

# Walk 11

## Hendon to Highgate

PICK YOUR WALK

**Hendon Central » Highgate**  
5¾ miles / 9¼ km: 3 hours

**Hendon Central » Finchley Road**  
2 miles / 3¼ km: 1 hour

**Hendon Central » East Finchley**  
4 miles / 6½ km: 2¼ hours

Sections of walk suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

Hendon Park, Brent Park by lake, Northway Gardens to Highgate Wood. Disabled toilets in Hendon Park and Highgate Wood.



### WALKING CONDITIONS

Mainly surfaced paths; some woodland paths.



From Hendon Central station turn left, cross at the lights and left along Queens Road. Enter Hendon Park near the board, turn left and follow the path to the tree avenue. Turn right and walk down between the magnificent London plane trees, admiring the view.

- 1 One of several parks along the walk owned and managed by Barnet Council, Hendon Park opened in 1903.

At the path junction, turn left. Here you join the main Capital Ring route.

Leave the park turning left into Shirehall Lane. Continue for 200m, then cross into Shirehall Close and turn left at the bottom into Shirehall Park. Follow the road around the corner and turn right towards Brent Street. Cross Brent Street by the traffic island, turn right and then left along the North Circular Road. After 150m enter Brent Park through a gate. Follow the waymarks through the park and why not rest awhile by the lake?

- 2 Nearly 1000 years ago this lake was dug as a duck decoy to lure wildfowl for the table. Brent Park became a public park in 1934, and continues to attract varied wildlife.

Leave the park turning left into Bridge Lane, then cross into Brookside Walk after 50m. Where Mutton Brook joins Dollis Brook to form the River Brent, turn right and follow the path alongside Mutton Brook, through the subway and straight on. You are now on part of the Dollis Valley Greenwalk. Keep on until you reach Finchley Road. You can finish your walk here and catch a bus home.

- 3 Finchley Road was built around 1826. Just visible on the green north of the North Circular Road is a statue 'La Delivrance'.

Cross Finchley Road at the lights, taking great care, turn right and then take the path to the left. Keep straight on over the footbridge. At the road keep straight on behind the houses until you emerge onto

Addison Way again. Turn left and go straight on for 250m, then cross Oakwood Road onto the main road for 30m.

- 4 Founded by Dame Henrietta Barnett in 1907, Hampstead Garden Suburb was principally planned by Sir Raymond Unwin, with contributions from many leading architects of the day. Purposefully designed to create a range of house

styles and sizes, the suburb offers many open spaces, pedestrian walkways and beautiful mature trees.

- 5 Falloden Way and the residential area to the north was planned as an extension to the original Garden Suburb. Building started here in 1914 and by 1924 the road formed part of the new Barnet By-pass (A1).

Immediately after crossing the brook, turn right into Northway Gardens and follow the path straight on past tennis courts to right and left. Keep left where the path forks and leave the park up the slope. Cross Northway and enter another riverside park. Follow the path and at Kingsley Way turn right, cross and enter Lyttelton Playing Fields.

- 6 Kingsley Way is part of the later suburb added in the 1930's on land acquired from the Church Commissioners. Note the housing here is built to higher densities with less character and distinction due to increased building costs.

At the notice board bear right along the path past the play area, pavilion (with toilets) and tennis courts, all on your left. Leave via a narrow lane, turn left into Norrice Lea, pass the synagogue and cross over.

- 7 This neo-Georgian style synagogue dates from 1956.

At the pedestrian lights cross the dual carriageway. Turn right and then left into Vivian Way. Follow Vivian Way to the right to the Deansway junction. Turn left and then right into Edmunds Walk.

- 8 In Edmunds Walk you'll discover a small village green dating back, like the houses, to the 1930's.

At the top, go straight along the narrow path, The Causeway, turn right at the T junction and then left through the subway into the station concourse, emerging onto the Great North Road. You can finish your walk here.

- 9 Opened in 1939, East Finchley Station boasts distinctive 1930's architecture. Look out for the statue 'The Archer' by Eric Anmonier directly over the main entrance. The figure is pointing towards London and symbolises

the rapid transit of modern electric trains.

