, Kinnear Landscape Architects and local riders—has brought skateboarding back to Crystal Palace.

## 4 BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE

Exit the park at the South side. On your way towards Penge Highstreet pass the Bridge House Theatre, a small professional theatre home to one of Penge's many creative communities situated inside the Bridge House Pub. Penge has a rich theatrical history, home to many past performance venues including the Empire Theatre, Kings Hall Theatre and ARC Electric Theatre.

## 5 ROYAL NAVAL ASYLUM

At the corner of this street you can view the juxtaposition of two architectural styles that characterise Penge: Victorian and Post-War. The Tudor Gothic style almshouses on St John's Road, which opened in 1848, were built to house the widows of Naval Officers, designed by Philip Hardwick. After devastation during the Blitz, Queen Adelaide court was built to replace the Victorian housing. The design by Edward Armstrong which references the Royal Naval Asylum's three-sided structure in a Brutalist style, won a Certificate of Merit for Architectural Excellence in 1951.

## 6 CROOKED BILLET

Arrive at the Crooked Billet on Penge high street. An inn or pub has stood on this site since 1601, though the present building is from the 19th century. Here you are in the oldest park of Penge which was a hamlet on the edge of Penge Common, before the introduction of the railway. The 176 Bus stops here—the last stop before it reaches its final destination 'Penge' further down the highstreet.

## 7 MAPLE ROAD

Penge has a thriving street art scene. Look both ways to see work by Abraham. O painted in a closed window on the side of 117–199 opposite 'The Price of Everything' by Irony adorning the wall of Tension Art Gallery. The gallery itself is a centre for discussion around art, exhibiting emerging artists. Visit their exhibition exploring the effects of the ruins found within Crystal Palace Park throughout June.

## 8 BETTS PARK

Wander through Betts Park and see one of the last remaining sections of the Croydon Canal which was abandoned by an act of parliament and closed in 1836. The park contains the only ancient Oak Trees dating back to Penge Common.

## 9 ANERLEY TOWN HALL

Take in this locally listed municipal building, built in the late Victorian Art Nouveau style. The town hall serves as the present day social and creative hub for the community.

## 10 CRYSTAL PALACE STATION

Observe the Grade II listed railway station which was one of two built to serve the opening of Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace, relocated from Hyde Park where it had housed the 'Great Exhibition' of 1851. The glass palace stood on the site from 1854 until it was destroyed by a fire in 1936. You can see the ruins of the palace on the upper terraces of Crystal Palace Park today. From here, head over to The Paxton Centre, a community hub with art gallery, creative spaces and café bar.

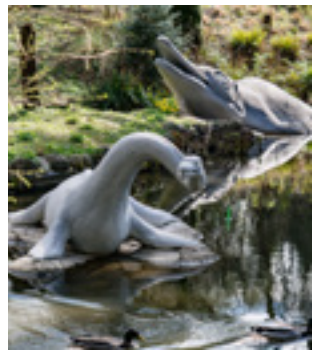
# PENGE & PALACE TRAIL



The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) invites you to explore this unique corner of London, with its abundance of green spaces, rich architectural history and thriving creative community. From parks to pubs, street art to national sporting history, this trail will guide you through some of the highlights of Penge's past and present.

Penge as a destination

'Penge' is one of the few Celtic place names to be found in London. Believed to mean the 'edge of wood' the name refers to the fact that the surrounding area was once covered in a forest. Today, Penge sits on the South edge of Bromley's largest greenspace, Crystal Palace Park. With a long and rich history, the development of Penge is intimately linked to the arrival of the Crystal Palace Exhibition building in 1854, whose legacy and design innovation can be seen today in the surrounding creative communities.



Crystal Palace Dinosaurs

LFA will celebrate the area's creative past, present and future by showcasing local stories and urban innovation at all scales, through engaging events and activities throughout the month of June 2023.

With grateful thanks to the members of Penge's local community who attended our mapping workshop and shared their stories and knowledge of the area.



Visit our trail hubs   
Scan the code for more information about the stops

