

# Hampstead to Hyde Park via Little Venice

This pavement walk takes in many elegant streets and grand houses. It ends with a short canal-side walk and a park. Once in Hyde Park refer to map 75 for a route around the parks.

— Main route 7.5 km (5.7 to Little Venice)

— options

— railway

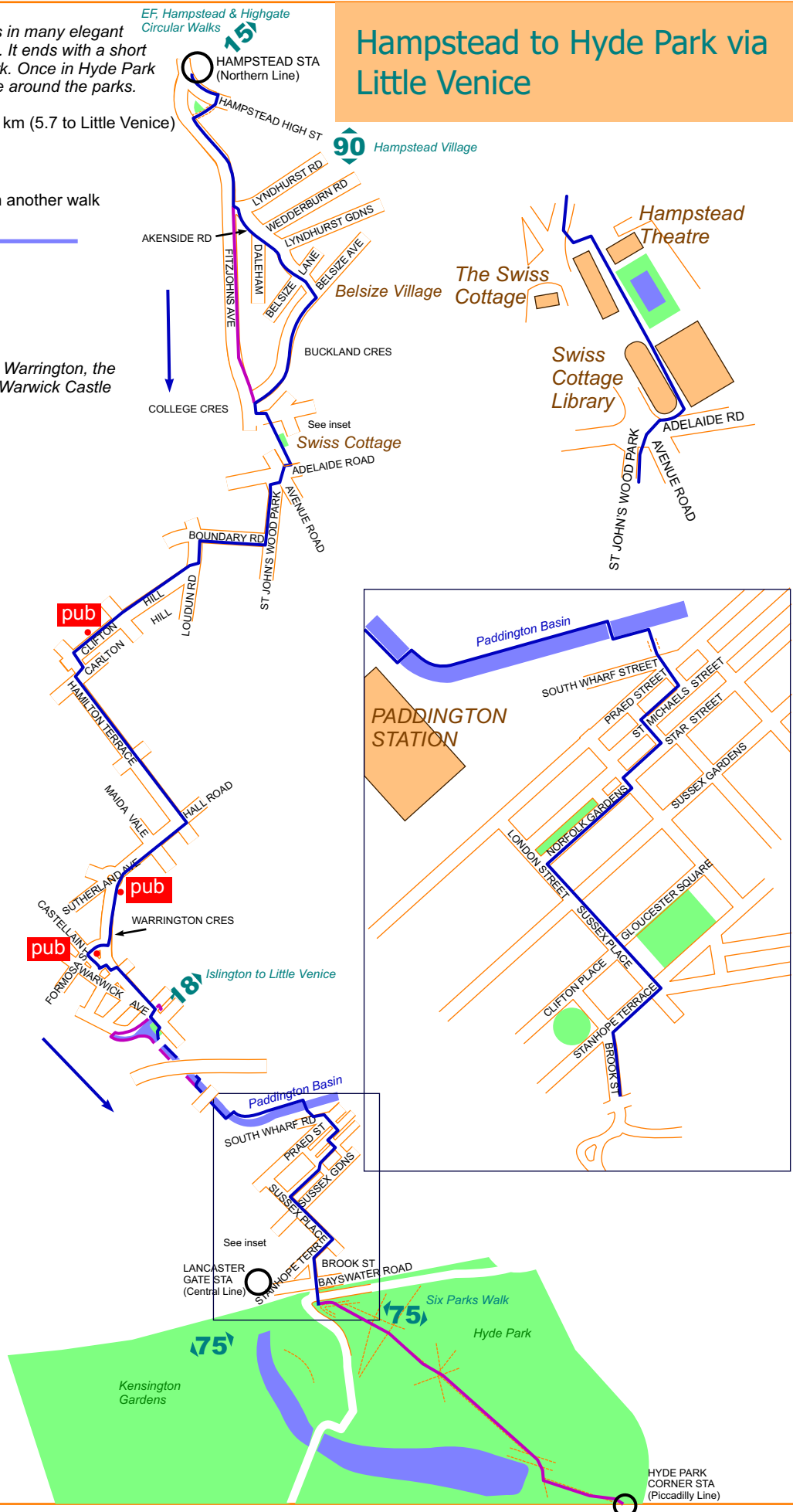


connection with another walk

1 kilometre



Pubs: The Clifton, the Warrington, the Prince Alfred and the Warwick Castle



## walk notes

### **Hampstead to Hyde Park via Little Venice**

*This 7.5km pavement walk is down hill all the way. Deviating to pass Belsize Village the walk continues past the Swiss Cottage centre with the Hampstead Theatre, fitness centre and library built around an open space. On Boundary road the walk passes a 'moorish style' house. Clifton Hill is pretty with villas which look their best when the blossom is on the trees. At Little Venice we pass two unusual pubs. The Warrington is a large cavernous, ornate space with decorated tiles and light fittings. The other is the Prince Alfred with its Victorian glass and small rooms.*

### **Belsize**

Belsize, for the old French 'Bel assis', stretched both sides of Haverstock Hill and had been a favourite spot for the houses of the wealthy since Elizabethan times. The manor house, Belsize House, stood on Belsize Lane and in the 16th century was the only 'aristocratic' house in the parish of Hampstead but in the early 18th century was sublet as a pleasure garden, for the likes of the Prince of Wales. Back as a private residence it was rebuilt several times and by 1808 the estate was divided into 8 to meet the demand for mansions set in parkland. The house was demolished in 1853 for development. In 1864 Daniel Tidley built conventionally classically styled 8-10 bedroomed semi-detached heavily stuccoed houses on Buckland Crescent, Belsize Square, Belsize Park Gardens, Belsize Crescent and Belsize Terrace 'a la Kensington' before going bust. In the 1880s the land further up the hill was developed by William Willet, including Wedderburn, Lyndhurst Gardens, the red brick buildings setting a new artistic standard based on Queen Anne style.

