

Hammersmith and Fulham

Self-Guided Itinerary

Nearest station: Stamford Brook

Total distance: 2200m

Stamford Brook Tube Station (District Line), W6 0SB

The District Railway has operated through here since 1869, but this station was only built in 1912. The tracks were doubled in the 1930s to accommodate the extension of the Piccadilly Line. London's first automatic ticket barrier was installed here in January 1964.

Directions:

Turn right outside station, walk down Goldhawk Road (160m) and at the traffic lights turn left into King Street, cross immediately and take the next right, leading into St Peter's Square.

Young's Corner, W4 2NJ

This was known as the "first shop in London", or at least it was in the times when the county of Middlesex met the county of London just here. Nowadays, it's on the boundary between the London Boroughs of Hounslow and Hammersmith. Mr Young ran a grocer's shop here from 1830, but the present building dates from 1894.

Directions:

Walk down the square through the gardens (250m)

St Peter's Square, W6 9NW

The first houses to be built in the square were on the northern side, with the whole square complete by 1830. The statue in the middle of the garden, erected in 1926, is The Greek Runner, by Sir William Blake Richmond who lived locally. He also designed the mosaics in St Paul's Cathedral.



Further down, on the western side of the square, the group of houses numbered 22 to 38 were some of the earliest buildings in Hammersmith to be Grade II listed, in 1952. In 1894 The Royal Chiswick Laundry occupied the whole of the rear garden of No.22. Island Records took over the premises in 1973, which has been occupied by architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands since 2005.

Directions:

At the foot of the square, turn left and walk towards the church (80m)

St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, W6 9BE

St Peter's church (Edward Lapidge) is in Ionic style.

Directions:

At the foot of the square, turn left and walk towards the church (80m)

Right next to the A4 is a cast concrete statue that is showing its age somewhat: "Draped Woman", by Karel Vogel. Studio magazine said in 1962 that it "expresses his intention in a floating movement, repeating the curve of the road and taking up the slope of the opposite subway". The main road to the west was classified as the A4 in 1922 and widened in 1961.

Directions:

Cross the A4 by the subway then walk down South Black Lion Lane to the River Thames (70m)

South Black Lion Lane, W6 9TJ

St Peter's church (Edward Lapidge) is in Ionic style.

On the left is the Black Lion pub. Further down the lane, at the Thames, are Bell Steps: Here, Frederick Bell ran a ferry across the Thames (which is tidal down to Richmond).

Directions:

Turn right into Hammersmith Terrace



Hammersmith Terrace, W6 9TS

Just to the right is 1 Hammersmith Terrace, where Doves Press was located, which has links with Kelmscott House, further on in this walk. Founded in 1900 by Thomas James Cobden-Sanderson, who designed the Doves typeface. In 1906, he fell out with his business partner, Emery Walker (who lived at number 7), over a six month period, threw over a tonne of the remaining type into the Thames from Hammersmith Bridge. The typeface was re-created in digital form in 2010 by Robert Green, who on 2014 sent divers down into the Thames who retrieved 150 pieces of the original type from the riverbed.

Directions:

If you wish, have a look at the rest of Hammersmith Terrace then turn round at number XVI, return to Bell Steps, and walk along Upper Mall alongside the Thames (100m)

Upper Mall, W6 9TA

The Old Ship pub is on the left. Unusually, the path then continues under the first floor of some 1960s houses which front onto Oil Mill Lane, where the vitamin supplement “Bemax” was produced from the 1930s onwards. On the opposite bank of the Thames are the playing fields of St Pauls’s School.

Directions:

Continue to follow Upper Mall alongside the Thames (100m)

Linden House, Upper Mall, W6 9TA

Just beyond, on the left, is Linden House which dates back to the 18th century. It is the headquarters of the London Corinthian Sailing Club. On the right is their race starting box, which won a Civic Trust award in 1964. Locally born artist, Eric Ravilious lived at 48 Upper Mall in the 1930s- the blue plaque is round the corner in Weltje Road.



Directions:

Junction with Weltje Road, keep on the riverside road (40m)

Junction with Rivercourt Road, keep on the riverside road (100m)

Rivercourt House, Rivercourt Road, W6 9TF

A number of the buildings in this stretch are used by Latymer School, including the modern boat storage facility

Directions:

Continue to follow Upper Mall alongside the Thames

28 Upper Mall, W6 9TA

This is one of the more modern houses on the mall

Directions:

Continue to follow Upper Mall alongside the Thames

Kelmscott House, 26 Upper Mall, W6 9TA

In 1816 Sir Francis Ronalds tested the first electric telegraph here, using eight miles of wire in the garden of what was then The Retreat. Artist, writer and socialist William Morris lived here from 1878 until his death in 1896, having renamed it after his previous house in Kelmscott, Oxfordshire.

Directions:

The path narrows, leaves the bank of the Thames, and becomes a narrow alley (60m)

The Dove, 19 Upper Mall, W6 9TA

The pub, owned by Fullers since 1796, has one of the smallest bars in England. There is a terrace overlooking the Thames.

Directions:

At the end of the alley, enter the Furnivall Gardens and turn right towards the Thames (30m)

Furnivall Gardens, W6 9DG

The gardens were established after WW2 on the site of rundown industrial buildings and Hammersmith Creek, which was filled in in 1936. Stamford Brook reached the Thames here, and barges docked along the creek right up to King Street. Across the other side of the A4 you can see, through the trees, Hammersmith Town Hall (Ernest Berry Webber, 1939).

