

Lambeth Walk (Waterloo to Kennington)

This walk starts at Waterloo Station but can be split into two shorter walks of 6 km and 7.4km

- Main route 13.4 km
- options
- 6 connection with another walk
- 0.5 kilometre



river route is interesting but traffic is noisy

1 The walk can be split here by returning to Waterloo Station, yielding a 6 km circular walk and a 7.4km walk to Kennington

- The establishments indicated here in order of the walk:
- White Hart - looks interesting not yet tried
 - Espresso bar - tiny, best coffee in London
 - Three Stags - tried and tested
 - The ship - tried and tested
 - Zeitgeist at Jolly Gardener, German bar
 - The Black Dog looks interesting not yet tried
 - Tea House Theatre - tried and tested
 - The Fentiman Arms - beer tried
 - Prince of Wales - beer tried

Waterloo Lambeth Kennington

This winding 13.4km pavement walk attempts to connect older, attractive residential areas and green spaces.

Points of interest on the way include The Cut, Mitre Road, Nelson Square, Christchurch Gardens, Roupell Street, St John's church yard, Aquinas Street, Bernie Spain Gardens, South Bank Centre, Jubilee Gardens, London Eye, County Hall, Albert Embankment, Lambeth Palace, Museum of Garden History, Archbishop's Park, Lower Marsh, Waterloo Millennium Park, Morley College, Imperial War Museum, West Square, Walcot Square, Lambeth Walk, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Bonnington Square, Vauxhall Park, Fentiman Road, Hanover Square, Kennington Park, Methley Street, Cleaver Square.

Nelson Square

In 1807, two years after Admiral Nelson died at Trafalgar, the original houses were laid out as a square on land belonging to Sir Francis Lindley Wood, ancestor of Lord Halifax.

Originally 62 terraced houses of three, four or five storeys with ornamental ironwork were built surrounding a private oval garden. There was a public house, named the Lord Nelson. Sadly as a result of bombing only one terrace remains.

Christ Church Southwark

The church was founded and endowed by John Marshall, of Southwark, and consecrated in 1671 but the first building sank into the mud and had to be rebuilt. Destroyed in the blitz, a stone cross set into the grass marks where the burning cross fell. The 1959 replacement is nicer inside than out. It is the only church with a stained glass window featuring a Sainsbury's shopping trolley. The grounds were converted into a public garden by the MPGA and opened in 1900. A drinking fountain was donated by John Passmore Edwards. In 2000 the garden was renovated by Bankside Open Spaces Trust.

The Lambeth Estate

Roupell Street was developed in the 1820s on the former Lambeth Marsh. The land was owned by John Roupell, of a wealthy family, whose money had been made in lead smelting and scrap metal. He saw an opportunity to add to his income by building properties on his land for artisans and skilled workers and renting them out to local people. Three more streets followed, subsequently renamed as Theed, Whittesley. Collectively,

these streets are known as the Lambeth Estate.

St John's Waterloo

Was built with money voted by Parliament for the Church Building Acts of 1818 and 1824, designed to correct the mismatch between population and services resulting from the Industrial Revolution (not the well-known 50 churches act of 1711). Consecrated in 1824, the building was badly bombed in 1940. Restoration began in 1950 so that St. John's could be used as the Festival Church during 1951. The churchyard's conversion to a public garden in 1877 is associated with Octavia Hill, and the MPGA. It has been re-landscaped through the efforts of the Friends of St John's Churchyard working with St Mungo's Putting Down Roots gardening training scheme for homeless people, and includes a Parterre Garden that was formally opened in December 2006.

Bernie Spain Gardens

In 1977, plans were launched for a massive office development south of the river between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridge. This proposal, referred to by locals as a 'Berlin Wall', would cut off the river, making it inaccessible to anyone. Locals led by Bernadette Spain set up The Coin Street Action Group and in 1984 after seven years fierce campaigning, the developers withdrew and sold the site to the council. The action group obtained a loan and bought the entire 13 acre site. They formed Coin Street Community Builders and set about realising their alternative vision. Bernie did not witness this as she died earlier that year, but when in 1988 a riverside park was laid over an old cold storage site spanning both sides of the Upper Ground, the park was named after Bernie in acknowledgement of her pioneering community work and love of gardening.

