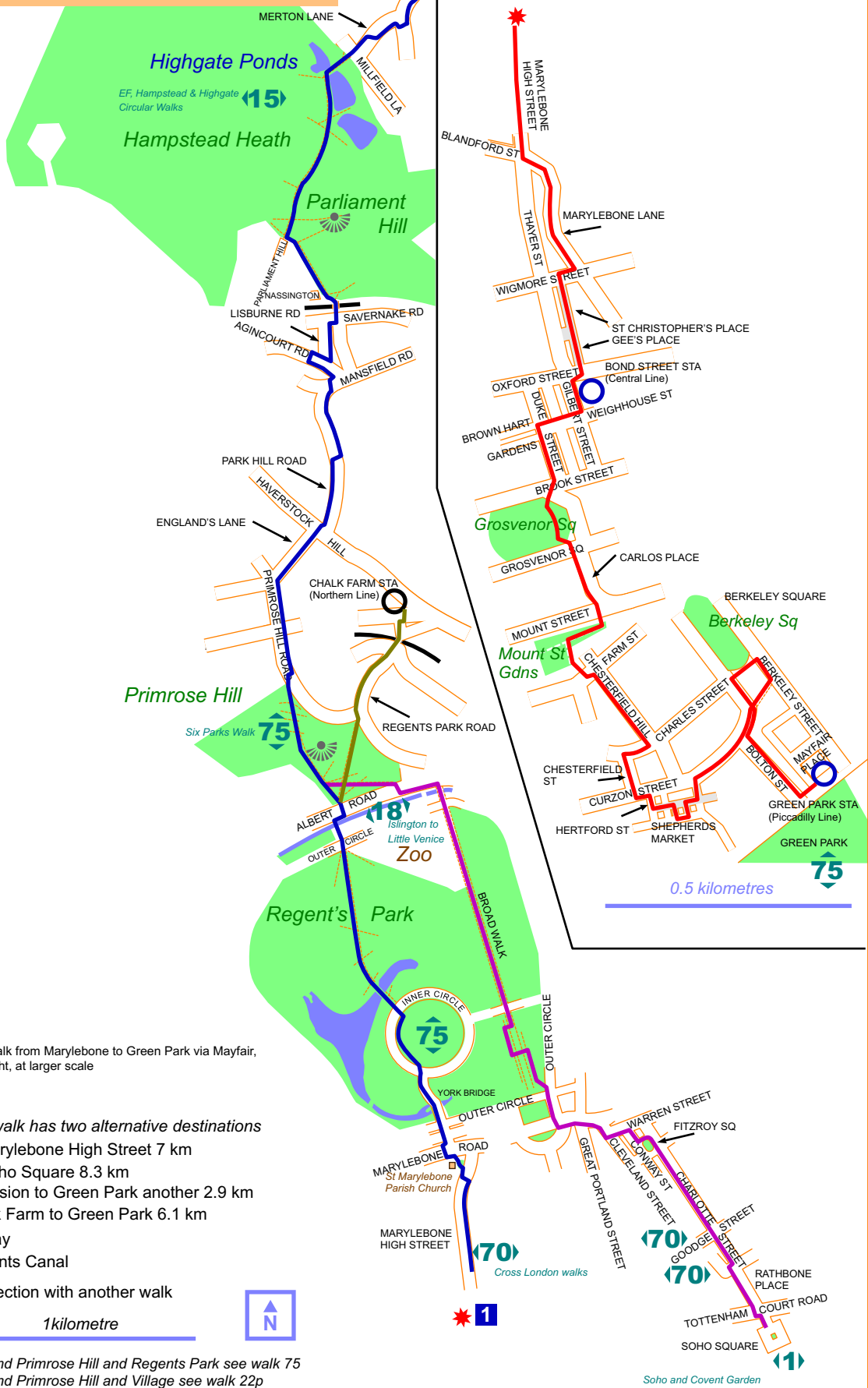


Highgate to Marylebone, Green Park or Soho Square via Primrose Hill

EF, Hampstead & Highgate Circular Walks
 15 HIGHGATE VILLAGE
 Highgate village is served by buses 143 263 210 and 271 stop name South Grove



