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## Regent's Park, Camden Market Marylebone, Primrose Hill, Camden Lock

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Distance: 6 km=4 miles

easy walking

Region: London

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Author: Thwelder

Last update: 26-apr-2016

Refreshments: everywhere

Map: London A-Z

Problems, changes? *We depend on your feedback: [feedback@fancyfreewalks.org](mailto:feedback@fancyfreewalks.org)*

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*London "villages", park, view over London, canal, large market, clothes*

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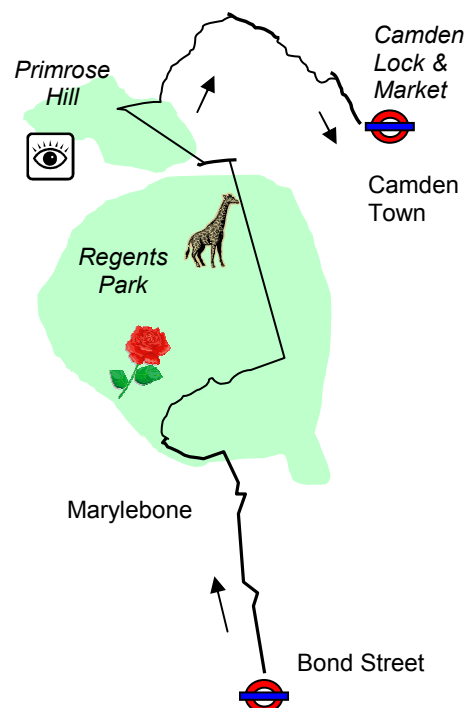
### In Brief

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This is the author's favourite London walk. It takes you quickly out of the West End, through the village of Marylebone, into the fresh air and colour of Regent's Park. At Primrose Hill you have a view over London and a tour of its village leads you onwards to the famous Camden Market, resembling so much a Middle-Eastern souk, then Camden Lock where you can sit quietly and enjoy a meal *al fresco*, and the eccentric Camden High Street with its progressive clothes shops.

The walk begins at **Bond Street Underground** station (Central and Jubilee Lines) and ends at **Camden Town Underground** station (Northern Line), both easily accessed from central London.

Overview:



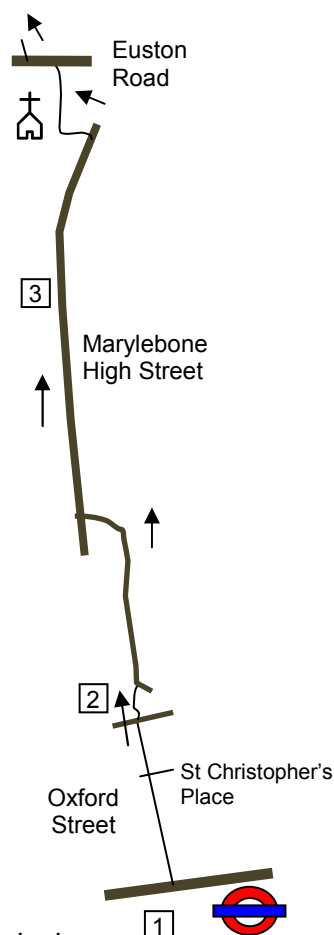
## The Walk

### Stroll 1: Marylebone 1.1 km=0.7 mile

- 1 Come out of the main exit of Bond Street station into **Oxford Street** and turn **left**, but only for **40 metres**. Look out on the **right** for a very narrow passage known as **Saint Christopher's Place**. This is easily missed and most people walk straight past it without noticing. At the time of writing it is immediately after an H&M shop. Follow this alley past several bijou shops, passing a small plaza with water sculpture, a favourite area for dining. The passage widens a bit and comes out into **Wigmore Street**.
- 2 Go straight over Wigmore Street into **Jason Court**. At the end of this narrow alley, keep straight ahead on Marylebone Lane, with its odd restaurants and *Paul Rothe* delicatessen festooned with jam jars, twisty because it follows the course of the Tyburn River. Cross first Hinde/Bentinck Street, then Bulstrode Street. *Visible two blocks on your left is the Wallace Collection, a free museum of fine art.* At a junction with Bulstrode Place, keep bearing **left** with the lane to reach the next major junction. Turn **right** here on the straight wide shopping street, **Marylebone High Street**, with its mixture of standard outlets and rare one-off shops, boutiques, restaurants and pubs.

