

# Discover London...

trail **9**

map & introduction

## EXPLORING THE 'UPPER THAMES'...

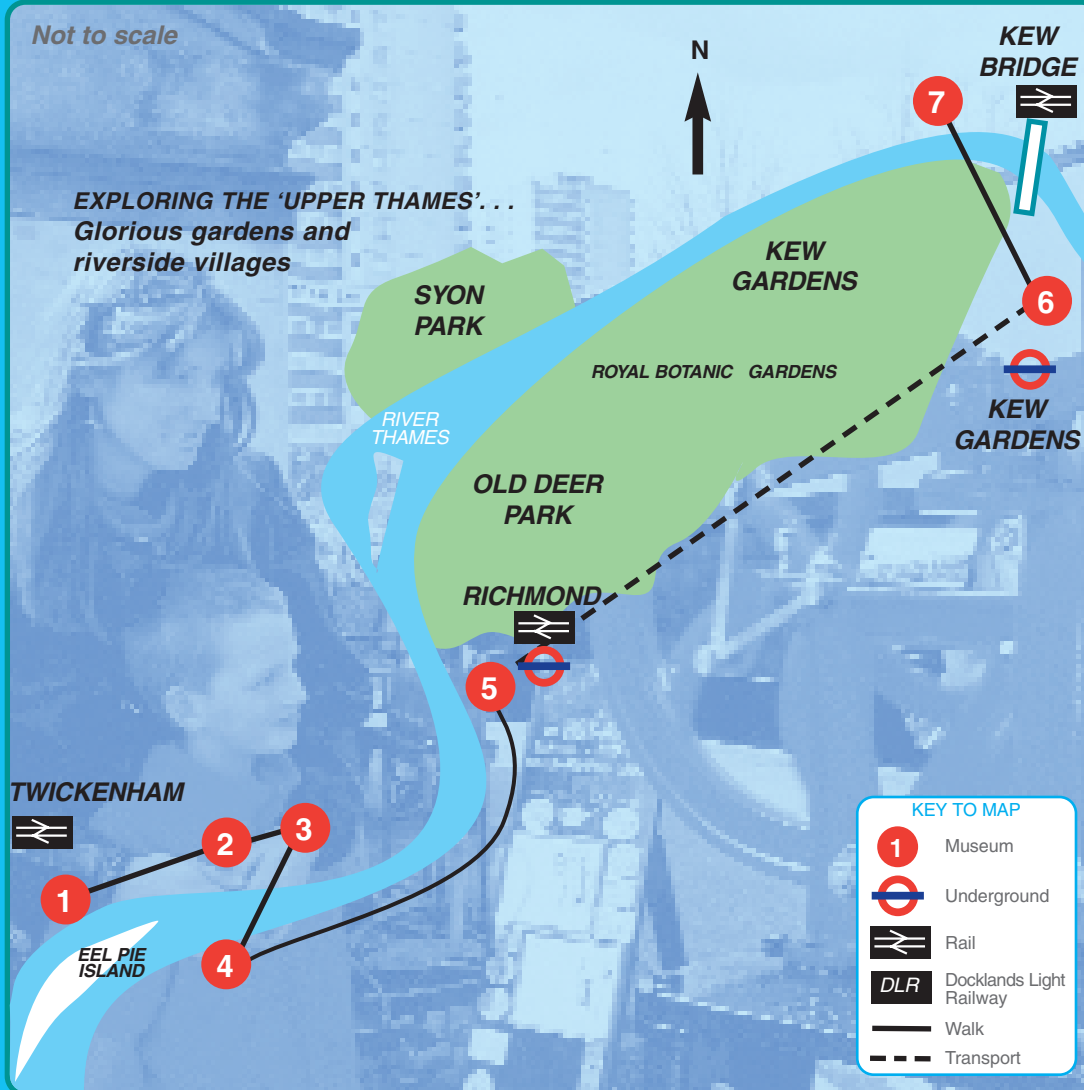
Half/ full day

This trail follows the River Thames between Twickenham and Kew around the 'Upper Thames'. You stroll along the sylvan riverbank, visit grand houses and enjoy wonderful views and riverside pubs.

