

A ROYAL RICHMOND & BOUTIQUES

Richmond Green was the setting for ceremonies, courtly entertainment and jousting played out in front of the magnificent 'Tudor' Richmond Palace built by Henry VII. It was at Richmond that Elizabeth I died in 1603. Next to the Palace gatehouse is a glorious row of Georgian houses called Maids of Honour Row where the un-married daughters of monarchs once lived. To the south of Richmond Green (extending up to Hill Rise at the foot of Richmond Hill) are a series of enchanting little lanes full of boutiques, specialist shops and eateries.

B RICHMOND RIVERSIDE

Cholmondeley Walk dates from the C18th and was one of the first pedestrian walkways in the UK – originally having two separate paths one for 'polite' society and a more muddy path on the water's edge for everyone else. Richmond Riverside retains many historic boat sheds making everything from the Queen's Barge to submarines! Rowing boats can be hired from here.

C RICHMOND HILL & TERRACE GARDENS

The walk follows Richmond Promenade under the grade I listed Richmond Bridge (the oldest surviving bridge on the Thames in London) to the Buccleugh and Terrace Gardens which can be visited via a small C18th grotto under Richmond Road.

D HAM HOUSE & HAM AVENUES

Ham House is the best surviving C17th house and garden in England. It is owned and managed by the National Trust. Radiating from Ham House are the world famous Ham Avenues that are currently being restored. The river can be crossed here via Hammertons Ferry, the last surviving foot ferry on the tidal Thames, celebrated in the song 'ferry to fairyland'. Alternatively the walker can continue along the towpath where remnants of the landscape's past can still be seen. The Great River Avenue follows the line of the C17th formal landscape, and along its length changes in height depict the different levels of C20th infill. Keep an eye out for the former gravel pit which has been flooded at Thames Young Mariners Base which is now used for sailing.

E MARBLE HILL & ORLEANS HOUSE

Marble Hill is managed by English Heritage and was built in the C18th for Henrietta Howard, the mistress of King George II. Orleans House is named after the Duc d'Orleans (the King of France exiled following the French Revolution) who lived at the property. The building now houses an excellent art gallery to which there is free entry.

F TWICKENHAM & EEL PIE ISLAND

Behind the White Swan pub, Ferry Road retains many old waterman's cottages and boatsheds, evocative of Twickenham's past as a working riverside settlement. At York House the riverside garden includes a magnificent statue of leaping horses and naked ladies reclining in scallop shells. From Twickenham Embankment, Eel Pie Island and its working boatyards can be seen. The Island was once home to the infamous Eel Pie Jazz Club, where the Rolling Stones and the Who once played.

G HAM LANDS NATURE RESERVE

Between Ham and Teddington, the towpath meanders through the Ham Lands Nature Reserve, a haven for wildlife including swans, woodpeckers and orchids. Historically the area was part of the Ham House estate and it was managed as flood meadows grazed by cows. Gravel extraction and subsequent land-fill, using bomb rubble from central London following the Second World War, raised the height of the land by up to 5 metres in some places. The consequences of disrupting the natural cycle of the flood plain are today being felt as the land is too high for flood water from the river to spill onto, increasing the threat from flooding to adjacent areas.

H TEDDINGTON LOCK

Teddington Lock is the largest lock on the River Thames. It marks the place where the estuary meets the freshwater river. The Boundary Stone, located beside the towpath just below the lock, marks the upper boundary of the Port of London Authority, who are responsible for navigation on the Tidal Thames. It was erected in 1909 when the Port of London Act was passed. Teddington Lock is the perfect place to picnic and watch boats as they journey through the lock from 'sea' to 'river'.

I TEDDINGTON FOOTBRIDGE

The magnificent iron footbridge links the towpath to Teddington High Street which retains a traditional character with independent and specialist shops. Beside the lock are the famous Teddington Studios, where many memorable films and television series were filmed, including Fawlty Towers, Men Behaving Badly, Benny Hill and Monty Python, whose famous 'fish-slapping' dance was actually filmed on the lock island!

J CANBURY GARDENS

Laid out in the Edwardian era, the popular riverside gardens are a perfect place to relax. It was from here that Jerome K Jerome's Three Men in a Boat set off on their memorable journey. By day the river is full of activity – Kingston has more rowing, sailing, skiff and canoeing clubs than any other stretch of the Thames. At dusk the river is taken over by bats, who feed over its dark and still waters. Sit still and look over the water and you should spot one dart past.

K KINGSTON BRIDGE

There has been a bridge at Kingston since medieval times. Kingston's old wooden bridge was the only crossing over the Thames above London Bridge until 1729. In 1554, residents of Kingston broke the bridge deliberately to stop Thomas Wyatt and his rebels from crossing. For this loyalty Queen Mary Tudor gave Kingston, already entitled by Royal Charter to hold two annual fairs, the right to hold an additional fair on two days in July. In 1828 the wooden bridge was replaced by the structure that stands today. Remains of the medieval bridge were excavated, and along with the remains of a medieval 'undercroft', have been re-sited in the basement of the John Lewis Store.

L KINGSTON

The Ancient settlement of Kingston has a wonderful selection of riverside cafes, pubs and restaurants, as well as enough shops to keep the most ardent of shoppers happy. The town's history goes back to Saxon times when it was an important Royal settlement. Saxon kings were crowned at its church, which stood on the site of the current Market Place. The Coronation Stone can still be seen next to the Hogsmill River, outside the Guildhall, a short distance from the Thames.