1 Extend your walk from Marylebone to Green Park via Mayfair, see inset to right, at larger scale

This pavement walk has two alternative destinations

- to Marylebone High Street 7 km
- to Soho Square 8.3 km
- extension to Green Park another 2.9 km
- Chalk Farm to Green Park 6.1 km
- railway
- Regents Canal

10 connection with another walk
 1 kilometre

For a walk around Primrose Hill and Regent's Park see walk 75
 For a walk around Primrose Hill and Village see walk 22p

walk notes

This long distance walk into town is entirely on pavement and connects three important green spaces. In Regent's Park there are options for Marylebone High Street (7 km) or Soho Square (8.3 km).

Highgate to Marylebone or Soho Square

The walk starts along South Grove, passing the end of Pond Square in Highgate, and many fine old buildings and the parish church. Then past Highgate ponds and diagonally across Hampstead Heath just to the west of Parliament Hill which is 322ft (98m) high.

Park Hill Road

The area around Park Hill Road was home to many modernist artists, including Piet Mondriaan, Henry Moore and Ben Nicholson.

England's Lane has a feeling of faded grandeur and has a number of cafés.

Primrose Hill

The hill is 213 feet (65 m) high and has fine views over London. It was part of a vast swathe of land belonging to Westminster Abbey appropriated for Eton College. In 1857 at a time when the name Primrose Hill was first coming into use and shortly after Chalcot Square was laid out with stuccoed Italianate villas (and being adjacent to Regent's Park), the Crown acquired the summit of the hill for public use, in a land swap with the College.

Regent's Park

Marylebone Park, as it was known, remained a royal chase until 1646. It was John Nash, architect to the crown and friend of the Prince Regent, who in 1810 developed The Regent's Park as we know it today.

Initially intended to be an exclusive development, with the land reserved for the 'wealthy and the good' Nash planned a palatial summer residence for the Prince, 50 detached villas in a parkland setting and elegant terraces around the exterior of the park. An elegant new street, Regent Street would link it to St James's Park and the Prince's residence, Carlton House. Work began in 1812, but the venture was nowhere near as profitable as hoped. The

number of grand villas was soon reduced to 26; only eight were built and nothing became of the Prince's summer pavilion. Nash's original design included The Avenue, a grand carriage drive to provide access to the upmarket villas around the park. After few of these were built, the function of the Avenue changed to a formal Broad Walk lined with trees.

London Zoo

In 1826 Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore, set up the Zoological Society of London in Regent's Park and made plans to build the world's first scientific zoo for 'teaching and elucidating zoology'. With Raffles' demise later that year the zoo was established by the third Marquis of Lansdowne, who obtained a lease on a parcel of land there at a nominal rent, and supervised the building of the first animal houses. Decimus Burton was appointed to work on the gardens and animal houses.

Marylebone

Marylebone is a shortening of St Mary by the Bourne and NOT Marie la Bonne, the bourne being the Tyburn, originally being followed on its east bank by Marylebone Lane. Marylebone High Street has many fine shops for the affluent and the Wallace Collection is in Manchester Square.

Soho Square

The Soho Square branch takes the Broad Walk across Regent's Park and soon enters Fitzrovia at Georgian Fitzroy Square with many buildings designed by Robert Adam. The Fitzroys (illegitimate son of Charles II) owned Tottenham Manor, which stretched from Highgate almost to Oxford Street, and became variously Duke of Southampton, Earl Euston and Duke of Grafton. Charlotte Street, formed in 1763, was named in honour of Queen Charlotte who married King George III in 1761; the southern end is lined with cafes and restaurants. Continuing in the same line brings us to Soho Square; built in the late 1670s, it was in its early years highly fashionable. Originally called King's Square, after King Charles II, the statue of him remains in the Square.