

trail 1

Discover London Trails 08

map & introduction

THE HISTORIC GARDENS MUSEUM TRAIL...

Two half day trails

If you're a garden lover, then these trails are definitely for you!

One trail circles Chelsea and Lambeth guiding you through hundreds of years of garden history from one of the most celebrated and elegant Royal Parks, Kensington Gardens in the heart of the West End, to one of the hubs of urban renewal. You'll be immersed in gardening's rich past at the Chelsea Physic Garden and at the Museum of Garden History. (check opening times)

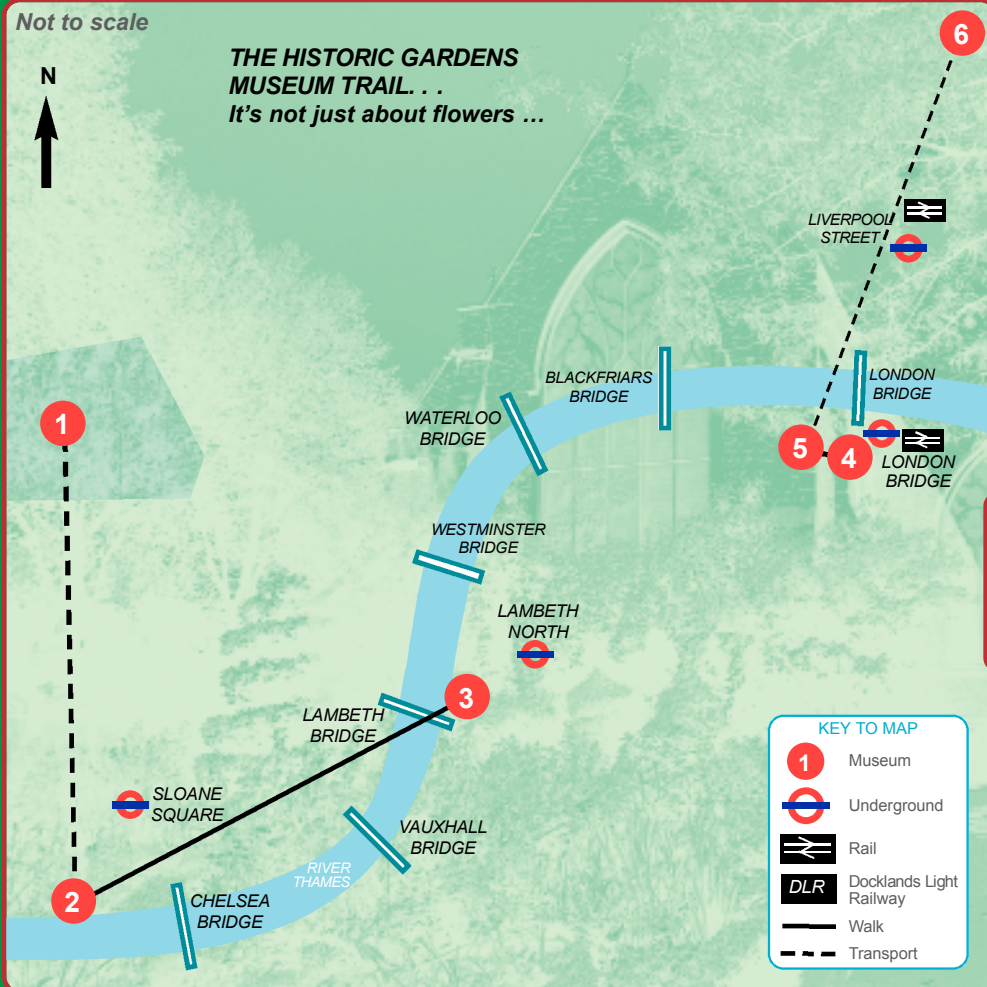
On the other trail, suitable for any day of the week, you will be astonished by the sights in the Old Operating Theatre and enchanted by the unique displays at the Geffrye Museum and the Bramah Museum of Tea and Coffee.

The magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew has not been forgotten but saved for another day!

- 1 Kensington Gardens
- 2 Chelsea Physic Garden
- 3 Museum of Garden History
- 4 Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garrett
- 5 Bramah Museum of Tea and Coffee
- 6 Geffrye Museum

Not to scale

THE HISTORIC GARDENS
MUSEUM TRAIL...
It's not just about flowers ...



