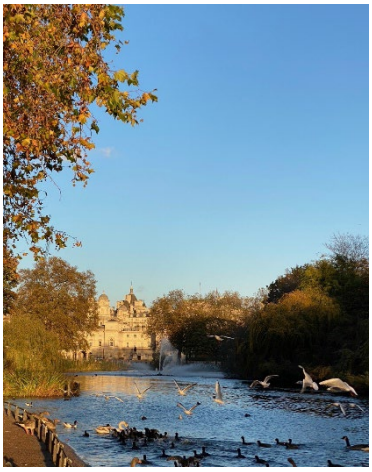
AUTUMN IN LONDON

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!



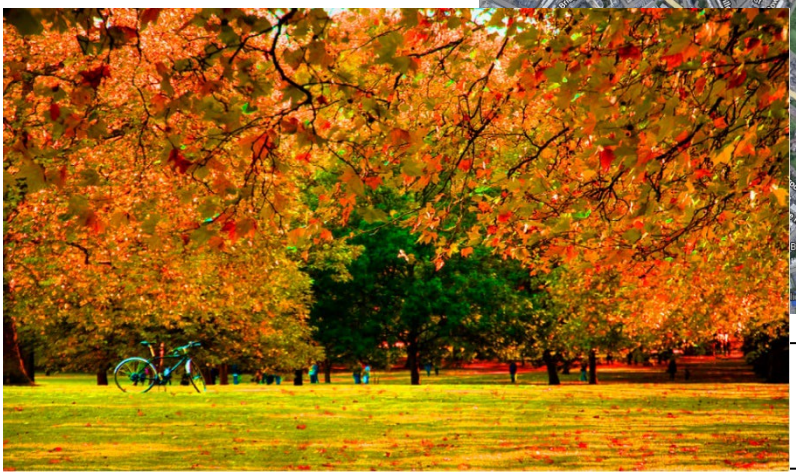
Distance: 1.6miles (from station to St James Park)
Duration: 1.5hrs
Difficulty: Moderate

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.

AUTUMN IN LONDON

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 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) leaving via Beesborough Road North exit (1) and walk until you reach Vauxhall Bridge Road (2). 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 (3).

Shortly after Beesborough Gardens you will reach Grosvenor Rd/ Millbank (4). Turn left here and cross the Road and then immediately right (5). Either walk towards Vauxhall Bridge for 100 yds and then take the steps down to your left or for a step free route walk North along Millbank for a short distance to join The Thames Path. You are now on the Thames Path National Trail headed towards the iconic sights of London.

As you follow the trail with the river on your right you will pass through Victoria Gardens south and on the way notice sights to your left including the Henry Moore statue "Locking Pieces", the Tate Gallery and the Millbank Tower.

On reaching Lambeth Bridge (6) keep straight on and you will pass through Victoria Gardens north. Within the garden you will notice the Buxton memorial, commemorating the emancipation of slaves, the Rodin statue honouring "The Burghers of Calais" and a bronze statue commemorating the life of the suffragette Emmiline Pankhurst. The Thames Path detours away from the river at this point to navigate around the Houses of Parliament. Follow the signs and they will take you back to Millbank/Abington St. Turn right and you will see Westminster Abbey to your left and Houses of Parliament to your right (7).

Keep on this road until you reach Bridge St (8). Look right and you will see the clock tower nicknamed 'Big Ben'. Turn left towards Parliament Square and Winston Churchill's statue (9), keep straight on passing statues to LLoyd George and Viscount Palmerston. After leaving Parliament Square keep straight along the road which has changed its name to Great George Street and shortly on your right you will reach Horse Guards Road (10) where you will be able to see the trees and green spaces of St James's Park opposite you. Cross the road and enter the Park(11). Within the park you will find an abundance of winding paths leading around the colourful autumn trees. Also look for a nature reserve and duck house at the eastern end of the lake accommodating the park's bird collection including several Pelicans.



As an extension to this walk why not make your way through St James's Park towards Buckingham Palace (12 and 13) and on to Green Park (14) where more stunning Autumnal colours await you!