



## A Sunday walk from Kensington High Street to South Kensington

Map 9 and 11

5km, from the Design Museum to South Kensington tube station

*Recommended by Garden Co-Ordinator Melanie Howard*

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Begin at the Design Museum (on the number 9 and 27 bus route). Head south west on Kensington High Street, then turn left at **Edwardes Square (Sunday 10.30am-5pm)**. The entrance to the garden is on the south side, beside the gardener's home.

This garden square first opened for LOG 25 years ago. It was designed by Signor Agostino Aglio with help from the Royal Horticultural Society. By 1820, it was laid out much as we see it today with meandering paths, shrubberies, lawns, flowerbeds, a rose pergola, croquet lawn, grass tennis court and a children's play area. The Temple, a Grecian style lodge with doric columns, was built for the Head Gardener to live in; the present gardener still lives there and will be in attendance to talk to visitors.

Return to the High Street and turn right. Continue past High Street Kensington tube station, then turn right down Derry Street to **Kensington Square (Sunday 10am-5pm)**. Kensington Square dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is a quiet and leafy green haven, on the door step of the busy High Street. Famous residents have included Sir Edward Burne-Jones, John Stuart Mill and Sir Charles Parry, and both TS Elliot and Thackeray lived nearby.

Return to the High Street and turn right. Continue walking for just over a kilometre – or catch the number 9 bus to stop RM, Prince of Wales Gate. Turn right down Rutland Gate; keep to the right-hand side and you will come to **Rutland Gate South (Sunday 10am-5pm)**, which also opened for the first time 25 years ago. Rutland Gate South dates from the 1860s. In the summer, the garden is shaded by nine scheduled plane trees, and it has interesting evergreens and shrubs.

Leaving the garden, turn left and continue down Rutland Gate and turn right onto Ennismore Street. Take the second right onto Ennismore Gardens, then continue round to the west side of the square; here you will find the entrance to **Ennismore Gardens (Sunday 10am-5pm)**, another space which opened for the first time 25 years ago. The half-acre garden was designed around the London Plane trees which still grow there today, surrounded by a lawn, beds and borders. There is also an urn which commemorates the life of Ava Gardner, the American actress and singer who lived at no. 34 for many years.

Make your way back to Ennismore Street and turn right. Go through the arch, then turn left down the path to walk towards the Church. The path brings you out at the side of Brompton Oratory, with the Cromwell Road ahead of you. Turn right on the Cromwell Road and walk past the front of the V&A Museum to the corner. Turn left and cross the road at the lights; you are now in front of **The Ismaili Centre (Sunday 10am-3pm)**, and you will find the entrance to the garden down Exhibition Road. The chahar-bagh (four part) garden is on the roof; it has a central fountain and draws inspiration from the Qur'anic imagery of the Garden of Paradise. The garden combines granite and greenery with geometry, symbolism and the sound and flow of water. Tours are provided.

When you leave the Ismaili Centre, turn left along Exhibition Road and you will see South Kensington tube station on your right.