Starting at Twickenham, once 'the classic village' set in an arcadian landscape on the banks of the River Thames, you will be enchanted by vibrant Richmond, which took its name from the palace Henry V11 built in 1500. Perhaps take a relaxing river trip between Richmond and picturesque Kew, which retains all the charm of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the Hanoverian Royal Family made it their home.

You will visit a magnificent Palladian villa, a gallery with changing art exhibitions throughout the year and a remarkably preserved Stuart mansion, magnificent reminders of the series of grand houses and palaces that once lined the banks of the Thames. You also discover the fascinating history of the area at two local museums, experience 2000 years of national history and witness the power of steam.

- 1 Twickenham Museum
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- 4 Ham House
- 5 Museum of Richmond
- 6 The National Archives
- 7 Kew Bridge Steam Museum



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.

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# Discover London...

trail 9

addresses & summary

## Twickenham Museum

25 The Embankment  
Twickenham

[www.twickenham-museum.org.uk](http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk)

Open: 1100-1500 Tue, Sat; 1400-1600 Sun

Tel: 020 8408 0070

Living local history in a waterman's cottage

## Orleans House Gallery

Riverside, Twickenham

[www.richmond.gov.uk/arts](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/arts)

Open: 1300-1730 Tue-Sat; 1400-1730 Sun  
(closes 1630 Oct- Mar))

Tel: 020 8831 6000

Home of Richmond Borough's public art gallery

## Marble Hill House (English Heritage)

Richmond Road, Twickenham

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConProperty.108](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConProperty.108)

Open: 1000-1400 Sat, 1000-1700 Sun

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8892 5115

Magnificent Palladian Thames-side villa built in the 1720's

## Ham House (National Trust)

Ham Street, Richmond-upon-Thames

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/places/hamhouse](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/places/hamhouse)

Open: 1300-1700 Sat-Wed (until 29 Oct)

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8904 1950

Spectacular 17th-century house with original interiors and restored formal gardens

## Museum of Richmond

Old Town Hall, Whittaker Lane, Richmond

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

Open: 1100-1700 Tue-Sat

Tel: 020 8332 1141

Features the history of Richmond and the surrounding area

## The National Archives

Entrance in Ruskin Avenue, Kew

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Open: 0900-1700 Mon, Wed, Fri; 1000-1900

Tue; 0900-1900 Thu; 0930-1700 Sat

Tel: 020 8876 3444

Holds 1000 years of historical records

## Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, Brentford

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

Open: 1100-1700 Tue-Sun

Admission charge

Tel: 020 8568 4757

London's living steam museum

## CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Twickenham museum - children's activities.

Orleans House Gallery - free gallery activities for children exploring the exhibitions, gardens (open 0900 to dusk).

Marble Hill House - 66 acres of riverside parkland and occasional children's events.

Ham House - children's guide, quiz/trail and activity packs, occasional family events, park and gardens.

Museum of Richmond - regular children's drop-in activities.

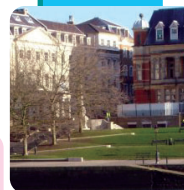
Kew Bridge Steam Museum - free entry for under 16s when accompanied by adult, special children's events.

Images

Orleans House

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Museum of Richmond



## EXPLORING THE 'UPPER THAMES'...

### TRAIL SUMMARY

Your trail begins at Twickenham with three attractions close to the river. The **Twickenham Museum** celebrates the rich local history of Twickenham, Whitton, the Hamptons and Teddington. A walk along the towpath takes you to the **Orleans House Gallery** with its changing programme of exhibitions throughout the year as well as **Marble Hill House**, a magnificent Thames-side Palladian villa with extravagant gilded rooms and beautiful grounds. It is the last complete survivor of the elegant villas and gardens which bordered the Thames between Richmond and Hampton Court in the 18th century.

