Route 12 Charlton
Length: 7.7 miles
Time: 1 hr 15 mins
From: Woolwich Dockyard Railway Station
Type: Mostly quiet roads and park paths
Don’t miss: Thames Barrier & Visitors Centre, Charlton House (cycle stands), Charlton Lido (5 cycle stands)

Sustrans say:-
“This is the longest of all the circular routes, so if you are looking to tackle this then make sure you are ready for the challenge!”

For detailed travel information from your home to the start of the cycle route ring 0870 240 6094 or view www.tfl.gov.uk
Cycles are not permitted on peak time services arriving in London from Monday to Friday. For details view: www.sustrans.org.uk/your-journey/bicycle-policy/

Cycle parking:
8+ Sheffield stands at Thames Barrier Visitors’ Centre,
5 Sheffield stands at Charlton House,
5 Sheffield stands at Charlton Lido

Cycle hire locations:
Greenwich Cycle Hire
(http://www.flightcentregreenwich.co.uk)
Gopedal.co.uk

Bike shops (no hire):
Harry Perry Cycles, 688 Powis Street, SE18 6LQ

Cafés:
Thames Barrier Café (cycle stands nearby), Mulberry Tea Rooms, Charlton House (cycle stands nearby)
1. The route begins at Woolwich Dockyard Station, and when you exit the station you will need to turn right and onto Belsen Road. At the junction turn right onto Frances Street and head downhill to the junction with Woolwich Church Road, where you will need to head straight on through the ornate stone gates, and onto Boneta Road. Follow this as it bends around to the right at the junction with Antelope Road, and then turn a sharp left onto Defiance Walk following the Thames Path Route 1 cycle signage up and over a ramp and on to the Thames Path. Head West staying on this for a short stretch, then turn left into the housing estate (signposted as NCN route 1). Head right along Harlinger Street and then turn left out of the estate and onto Ruston Road, which you should follow and then turn right. The remaining factory buildings here provide a reminder of the dockyard’s industrial past and strategic importance in war time when the area was blitzed in 1940. When you reach the roundabout at Woolwich Road you will need to take the second exit on the roundabout onto Woolwich Road and join the cycle lane. Less confident cyclists may wish to miss out the roundabout by walking their bike around using the pedestrian crossings. Once on Woolwich Road, stay in the cycle lane until the second set of traffic lights where there is a spur on the pavement on the left hand side. Join the pavement cycle track and cross the road using the toucan crossing. Once you are on the other side, head straight on into the Park.

2. Follow the main path on the right hand ride through the park until you reach Eastmoor Place (you will see a veterinary surgery on the corner here). Continue straight on into the private road ahead and follow this track through to Unity Place. There is a visitor’s centre and cafe to your right but some restrictions apply - make sure to check ahead if you would like to pop in. Otherwise turn left at Unity Way and head straight on until you see the signpost for NCN1 that points to the right. Turn off here and head along this path to the Thames Barrier itself, which will appear in front of you almost immediately. From here the route heads left along the Thames Path, following NCN1 for the next couple of miles. It hardly needs saying that it is worth stopping to take in the excellent views of the former docks and the river itself!

3. Follow NCN1 along the Thames, you will pass several industrial sites and the Greenwich Yacht Club, at which point you will need to keep going straight on. When you see a sign that says “Thames Path Cycle 1a- Greenwich via Tunnel Avenue” (just before the large white marquees), you will need to turn left off the path and away from the Thames. Continue heading straight on across East Parkside and West Parkside. To your left you will see a quirky row of houses and public house (the Pilot Inn) that belong to a different age. If you fancy something more modern, the O2 Arena can be reached by simply turning right up either of these roads and parking your bike in their ample cycle racks.

4. After crossing these two roads via the cycle tracks you will need to turn left onto Millennium Way, which is where the shared use path will direct you. Follow this path that runs alongside the road to the roundabout, and cross John Harrison Way via the toucan crossing. Once on the other side, turn right and follow the shared use path around to the left, and cross over Buggsway by the toucan crossing. Turn right on the other side and stay on the shared use path and head straight on under the Blackwall Tunnel Approach via a pedestrian crossing. Continue straight on along the shared use path until you reach Tunnel Avenue, a stopped-up road that you need to turn left onto. Continue along the road until the major junction with Woolwich Road, where you will need to veer right, join the shared use pavements and cross the road using the toucan crossing. Once on the other side, turn left and then take an immediate right onto Combedale Road.

5. From here take the first road on the left (Westcombe Hill) and follow it until the crossroads, where you’ll need to turn left at the mini roundabout onto Siebert Road, and follow the road around and up the hill where it turns right into Invicta Road. At the top turn left onto Charlton Road, which you will need to stay on until you reach Canberra Road, which will be a turning on your right.

6. Turn right into this road, making sure you veer left at the initial fork in the road. You will soon come to a junction with Hornfair Road, where if you turn left you can visit London’s finest Jacobean building: Charlton House (it all has a nice café and gardens if you wish to linger). After your visit, continue along Canberra Road until the junction with Charlton Park Lane, where you need to turn right, and then make a left soon after onto Inigo Jones Road. Hornfair Park is at the end of this road. There is lots to do here: with a lido, gardens and a BMX track, everyone should be happy!

7. You will need to leave the park through the same entrance, and head back along Inigo Jones Road, and right onto Charlton Park Lane, which you’ll need to follow until Repository Road appears on your left, just after the cemetery. As you head through here look out for the Royal Artillery Barracks ahead and Europe’s largest parade ground. Stay on this road until the traffic lights, where you’ll need to head straight on and onto Frances Road. Continue down this road until you see signs for Woolwich Dockyard Station, and turn right onto Belsen Road back to where you started.