



**Description:** The artist J.M.W. Turner's paintings of the river Thames and its surrounding idyllic landscapes are world renowned – follow in his footsteps on this walk around St Margarets in Twickenham, where Turner built a house that he resided in between 1812 to 1826 – Sandycombe Lodge. This is the only house that Turner designed and built, and the only house where he lived that is open to the public. As well as a visit to Turners House, this lovely circular walk takes in the Thames Path and if you want even more history, the English Heritage Estate of Marble Hill House is just a short detour.

**Distance:** 1.9 miles.

**Duration:** 1 ½ hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Refreshments / toilets:** Both within a 5-minute walk of the start point are The Crown, 174 Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 2NH or the Rising Sun, 277-279 Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 2NP. This is a bustling part of London, so there are lots of other pubs and cafes near the route.

**Starting point:** Turner's house – Sandycombe Lodge. 40 Sandycombe Road, Richmond TW1 2LR

If you'd like to travel by public transport, St Margaret's Station is just a short walk away.



Photo of Turners house, Sandycombe Lodge



### Route Description:

Our walk starts at Turners House - Sandycombe Lodge, which is marked out by a picket fence at the front, very different from brick walls and ornamental shrubbery of the nearby houses. The house is open Wednesdays to Sundays from 12 noon to 3pm. Details of monthly talks, education activities and connoisseur tours are on the website <https://turnershouse.org/>.

Once you emerge from Turners House, turn left and walk along Sandycombe Road (note the two 'oo's) and then left into St Stephen's Gardens. At the end of this road turn right and cross the Richmond Road to walk past St Stephen's church, then turn left into Cambridge Park. Several of the roads here are named Cambridge Park, walk on the south side of the street and head eastwards.

Cambridge Park is now groups of suburban developments from the 1930s to the 21st century.

In Turner's day was it was parkland surrounding a Jacobean mansion originally called Twickenham Meadows. Notice the magnificent oak tree a relic of the old parkland. Walk past this tree to Cambridge Park Footpath, which goes straight to the river and the Thames Path.

At the river you can turn left for Richmond Bridge, or to continue the circular walk turn right and follow the Thames Path past Marble Hill Park. Explore this English Heritage site and admire its majestic trees.

This line of trees continues into Orleans Gardens and may have originally continued along the river to the original Pope's Villa, a Palladian-style house built by the poet Alexander Pope at Cross Deep. This was demolished (to Turner's despair) by the new owner in 1807.

Arriving at Orleans Gardens we will now wind our way back towards Turners house. If you wish to divert here, you could take Hammertons Ferry (open between March and October) to Ham House, or continue along the Thames Path to Twickenham, the way that Turner would have taken to visit Pope's Grotto.

If you wish to continue the circular route, find the section where the Thames Path meets Orleans Road and turn onto it. Walk north past the wall of Orleans House Gallery on the left and the open landscaped grounds of Marble Hill Park on the right.

Turn right into Chapel Road and then left into Montpelier Row, a fine row of Georgian townhouses. Turner would have walked past these on his way home from the river, perhaps with fish that he had just caught and would release into a pond at Sandycombe Lodge to be eaten later.

At the end of Montpelier Row turn right onto Richmond Road and after a few yards cross to Sandycombe Road. Walk up this road and you will see Turners House again, where we started our walk. As you walk, imagine for a while that the Victorian and Edwardian houses do not exist, and the sandy lane is shaded with trees. The lane passed orchards and hedgerows around fields where cattle grazed, but today signifies the end our walk.