



A Sunday walk from Gloucester Road to Earls Court

Map 11

2.5km, from Gloucester Road underground station to Earls Court underground station

Recommended by Garden Co-Ordinators Melanie Howard and Gillie Gordon

Leave Gloucester Road tube station and turn right to walk along Gloucester Road. Take the third right to **Hereford Square (Sunday 10am-5pm)**. The square was built between 1845 and 1850 and the garden, with its railings, was finished in 1848. It's a charming and peaceful oasis in a busy part of town; JM Barrie lived on the east side and – who knows – perhaps this is where Peter Pan flew in to take the children off to Never-Never Land. During WW11, the garden was used as a baseball pitch by American soldiers stationed in the area.

Retrace your steps to Hereford Square road, then turn left away from Gloucester Road to Wetherby Place and Wetherby Gardens. Cross Collingham Gardens and keep walking straight ahead; on your right, you will find **Collingham Gardens (Sunday 10am-5pm)**. The original layout of the garden, designed by Harold Peto, remains remarkably intact with its wide lawns, curving gravel paths and tall plane trees. Shrubs frame the lawn, and in each flower bed there is a Japanese cherry tree. The terrace houses, designed by Ernest George and Harold Peto, are Grade II listed.

Walk back to Collingham Gardens road and turn left. Continue until you come to Courtfield Gardens. Turn left, and at the end, on your right, you will find **Courtfield Gardens West (Sunday 10am-4pm)**, which first opened for LOG 25 years ago. The square dates from 1873 and takes its name from a meadow in the Earl's Court Manor Estate – Court Fields – which was demolished when the underground was built. As well as the plane trees, there are rare ornamental trees such as the wedding cake tree, a tobacco tree and some giant sequoias. The original railings were removed for the war effort and have now been reinstated.

Retrace your steps to the corner of Courtfield Gardens, continue to Laverton Place past Hesper Mews, and then turn right along Bramham Gardens. Cross straight over the Earls Court Road and walk down Earls Court Square road until you reach **Earl's Court Square (Sunday 10am-5pm)**, which also first opened for LOG 25 years ago. Earl's Court Square was laid out in the 1870s; 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 residents have included Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir John Gielgud, the choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton, members of Pink Floyd and the National Poetry Society.

Continue down Earl's Court Square road then turn right onto Warwick Road. Go past Earl's Court tube station and turn right at Trebovir Road, then left into **Nevern Square (Sunday 12-5pm)**. The garden was an integral part of the layout of the square when it was built from 1880-1886. It was privately owned until 1974, when local residents formed a non-profit-making company to buy it. In 1978, the Kensington Improvement Act of 1851 was applied, ensuring a regular income for the garden's maintenance. The plane trees are thought to be part of the original planting and there are 28 other tree varieties along with shrubs and herbaceous plants.

At the end of your visit, retrace your steps to Earl's Court station.