

Bromley

Self-Guided Itinerary

Nearest station: Bromley South

The Old Palace, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, BR1 3UH

Old Palace was the official residence of the Bishops of Rochester. Present building dates from 1775, although there have been manor houses on the site since 10C. The manor consisted of an extensive estate, including farms, orchards and woodland. In 1845 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold the whole estate to Coles Child, a wealthy businessman. He modernised the farm and improved and extended the main house. When Coles Child dies in 1870, his son, named after him, inherited the estate. He sold some of the land to builders. The area's origins are perpetuated today in local street names like Rochester Avenue and Palace Road.

Directions:

Walk west towards Stockwell Cl > Turn left onto Stockwell Cl > Turn right onto Kentish Way > Sharp left > Turn left towards High St > Turn right onto High St > Turn left, destination will be on the right

Churchill Theatre, Bromley High Street, BR 1HA

This reinforced concrete building was designed by Bromley council architect Ken Wilson as part of the 1970s redevelopment of part of the town centre. It was opened by the Prince of Wales on September 19th 1977 and is designed as a repertory theatre in the style of medium sized European opera houses. Its interior is unusual in having continuous rows with no central aisles.

Directions:

Walk north-east towards High St > Turn left onto High St > Turn right towards Market Square > Turn left onto Market Square



The Glades, Bromley High Street, BR1 1DN

The Glades is a shopping centre in Bromley, south-east London, England. It has a total of 135 stores trading from a combined floor space of 464,000 sq ft (43,100 m²). Opened as The Glades on Tuesday 22 October 1991. The name “The Glades” was chosen following a competition in which Bromley residents were asked for suggestions. “The Glades” was chosen reflecting the history of Bromley as a wooded area.

Directions:

Walk south-west on Market Square towards High St > Turn left onto High St, destination will be on the left



The Royal Bell Hotel, 157 High Street, BR1 1NN

The Royal Bell is a Grade II listed hotel that has lain empty for over ten years. Designed by Ernest Newton in 1898, it was one of three coaching inns in Bromley and an important centre of Victorian and Edwardian culture.

Directions:

Walk north-west on High St towards Market Square > Turn left onto High St > Turn left onto Church Rd > Turn left > Turn right, destination will be on the left

Bromley Parish Church, BR2 OEG

J. Harold Gibbons designed the new church in 1948 to blend with the 14C tower which was heavily damaged during the war. New community rooms were added in 1982 and solar panels for energy efficiency have also been installed.



Directions:

Walk east > Turn left towards Church Rd > Turn right onto Church Rd > Turn left onto High Street, destination will be on the left

Bromley Picture House, 242 Bromley High Street, BR1 1PG

Originally the Odeon, this cinema was designed by the well-known cinema architect George Cole in the Art Deco or Moderne style with characteristic design features from the 1930s. It is centrally located in the town centre in the High Street but gradually became run down until it was taken over by the Picture House group recently. Major refurbishment involving restoration of missing architectural features, exterior and interior, was completed in 2019 and the cinema now has 6 well equipped screens. The architect for the recent restoration were Earle Architects and their redesign has emphasised the cavernous nature of the interior and the vast foyer, quite a surprise after its narrow High Street frontage.



Directions:

Walk north-west on High St/A222 towards College Slip > Turn right onto College Slip > Turn right towards North St > Slight left onto North St > Turn right onto Compass Ln

Bromley Little Theatre North Street, BR1 1SB

Bromley Little Theatre (BLT) has been an integral part of Bromley's cultural life for over 80 years. Run entirely by volunteers and receiving no public subsidy, it attracts audiences of circa 12,000 people per year to its 113-seat main auditorium. BLT is housed in two linked buildings which were originally a Victorian bakery and stables built in 1888. Harold Wilson Pook started the Bromley Little Theatre Movement in 1934 and took a lease on the vacant bakery the following year. The raked auditorium was built and seating was installed having been obtained from the Alhambra Theatre in London. The theatre opened with its first production in December 1937 and, apart from a break during WW2, has been showing performances ever since.