



## Community Challenge 2025

### Route - BRUTAL LONDON

<b>Route Distance:</b>	URBAN Challenge Route: <b>BRUTAL LONDON</b>
<b>Curated By:</b>	Camino Ultra
<b>GPX File:</b>	<a href="https://www.komoot.com/tour/1999350263">https://www.komoot.com/tour/1999350263</a>
<b>Public Transport:</b>	This route is from either Westbourne Park (Circle Line) or Barbican Station
<b>Start Point:</b>	<p><b>IMPORTANT:</b></p> <p>Like with all Camino URBAN routes you can start and finish where it makes more sense for you - THIS IS A POINT TO POINT Urban Trail - do contact us before your version as there is a high degree of flexibility with this challenge and we want you to ENJOY IT</p> <p><b>SAFETY:</b></p> <p>This route is unique. The intention is to take you to Brutal architecture which traditionally can feel like less safe spaces e.g by large Tower Blocks. Be safe - typically we recommend going with at least one other person or during peak daytime hours.</p>
<b>Diversion:</b>	No known diversions
<b>Cafe &amp; WC Stop:</b>	<p><b>Toilets:</b></p> <p>There are toilets at many of the main stops on this route We recommend the bottom of Primrose Hill and inside the cafes of Regents Park and Barbican</p>

	<p><b>Cafe:</b></p> <p>We enjoyed the cafe at Barbican although the prices are high x</p>
<b>Ltd Edition Print Preview:</b>	<p><b>The print for this challenge is being created by our friend Rawand from the Refugee Run Club</b></p> <p><b>Once you have completed the challenge let us know and we will ensure that we get you your print.</b></p>
<b>Social &amp; Prizes</b>	<p>Please do follow us on Instagram - <a href="https://www.instagram.com/camino_ultra/">https://www.instagram.com/camino_ultra/</a></p> <p>We will be looking out for your posts and stories so please do use the hashtags listed above</p> <p>Keep an eye for URBAN Challenge events shared exclusively on our NEWSLETTERS TO 2025 CHALLENGERS</p> <p><u>Social Run on: SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY</u> <u>Meet Westbourne Station - 11:00am - should give London ParkRunners time to head over to meet us</u></p> <p>Follow us on Strava: <a href="https://www.strava.com/clubs/camino-ultra">https://www.strava.com/clubs/camino-ultra</a> Heylo for further details: <a href="https://link.heylo.co/3wRD">https://link.heylo.co/3wRD</a></p>

Route Description:

For the purposes of this pack and for the Social we shall begin outside Westbourne station

Remember **ENJOY YOURSELF** on every single Camino URBAN route: You are encouraged to go off-grid a little. If you come across a blocked route - find a fun way to get around it - do let us know

Leave the station and head over the tracks towards the Grand Union Canal and Meanwhile Gardens

Follow the path west towards BRUTAL STOP 1: Trellick Tower.

<https://trellicktower.com/history>

**We highly recommend that you wander around to get the best pictures.**

Exit Trellick Tower on Kensal Rd before a right turn over the bridge of the Grand Union.

The route now takes you towards the second Brutal spot Alexandra Park Estate. To get here you can follow our gpx 100% or you can head any route there. We go via Paddington Community park and its track/cafe/toilets.

BRUTAL STOP 2: Alexandra Park Estate

<https://architectuul.com/architecture/alexandra-road-estate>

**We recommend going through the Estate**

Drop out at the end of Boundary Road take St Johns Wood Park around to head into the corner of Primrose - enjoy this glorious park and head out at the bottom left near London Zoo

**BONUS BRUTALISM - Did you know that the Penguin Pool and Aviary are established and well loved Brutalist Monuments - fancy a quick trip in???**

Aim to go through the Park and come out bottom left (St Andrews Gate) where you cross over the main Marylebone Road

PIT\_STOP - You are very close to Lucky Saint Pub!!!  
Go down Great Portland St until you arrive at

BRUTAL STOP 3: WESTMINSTER UNI

<https://brutalistconstructions.com/2016/03/19/university-of-westminster-london/>

New Cavendish is the home of Westminster Uni  
Keep heading along - short turn right at Tottenham Ct Rd then  
along Torrington Place which turns in to Tavistock Place - head  
around Marchmont St before you reach

BRUTAL STOP 4: BRUNSWICK CENTRE

<https://architectuul.com/architecture/the-brunswick-centre>

We recommend that you wander around here as it is Brutalist  
Heaven

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO LOOK UP!!!!

We leave here to head to the Barbican Centre

There are some main roads but we always recommend that you  
take the back streets between the two as you will see so many  
incredible things in this part of London

We take Guildford St - Clerkenwell Rd and then around the back  
of the Farringdon St towards Smithfields and the Barbican Tube  
Station - heading over to our final destination:

BRUTAL STOP 5: Barbican Centre

Use the now famous HIGHLINE which gives you views around the  
entire centre before heading up at the cafe that gives you views of  
the fountains and the stepping stones

**HISTORY:**

**What is Brutalism?**

After the second world war and bomb damaged London  
there was a need to build quick affordable structures.

Concrete was cheap and several iconic buildings were  
created.

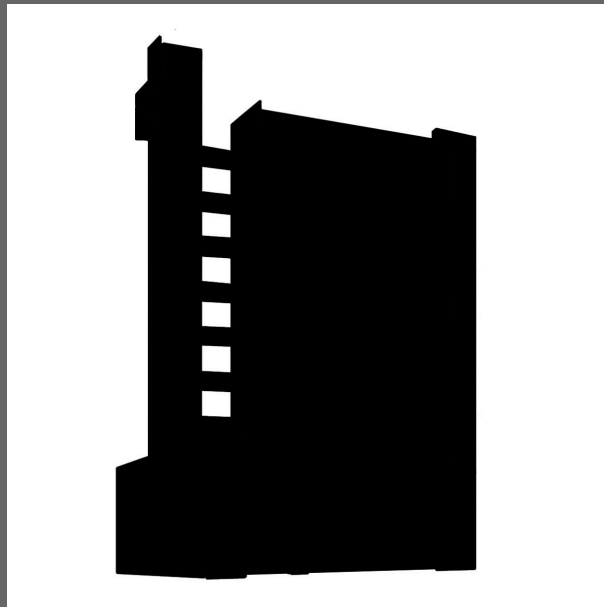
The phase was shortlived and it drew detractors from the  
beginning and many of the buildings that we visit had design  
flaws in terms of maintenance /heating etc

We love this 5 point Brutalist Key in

**According to RIBA, here is what to look for in a Brutalist building:**

1. Rough unfinished surfaces
2. Unusual shapes
3. Heavy-looking materials
4. Massive forms
5. Small windows in relation to the other parts

**PICTURE TIME:**





PLEASE REMEMBER that the No.1 rule of the Camino Urban Trails Challenge is to enjoy yourself. You will not be penalized for making any errors on any of the routes.