

# Discover London...

trail 10

## map & introduction

### WIMBLEDON...

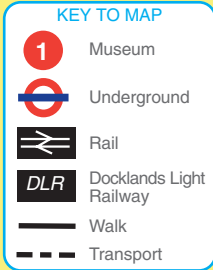
#### Half day

This trail takes you around Wimbledon, internationally famous for its annual lawn tennis championships. The village has an enviable hilltop position and the remains of what is believed to be an Iron Age Fort on Wimbledon Common. The common was once notorious for duels, the last of which was fought there in 1840, when the Earl of Cardigan wounded Captain Harvey Tuckett. In the 16th century, a succession of manor houses was built for the Cecil and Spencer families; many of the large houses built a couple of centuries later remain today.

You'll see some historic manor houses, a working windmill and a magnificent Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon. You can also wander around or walk across the common before calling in at some of the shops, coffee bars and restaurants in the village. Finally, why not try out one of the pubs before a visit to Wimbledon Theatre on Wimbledon Broadway, which now features pre-West End productions?

- 1 Wimbledon Society Museum of Local History
- 2 Southside House
- 3 Cannizaro Park
- 4 Wimbledon Windmill Museum
- 5 Buddhapadipa Temple
- 6 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum

Not to scale



WIMBLEDON...  
*Tennis, temples  
and gracious living ...*



the campaign for  
museums

Discover London Trails have been produced by the Campaign for Museums, a registered charity, in support of London's Smaller Museums and Galleries with funding from the Mayor of London and ALM London.

...go to next page for addresses & summary

# Discover London...

# 10

trail

addresses & summary

## Wimbledon Society Museum of Local History

[www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk)

22 Ridgway SW19

Open: Sat, Sun 1430-1700

Tel: 020 8296 9914

An ideal introduction to Wimbledon's past

## Southside House

3-4 Woodhayes Road, SW19

[www.southsidehouse.com](http://www.southsidehouse.com)

Open: Wed, Sat, Sun, BH for guided tours at 1400, 1500, 1600

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8946 7643

A 16th century family home

## Cannizaro Park

West Side Common, SE19

Open: 0800-dusk daily

A lovely 34-acre garden

## Wimbledon Windmill Museum

Windmill Road, SW19

[www.wimbledonwindmillmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonwindmillmuseum.org.uk)

Open: 1400-1700 Sat; 1100-1700 Sun

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8947 2825

The only remaining museum devoted to the history of British windmills

## Buddhapadipa Temple

14 Calonne Road, Sw19

[www.buddhapadipa.org](http://www.buddhapadipa.org)

Open: varying times but grounds most of the time

Tel: 020 8946 1357

A beautiful Thai Buddhist Temple

## Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum

All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club

Church Road, SW19

[www.wimbledon.org/museum](http://www.wimbledon.org/museum)

Open: 1030-1700 daily (until later during championships).

Closed middle Sun of championships and Mon immediately after.

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8946 6131

Traces the story of lawn tennis

## CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### Wimbledon Windmill Museum -

push button displays and commentaries, kids can try grinding wheat and test their strength by lifting hay stacks.

### Wimbledon Common -

open spaces to run around, nature trail 200 metres from the Windmill Museum.

### Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum -

interactives aimed at all age groups, a 200° cinema with amazing films that kids will enjoy.

Images

Wimbledon Common Rifle Shoot, Wimbledon Museum  
Buddhapadipa Temple, Wimbledon  
Trophies, Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum



## TRAIL SUMMARY

This trail begins at Wimbledon Station, which is reached by Underground on the District Line or by train from Waterloo or Clapham Junction. Turning right out of the station up Wimbledon Hill Road and left after a few minutes, you gain an excellent introduction to Wimbledon's past at the **Wimbledon Society Museum of Local History** with its displays on local archaeology and history. (This museum can also be reached by bus from the station).

Heading towards the common, you reach **Southside House**, a unique 17<sup>th</sup> century family home. **Cannizaro Park**, on the edge of the common, is a 34-acre garden noted for its azaleas and rhododendrons. Within the grounds is the Cannizaro Park Hotel, now a country house hotel but originally a 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion.

