



# Wimbledon to Kingston Walk

Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, and the Thames Path.

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**Length** 9 miles

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**Toughness** 3 out of 10

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**Features** This easy walk is inside the London Travelcard area.

It starts in Wimbledon, and heads for Wimbledon "village" (posh shops). It crosses Wimbledon Common to visit Cannizaro Park (formal gardens) and the Fox and Grapes pub. Then its north across the main part of Wimbledon Common (woodland) to Richmond Park (a royal deer park), visiting the Isabella Plantation (woodland graden) and Pembroke Lodge (terrace has hill top view) for tea.

Leaving the park, its lunch by the river in Richmond, then south along the quiet Thames Path (and Hamm House NT) to Kingston. There is an optional extension through Hampton Court Park.

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**Maps** OS Explorer 161 (London South), or a London A-Z

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**Walk Options**

- You can do this walk in reverse, in which case the Prince of Wales, opposite Wimbledon station, is recommended for tea.
- Once in Richmond, you could turn right (north) along the Thames, past Kew Gardens. Cross Kew Brigde for Kew Bridge train station.

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**Transport** Buy an all Zone Travelcard.

There are train from train Waterloo to Wimbledon (8+ per hour, 15 mins), Richmond (4 per hour, 20 mins), Kingston (4 per hour 25 mins), and Hampton Court (2 per hour, 30 mins). Richmond and Wimbledon are also tube stations

By car: there is free parking around Wimbledon Common

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## History

- Wimbledon Common is protected by an 1871 Act of Parliament (but not before the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club had cordoned off a good deal of it)
- [Caeser's Camp](#), is more likely an Iron Age fort, but today, you'd hardly notice. Its in the middle of a private golf course - an un-signposted fenced-in public footpath goes through the middle of it.
- [Southside House](#) is a small but highly recommended historical house. You need to book guided tours in advance
- [Cannizaro Park](#) is now a public park. It used to be the grounds of [Cannizaro House](#), which is now a hotel, where you can have tea.
- [Richmond Park](#) is the UK's largest urban park. It was enclosed in 1637 for hunting by Henry VIII. The deer, Pembroke Lodge and the Isabella Plantation (a woodland garden) are its major attractions.
- Hamm House (NT), a 17th century Stuart mansion, is right by the river. It takes about 45 mins to see, and is a nice spot for tea, but like all NT houses, expensive unless you're already a member.
- Hampton Court Palace (large royal palace, formal gardens, art collection, maze) is a major tourist attraction which will take about 2 hours to see - using an audio guide is highly recommended. However you'll arrive too late to do it justice. It would be better to do the work in reverse, start at Hampton Court, then walk to Richmond and Wimbledon. Note: while Hampton Court park is free, *the palace gardens are not*. There is an exit to the Thames riverbank just before you reach them.

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## Saturday Walkers Club

Meet at Wimbledon, in the main entrance (District Line side) at 10.30 (summer) 10.00 (winter).

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## Lunch and Tea

- Wimbledeon: Prince of Wales (recommended, opposite Wimbledon Station, real ale)
- Wimbledon Village : a couple of OK pubs
- Wimbledon Common : Cannizaro Hotel (recommended, posh tea), The Fox and Grapes (recommended, reservation needed for weekend lunch), the cafe by the Windmill
- Putney Heath : The Telegaraph (recommended, off route)
- Richmond Park : Pembroke Lodge (recommended, tea, terrace overlooking the Thames)
- Richmond Hill: The Roebuck Pub (along the road from Richmon Gate to Richmond)
- Richmond : a couple of chain pubs on the river
- Kingston : a couple of nodedescript chain pubs on the river, just after Kingston Bridge
- Hampton Court : Nondescript hotel pub just opposite the palace

**Help Us!** After the walk, we would love to get your [feedback](#)

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**Photos** Upload your photos to the [SWC Group on Flickr](#), and [videos to YouTube](#). This walk's tags are:



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**By Car** **Start:** [Wimbledon](#)

**Finish:** [KT1 1UJ](#)

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**Map Walk** This walk **requires** an OS map and a compass or GPS for navigation. You can print out OS maps using the link above.

