



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

DISCOVER THE TREES OF THE ROYAL PARKS

YOUR GUIDE

Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the world's wildlife. Amongst the oldest living species on earth, they provide a link between the past, present and future.

The 170,000 mature trees, young trees and shrubs found within the Royal Parks are London's living history. From standing proudly for over 30 coronations in St. James's Park to being the source of inspiration for writers like J.M. Barrie in Kensington Gardens. Trees connect us to the past and using this exclusive guide, you can explore this fascinating history for yourself...



1200s

Richmond Park has around 320 ancient trees. One of the most impressive is the Royal Oak located near Pen Ponds, estimated to be 750 years old.

Today: Its gnarled, hollow trunk and leafy canopy can still be admired.

5 Richmond Park



1625

King Charles I brought his court to Richmond Palace to escape the plague. He began turning the landscape of Richmond Park into a hunting park, filled with red and fallow deer.

Today: Some of the trees that King Charles I would have ridden past still remain.

5 Richmond Park

1660s

King Charles II had a new vision for Greenwich Park, known as his Grand Plan. This involved planting new trees across the park.

Today: Some of the trees can still be seen, like the famous sweet chestnut tree near Maze Hill Gate.

2 Greenwich Park





1689

During the reign of King William III and Queen Mary II, architect Christopher Wren designed the mile-long Chestnut Avenue in Bushy Park as a formal entrance to Hampton Court Palace. Later, during the 1800s, a tradition known as 'Chestnut Sunday' began where large crowds gathered to view the first blossoms of the chestnut trees in May.

Today: The avenue can still be seen in the park.

1 Bushy Park

1728

Queen Caroline, wife of King George II, masterminded a redesign of Kensington Gardens with the help of garden designer Charles Bridgeman.

Today: Around 30 of the trees planted during this time can still be seen in the park.

4 Kensington Gardens



1840s

The Royal Botanical Society introduced fossilised tree stumps on the land they had leased in The Regent's Park.

Today: These ancient stumps, thought to be between 20 and 100 million years old, can still be seen close to the waterfall in Queen Mary's Gardens.

8 The Regent's Park

1864

1864 was the 300th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s birth. To mark the occasion, a crowd of workmen marched to The Regent’s Park to plant an oak tree.

Today: The original tree died and a new one was planted, so Shakespeare’s tree can still be seen today.

8 The Regent’s Park



1996

Six years after his release from prison, Nelson Mandela walked from Buckingham Palace to St. James’s Park to plant a London plane, now known as The Mandela Tree.

Today: The tree is proudly marked by a plaque.

6 St. James’s Park



2023

Sir David Attenborough planted an oak tree in honour of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to officially open the Platinum Jubilee Woodland in Richmond Park.

5 Richmond Park

CONSERVING THE PARKS

The actions of many generations have shaped the Royal Parks, creating the beautiful landscapes filled with trees that we enjoy today. It is our duty to care for these green spaces for the future.

The number of people with homes in cities far outstrips those living in the countryside. Parks and trees are a vital component of urban life. Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, your blood pressure drops, your heart rate slows and your stress levels come down. We must respect our parks and conserve them for the future.

Today, in recognition of the climate emergency, we are planting more trees and plants which are better suited to the extreme weather and environmental conditions predicted for the future.



We need your support to...
Help us continue to monitor the health of the 170,000 mature trees, young trees and shrubs across the Royal Parks at risk from pests, disease or climate-related damage.



We need your support to...
Help research resilient tree species which can replace damaged or dying trees.