

WALKING TOURS 1

A day out taking in Madame Tussauds

Walk over Tottenham Court Road, along Howland Street (past Charlotte Street, with all its restaurants) and along the back streets running parallel with Oxford Street. Turn right along Portland Place and left or right around Park Crescent, across the Euston Road and into Regent's Park.

The most direct route through the Park goes straight past one of the Royal Parks cafes; after about 25 minutes walking, this is a good place to rest. In the Summer, the Rose Garden is worth a detour, in the centre of the Park, with its own cafe next to the Open Air Theatre. A larger detour takes in the Boating Lake for a really hot day. There is also the new state-of-the-art glass pavilion with a view over the games pitches for sports fans. London Zoo's entrance is at the other side of the park and is well signposted.

Leave the Zoo at the top end by the birdcages and turn left and right into Primrose Hill. The view from the top is fantastic, especially at night. At the other side of Primrose Hill Park is the Village, with boutique shopping and foody pubs - The Queens, The Lansdowne or the Engineer amongst others, also pizza parlours and Greek restaurants. (Primrose Hill is expensive compared to Camden, so it may be worth waiting to eat and shop!) Opposite the Engineer on Gloucester Avenue is a path leading down to the canal; turn left onto the canal under two bridges and left into Camden Market's main square (most lively at weekends). There is normally a barge parked by the entrance serving hot chocolate. Explore the Market - the old stables housing the furniture shops are worth a visit.

Lord's Cricket Ground is a short walk from Regent's Park; and canal boats run from Camden Market to Little Venice. Madame Tussauds and the Planetarium are close to the Euston Road side of the Park; and Marylebone High Street and Oxford Street are within easy walking distance.

Walk back through Regent's Park, past Madame Tussauds or the Planetarium by the Baker Street entrance. Down Marylebone High Street there is great shopping and a farmers' market on Sunday mornings. Walk along Oxford Street and back to the Hotel. Alternatively, you can take the tube from Camden Town straight to Russell Square.