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**Help** National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

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**Version** Jun-17

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## Walk Directions

*You are encouraged to choose your own route through Wimbledon Common and Richmond Parks*

1. Turn right out of **Wimbledon station**, and walk (past Argos) up the hill along Wimbledon Hill Road.
2. At the top of the hill, straight across the first roundabout, along "Wimbledon Village" High Street (shops, pubs)
3. Bear left at the next junction to stay on the High Street until you reach the war memorial and the start of the common.
4. Head west across open ground, just to the north of the pond, towards **Cannizaro Park** (pretty formal gardens, free). The entrance is just to the right of **Cannizaro House Hotel**. The hotel is a good place for tea (expensive but recommended), but not if you've muddy feet.
5. **To visit Southside House:** The north-south road on the edge of the common is West Side Common road. Go south (left if coming from Wimbledon) for 400 metres, and just round the bend is the recommended **Southside House** (small fee, need to book guided tour in advance). Opposite are 2 nice pubs, the **Crooked Billet** and the **Hand in the Hand**
6. After visiting the gardens, head north along West Side Common Road (coming out of the gardens, turn left), with the common on your right.

7. Along the first left (Camp Road) is the **Fox and Grapes** pub (very highly recommended - you will have to book for Sunday lunch).
8. After 50 metres, the road turns left, and the common is straight ahead. Here you have a choice.
9. **To visit Ceaser's Camp:** The southwest corner of the 'green area' on the A-Z is a private golf course. It contains 'Ceaser's camp', the remains of a Roman hill fort (marked on the A-Z). There is a public access path off Camp Road (at TQ225711) but its very limited. Retrace your steps afterwards.
10. **To head directly to Richmond Park:** Cross the common (heading north west) towards Putney Vale and the Robin Hood Gate ('top left' corner of the common). The most direct route is to follow Camp Road (mentioned above) to veer right on Robin Hood Road, which becomes a lane. At Sprigwell Cottage (small car park), veer right (north west). Or take a longer route exploring the common.
11. **To explore the common (north):** If you have time, detour north via the Windmill (marked on the A-Z), the nearby cafe isn't recommended. A detour even further north to the excellent (but expensive) Telegraph pub on Putney Heath, (cross the north A3 via an underpass) isn't recommended, as this isn't the nicest part of the common.
12. **To explore the common (west):** Another route is to head west towards Warren Farm (turn left/west just before Sprigwell Cottage. Then turn right/north besides Beverley Brook
13. Head for the 'top left' of the common, where you walk along a line of trees between 2 open playing fields towards a safe light controlled crossing over the A3
14. Enter Richmond Park
15. Head due west, along the North Side of Price Charles Spinney (clump of trees), then head south west, and enter the south entrance of **Isabella Plantation** (gardens)
16. Exit from the north side of Isabella, and head north west, cross the road, and continue north towards **Pembroke Lodge**.
17. **To explore the park:** If you have time, loop via Penn's ponds, and take the path through a gate through Sidmouth Wood.
18. **Pembroke Lodge** is a good spot for tea, and has a terrace with a fine panorama overlooking the Thames. Just north of it, through the lodge's gardens, is the **King Henry VIII mound**, with a telescope to view St Pauls between an avenue of trees. This is a protected (and much over-rated) view of St Pauls
19. A short cut avoiding Richmond, is to head straight down the hill at the back of the lodge, to Petersham (pubs) and the Thames path.
20. Continue north, leave the park, turn right, and follow Richmond Hill Road, past **The Roebuck** pub, into **Richmond** for lunch.
21. **To visit Kew Gardens and finish in Kew or Gunnersbury:** After lunch, follow the Thames north, pass Kew Gardens, and eventually reach Kew Bridge. Cross it for the train station, or nearby Gunnesbury tube station
22. Head for the river, and then turn left (south) along the Thames towpath. Pass Ham House (NT), and eventually reach **Kingston** (train station). There are a couple of riverside pubs just after Kingston Bridge.
23. **To finish in Kingston:** turn left at the bridge, and walk through the pedestrianised shopping area
24. For a longer walk, turn right, and cross Kingston Bridge. Continue for 50 metres to the entrance of Hampton Court Palace's 'Home Park'.

25. **To walk through Bushy Park:** Cross the roundabout at the end of the bridge, first major right hand turn, entrance is 25m, on the left. Walk through the park, and exit ny Hampton Court Palace
26. In summer, to avoid paying to enter **Hampton Court Palace's** formal gardens, head to the south of the 'long water', and exit onto the Thames path. In winter, or to vist the gardens, head to the north of the 'long water' (if you change your mind, there is an exit to your right onto the road, and you can walk around to the front of the palace.
27. There is an OK pub opposite the palace entrance.
28. Cross the river for **Hampton Court Station**

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