Directions:

At the riverbank, turn left to follow the riverside path (Lower Mall) alongside the Thames (100m)

Dove Pier

Dove Pier is at the corner of Furnivall Gardens; there are houseboats moored at the pier and along the riverbank.

Directions:

Walk to the end of the gardens (70m)

Westcott Lodge

The first house after the green, set back slightly from Lower Mall. Previously the vicarage of St Paul's Hammersmith, which is just the other side of the flyover.

Directions:

Keep on Lower Mall (60m)

Furnivall Sculling Club

Dr Frederick Furnivall (who originated the Oxford English Dictionary) founded The Furnivall Sculling Club for girls in 1896. Men could join from 1901.

Blades Court

Next door is Blades Court, a modern apartment block.

Directions:

Mall Road joins here; keep on Lower Mall (50m)



Lower Mall

On the corner of Mall Road are two pubs with a rowing club between them: The Rutland Arms (1870, lost its top floor in WW2), Auriol Kensington Rowing Club (formed by amalgamation in 1981), The Blue Anchor (licensed from 1722, and one of the oldest pubs in London).

12 and 11 Lower Mall. A pair of early 17th century houses Kent House (10 Lower Mall) The premises of the Hammersmith Club, re-opened in 2013 after restoration by Robin Walker Architects.

The last four houses (9 to 6 Lower Mall) each have a first floor balcony, all at slightly different levels, made of different materials, some more glazed than others, but all giving a view of the river and, once a year, the Boat Race. The headquarters of British Rowing are at number 6. The next building, Digby Mansions (1895), with a river frontage but also stretching back along the approach to Hammersmith Bridge, has three levels of balconies.

Directions:

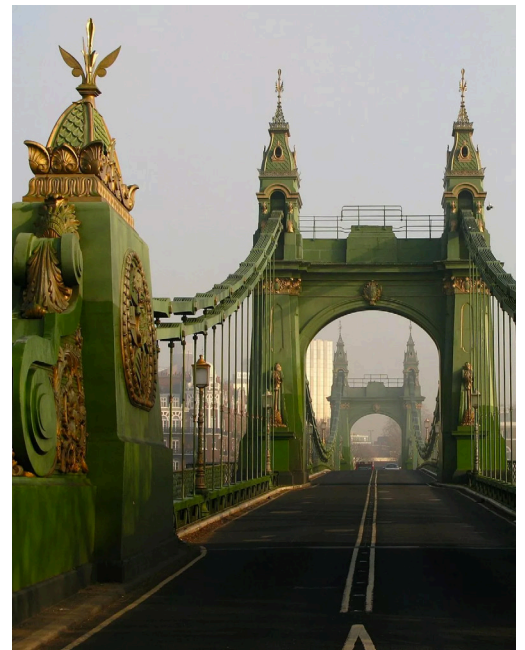
Keep on the towpath as it dips under Hammersmith Bridge (150m)

Hammersmith Bridge

Designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette and opened in 1887, replacing an earlier bridge built in 1827. It has frequently been repaired and is currently closed to all motor traffic, awaiting further extensive repairs. The coats of arms displayed at on the suspension stays at both ends of the bridge (and overpainted in green paint) are those of the City of London, Kent, Guildford, City of Westminster, Colchester, Middlesex and, in the centre, the United Kingdom

Directions:

Walk under the bridge.



Riverside Studios

The site was redeveloped and re-opened as an arts centre with 165 flats above and around it (Assael Architecture) in 2019. It had been a film and BBC television studio since 1933. Plaques give information about the studios and the nearby drawdock. In the distance, further along the Thames, are the floodlights of Fulham Football Club.

Directions:

Turn away from the river path and walk along Queen Caroline Street (100m)
Queen Caroline Street

Queen Caroline Street

Along Queen Caroline Street are apartment blocks from three different eras, and also, with an angular frontage, The Gate restaurant, sharing the area behind with the Temple Lodge Club (a well preserved Georgian building, once lived in by artist Frank Brangwyn) and a chapel.

Directions:

Keep on Queen Caroline Street, walking towards Hammersmith Apollo, on Hammersmith Broadway (300m)

Hammersmith Apollo

Designed by Robert Cromie in Art Deco style, it opened in 1932 as the Gaumont Palace, being renamed the Hammersmith Odeon in 1962, and became an important live music venue, featuring Buddy Holly, Miles Davis, Riverdance and SpongeBob SquarePants, among many others. The 1932 pipe organ was restored in 2007, and the building was refurbished by architects Foster Wilson in 2013.

Directions:

Walk under Hammersmith Flyover (150m)



Hammersmith Flyover

The flyover was designed by G. Maunsell & Partners, and completed in 1961. It speeds up traffic from Earls Court to the Great West Road. It needed remedial work between 2010 and 2015, with weight restrictions on vehicles using it during that time.

Directions:

Cross the gyratory system to enter Hammersmith Station under the shopping mall (District and Piccadilly Lines only; the Hammersmith & City and Circle Line Station is further round the gyratory system)

Hammersmith tube station (District and Piccadilly lines)

Parts of the old facade of the original station were re-used in the design of the interior of the station's new north ticket hall, which was rebuilt in the 1990s by Minale Tattersfield.