Carlisle Lane Mosaics

William Blake lived for ten of his most productive years at 13 Hercules Buildings. The old house has been knocked down, but there is a plaque where it once stood on Hercules Road. A mosaic project has paid homage to his genius. Southbank Mosaics artists worked with 300 volunteers over a period of 7 years to research, design, plan, make and install 70 mosaics based on the words and paintings of William Blake into the railway tunnels of Waterloo Station, turning them from dark unwelcoming places into

street galleries bright with opulent and durable works of art. The mosaics are installed on Centaur Street, Virgil Street, and Carlisle Lane (North).

Bethlehem Hospital, War Museum

The Imperial War Museum is housed in what was the Bethlehem Hospital. In 1247 the Priory of St Mary of Bethlehem was founded in Bishop's Gate, devoted to healing sick paupers. It became known as Bethlehem Hospital, or 'Bedlam'. It moved to a commanding new building in Moorfields in 1667. After years of neglect that building wasn't worth renovating and a land swap enabled a new building to be built in St Georges Fields in 1815.

In 1930, the hospital moved to Beckenham. The old hospital and its grounds were bought by Lord Rothermere and presented to the LCC for use as a park; the central part of the building was retained and became home to the Imperial War Museum in 1936.

West Square

Colonel Temple West died in 1784, leaving his freehold estate in St George's Fields to his wife and eldest son. In 1791 they granted building leases on West Square to Thomas Kendall and James Hedger. Most of the houses on the north, east and west sides of the square were completed and occupied by 1794, and the majority still remain; they are nearly all three-storied. Nos, 25-28 on the south side were built a few years later. At the end of the 19th century, the garden in the square was threatened with building development, but in 1909, the freehold was bought by London County Council and the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark. They enlarged and restored the garden, which was then opened for public use in 1910.

Walcot Estate

The land included in the Walcot Estate was in the 15th century the property of the Earls of Arundel and later of the Dukes of Norfolk. Seventeen acres of this marshland ground was sold by Augustine Skinner in 1657 to Edmund Walcott and was by him left in trust for the poor of St. Mary, Lambeth, and St. Olave, Southwark in 1667.

Following the construction of Westminster Bridge in 1750, Kennington Road was cut across the estate. Walcot Square was laid out and the houses erected in 1837-39.

The Chalcot Foundation is still active.

Lambeth Walk

Lambeth Walk was in the 18th century a

country lane known as Three Coney Walk. In the 18th and 19th Centuries families flocked to The Lambeth Walk and surrounding areas to live and to work in the many industries located there; the glassworks founded by the Duke of Buckingham, the Doultons pottery factory and the very first Vauxhall car was built by the Vauxhall Iron Works who then had a panel factory in Vauxhall Walk. Lambeth Walk was for many years the site of a thriving street market but it was badly damaged by bombing in the Second World War. The Greater London Council embarked on a wholesale redevelopment of the area in the 1960s. By the 1990s, Lambeth Walk was considered a soulless failure. Arguments about what to do have raged ever since.

The Black Prince

In 1362 the Black Prince granted income from part of the Manor of Vauxhall to the Prior and Convent of Christ Church Canterbury to provide a chantry to celebrate masses for his soul in the Cathedral crypt. This grant was a condition by the Pope, for a dispensation allowing the Black Prince to marry his cousin, the Fair Maid of Kent.

Vauxhall Gardens

There have been gardens at Vauxhall since 1661. One called the New Spring Garden was first opened for public use as a rural tavern and place of assignation; it was laid out on ground then owned by the Prince of Wales as part of his Duchy of Cornwall estates. Vauxhall Gardens was re-launched in 1732 as the first and most significant of the true Pleasure Gardens of Georgian London by Jonathan Tyers, a successful tradesman from Bermondsey. By the 1840s the gardens were in decline as a result of changes in leisure interests, competition from Music Hall and improvements in transport. They closed in 1859. All trace of Vauxhall Gardens itself, whether above or below ground, was obliterated during the demolition and subsequent re-development of the land. In the 1970s, the houses that had covered the site of the gardens for a century, cheaply built, badly war-damaged, and suffering from long neglect, were demolished in the slum-clearances. The dozen acres that had been Vauxhall Gardens were once more cleared and grassed over by the new owner, the London Borough of Lambeth, in an act of enlightened altruism. The resulting park first opened to the public on 9 October 1976. A new monumental entrance to the park was

created by local architects DSDHA near the site of the old Coach Entrance to the gardens on Kennington Lane, adjacent to the pub called the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. See http://www.vauxhallgardens.com/vauxhall_gardens_briefhistory_page.html#Introduction