A stroll across the common brings you to the only museum devoted to the history of British windmills, the **Wimbledon Windmill Museum**. Walking back towards the village and taking a left off Parkside, you will be surprised to come across the beautiful **Buddhapadipa Temple** in a quiet residential street.

Your final stop is at the All England Lawn Tennis Club for a visit to the **Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum** for an exciting way to experience the history of tennis. A bus will take you back to Wimbledon High Street for the station.

Plan your own journey by visiting Transport for London's website [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).

# Discover London...

10  
trail

the trail in detail

## WIMBLEDON . . .

From Wimbledon station, walk or catch a bus (200, 93, 493) up Wimbledon Hill Road for an ideal introduction to Wimbledon's past at the **Wimbledon Society Museum of Local History**. There's lots of interesting information in this small award-winning museum with a display of items - across 3000 years of Wimbledon history - in pictures, objects and words. The friendly volunteer staff are local residents who enjoy sharing their knowledge of local history. The museum has a wide range of books, reproductions of historical maps and postcards for sale.

Walking along Ridgway and turning right into Woodhayes Road, you will come to one of the oldest houses in Greater London, **Southside House**, a unique family home on the edge of Wimbledon Common. The house is still lived in by descendants of Robert Pennington who rebuilt it after the Great Plague of London in 1665. The old rooms are largely unchanged and still have much of the original furniture. Bringing the history of the house alive, the guides point out the connections to royalty and the famous - Anne Boleyn, Frederick Prince of Wales, Marie Antoinette, Admiral Lord Nelson, Lady Hamilton and Lord Byron.

Two old pubs of interest are near Woodhayes Road - the *Crooked Billet*, in a road of the same name, part of which dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the *Hand in Hand* which was originally a bakery. You can enjoy a drink in their attractive courtyards or on the green opposite.

Walk now towards the common into **Cannizaro Park**, a public park in Wimbledon stretching over 34 acres. Surrounding the elegant Cannizaro Park Hotel - open to non-residents for tea - is an excellent example of the type of large garden that belonged to London mansions in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With many hidden corners, the lovely grounds boasts over 400 named species of exotic cultivated trees and shrubs, as well as a sunken Italian garden, rose garden and azalea dell.

A short walk to the right, across the common past the *Fox and Grapes* pub on Camp Road brings you to Windmill Road, an appropriate location for the Wimbledon Windmill Museum, which depicts the history of windmills. Discover how the windmill was built and see some of the early types of tools used in its construction. A range of working models show how windmills have developed from early Persian and Greek mills to modern wind farms. There is a large working model of the windmill in its working days; push button displays show the working of gears and millstones and describe life in the windmill after it was converted to living accommodation in 1864. There is a café for refreshments.

**Wat Buddhapadipa**, built in 1980, was the first Buddhist Temple in the UK and the only Thai temple ever built in Europe. Actively promoting theoretical and practical Buddhism in the UK and other European countries, the Temple has become one of the most important Buddhist training centres. The Temple, consisting of a house where the monks

live and a cottage, is set in beautiful grounds, open to the public, covering a monastic area of about four acres.

Reopened in April 2006, the state-of-the-art **Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum** traces the development of lawn tennis from its invention in the 1860s. The new museum features exhibits and artefacts never seen before. These include a remarkable cinema featuring a 200° screen and a film featuring Maria Sharapova demonstrating how players' bodies and equipment are affected during the course of a professional tennis match. The fashions of Wimbledon continue to be a point of attention and significance with an extensive collection of Wimbledon clothing showing everything from outfits worn in the 1880s to Rafael Nadal's dri-fit 'pirata' trousers worn in 2005.

Specially trained Blue Badge guides (pre-booking recommended) lead award-winning tours that take you to the International Box in Centre Court, No 1 Court, the Water Gardens and the Press Interview Room in the Millenium Building, which is generally out of bounds.

It is advisable to catch a bus back to Wimbledon station (493). It passes through Wimbledon Village where there's a good choice of cafes, restaurants and pubs, if you feel in need of refreshment. The *Brewery Tap* offers a lively atmosphere in its open plan modernised pub or for an older style pub, try the welcoming 17<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn, the *Rose & Crown*.