



A Saturday walk from Earls Court to Knightsbridge

Map 9 and 11

3.5km plus two tube journeys, from Earls Court underground station to Sloane Square underground station

Recommended by Garden Co-Ordinators Melanie Howard and Gillie Gordon

Leave Earls Court tube station via the Warwick Road exit, and turn left. Take the second left along Earls Court Square. 50 yards further on, on the right, you will reach [Earls Court Square \(Saturday 10am-5pm\)](#) which first opened for LOG 25 years ago. The garden was developed in 1872-3 on agricultural land; after WW2, it fell into disrepair until the Residents' Association bought the garden under the 1851 Kensington Improvement Act. Landscape designer and resident Christopher Fair redesigned the garden, and it became a Conservation Area in the 1970s. Famous former residents include Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir John Gielgud, choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton, members of Pink Floyd and the National Poetry Society.

After your visit, go back to Earls Court Square road and continue walking in the same direction as before. Turn left along Earls Court Road, and take the next right to [Barkston Gardens \(Saturday 10am-5pm\)](#) which take part in LOG for the first time this year. Dating from the 1880s, Barkston Gardens occupies the site of Earls Court House, a Georgian private residence. The gardens host a variety of beautiful trees including an evergreen magnolia, several Japanese maples, an ornamental cherry and a Robinia 'Frisia'.

Return to Earls Court Road, turn right, then head back to Earls Court station. Travel one stop to Gloucester Road. Exiting the station, turn left, cross the Cromwell Road and continue up Gloucester Road. Take the second left into Cornwall Gardens; you will see the square ahead, and perhaps hear it too as it is usually a lively event! [Cornwall Gardens \(Saturday 10am-5pm\)](#) first opened for LOG 25 years ago and is shaded by some of London's tallest plane trees, dating from 1870. The land was originally an area of market gardens, developed by the Broadwood family of famous piano makers, before being sold for development from 1866. The square became home to writers, painters, financiers and other leading Victorians, with notable residents including Sir Hardy Amies, Sir Terrance Ratigan, Dame Diana Rigg, Dame Iris Murdoch and Dame Joan Sutherland.

Retrace your steps to Gloucester Road, cross to the other side and turn right. Take the first left and you will find [Queen's Gate Gardens \(Saturday 10am-5pm\)](#) which also first opened for LOG 25 years ago. The gardens were created in the 1860s when a residential square was built on the site of former market gardens. During WW2, the gardens housed underground bomb shelters; their circular outlines can still be seen in the lawn. Today's landscaping largely retains the original Victorian layout, and the old mulberry and catalpa trees are believed to be over 150 years old. Residents have included two brewer landowners – Sam Whitbread and Edward Charrington – plus the Earl of Strathmore, the late Queen Mother's father.

Retrace your steps to Gloucester Road, and turn left back to the tube station. Take the tube two stops to Sloane Square. Coming out of the station, walk round the square to the right-hand side until you reach Sloane Street, then head north to Cadogan Place. [Cadogan Place North Garden \(Saturday 10am-4pm\)](#) first opened for LOG 25 years ago and was designed by Humphrey Repton in 1806. During WW2 it was requisitioned by the War Office, and tanks, anti-aircraft guns, troops and a barrage balloon were stationed there. In the 1970s, the garden had to be re-landscaped when an underground car park was built beneath it; the depth of the soil is much reduced. [Cadogan Place South Garden \(Saturday 10am-4pm\)](#) was the first square developed by Henry Holland from 1777, along with Sloane Square. It was once known as the London Botanic Garden, and the mulberry trees – planted for the silk trade – are believed to be 300 years old. Former residents of Cadogan Place include Lady Colin Campbell, Harold Macmillan, and William Wilberforce at no. 44.

At the end of your visit, retrace your steps to Sloane Square tube station. Please note that Cadogan Place gardens will close at 4pm on Saturday, so you may wish to do this walk in reverse so as not to miss them.