Bonnington Square

Tucked away to the east of the Vauxhall roundabout is a small community around Bonnington Square. Built in the 1870s to house railway workers, it became famous in the 1980s when all the houses in it, vacant and awaiting demolition, were squatted. The central communal area, dubbed the "Pleasure Garden" occupies an area that was bombed in the Second World War and was a derelict playground when taken over by the Bonnington Square Garden Association, a group of local residents with backgrounds in film, art, design and horticulture. Funded by grants and local sponsorship, the garden includes a 9-metre Industrial Revolution iron waterwheel, a huge 'Helping Hand' sculpture and evocative, lush sub-tropical planting. Further planting under the Paradise Project includes trees, groundcover planting, vines and endless street gardens. The Pleasure Garden is today regarded as one of the finest community gardens in London.

Vauxhall Park

John Cobeldick, developer, was persuaded to sell 8.5 acres of the land of one of his developments to the Metropolitan Board of Works. The land was purchased under a special Act of Parliament (1888) with money coming from various sources. Millicent Fawcett co-operated with Octavia Hill and the Kyrle Society in the formation of the Park. Until 1967 Vauxhall Park was the largest park owned by Lambeth Borough Council.

Model Village

The Model Village was given to the park by Edgar Wilson in 1947. He was a retired engineer who took up model village making. One went to Finsbury Park and disappeared. another went to Brockwell Park and the final village went to Melbourne in Australia

Caron Almshouses

Noel de Caron was a dutch diplomat who bought an estate in 1604. He founded an Almshouse in 1618 for seven women over 60. By 1850s the building in Wandsworth Road had become unsuitable and it was sold to Price's Candle Co. The current almshouses were built in Fentiman Road in 1854.

Fentiman Road

John Fentiman (Snr.) bought land from the former Manor of Vauxhall in 1806, which together with other holdings in Kennington formed his estate. He drained the marshy Claylands and built a mansion south of the Oval opposite the end of Claylands Road. John Fentiman (Snr.) died in 1820 and the property was divided between his two sons. Fentiman Road was only laid out around 1838.

Kennington Park

The Chartists gathered on Kennington Common for their big rally on 10 April 1848. In 1852 Kennington Common was enclosed. The petition for enclosure was led by the vicar of St Marks, aided by the Prince of Wales. No more gathering or vulgar recreations were allowed without permission. The common was fenced and landscaped into an urban park. Planted with mostly sapling London Plane trees.

Prince Albert's Model Cottage was built for display at the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. At the conclusion of the Exhibition the cottage was dismantled and rebuilt in the Park. It was designed to house four families, with two or apartments on each level. The design was aimed at "the class of mechanical and manufacturing operatives who usually reside in towns ". Each flat had a living room, with a built-in cupboard heated by the fireplace that was also "well contrived equally to cook the family meals and to warm the feet of the family group, a kitchen/scullery, three bedrooms (for the sake of decency) and a toilet.

Methley, Radcot, Ravensdon, Milverton Streets

The estate was planned in 1868 and designed by Alfred Lovejoy architect and surveyor. The houses form terraces with simple elevations of grey brick and are generally of two storeys raised above semi-basements Something of a polychromatic effect is achieved by the linking of the sills and windows heads with red brick bands and by the alternating of red and blue brick in the arches over the windows and over the recessed entrance porches.

Cleaver Estate

By the time that Mary Ann Cleaver was admitted to her mother's property in 1797 there were 36 houses in the square. Between 1815 and 1824, when the Cleaver property had passed into the hands of the Bowden family, a further 5 were built.