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...go to next page for addresses & summary

Kensington Gardens

www.royalparks.gov.uk/parks/kensington_gardens

Open: year round

Tel: 44 (0) 7298 2141

The setting for Kensington Palace

Chelsea Physic Garden

66 Royal Hospital Road, SW3

www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

Open: 19th March-31st Oct 08

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7352 5646

A botanical garden with over 5000 plant varieties

Museum of Garden History

Lambeth Palace Road, SE1

www.museumgardenhistory.org

Open: 1030-1700 Tues-Sun

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7401 8865

A history of gardens and gardening history

Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garrett

9A St Thomas' Street, SE1

www.thegarret.org.uk

Open: 1030-1700 daily

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7188 2679

Fascinating display of the history of herbal medicine

Bramah Museum of Tea and Coffee

40 Southwark Street, SE1

www.teaandcoffeemuseum.co.uk

Open: 1000-1800 daily

Admission charge

Tel: 020 7403 5650

The story of two of the world's most famous stimulants

Geffrye Museum

136 Kingsland Road, E2

www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Open: 1000-1700 Tue-Sat

1200-1700 Sun, BH

Tel: 020 7739 9893

A showcase of domestic interiors from 1600 with period gardens and herb garden

Images

The Herb Garden at the Geffrye Museum

Tools at the Museum of Garden History

Edward Bramah at the Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum

Museum of Garden History

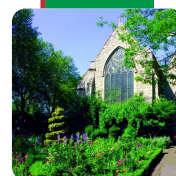
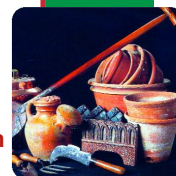
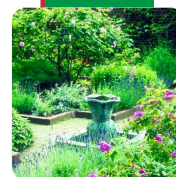
CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Kensington Gardens – magical space of Diana Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground. The Playground Café includes disabled and baby change facilities. Additional play areas with entertainment daily during school holidays.

Museum of Garden History – family events during school holidays (usually on Wednesdays) bookable in advance.

Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garrett – children will enjoy the gore at the theatre.

Geffrye Museum – opportunity to design a garden using one of several historical examples.



THE HISTORIC GARDENS MUSEUM TRAIL . .

TRAIL SUMMARY

Trail 1 (half day)

Your trail begins at Kensington Gardens, the setting for Kensington Palace, with its magnificent tree-lined avenues and home to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground. From Bayswater or High Street Kensington, take the District Line to Sloane Square for London's 'secret garden' the **Chelsea Physic Garden**. This historical botanical garden grows 5000 plant varieties that include fascinating collections of medicinal and Mediterranean plants.

A walk along the Embankment past Chelsea and Vauxhall Bridges and Tate Britain will take you to Lambeth Bridge. On the south side, next to Lambeth Palace, is the **Museum of Garden History**. This museum provides an understanding and appreciation of the history and development of gardens and gardening in the UK.

Trail 2 (half day)

This trail begins at the unusual **Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garrett** in St Thomas Street (nearest station is London Bridge). Here, you will discover the history of herbal medicine within an English Baroque Church. For refreshment, enjoy an authentic cup of leaf tea or coffee at the **Bramah Museum of Tea and Coffee** in Southwark Street.

Bus number 149 will take you from London Bridge to Shoreditch for an award-winning herb garden and a series of period gardens at one of London's best-loved museums, the **Geffrye Museum**. Finally, walk or catch a bus to Liverpool Street station.

A relaxing way to spend an afternoon would also be to visit one of the London gardens in the National Gardens Scheme. This has been opening fine gardens to the public to raise money for charity for over 75 years. Details can be found on www.ngs.org.uk

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

THE HISTORIC GARDENS MUSEUM TRAIL . .

Trail 1 (half day)

The trail begins at **Kensington Gardens**, the setting for Kensington Palace. Nearest Underground stations are Lancaster Gate and Queensway (both Central Line), Bayswater and High Street Kensington (both Circle and District Lines). The gardens, originally part of Hyde Park and covering 275 acres, are the setting for Kensington Palace the choice of William III and Mary II for their London home. Queen Victoria was born in Kensington Palace and lived there until she became queen in 1837. In a long series of improvements, Queen Victoria commissioned the Italian Gardens and the Albert Memorial.

