

Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court

RICHMOND | KEW | PUTNEY | BARNES | FULHAM | CHISWICK | TWICKENHAM | WIMBLEDON

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Searching for ghosts and legends among the galleries and royal apartments of majestic **Hampton Court Palace** (p293), London's exquisitely wrought Tudor gem by the Thames.
- 2 Making it a day out among the green expanses, treetop walkways, tropical foliage and elegant architecture of **Kew Gardens** (p296).
- 3 Fleeing urban London to plunge into an exceptional range of bird and animal habitats at the outstanding **London Wetland Centre** (p301).
- 4 Sinking a pint of beer at the historic riverside **White Cross pub** (p305) while trying to avoid being cut off by the high tide.
- 5 Exploring London's wild side, roaming at will and hiking around immense **Wimbledon Common** (p302) or **Richmond Park** (p298).



For more detail of this area, see Map p458 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A manageable section of the fantastic Thames Path (p302) is the four miles between Putney Bridge and Barnes Footbridge. Taking around 90 minutes, most of the walk is very rural and at times you will only be accompanied by birdsong and the gentle swish of the river. From the footbridge, Chiswick train station is about 0.75 miles to the northwest. For more details, see the River Thames Alliance's **Visit Thames** (www.visitthames.co.uk) site.

Best Places to Eat

- Al Boccon di'Vino (p302)
- Glasshouse (p303)
- Lots Road Pub & Dining Room (p304)
- Chez Lindsay (p303)

For reviews, see p302 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- White Cross (p305)
- Ye White Hart (p305)
- City Barge (p305)
- London Apprentice (p306)

For reviews, see p305 ➔

Best Guided Tours

- Kew Gardens (p296)
- Hampton Court Palace (p293)
- Richmond Park (p298)
- Petersham Meadows (p300)

For reviews, see p298 ➔

Explore Richmond, Kew and Hampton Court

If anywhere in London could be described as a village, Richmond – with its delightful green, riverside vistas and white-painted two-storey cottages – is it. But the entire southwest from Putney to Twickenham is a revitalising and refreshing alternative to central London's urban and occasionally gridlocked density. Pastoral shades frequently pop into view and when the weather's fine, few London diversions can top time spent upriver by the Thames, whether exploring the major sights, walking along the riverbank or poking your head into a historic waterside pub. And if you really warm to the charms of London's green southwest, you'll find a few outstanding hotels to look after you.

You might not find yourself coming here to shop, but bring your wallet as there's no shortage of fine dining and you'll find pubs a plenty. But it's exploration that should top your agenda, whether it be getting lost in the maze at splendid Hampton Court Palace, finding endless botanic discoveries at Kew Gardens or walking the wilds of Richmond Park. Don't forget to pack your camera, friends back home may be amazed at how good-looking these parts of London are.

Local Life

➤ **Hang-outs** Get into the riverside pub lunch mood joining locals quaffing beer at the White Cross (p305) or the London Apprentice (p306).

➤ **Greenery** Londoners from all over town bolt down to Richmond Park (p298) and Kew Gardens (p296) for weekend great escapes; when the sun shines over Fulham and Putney, locals descend on the gorgeous lawn of Fulham Palace (p299).

➤ **River Views** Join locals jogging by the river, walking their dogs or catching some sunshine north and south of Richmond Bridge (p300).

Getting There & Away

➤ **Train & Underground** Both Kew Gardens and Richmond are on the District Line and London Overground; Richmond train station can be reached from Clapham Junction. Trains run to Hampton Court station from Waterloo. East Putney, Putney Bridge, Fulham Broadway and Chiswick Park are on the District Line.

➤ **Boat** Boats (p395) run several times daily from Westminster Pier to Kew and on to Hampton Court Palace (boats sometimes stop at Richmond).

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