### **Maida Vale**

The name Maida was first recorded in 1807, to celebrate victory over the French at Maida in Calabria, Italy. The *Hero of Maida* public house was licensed in 1810 and Maida Hill was used for a short stretch of Edgware Road near the canal. As building extended along Edgware

Road the stretch beyond Maida Hill was called Maida Vale, which became the name of the whole length of the road between the Regent's canal and Kilburn.

### **Little Venice**

Little Venice is simply the junction of the Regents Canal with the Grand Junction Canal and stretches of canal immediately adjacent. The inappropriate reference to Venice was used by Byron and Browning and came into general use after WWII.

### **Tyburnia**

The area between Paddington Basin and Hyde Park was developed on two grid patterns at angles and is sometimes called Tyburnia. The area was laid out in 1804 by Samuel Pepys Cockerell, who had already designed the Foundling hospital's estate in Bloomsbury. His plan included a wide avenue (then called Grand Junction Street but now named Sussex Gardens) running north-east to link Bayswater road to Marylebone Road, diverting traffic and separating the proposed residential area of stuccoed properties from the industrial belt around the new canal basin. The area north for less wealthy residents was developed in conjunction with the Grand Junction Canal Company, Praed Street being named after the canal company's chairman. Development was slow, many changes were made and many of the original buildings have subsequently been replaced, especially along the Edgware Road. Many of the streets are named after Prince William Frederick, who in 1805 became duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh and Earl of Connaught, and had the first house facing the park, and his brother the duke of Sussex.

### **Norfolk Square**

Norfolk Square was laid out after 1842 on the site of the former Upper South Reservoir of the Grand Junction Canal, possibly to the design of George Gutch. The garden originally for private use of inhabitants of the Square was compulsorily purchased by Westminster City Council in 1989. They were completely relandscaped with new pathways, shrub planting and railings and opened to the public in 1990.