Crossing the river by ferry, you arrive at **Ham House**, a remarkably preserved Stuart mansion filled with rare 17<sup>th</sup> Century furniture and textiles. A 20-minute walk along the river takes you to the **Museum of Richmond** with its local history of Richmond, Petersham, Ham and Kew. Leaving Richmond, enjoy a 30-minute boat ride to Kew and the **National Archives** for an insight into British history. On the other side of Kew Bridge, on the north bank, is **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**, a museum of steam power housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century pumping station.

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

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# Discover London...



the trail in detail

## EXPLORING THE 'UPPER THAMES'...

Start at Twickenham Station (regular trains from Waterloo), turning left onto London Road for a leisurely 10-minute walk to the River Thames, and left again along The Embankment, the location of the **Twickenham Museum**. Based in a Grade 2 Listed 18<sup>th</sup> century waterman's cottage, adjacent to the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in the oldest part of Twickenham, the museum celebrates the rich local history going back thousands of years. Themes include villages on the river and people at work and play.

Turn left out of the museum and continue walking alongside the river to reach the nearby **Orleans House Gallery**. Also located in an 18<sup>th</sup> century building, this is home to Richmond Borough's excellent public art gallery and the stunning Octagon Room designed by renowned architect James Gibb in 1720. From 1814-1817, Louis-Philippe, Duc d'Orleans (King of France 1830-1848) lived here.

Nearby is Marble Hill Park and **Marble Hill House**, a magnificent Palladian villa built in the 1720s for King George II's mistress, Henrietta Howard. The regally decorated house, restored to its Georgian splendour, displays examples of early Georgian painting and furniture. There are extravagant gilded rooms in which famous poets and wits of the age were entertained. A new display recreates the Chinese wallpaper Henrietta Howard hung in the Dining Room in 1751. Using historical references and motifs, a unique paper has been designed to fit the room, each sheet different and hand painted by Chinese artists like the originals. Refreshments can be taken in the Coach House Café.

Walk back past Orleans House and take Hammerton's Ferry - carries pedestrians and cyclists across the river every few minutes for a small charge - to the opposite bank of the River. This sole survivor of the ferries, which have plied this stretch of the river for hundreds of years, runs weekends all year and weekdays from February to October. Close to the ferry's landing place is **Ham House**, unique in Europe as the most complete survival of 17<sup>th</sup> century fashion and power. Built in 1610 and extended in the 1670s, Ham House is one of the most outstanding Stuart houses from that period. Among its colourful owners have been William Murray, one time 'whipping boy' for the future Charles I, and the extravagant Duchess of Lauderdale, who was renowned as a political schemer. The lovely formal garden is a survivor from the cradle of the English Landscape Movement. The Orangery café offers home grown produce and a children's menu.

A walk of approximately 20 minutes along the riverside will take you to Richmond and the **Museum of Richmond** on the riverfront. Here, the unique heritage of Richmond, Ham, Petersham and Kew is celebrated with colourful displays spanning prehistoric times to the present day. Special features include regularly changing temporary displays and a lively education service.

Richmond riverside and town centre provides an opportunity for some shopping or refreshment in one of the many pubs, cafes and restaurants. It's just one stop on the District Line to Kew Gardens. A five-minute walk along Burlington Avenue, crossing Mortlake Road into Ruskin Avenue, takes you to the

entrance of the **National Archives** at Kew. Alternatively, take a riverboat to Kew Bridge or, if feeling fit, walk the three miles along the Thames Path, skirting a golf course and the Royal Botanic Gardens. The National Archives has one of the largest archival collections in the world, spanning 1000 years of British history. In the museum there, you can view the Domesday Book and other treasures from the archives. A programme of special events and exhibitions is intended to bring the collection to as wide an audience as possible. There is a restaurant here.

Walk back along the river and cross Kew Bridge, turning left to reach the **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**. Originally built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to supply water to Londoners, this museum is recognised as the most important historic site of the British water industry. The museum has the world's largest collection of steam pumping engines and you can see some of them in operation on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. There is also a programme of special weekend events and the chance to ride on London's only steam railway (Sundays from March to November).

The trail ends here. Walk back to Kew Bridge Station for trains to Waterloo. Perhaps return another day for a visit to the **Royal Botanic Gardens**, a day out in itself with its gardens, greenhouses, galleries and museums.