Features include the bronze statue of Peter Pan, the Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground and a seven-mile Memorial Walk that also goes through Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park. The Memorial Playground with a huge wooden Pirate ship as its centre-piece is a children's wonderland opened in memory of the late Princess. Located near to her Kensington Palace home, it is a fitting tribute for a Princess who loved the innocence of childhood set against a lush backdrop of trees and plants.

Take the Circle or District line to Sloane Square to the **Chelsea Physic Garden**, the second oldest botanic garden in England in the heart of fashionable Chelsea. From Sloane Square station, walk along Lower Sloane Street, turn right into Royal Hospital Road past the National Army Museum, cross Tite Street and turn left into Swan Walk for the entrance to the garden.

The Chelsea Physic Garden, with its delightful south facing aspect, lies within a sheltered site of four acres. This 'secret garden' was founded in 1673, as the Apothecaries' Garden, with the aim of training apprentices in identifying plants. The location was chosen as the proximity to the river created a warmer microclimate allowing the survival of many non-native plants and more importantly, to allow plants to survive harsh British winters.

With a collection of 5000 plant varieties, the garden concentrates on medicinal plants and those of ethnobotanical interest as well as rare and endangered species. The glasshouse displays a collection of tropical, sub-tropical and Mediterranean species while plants that yield therapeutic compounds used in world-wide medicinal

practice are displayed in the Pharmaceutical Garden.

A historical walk, along the western side of the garden, showcases the work of some of the best known people associated with the garden's history, through plants introduced or first named by them.

A walk along the Embankment from the Chelsea Physic Garden takes you past Chelsea and Vauxhall Bridges to Lambeth Bridge, on the other side of which is the Museum of Garden History. Alternatively, take the Underground to Lambeth North or Westminster.

The **Museum of Garden History** is situated in the 14th century St Mary's Church next to Lambeth Palace where the Archbishop of Canterbury has his London residence. Founded in 1977, the museum was the first in the world dedicated to the history of gardens and gardening. It features a variety of permanent and temporary displays including ancient implements, plans and documents. There is a new permanent local history display of the industrial, cultural and horticultural heritage of Lambeth neighbourhoods.

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The two Tradescants (father and son), gardeners to the 17th century monarchs are buried in the churchyard. They were the first professional gardeners to travel the world in search of plants that could be brought back to England and used ornamentally in gardens. The reproduction 17th century knot garden with historically authentic planting is devoted to plants from their era.

Trail 2 (half day)

This trail begins at St Thomas Street (nearest station London Bridge) at the **Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garret**. This museum - with its excellent introduction to the reality of pre-modern medical practice - opened in the old Coffin Crypt of St Thomas's Church, the church of the original St Thomas Hospital (1225-1865). Through much of the 20th century, this was thought to be the original location of the Old Operating Theatre. However, in 1957, the Old Operating Theatre was discovered, not in the Crypt, but in the Garrett of the Church. The Crypt has been turned into a fascinating history of medicine. The unusually large garret in the roof space was used by St Thomas's Apothecary to store and cure

herbs and the theatre itself is a shocking reminder of the harsh reality of life before modern science and technology.

For refreshment, try a cup of tea or coffee at **Bramah Museum of Tea and Coffee** in nearby Southwark Street. This unusual museum illustrates and explains the history of authentic British leaf tea - over 400 years - and of roasted and ground coffee. It has a unique collection of ceramics, metal-work and graphic art associated with tea and coffee, illustrating their planting and trading, their social history and the many methods devoted to making these drinks up to and including the present day.

Take the number 149 bus from London Bridge to the **Geffrye Museum** in Kingsland Road, Shoreditch for an award-winning herb garden. Here, you can find over 170 different herbs as well as a variety of plants traditionally associated with herb gardens such as roses, honeysuckle and lilies. The 12 beds each contain an informal grouping of herbs which share a common use such as cosmetic, medicinal, culinary, household, aromatic and dye plants. There is also a series of period gardens which highlight the key trends in town gardens from the 17th to 20th century.

Inside the delightful museum, you can discover the changing style of the English domestic interior through a collection of furniture, textiles, paintings and decorative arts displayed in a series of period rooms from 1600 to the present day.

Walk or take a bus down Kingsland Road to Liverpool Street station where the trail ends.

