Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CHALLENGE

- to demand as some thing due or rights
- to summon to a contest of skill, strength etc
- to lay claim to

London is somewhere that challengers throughout history have called home: whether that's pioneering thinkers or people proposing new political visions for the future. We've selected a few spots around the capital that are perfect to explore if you enjoy challenging or being challenged...

Scroll

15 MINUTES FROM GOLDSMITHS

The Old Operating Theatre Museum

Just a short walk from London Bridge station you'll find The Old Operating Theatre Museum. Not for the faint of heart, Britain's oldest-surviving, fully-restored operating theatre features original surgical instruments from the days before anaesthetic, as well as a weekly 'gore tour' to familiarise you with the collection.

Explore The Old Operating Theatre Museum

25 MINUTES FROM GOLDSMITHS

Parliament

Visit the UK's seat of power in Westminster and witness parliamentary representatives debate the issues of the day. There are public galleries at the House of Commons and House of Lords, and you can also attend regular Prime Minister's Questions sessions - so you'll be in a prime spot for witnessing all the challenging discussions taking place.

Explore Parliament

Thames Path walk

Fancy a personal challenge? Why not make it your mission to walk the entirety of the Thames Path? You can pick up the trail at any point along the river, but a good spot not far from Goldsmiths is Island Gardens, where you can start the 2.5 mile stretch to East India Docks - a section where you'll be able to see first-hand the results of urban development in this part of London.

Explore the Thames Path

30 MINUTES FROM GOLDSMITHS

The Old Bailey

If you're fascinated by the criminal justice system, you can watch it unfold right in front of you at The Old Bailey, the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales. Members of the public are able to watch trials from the public galleries, offering a fascinating insight into legal life.

Explore The Old Bailey

Barbican

Brutalism gained ground in the 1950s, challenging the more frivolous pre-war architectural aesthetic with its focus on function. There are various spots in London to see impressive examples of brutalist architecture, but the Barbican is one of the best - which is apt, because it's a world-class venue famous for pushing the boundaries of all major art forms.

Explore the Barbican

45 MINUTES FROM GOLDSMITHS

Speakers' Corner

Speakers' Corner has been a site for public speeches and debates since the mid-1800s, when demonstrations and protests regularly took place in Hyde Park. Anyone can turn up unannounced and speak about anything they choose - so why not flex your oratorical muscles, or listen to other people trying to persuade the park masses.

Explore Speakers' Corner

EXPLORE THE LOCAL AREA

Looking for more?

There are plenty of things to do in South and East London, so we've put together guides to the best local places to explore. From the greener parts of the city to our favourite cultural spots, we're sure you'll find something to suit you.

Discover more

Please note that journey times are approximate and based on taking public transport from New Cross.

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