

Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court

RICHMOND & KEW | PUTNEY & BARNES | CHISWICK | TWICKENHAM | WIMBLEDON | HAMPTON COURT

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Listening out for poltergeists along the galleries and vaults of majestic **Hampton Court Palace** (p310) before getting lost in the maze.
- 2 Plunging into the luxuriant green expanses, wooded thickets and tropical foliage of **Kew Gardens** (p314).
- 3 Turning your back on urban London to discover a pristine pocket of wilderness at the **London Wetland Centre** (p318).
- 4 Sinking a pint of beer at the historic riverside **White Cross pub** (p322) while trying to avoid being cut off by the high tide.
- 5 Exploring London's wild side, roaming at will around **Richmond Park** (p316).



For more detail of this area see Map p478 →

Explore Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court

Richmond, Kew and Hampton Court is the London you barely knew existed and you'll need a few days getting to fathom the charms of this adorable neighbourhood. The shiny city is a galaxy away: this is where the green and pleasant land of England commences. Start early in the morning with Kew Gardens, but you may find yourself there the entire day, getting magnificently lost. If you escape, head south to laze by the river in grand Richmond, Instagramming some of London's most delightful river views. Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common offer rambling opportunities galore. Several excellent hotels allow you to overnight here, if you wish, so your explorations can continue to Hampton Court Palace, the UK's most magnificent chunk of Tudor architecture; ghost hunters will want to check out this famously haunted palace to really get into the 'spirit' of things. Night-times are pretty low-key in the neighbourhood, but you've a bevy of waterside pubs to treat you to a more languorous perspective of the city as it melds with pastoral England. You might not find yourself coming here exclusively to shop, but bring your wallet as there's no shortage of fine dining to fill your tummy.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** Get into the riverside pub-lunch mood joining locals quaffing beer at the City Barge (p322) or White Cross (p322).
- ➔ **Greenery** Londoners from all over town bolt down to Richmond Park (p316) and Kew Gardens (p314) 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 (p317).

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** Services 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 (p319) 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).

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Glasshouse (p321)
- ➔ Gelateria Danieli (p321)
- ➔ Chez Lindsay (p321)
- ➔ Orange Pekoe (p321)
- ➔ Petersham Nurseries Cafe (p322)

For reviews, see p321. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ White Cross (p322)
- ➔ City Barge (p322)
- ➔ White Hart (p323)
- ➔ Crooked Billet (p323)
- ➔ Tap on the Line (p322)

For reviews, see p322. ➔

Best Guided Tours

- ➔ Kew Explorer (p324)
- ➔ Hampton Court Palace (p310)
- ➔ Strawberry Hill (p319)
- ➔ Ham House (p316)