



Brilliant blooms: Head to Buckingham Palace to enjoy them ALL IMAGES: THE ROYAL PARKS

A walk in the park

A SELECTION OF SHORT BUT SCENIC WALKS THROUGH THE CAPITAL'S PRETTIEST PARKS

TAKE the time this summer to enjoy the green space London has to offer – right in the heart of the city. TfL has teamed up with Royal Parks to bring you a selection of routes through the city's historic parks, all with plenty to see along the way.

PADDINGTON TO KENSINGTON

Estimated time: 30 minutes

This stately stroll takes you through the gardens of Kensington Palace, which were originally created by Henry VIII to use as a hunting ground. Kensington Gardens are located at the western end of Hyde Park, and are considered more formal.

From Paddington station, it's a ten-minute walk to Lancaster Gate, where you'll find the entrance to Kensington Gardens.

Wander through the Italian Gardens, admire the Peter Pan statue, and don't miss out the Diana Memorial Playground, where children can clamber on a pirate ship, and follow the sensory trail.

Pick up tips for growing fruit and vegetables from the park's very own allotment, also home to a number of chickens.

Once you've enjoyed the sights, head towards the corner of the park where you can join Kensington High Street. Reward yourself with a coffee or a spot of shopping.

GREEN PARK TO PICCADILLY

Estimated time: 20 minutes

This is the shortest of these selected routes, and it's the perfect way to add some greenery to your journey, or even part of your commute. Start at the historic Canada Gate, the grand entrance to the park.

Take a minute to admire Buckingham Palace and look out for Royal Gun Salutes – when ceremonial guns are fired to mark special royal occasions.

Wander through the park, and make sure not to miss the Canada Memorial, built to commemorate the one million Canadians who served with British forces in both World Wars. The walk ends at Green Park station, where you can catch a



Watery paradise: Visit Duck Island in St James's Park to spot the birds

Tube home. Or, continue on down Oxford Street to bustling Piccadilly. Grab a cup of tea and enjoy a trip to the shops.

ST JAMES'S PARK TO CHARING CROSS

Estimated time: 25 minutes

Leave Victoria station and head down Buckingham Palace Road until you reach Birdcage Walk, on the edge of St James's Park.

The park is brimming with flowers and wildlife, as well as the opportunity to see some unique birds. Sink into a deckchair and enjoy spectacular views of the lake and fountain, while keeping an eye out for the resident flock of perky pelicans.

After walking across the Blue Bridge, you'll pass Duck Island towards the corner of the park. Built in 1665, this bird sanctuary is home to around 17 species of bird, including mute swans.

Finally, stroll along the famous tree-lined Mall until you reach Charing Cross station.

HYDE PARK TO SOUTH KENSINGTON

Estimated time: 35 minutes

A simple route that takes you from the north to the south of Hyde Park.

Start at Marble Arch, located at the corner of the park. Mosey on through Speakers' Corner, pausing to listen to any interesting speakers.

Head towards the sparkling Serpentine Lake and cross over at the bridge. Don't miss the intricately designed Albert Memorial and a glimpse of the Royal Albert Hall, before exiting the park on Exhibition Road.

With the Natural History Museum now open after the longest closure since World War II, you might fancy booking a timed slot there, for after your walk.

After that, head past the world-famous V&A museum, peruse the shops and finish your route at South Kensington station.

For the latest information and advice to help plan your journey, visit tfl.gov.uk

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