

Bengalis in London's East End

The Bengali Heritage Trail around Tower Hamlets unlocks the history of Britain's first Bengali settlers, seamen known as Lascars, and connects key landmarks such as the docks and buildings associated with the seamen who served on British naval and merchant ships from the 17th century onwards. The exhibition is linked to a book titled 'Bengalis in London's East End'.

The Lascars were recruited in India to work for the East India Company. The trail covers the sites of East India House, Calcutta House, East India Dock in Blackwall, and the Seaman's Lodgings. It also includes buildings resulting from the settlement of the Bengali Community, including the Brick Lane Mosque and the Kobi Nazrul Centre; and memorials such as the Altab Ali Arch and the Shahid Minar monument.

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