

Description:

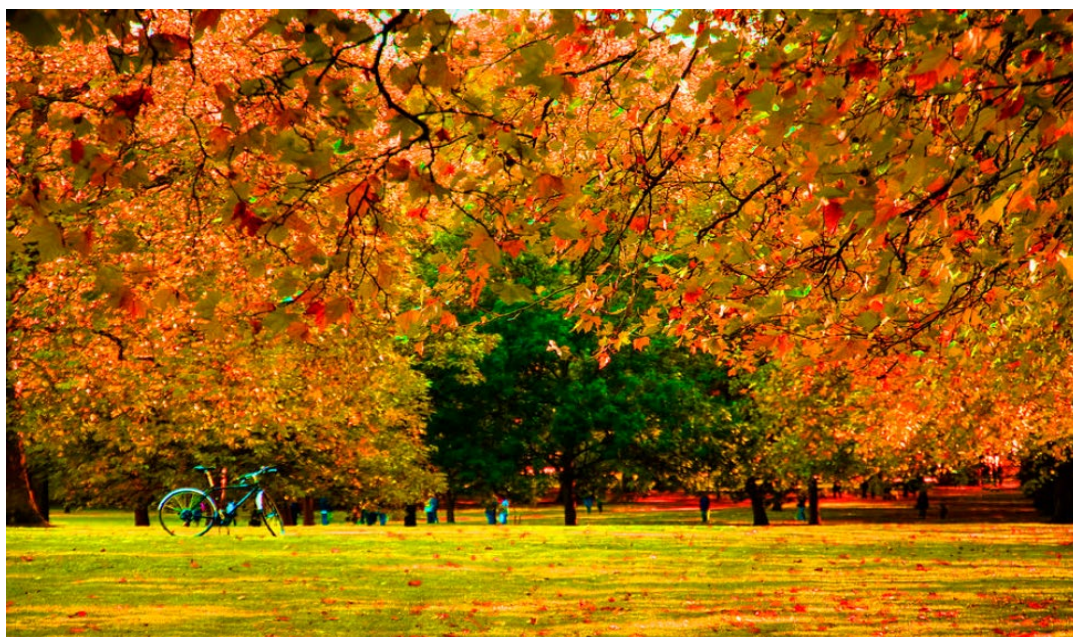
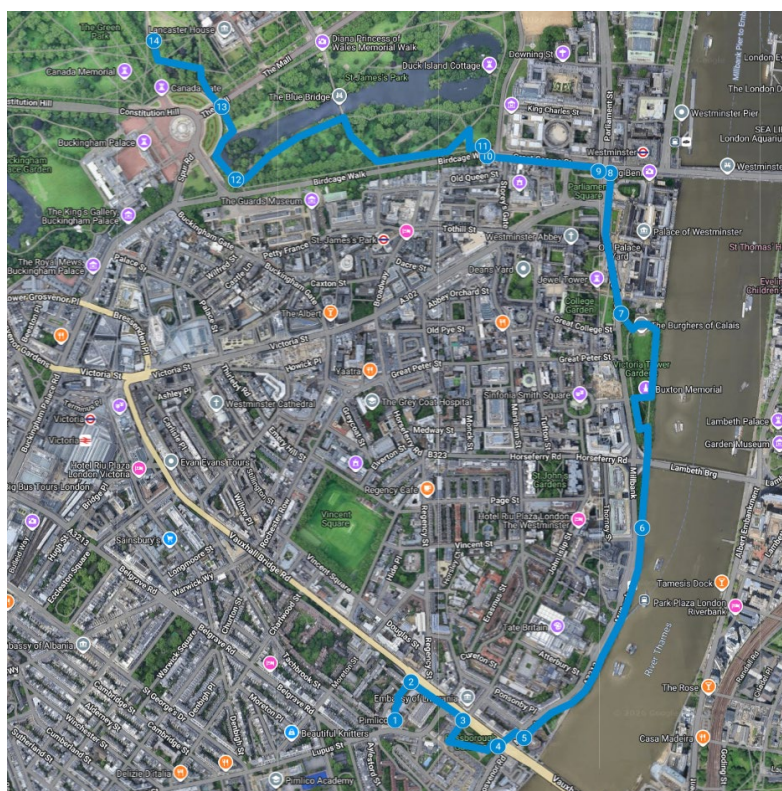
This walk incorporates Thames Path views and London landmarks with colourful leaf kicking fun in St James Park and Green Park with plentiful options for ending in a pub or café to warm you up and cater for your refreshment needs. It is listed as 1.6 miles (40 mins walk) from the station to St James Park, but you'll need to add on another couple of miles if you want to explore the parks and London sights along the way!

Distance: 1.6miles (from station to St James Park) **Duration:** 1 hour

Stations: Pimlico on the Victoria Line. (If you wish, you can adapt the start station to suit your location in London)

Refreshments, and toilets: Being in Central London, this walk has plenty of options for toilets and refreshments throughout.

One recommendation of a traditional British pub close to this route is The Red Lion Westminster (www.redlionwestminster.co.uk).



The Green Park in autumn. Photo credit David French 2012.

Full Route Description:

Autumn in the UK often brings with it a resplendent display of leafy colours across the varied species of trees that call our island their home. The Thames Path National Trail is no exception, which makes it a rather special waterside walk in the cooling autumn months.

This walk incorporates Thames Path views and London landmarks with colourful leaf kicking fun in St James Park and Green Park.

This is simply a suggested route to get you to the autumn colours of St James Park and The Green Park, but with numerous train stations dotted around you can adapt it to suit your start and end points.

Start at Pimlico Underground Station (Victoria Line) walk via Rampayne Street until you reach Vauxhall Bridge Road. Turn right onto Vauxhall Bridge Road - this is a large main road, but don't worry, you'll be beside the river very soon. As you walk you will pass Bessborough Gardens on your right, which you can detour through if you wish.

Shortly after Bessborough Gardens you will reach a road called Millbank (A3212). Turn left here and cross the road so you are on the side nearest the river. Begin walking north (with the river on your righthand side). You are now on the Thames Path National Trail and headed towards the iconic London sights of the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

As you follow the trail you will pass through Victoria Tower Gardens, which is an indication that you are about to reach the House of Parliament. At this point the Thames Path detours away from the river to navigate around the Houses of Parliament. Follow the signs and they will take you back onto the A3211, which at this point is now called Old Palace Yard. It is on this section of the walk that you will see the fabulous Palace of Westminster, including the Jewel Tower, a 14th-century surviving element of the Palace of Westminster, which is now a museum.

Keep on this road until you reach Bridge Street (A302) where you will turn left at the Winston Churchill Statue and follow the A302 which changes name to Great George Street at this point. Follow this road straight until you reach Horse Guards Road and you will be able to see the trees and green spaces of St James Park opposite you. Cross the road and enter the park. Within the park you will find an abundance of paths to lead you around the colour of the autumn trees.

As an extension to this walk you could make your way through St James Park towards Buckingham Palace and on to The Green Park, which although a smaller London park, always has a riot of autumn colours.

As this is central London you won't be short of places to eat, rest and refresh yourselves. If you like a cosy British pub that serves a mean pie and chips you could head back towards Westminster in the direction of the river and stop off at The Red Lion Westminster (www.redlionwestminster.co.uk) or if you are in the mood to explore more of the Thames Path and London sights why not cross over the river at Westminster Bridge to the Southbank and its array of eateries, the London Eye and The Jubilee Gardens – picture below shows the Thames Path on the Southbank (facing towards the London Eye).