*Marylebone is a large well-to-do London borough which includes Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street, the famous Lords Cricket Ground (home of the Marylebone Cricket Club), much of the area north of Oxford Street (including Selfridges, the Wallace Collection and Marble Arch) and most of Regent's Park. In medieval times it was called Tiburn or Tybourne from the brook that runs through it (now underground). Later it took on the name of the parish church of St Mary, thus Mary-at-the-Bourn. The parish church on Euston Road was finished in 1817, replacing an older church that dated from around 1400. Samuel Wesley was its first organist.*

- 3 In Moxon Street, about half way down on the left, is *La Fromagerie*, a delicatessen where you can take a seat on the long table for a delicious *impromptu* lunch. As the road curves right, you pass St Marylebone School where the great conductor Leopold Stokowski, well-known from *Fantasia*, was a pupil. Just after the school, opposite the Conran shop, go **left** through an iron gate into the gardens of St Mary's church. Turn **right** along the side of the church, which is well worth a visit, and come out to the busy **Euston Road**.



## Stroll 2: Regent's Park 2½ km=1½ miles

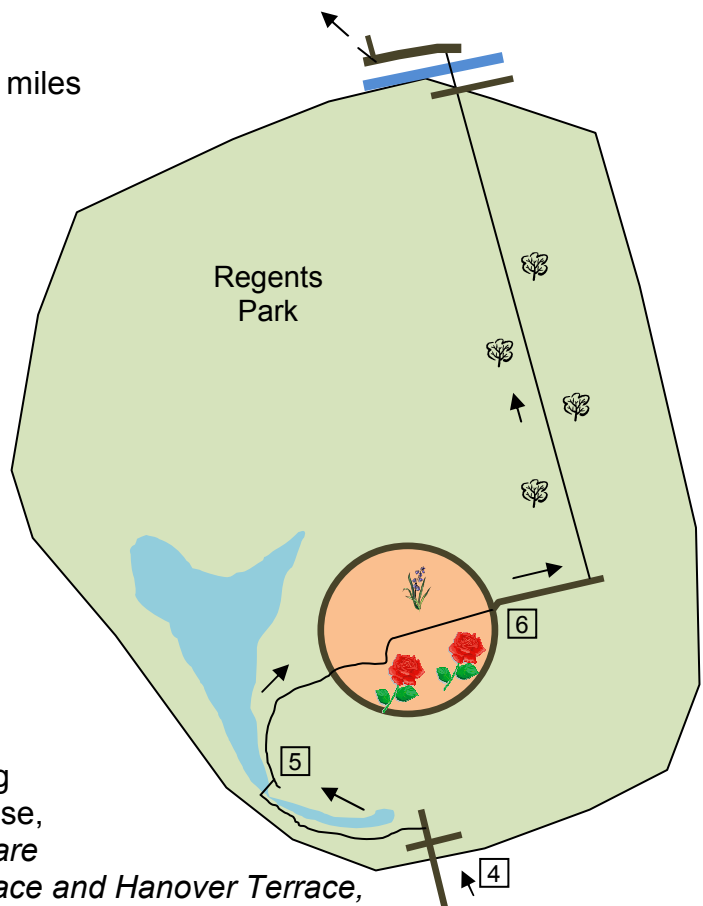
- 4 Cross the Euston Road to York Gate opposite, going between some of the elegant stucco terraces that surround much of Regent's Park. *On the right is the Royal Academy of Music.* At traffic lights go straight over the Outer Circle on a road in the park and, in 30m, turn **left** through some metal gates into the park on a tarmac path.

*Regent's Park, covering 166 hectare (410 acres), is one of the royal parks, famous for the Nash terraces (elegant stucco houses), zoo, villas, mosque, open air theatre and some of London's best gardens.*

On your right is one arm of the Boating Lake with its abundant moorhens, geese, herons and swans. *Over on your left are more of those fine terraces, York Terrace and Hanover Terrace, both designed by the architect John Nash around 1820.* Soon you reach a steel bridge. Your route is **right** over the bridge but first you may like to make a short detour by walking a little further along the lakeside.

- 5 Having turned right over the bridge, turn **left** on a tarmac path with the Boating Lake and then the Bandstand on your left. The path crosses the Inner Circle road near an ice-cream kiosk and enters the Queen Mary's Garden with the Garden Café on your left. *This is a special place where visitors come to savour the scent of the roses and enjoy the colours.* It is worth spending some time looking round this circular garden. As a guide, you will be walking the whole length of the garden to an ornate wrought iron gate on the opposite side (not the large one visible on your right). As you meander across, on your left you will see the *Open Air Theatre*. In the far left corner is the *Triton Fountain*. On the right are the pond and water garden, with its weeping willows and its little island, together with the main rose garden. Your path is the narrower of two wide tarmac paths that criss-cross in the centre, signposted *London Zoo, Camden Town*, passing a WC.

