

# Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court

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

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Listening out for poltergeists along the galleries and vaults of majestic **Hampton Court Palace** (p302) before getting lost in the maze.
- 2 Plunging into the luxuriant green expanses, wooded thickets and tropical foliage of **Kew Gardens** (p306).
- 3 Turning your back on urban London to discover a pristine pocket of wilderness at the **London Wetland Centre** (p311).
- 4 Sinking a pint of beer at the historic riverside **White Cross pub** (p314) while trying to avoid being cut off by the high tide.
- 5 Exploring London's wild side, roaming at will around the verdant environs of **Richmond Park** (p308).



For more detail of this area see Map p470 →

## Explore: Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court

If anywhere in London could be described as a village, Richmond – with its delightful green, riverside vistas and handsome architecture – is it. But the entire southwest from Putney to Twickenham is a refreshing alternative to central London's urban density. When the weather is 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 also find a few lovely 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 aplenty. But it's exploration that should top your agenda, whether it be getting lost in the maze at splendid Hampton Court Palace, making endless botanic discoveries at Kew Gardens or walking the wilds of Richmond Park.

### Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** Get into the riverside pub lunch mood joining locals quaffing beer at the City Barge (p314) or White Cross (p314).
- ➔ **Greenery** Londoners from all over town bolt down to Richmond Park (p308) and Kew Gardens (p306) for weekend great escapes.
- ➔ **River Views** Join locals jogging by the river, walking their dogs or catching some sunshine north and south of Richmond Bridge (p308).

### 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 run several times daily from Westminster Pier to Kew and on to Hampton Court Palace (boats sometimes stop at Richmond).

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A manageable section of the fantastic Thames Path (p315) is the 4 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 site ([www.visitthames.co.uk](http://www.visitthames.co.uk)).

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Al Boccon di'Vino (p313)
  - ➔ Glasshouse (p313)
  - ➔ Ma Goa (p313)
  - ➔ Orange Pekoe (p314)
- For reviews, see p312 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ White Cross (p314)
  - ➔ Ye White Hart (p314)
  - ➔ City Barge (p314)
  - ➔ London Apprentice (p315)
- For reviews, see p314 ➔

### Best Guided Tours

- ➔ Kew Gardens (p306)
  - ➔ Hampton Court Palace (p302)
  - ➔ Richmond Park (p308)
  - ➔ Strawberry Hill (p311)
- For reviews, see p308 ➔