

DALSTON JUNCTION
 HAGERSTON
 HOXTON
 SHOREDITCH HIGH ST
 WHITECHAPEL
 SHADWELL
 WAPPING
 ROTHERHITHE
 CANADA WATER
 SURREY QUAYS
 NEW CROSS
 NEW CROSS GATE
 BROCKLEY
 HONOR OAK PARK
 FOREST HILL
 SYDENHAM
 CRYSTAL PALACE
 PENGE WEST
 ANERLEY
 NORWOOD JUNCTION
 WEST CROYDON

A Cultural Lifeline

With the extension of the East London railway line this spring, a whole swathe of London is now much easier to reach. Here we offer our cultural highlights, from Dalston Junction in the north to West Croydon in the south. *By Jo Caird*



The Horniman Museum

The East London railway line was originally built as part of the Tube network. Closed in 2007 for extension work, it reopened in April. The line now runs all the way from Dalston Junction in north London to West Croydon in south London. Further extensions to the line are planned to open in 2011 and 2012.

The extension means not only improved transport for people living and working in East London, but also better access to a wide range of cultural options for visitors to the capital.

Starting from the north, we have **Arcola Theatre**, which is a short walk from Dalston Junction station. The venue is a major player on the London fringe theatre scene. It has put on 14 professional productions already this year and regularly stages work by influential writers and directors such as Timberlake Wertenbaker and Max

For an insight into the history of the areas that the line bisects, as well as the story of the line from when building works began in 1825, visit *Overground Uncovered* at the **London Transport Museum** (until 31 Mar 2011; p. 60).



Crystal Palace Park

Stafford-Clark (27 Arcola Street, E8. ☎ 020 7503 1646. 📍 arcolatheatre.com Off map).

Two stops south we come to Hoxton station and the home of the **Geffrye Museum**, which is dedicated to the English domestic interior (right). Located in charming 18th century almshouses, it documents changing styles of décor from 1600 to the present day, as well as exciting temporary exhibits (p. 54).

RichMix, at Shoreditch High Street station, is a multi-discipline arts centre with a cinema, performance space, café and bar. The venue hosts everything from spoken word and dance to theatre and music and the programme reflects the diverse community of which RichMix is a part (35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1. ☎ 020 7613 7490. 📍 richmix.org Map A9).

There's plenty to see south of the river too. Follow the line down to Forest Hill station to reach the **Horniman Museum** (top) and its amazing gardens, aquarium, music gallery and natural history collections (p. 60). The Victorian tea trader John Horniman began collecting artefacts from around the world in the 1860s, and opened a museum to show them off in 1901.

The last stop on our cultural tour is Crystal Palace station, the home of

The Geffrye Museum



Crystal Palace Park and its famous 'Dinosaur Park' (left). The Crystal Palace was originally built in Hyde Park for the Great Exhibition of 1851; it was then moved to Sydenham Hill and a public park was landscaped around it. The palace burned down in 1936, but you can still see the life-size statues of 15 species of dinosaur that were first displayed in 1854, as well as visit the **Crystal Palace Museum**, which tells the story of the amazing exhibition (📍 crystalpalace-museum.org.uk) in more detail (Crystal Palace Park, Penge, SE20. ☎ 020 8778 9496. 📍 crystalpalacepark.org Off map).

There's lots more to see than just those we've mentioned here. Other highlights include the **Brunel Museum** (📍 brunel-museum.org.uk 📍 Rotherhithe), **Whitechapel Gallery** (p. 66. 📍 Whitechapel), and the **Vortex Jazz Club** (p. 8. 📍 Dalston Junction).

HORNIMAN IMAGE © PETER COOK