- 6 After exiting Queen Mary's Garden through those iron gates, cross straight over the Inner Circle road again and continue along Chester Road which in spring is lined with flowering cherries. About half way along, at a zebra crossing, turn left on a wide path known as the *Broad Walk*. On your left is a small café and a WC. Follow this long straight avenue for some distance. *The gothic fountain after 500m dates from 1869 and was the gift of a wealthy gentleman of Bombay.* On your left now is the London Zoo. *The zoo dates from 1828, one of the earliest in the world, and was built by the Zoological Society of London as a centre for scientific study.* Finally the path comes out to the Outer Circle. Cross this road to a path opposite which crosses the Regent's Canal. At the main road, **Prince Albert Road**, turn **left**. At the next traffic lights turn **half right** through the gates in the corner of Primrose Hill.

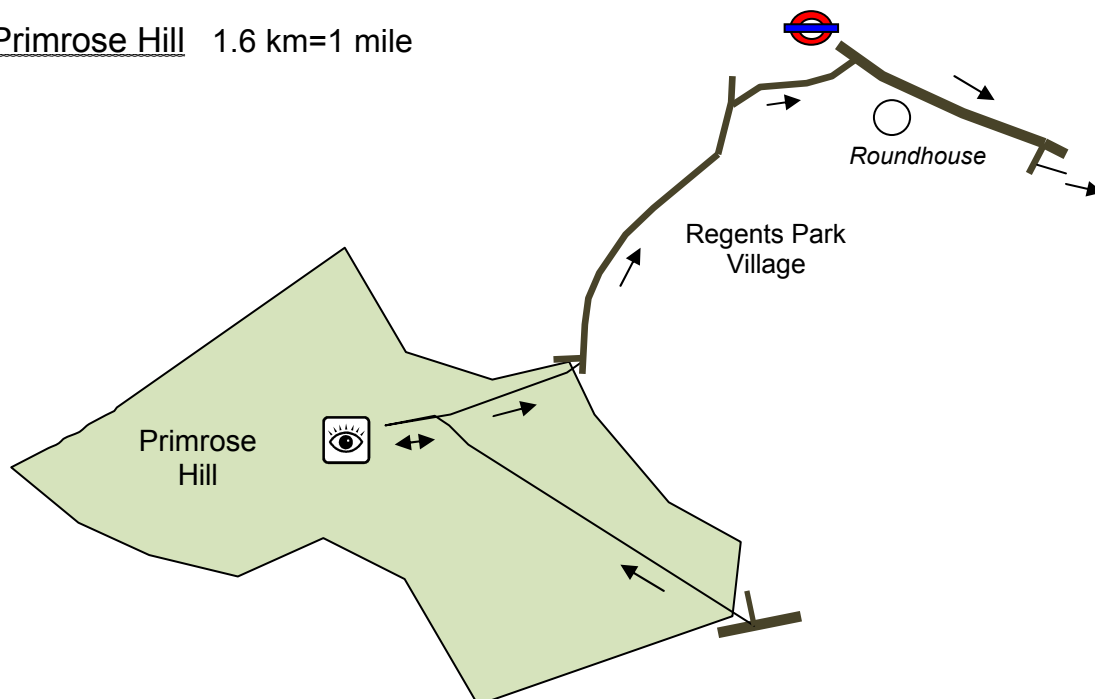


WC



WC

Stroll 3: Primrose Hill 1.6 km=1 mile



- 7 Take the **right**-hand of two tarmac paths, which leads up to the top of Primrose Hill where you have extensive views over the whole of London. You can see, from left to right, Canary Wharf, the Heron, the Gherkin, the Cheesegrater, the WalkieTalkie, St Paul's, the Shard, the Telecom Tower and the London Eye. (See another walk in this series "London Skyscrapers".) After the viewpoint, go back the way you came but fork **left** after 40m to descend to a gate in the corner at a junction with Primrose Hill Road and Regent's Park Road. With the *Queens* pub on your left, stroll along the local shopping street, **Regent's Park Road**. Welcome to another engaging London village!