- 10 The Great North Road between London and York dates from the Middle Ages. It crossed Finchley Common and was notorious for its highwaymen. Building along the road began after the enclosure of the common in 1816.

Cross at the pedestrian lights, turn right and just before the bridge bear left into Cherry Tree Wood. Keep straight on, ignoring paths to right and left, and notice the low-lying field which used to be watercress beds. Leave the park and turn left into Fordington Road.

- 11 Cherry Tree Wood park is named from the fragment of wood within it, which together with the woods at 12 and 13 are known to be ancient woodland. The wood once formed part of the Bishop of London's Great Hornsey Park. Its old map name was Dirthouse Wood, apparently because carters frequenting the nearby White Lion public house brought night soil from London for manure, and took hay back for the City's horses!

At the junction with Woodside Avenue cross and go straight on into Lanchester Road. After 40m, turn left up a steep tarmac path to enter Highgate Wood at

Bridge Gate. Keep straight on to the fountain, turn right and at the next intersection turn left. Keep straight on passing the lodge on your left, over the next intersection and soon you will reach New Gate.

- 12 Owned and managed by the Corporation of London, Highgate Wood with its 28 hectares of ancient woodland probably dates from the last ice age!

Part of the Ancient Forest of Middlesex, the wood features in both the Domesday Book and more recently the Bishop of London's estate. According to archaeological finds, it appears that man has used the wood for at least 2000 years using its clay for pottery, its coppice hornbeam for fuel and its oak for timber and tanning. Given to the Corporation of London by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1886, the open space has since been managed for both recreation and more recently wildlife conservation. The woods are home to ancient oaks, hornbeams, holly, beech, birch, anemones, bluebells, foxes, bats, owls, sparrowhawks, moths, beetles and butterflies... a rich and important oasis for wildlife in suburbia.

Cross Muswell Hill Road by the pedestrian lights and immediately enter Queen's Wood Local Nature Reserve. Follow the downhill path to the Eco-house Lodge, and bear right following the Shepherds Hill sign. At the bottom of the hill follow the waymarks up the hill and cross Queen's Wood Road. The path crosses the southern part of the wood downhill and then up a steep slope to Priory Gardens.

- 13 Queen's Wood is also ancient woodland of great ecological and historical interest. Formerly known as Churchyard Bottom Wood, it was renamed in honour of Queen Victoria when Hornsey Urban District Council purchased the wood from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1898. Ownership passed to Haringey Borough Council who manage the wood. It has many mature English oaks up to 250 years old, together with fine old hornbeams, the rare wild service tree and occasional beech and mountain ash. In early spring notice the drifts of white wood anemones, yellow lesser celandines and, a little later, bluebells.

Bird species include great spotted woodpeckers, tree creepers, nuthatches and the occasional hawfinch.

At Priory Gardens, turn right and follow the road along to Highgate station. If you are carrying on along walk 12, turn left up a steep narrow path between numbers 63 and 65. At the top of Shepherds Hill by Highgate library, turn right towards Archway Road where you turn left and left again into Holmesdale Road.

**Well done! You have completed walk 11 of the Capital Ring.**





# sole-searching

Step back in history as you tread the timeworn pathways of our forebears on this fascinating walk. This is the eleventh of fifteen Capital Ring walks that explore the heritage, architecture and landscape of London. A mere six miles from Big Ben, there are beautiful green spaces, ancient woodlands and a wealth of wildlife to discover.



1. River Brent in Brent Park
2. Lytton Playing Fields
3. View of Hampstead Garden Suburb
4. Cherry Tree Wood
5. Entrance to Highgate Wood
6. Queens Wood
7. Wood anemones in Queens Wood

Walk >> 11

## Hendon Park » Highgate

### WALK THE CAPITAL RING

### Discover the heart and soul of London on foot...

Stroll beside Brent Park lake with its variety of waterfowl, notice the distinctive architecture of Hampstead Garden Suburb, enjoy the riverside parks and savour the tranquillity and wildlife of three ancient woodlands. Enjoy viewpoints at Hendon Park, Lytton Playing Fields and Highgate Wood.



