

Shorter Walk: Five Parks Walk

Walk/Distance	Holland Park to Horse Guards: 5.5 miles
Date/Time	Friday 12 th June 2026 Walk begins 10.30 a.m. sharp on Holland Park Avenue, south side, facing Holland Park tube station, and ends at Horse Guards Road at 1.30-2.00 p.m. (depending on coffee/loo breaks)
Meeting up & Travel	All travel is within the Freedom Pass zone. Meeting: Make your own way to Holland Park tube station, cross the road with care, and meet on south side of road, opposite station entrance Parting: Walk will formally end at Horse Guards Road, a short distance from Westminster and Piccadilly Circus tube stations and from Piccadilly where the no. 19 bus goes to Islington.
Route & Terrain	This is a generally flat route on good paths but, if wet, there will be some mud in Holland Park and slippery stones in its Kyoto Garden. From Holland Park station we circle through the wooded park itself, visit the Kyoto/Japanese Garden with its peacocks and colourful fish, then pass the formal Dutch Garden and Opera Holland Park. We then take the Duchess of Bedford's Walk and Holland Street, past some pricey real estate, to Kensington Gardens, where we circle the Palace and Round Pond to the Italian Gardens (the café has a pay-to-enter loo). Then we follow the northern shore of the Serpentine, past the Henry Moore sculpture, and cross the bridge over the lake to the southern shore. Shortly thereafter we stop for coffee at the Serpentine Lido (copious tables & free loos). Then we continue to Hyde Park Corner, past Wellington's Apsley House (No. 1 London), cross Hyde Park Corner, admiring(?) the Wellington Arch, into Green Park. Walking through Green Park to Buckingham Palace we cross the Mall into St James's Park and stroll along the lakeside to Horse Guards Road where the walk ends. You can then head to either Westminster or Piccadilly Circus tube station or catch the no. 19 bus from Piccadilly back to Islington.
Pace	Moderate (not slow)
Potential hazards	If wet, some mud and slippery stones in Holland Park. Some busy roads. Please take personal responsibility for crossing all roads, don't just follow the people in front.
Timing	The walk is 5.5 miles. With a coffee break we should finish around 1.30 p.m. or soon thereafter
Clothing/footwear	Comfortable walking shoes. Adjust clothing to suit weather conditions.
Lavatories	Italian Garden Café (20p charge with bankcard only). Serpentine Lido Café. St James's Park.
Shortening the walk	Many points to leave – the five parks are surrounded by bus stops and tube stations.
Leader's contacts	Before the day: by email only: dbginpallace@gmail.com On the day: by sms : 0796 059 8328 / 0779 046 7007 Walk leaders: David B. and Michael B. Members should advise the Walk Leader of their Emergency Contact phone number in advance if they have any health concerns, or in case of accident.