*Everyone who is anyone seems to live (or have lived) in Primrose Hill village. Included in their number are politicians such as Boris Johnson (mayor) and the Milibands (Labour Party), showbiz people such as Daniel Craig (James Bond), John Cleese, Tim Burton, Sienna Miller and Jude Law, model Kate Moss, literary figures such as Kingsley Amis, W.B. Yeats, Ted Hughes (and Sylvia Plath of course), musicians such as Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin. You might bump into any of them as you pass.*

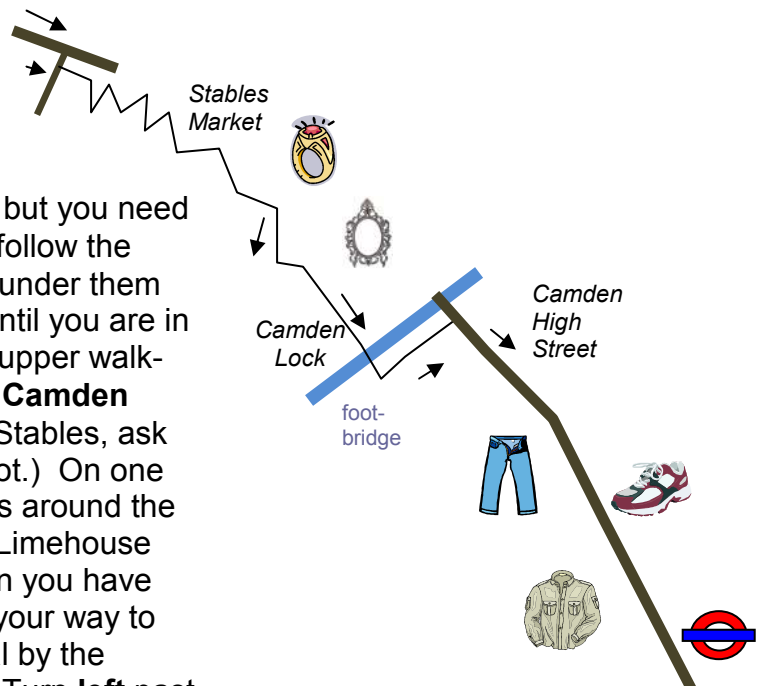
- 8 Proceed to the end of Regent's Park Road and go over a colourful pedestrian-only railway bridge. Immediately after the bridge, opposite an eccentric coffee house, turn **right**. The road leads down to the main road **Haverstock Hill**. Chalk Farm tube is on your left. Turn **right** on the main road, soon passing on your right the *Roundhouse*, a large performance arena, in past times an engine shed. Next you pass a large filling station. *Immediately after the filling station*, by a brick wall, turn **right** towards a railway bridge but, in only 20m, go **left** through an arch in the wall marked **The Stables Market**.



## Stroll 4: Camden Market 0.8 km= ½ mile

Reminiscent of the souk in Marrakesh, the Stables Market has about 700 shops and stalls, open at weekends and many every day, housed in restored industrial buildings from the age of canals and steam. The first thing you notice is the massive bronze sculptures of the farriers and the horses that were stabled here and pulled the barges along the canal. The Victorian brick arches built in 1854 once supported the railway sidings of the old North Western Railway and the secret Catacombs below contain even more shop units. All kinds of alternative fashions, antiques, collectables, crafts, footwear, furniture, airbrush tattoos, body piercing, street wear and vintage clothing can be had here. A wide choice of hot and cold international food can be bought and eaten *al fresco* in art deco spaces.

- 9 This is definitely the place to get lost but you need to remember your general direction: follow the arches and, near the end, turn **right** under them and somehow keep going that way until you are in a more open area with warehouses, upper walkways and larger restaurants. This is **Camden Lock Market**. (If you are lost in the Stables, ask any trader the way to this famous spot.) On one side is the Regent's Canal which runs around the north of London from Paddington to Limehouse and has a towpath all the way. When you have finished browsing the market, make your way to the canal side and go cross the canal by the arched metal pedestrian footbridge. Turn **left** past the *Hi Sushi Salsa* restaurant and go up to the road.



- 10 Turn **right** on the road, Camden High Street, the coolest street in London! This short stretch from the railway bridge at Camden Lock to the Underground station is on all the tourist maps and swarms with alternative fashion outlets, offering body art, holistic services, latex couture, music, and much more. Each outlet seems to compete to have the most outrageous sculpted sign projecting high up over the street. Don't miss the various smaller markets that lead off the main road. Continue along the road, soon arriving at Camden Town Underground Station (Northern Line) to return home.



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