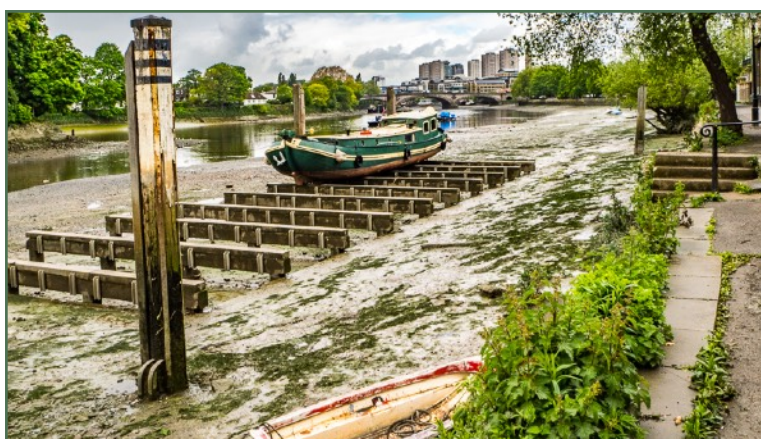
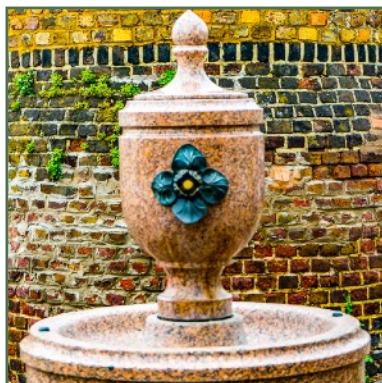


The Steam Packet Thames Riverside Trail

3 miles
Circular
1.5 hours



Access Notes

1. The route is relatively flat with little gradient to speak of. It follows a mixture of paved and compacted-stone paths for the entire length, which are firm all year round.
2. There are no stiles or gates on route, but there are a few flights of steps to negotiate.
3. During the outward leg (to Chiswick Bridge) all the steps can be avoided, so you could do a 'there and back' easy-access version of the walk with a pushchair or wheelchair.

The Steam Packet is the perfect pub for refreshments before or after your walk.

A 3 mile circular pub walk from The Steam Packet near Kew Bridge in London. The pub's name comes from the steam launches which used to dock at Kew Pier on the opposite bank as part of the regular steam packet service up the river. The walking route heads across Kew Bridge to follow a pretty stretch of the Thames Path, passing Oliver's Island and several boat clubs along the way. Crossing back via Chiswick Bridge, the return leg leads you past Chiswick Marina and some classic Art Deco architecture.

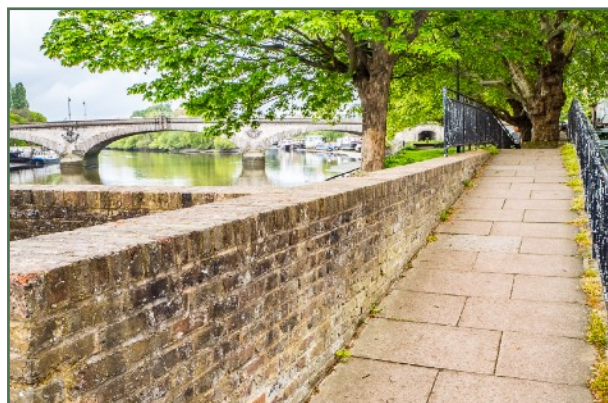
Getting there

The walk starts and finishes outside The Steam Packet pub on the corner of Strand-on-the-Green and Hearne Road. If you are coming by train, Kew Bridge rail station is just a 5-minute walk away. If you are driving, there is roadside parking on Strand-on-the-Green which is available to non-residents from 12pm every day.

Approximate post code **W4 3NN**.

Walk Sections

Start to Kew Pier



Standing outside The Steam Packet, cross over Strand-on-the-Green to reach the riverside pavement and turn right along this (with the river on your left), heading towards Kew Bridge. As the road bears right, climb the flight of stone steps leading onto Kew Bridge (if you need to avoid the steps you can continue to the road junction with the bridge instead). Turn left to follow the pavement across Kew Bridge. At the far side (just after passing a pedestrian crossing on your right), turn sharp left down a flight of steps (again the steps can be avoided by walking around the end of the railings instead). Walk ahead with the wall of Kew Bridge on your left. At the corner of the War Memorial Gardens, keep ahead still with the bridge wall to your left. You will reach a T-junction with the riverside path, turn right to join this. Almost immediately you will pass Kew Pier.



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Kew Pier to Chiswick Bridge



Keep ahead on the path, part of the Thames Path, with the river running on your left. You will soon see an island in the middle of the river, Oliver's Island. The island takes its name from a story that Oliver Cromwell once took refuge there, but there is almost certainly no truth in this tale. In 1777 the City of London installed a toll booth on the island to levy charges on passing craft and raise funds to improve the river's navigability. The tolls ended and in 1865 the island was used to build barges. Today the island is simply a haven and breeding ground for birds. Continue ahead, passing the island and then passing underneath the rail bridge (which dates from 1869). Beyond the rail bridge, continue for about 0.9 miles, passing Putney Town rowing club along the way, to reach Chiswick Bridge.

Chiswick Bridge to Chiswick Marina



NOTE: The remainder of the route includes flights of steps and also a stretch of path that is closed for the day on 25 Dec every year – if either of these will affect your walk then turn around and retrace your steps from this point. To continue, turn right immediately before Chiswick Bridge and climb the steps leading onto the bridge. Turn left to cross Chiswick Bridge. At the far side turn left down the flight of steps and then turn right to join the next stretch of the Thames Path, with the river on your left again. This tarmac path leads you ahead, then bends right, left and left again to emerge behind some boat club buildings. Turn right and follow the tarmac

path which passes immediately to the left of the row of terraced houses. You will emerge to the lock at the entrance for Chiswick Marina.

Chiswick Marina to Riverside



Cross the marina entrance via the lock gates and then continue on the Thames Path with the river now immediately on your left. You are soon forced to turn right away from the river again. Bear left along the residential road and you will emerge out of the Chiswick Quay estate to reach a T-junction with Hartington Road. Turn left along the roadside pavement of this green leafy street. Further along you will pass St Paul's Church on your right and the distinctive Hartington Court on your left. Hartington Court's Art Deco architecture is evocative of classic crime dramas – keep your eyes peeled for Hercule Poirot and Captain Hastings! At the next mini-roundabout follow Grove Park Road which bears left to reach the riverside once again.

Riverside to End



Join the riverside path here, with the river on your left. This path is known as Strand-on-the-Green and you will pass the Ellen Reardon Victorian drinking fountain which was built in 1904. The path leads you back under the rail bridge and passes beautiful houses on your right (all of which are fitted with robust flood defences). At the end of this path you will emerge out opposite The Steam Packet where the walk began, for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.