THAMES
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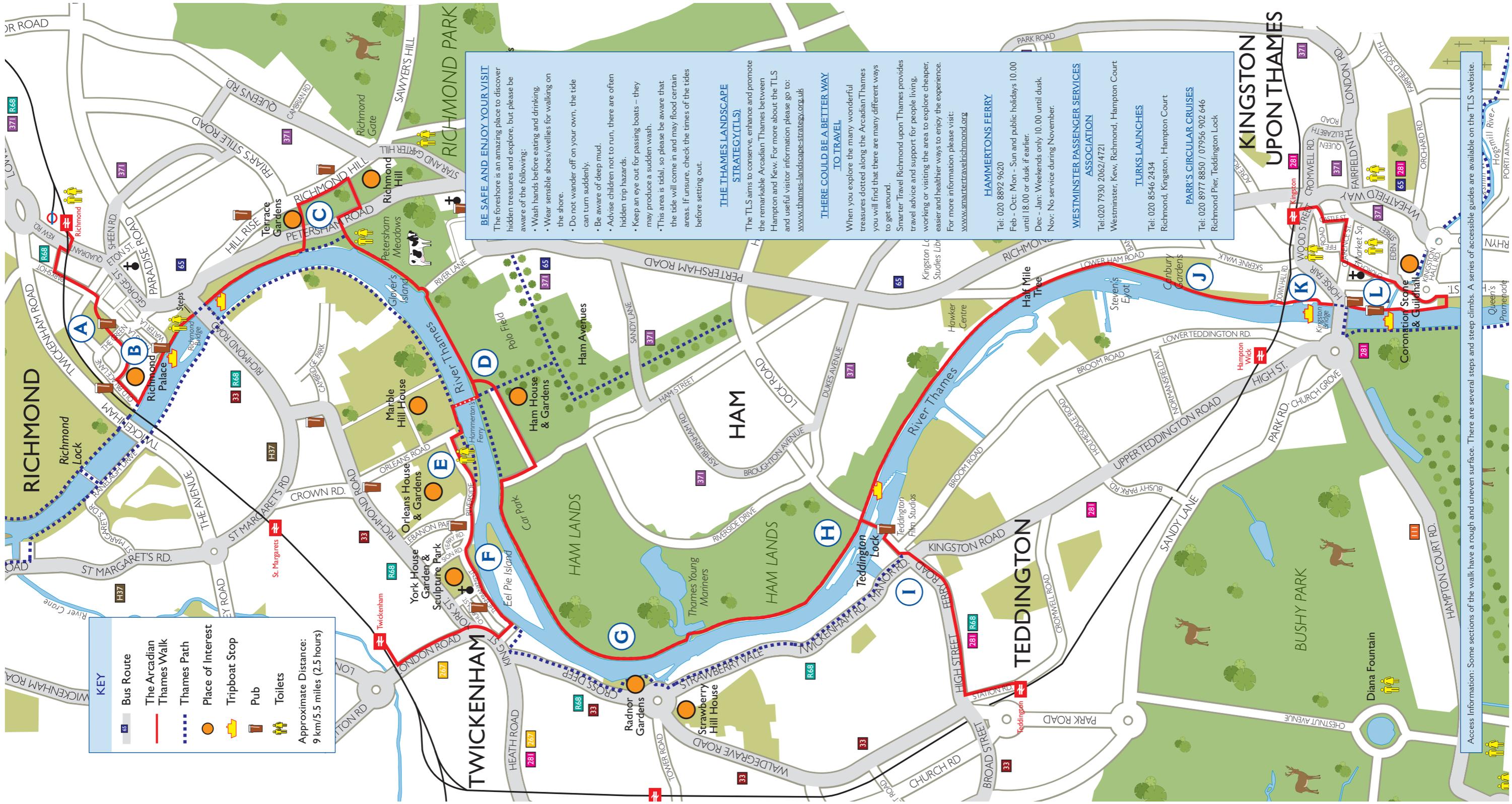


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KEY

- Bus Route
- The Arcadian Thames Walk
- Thames Path
- Place of Interest
- Tripboat Stop
- Pub
- Toilets

Approximate Distance:
9 km/5.5 miles (2.5 hours)

BE SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT
The foreshore is an amazing place to discover hidden treasures and explore, but please be aware of the following:

- Wash hands before eating and drinking.
- Wear sensible shoes/wellies for walking on the shore.
- Do not wander off on your own, the tide can turn suddenly.
- Be aware of deep mud.
- Advise children not to run, there are often hidden trip hazards.
- Keep an eye out for passing boats – they may produce a sudden wash.
- This area is tidal, so please be aware that the tide will come in and may flood certain areas. If unsure, check the times of the tides before setting out.

THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY (TLS)
The TLS aims to conserve, enhance and promote the remarkable Arcadian Thames between Hampton and Kew. For more about the TLS and useful visitor information please go to: www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk

THERE COULD BE A BETTER WAY TO TRAVEL
When you explore the many wonderful treasures dotted along the Arcadian Thames between Hampton and Kew, there are many different ways to get around.
Smarter Travel Richmond upon Thames provides travel advice and support for people living, working or visiting the area to explore cheaper, easier and healthier ways to enjoy the experience. For more information please visit: www.smartertravelrichmond.org

HAMMERTONS FERRY
Tel: 020 8892 9620
Feb - Oct: Mon - Sun and public holidays 10.00 until 18.00 or dusk if earlier.
Dec - Jan: Weekends only 10.00 until dusk.
Nov: No service during November.

WESTMINSTER PASSENGER SERVICES ASSOCIATION
Tel: 020 7930 2062/4721
Westminster, Kew, Richmond, Hampton Court

TURKS LAUNCHES
Tel: 020 8546 2434
Richmond, Kingston, Hampton Court

PARR'S CIRCULAR CRUISES
Tel: 020 8977 8850 / 07956 902 646
Richmond Pier, Teddington Lock

Access Information: Some sections of the walk have a rough and uneven surface. There are several steps and steep climbs. A series of accessible guides are available on the TLS website.