

EXPLORING THE 'UPPER THAMES'...

Two half days

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. This trail divides comfortably into two halves, one starting at Twickenham and two starting at Richmond.

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 VII built in 1500. Perhaps take a relaxing river trip between Richmond and picturesque Kew, which retains all the charm of the 18th century when the Hanoverian Royal Family made it their home.

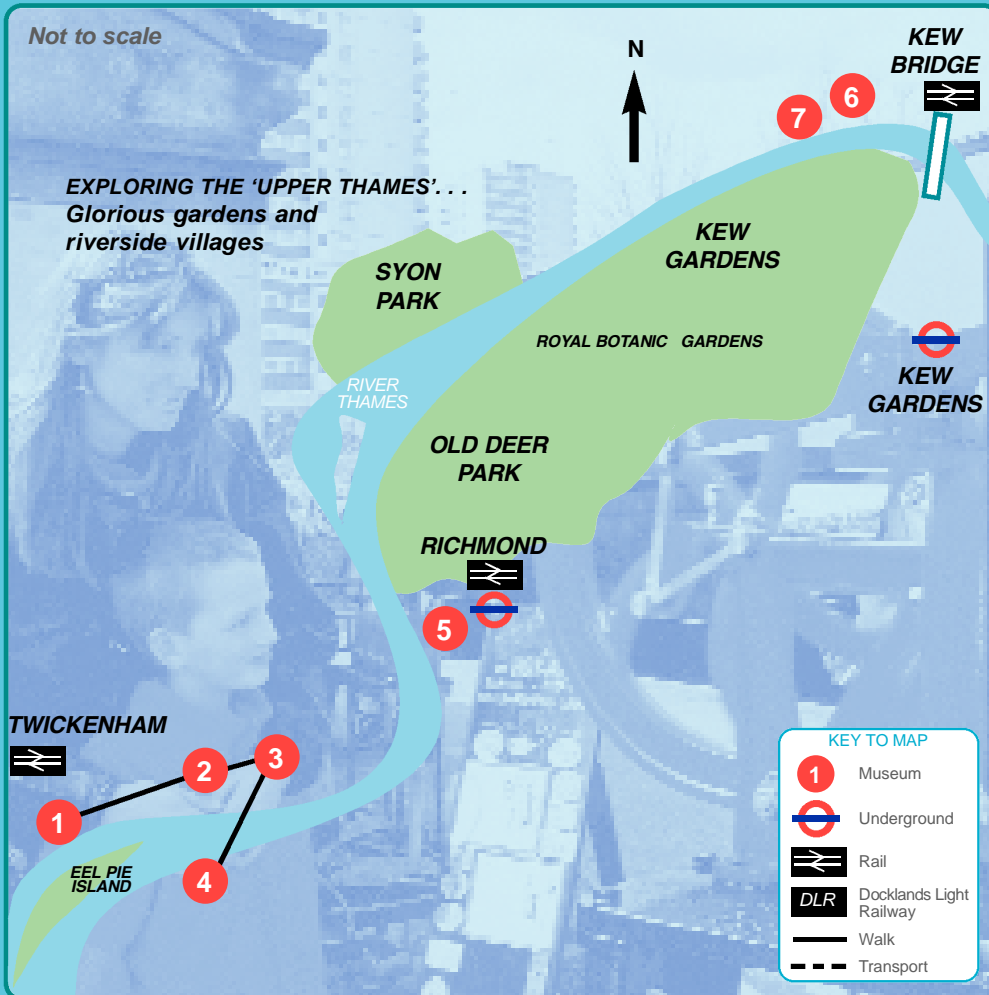
You will visit a magnificent Palladian villa, a gallery with a fine collection of paintings from the 18th century to the present day and a remarkably preserved Stuart mansion, magnificent reminders of the series of grand houses and palaces that once lined the banks of the Thames. You also discover the fascinating history of the area at two local museums, experience 2000 years of national history and witness the power of steam.

TRAIL PART 1

- 1 Twickenham Museum
- 2 Orleans House Gallery
- 3 Marble Hill House
- 4 Ham House

TRAIL PART 2

- 5 Museum of Richmond
- 6 Kew Bridge Steam Museum
- 7 Musical Museum



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Twickenham Museum
 25 The Embankment
 Twickenham
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/home/leisure_and_culture
 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
 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
 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
 Open: 1100-1700 Tue-Sat
Tel: 020 8332 1141
 Features the history of Richmond and the surrounding area

Kew Bridge Steam Museum
 Green Dragon Lane, Brentford
www.kbsm.org
 Open: 1100-1700 Tue-Sun
 Admission charge
Tel: 020 8568 4757
 London's living steam museum

Musical Museum
 399 High St Brentford, TW8 0DU
www.musicalmuseum.co.uk
 Open: Tue-Sun 11.00-17.30
Tel: 020 8560 8108
 Admission charge
 A collection of the world's automatic instruments

CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Twickenham museum** - children's activities.
- Orleans House Gallery** - visitors of all ages can try out their artistic talents in a pre-booked workshop, 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
 Blacksith at Kew Bridge Steam Museum
 Marble Hill House



EXPLORING THE 'UPPER THAMES' . . .

TRAIL SUMMARY

The first part of 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 a fine collection of paintings from the 18th century to the present day, 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 17th Century furniture and textiles.

The second part of the trail starts in Richmond. Walk here from Ham House, or start at the **Museum of Richmond** with its local history of Richmond, Petersham, Ham and Kew. Leaving Richmond, enjoy a 30-minute boat ride to Kew (or bus). On the other side of Kew Bridge, on the north bank, is **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**, a museum of steam power housed in a 19th century pumping station and the new **Musical Museum**.

Plan your own journey by visiting Transport for London's website www.tfl.gov.uk.

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Start the **Trail Part 1** 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 18th 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**. Along your walk, stop to see the York house and its infamous garden statues imported from Italy in 1904. Orleans House is an 18th century building and home to Richmond Borough's excellent public art gallery. The stunning Octagon Room designed by renowned architect James Gibbs in 1720. The gallery has a programme of changing exhibitions, as well as a newly renovated café.

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. 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 17th 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 are 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. Take a break here or finish the trail and leave the second part for another day. (Walk or catch a bus to Richmond).

The **Trail Part 2** starts in **Richmond**, the riverside and town centre provide an opportunity for some shopping or refreshment in one of the many pubs, cafes and restaurants. Now explore 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.

Take a boat to Kew Bridge along the River and on the north side, or take a bus from Richmond to Kew. Alternatively, on a nice day, walk along the river skirting Old Deer Park and Kew Gardens (approx 30 min) and cross the River at Kew Bridge. Turn left to reach the **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**. Originally

built in the 19th 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).

Further along Kew Bridge Road, as it becomes High Street Brentford, is the new **Musical Museum**, which opened in 2007. It houses the collection of Frank Holland which was previously on limited display in a nearby church. The Musical Museum contains one of the world's foremost collections of automatic instruments, collected by Frank Holland over many years. From the tiny clockwork Musical Box to the self playing 'Mighty Wurlitzer', the collection embraces an impressive and comprehensive array of sophisticated reproducing pianos, orchestrions, orchestrelles, residence organs and violin players. This is a treasure trove for anyone interested in self-playing instruments, many of which are playable. The displays show some of the larger as well as smaller instruments and explain how the music was captured and then replayed.

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.