

## Tips for Enjoying the Reservoir

- Come along to get active: stroll, run; yoga , or cycling.
- Or, you could slow right down. What do you notice?
  - Grab a bench and watch the people go by...
- Find the wilder green spaces around the reservoir.
  - A great place for sketching and photography.
  - Take in recommended views of the reservoir, where you see this:



### Spotter's Guide

TIP: Head for the bridge!

	Heron	
	Coot	
	Great Crested Grebe	
	Seagull	
	Swan	
	Cormorant	
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	

Can you find another one? Write it here

Can you find another one? Write it here

Can you find another one? Write it here

Illustrations and design by Milan Topalovic

**1** a view from the bridge

**2** "Sunrise stunner"

**3** The view across Birmingham from the dam

**4** BLONDIN'S CROSSING

**5** The best green space in the city

**6** The Tower

**7** Was Tolkien inspired by these two towers?

**8** "It clears the head"

Icknield Port Loop

The Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara.

Dhamma Talaka "Reservoir of Teaching"

Girle the monkey has escaped! She has been sighted somewhere on the map, can you locate her whereabouts?

MONKEY OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED FOR 8 MONTHS MISSING A BRUMBLE BY ORDER OF THE BAKY PRIMATEES

CAFE

THE TOWER

## Historical Info & Points of Interest

The reservoir was completed in **1829** and the Lodge House added not long after. It was created as a source of water for the Birmingham canals and has been ever since. The reservoir has too many great histories and stories to list here, but here are a few local favourites.

### 1. Blondin's Crossings

In the 1870's, Daredevil tightrope-walker, Charles Blondin, made the crossing of Edgbaston Reservoir several times. His daring feats included cycling and walking the 1500ft distance in a sack. Show-off!

### 2. Sailing Since 1894

The Midland Sailing Club is one of the oldest inland sailing clubs in Britain. The club's symbol features a reference to the Swiss flag, which is a bit of dry Brummie humour. Switzerland, like the sailing club, is also landlocked!

### 3. Muhammed Ali's Visit

Did you know that on your walk or run 'round the reservoir, you're following in the footsteps of The Greatest? You're tracing the path of Muhammed Ali, who ran the circuit with young fans in 1984.

### 4. Nowka Bais

Traditional Bangladeshi boat racing, called Nowka Bais, came to Edgbaston Reservoir for special events in 2018 and 2019 which attracted thousands of attendees. The boats held teams of ten competitors, making for a spectacular site on the water.

### 5. Monkey Business

In the 1930s lions, llamas, and monkeys were part of the attractions at the reservoir. In 1939, a Rhesus monkey called Girlie made the local papers by escaping with a baboon. The baboon was caught, but Girlie stayed on the run for 8 months!

## Getting to Edgbaston Reservoir

Address: 115 Reservoir Road, Ladywood, Birmingham, B16 9EE

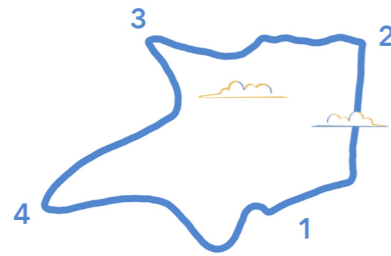
Use [What3words.com](https://www.what3words.com) to find these entrances:

1 - Reservoir Road  
///photo.crab.prices

2 - Icknield Port Road  
///palm.resist.gloves

3 - Gillott Road  
///cones.banana.badge

4 - Rotton Park Road  
///zones.also.dots



### 6. The Tower Ballroom

The Tower Ballroom has been a fixture in life at the reservoir for a century. It's looking a little unloved now, but digging deeper reveals the stories of thousands of Brummies. Quite a few of them found love at the Tower!

The site started life in the 1870's as a skating rink, when roller-skating was all the rage (yes really).

The Tower Ballroom itself opened in 1920 and over the years the venue hosted hundreds of dances; gigs; wrestling and boxing matches; cultural celebrations; opera; and loads more.

### The Dreaming Tower Ballroom project

has captured many people's memories, as well as their hopes for the Tower Ballroom in the future. You can find out more here:



### 7. Edgbaston Waterworks and Perrott's Folly

Can you spot them peeping above the skyline? JRR Tolkien lived nearby and local folklore suggests he was inspired by these two towers. Get into a Middle Earth mindset and sketch the towers with a mythical creature in the skies above.

### 8. Attractions at the Reservoir

The reservoir became a resort called Galaland in the first half of the 20th century, and charged admission for entry. The attraction boasted a promenade for strolling, a bandstand, a swimming lido, a Ferris-wheel and dodgems.



### Via Harborne Walkway



Follow Harborne Walkway to Summerfield Park and head for entrance No. 3.

### From the Roundhouse



Around a 20-minute walk. Head out of the city centre along the canal toward Icknield Port Loop and head for entrance No. 2.

## 'Round the Reservoir

This map was created as part of Roundhouse Birmingham's #CommunityRoutes project with guidance from local people and reservoir visitors. We hope to have captured the depth and warmth of feeling for this green and blue oasis in the city, and to share some of its story. We hope it'll encourage you to explore this special place.

As part of the project, we have also created an audio tour, narrated by local residents, which you can find on the GeoTourist app here. Why not take a listen on your way around?



### Roundhouse Birmingham

Roundhouse Birmingham is a heritage enterprise and independent charity. It was created by the Canal & River Trust and National Trust to find a new purpose for one of Birmingham's hidden gems, the Roundhouse. Roundhouse Birmingham believe in the social benefit of connecting people with the stories and special places that Birmingham has to offer. #SeeTheCityDifferently



### Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir

Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir formed in 1990 to protect the natural environment and heritage of the reservoir and to continue to work towards a community vision to enhance its future.

### Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust is a charity looking after 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales. They believe that life is better by water. Their research shows that spending time by your local canal, whether it be your lunchbreak, daily commute or just a weekend stroll, can make you feel happier and healthier. The Canal & River Trust are one of Roundhouse Birmingham's founder organisations and a #CommunityRoutes project supporter.



# RÖUNDHOUSE

BIRMINGHAM

## Community Route No. 1

# 'Round the Reservoir



#SeeTheCityDifferently

#EdgbastonReservoir

#LifesBetterByWater