### One of the London Strategic Walks

The Capital Ring has earned the coveted Seal of Approval awarded by the London Walking Forum. It is also one of the strategic walking routes, which have been designated by the Mayor of London to set high standards for other trails in the Capital. Funding has been provided by Transport for London and the appropriate boroughs. If you would like further information, if you notice any damage or obstructions, or if you have suggestions to improve the walk, please call 0870 240 6094 (national rate), or email [walking@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:walking@tfl.gov.uk). Full details of these and many other trails in London can be found on TfL's Walking Pages website: [www.tfl.gov.uk/walking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/walking).



Walk 11. Hendon Park » Highgate

# walk the capital RING

## sole-searching

Discover the heart and soul of London on foot...



Walk 11  
Hendon Park » Highgate  
5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles, approx. 3 hours

### The Capital Ring

1. Woolwich Foot Tunnel » Falconwood
2. Falconwood » Grove Park
3. Grove Park » Crystal Palace Park
4. Crystal Palace Park » Streatham Common
5. Streatham Common » Wimbledon Park
6. Wimbledon Park » Richmond Bridge
7. Richmond Bridge » Osterley Lock
8. Osterley Lock » Greenford
9. Greenford » South Kenton
10. South Kenton » Hendon Park
11. Hendon Park » Highgate

12. Highgate » Stoke Newington
13. Stoke Newington » Hackney Wick
14. Hackney Wick » Beckton District Park
15. Beckton District Park » Woolwich Foot Tunnel

This is Walk 11 of the 15 stage Capital Ring, a 78 mile circular walk devised by the London Walking Forum. It takes you on a fascinating journey through London's parks, riversides, streets and woodlands.

If you have enjoyed this walk you might be interested in the London Loop, a 150 mile circular route in 24 stages taking in the best countryside of the outer London Boroughs. For more information on these and many other walks in London call 0870 240 6094 (national rate), email [walking@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:walking@tfl.gov.uk), or visit Transport for London's Walking Pages on [www.tfl.gov.uk/walking](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/walking).



LONDON BOROUGH

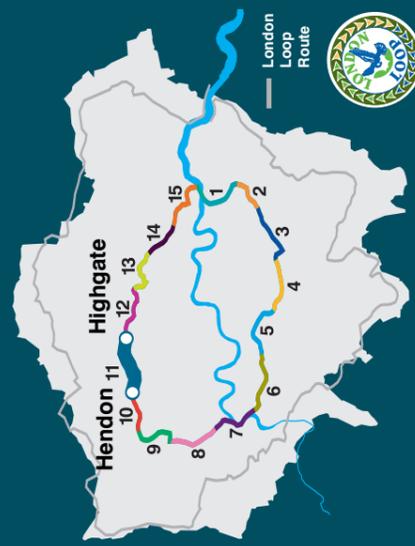


### Public Transport Information »

Use the tube or bus to get to the start of the walk. Stations and main bus routes are marked on the map overleaf to help you plan your journey. For further info: 020 7222 1234

TUBE		<b>Northern Line</b> to/from <b>Hendon Central, East Finchley, Highgate.</b> Weekdays every 5 mins, Sundays every 7 mins.
BUS		<b>143 Hendon, Finchley Central, East Finchley, Highgate.</b> Weekdays every 15 mins, Sundays every 30 mins. <b>43 Friern Barnet, Highgate, City.</b> Weekdays every 8 mins, Sundays every 15 mins. <b>83 Hendon, Kingsbury, Wembley, Ealing.</b> Weekdays every 10 mins, Sundays every 15-20 mins. <b>102 Brent Cross, Finchley Road, Golders Green, East Finchley, Palmers Green.</b> Weekdays every 15 mins, Sundays every 20 mins. <b>134 North Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate, Central London.</b> Weekdays every 8 mins, Sundays every 10 mins. <b>183 Golders Green, Hendon, Kingsbury, Harrow.</b> Weekdays every 15 mins, Sundays every 30 mins. <b>234 Barnet, Whetstone, Muswell Hill, East Finchley.</b> Weekdays every 10 mins, Sundays every 20 mins. <b>263 Barnet, North Finchley, East Finchley, Highgate.</b> Weekdays every 10 mins, Sundays every 15 mins.

### Capital Ring Route



OS grid references. Start TQ 230886, Finish TQ 285982.