

Route 3 - Kensal Green to Willesden Green stations including three parks & two cemeteries

Route Highlights

A definite favourite! This walk takes you through Queens Park as well as two smaller but just as beautifully kept neighbourhood parks, and two local cemeteries. You will also pass through the heart of laid back Queens Park with its numerous shops and cafes, the far more active Kilburn, and finish in the heart of Willesden Green.

1 Start at Kensal Green Station, cross **2** Harrow Road and you will see the entrance to Kensal Green Cemetery. Walk through the Cemetery and then retrace your steps, back over Harrow Road and up **3** College Road. Turn right onto Mortimer Road **4** and continue on to Queens Park **5**. Take a walk around the park and when you get back to Harvist Rd **6** turn left and continue to Salusbury Rd **7**. *** (Extension:** if you fancy the longer walk, turn right on Salusbury Rd, walk past Queens Park tube station and turn left into Albert Rd **A**. Turn right at the end onto Canterbury Terrace, right onto Canterbury Rd and then left into Princess Rd **B**. Turn left onto Cambridge Rd **C** and follow this as it turns onto Cambridge Ave **D**. At the end of this street just before you reach Kilburn High Rd, you will see the RSPCA WW1 memorial. When you reach this, trace your steps back to the corner of Harvist Rd and Salusbury Rd. **End of extension).** **7** Turn north onto Salusbury Rd (away from the tube station). Head up the high street, and turn right onto Winchester Ave **8**, then right onto Willesden Lane **9**. Detour through the cemetery **10** and then continue the way you were going on Willesden Lane. Turn left onto Kilburn High Rd, then your first right onto **11** Messina Ave, then left into Kilburn Grange Park. Walk through the park and exit in the north west corner of the park **12** turning right onto Kilburn High Rd. Cross at the lights, and then turn left immediately after Kilburn Tube station into Exeter Rd **13**. Follow Exeter Road, turn right onto **14** Walm Lane then left onto Hoveden Road. Look out for the entrance to Mapesbury Dell between two houses, and walk into and around the park **15**. Continue to the end of Hoveden Rd, turn left into Keyes Rd, right onto Walm Lane, and follow this when it vias left down to Willesden Green tube station where this **walk ends 16**.

Places of Interest/Heritage

St Mary's Catholic Cemetery: established in 1858 is the final resting place of 165,000 people, including many Irish people who came to London during the Irish Famine from 1845-1852. There are memorials to soldiers from both world wars, and the chapel which houses one of two working coffin lifts in England is still used today.

Queens Park: has been open since 1887. Take a wander through and stop a while at the cafe, visit the **Grade II listed bandstand**, the petting zoo, ornamental garden or play a round of pitch and putt. Wander past the shops and cafes of Salusbury Street, the heart of Queens Park.



The Paddington Old Cemetery: opened in 1855, houses two 13th century Gothic style chapels, one of which is still in use, and an apiary producing and selling tombstones honey. The Grade II listed art deco theatre, **The Gaumont State**, opened in 1937 and was the biggest auditoria in Europe seating 4,004 people, with a 37m tower inspired by the Empire State Building. The building opened as a cinema and live performance venue, was used as a bingo hall from the 1980s until 2007 when it was sold, and is now used as a place of worship. Where you exit Kilburn Grange Park, stop and admire the Grade II listed interior at the **Black Lion Pub**, which was rebuilt after the great Fire of London, this site having been occupied by a pub since the 6th century. **The Tricycle Theatre** across the road opened in 1980 and hosts a variety of British and international theatre and cinema. You'll pass under the **Kilburn Rail bridge**, built in 1914 and is the original Metropolitan Railway Bridge. **Mapesbury Dell** is a small neighbourhood park, its entrance hidden between two houses on Hoveden Road. There's a play area, picnic tables and bird feeders, buzz towers for bees and a pond full of wildlife. **St Gabriel's Church**, is the original church which opened in 1891.

Optional Extra Walk:

For a longer walk, detour via the Grade II listed **Kilburn Park Tube station** which opened in 1915, one of the first stations in London built with escalators instead of lifts. You will then pass the Grade II heritage listed **Tin Tabernacle**, one of the last remaining tin churches. Built in 1863, it was a place of worship until the 1920s, and since the 1940s as been home to the sea cadet corps - its interior transformed to resemble a ship. At the end of the street you'll find the **RSPCA WW1 Memorial Dispensary**. Formally opened in March 1931, it treated over 6,000 animals in its first year and has a large bronze plaque above the door commemorating animals killed in the First World War. Just off route you will be able to see **St Augustine Church**, a Grade I listed building, consecrated in 1880, it's one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture with its soaring vaults and elaborate decorations.



Facilities:

This route has full facilities in all three parks, and many refreshment options in Salusbury Road, Kilburn High Road and at the end of the route in Willesden Green.

Distance

6.1 miles - 9.8 km - 14,000 Steps

Time

Fast - 1hr 30mins, **Medium** - 2hrs 10mins, **Slow** - 3hrs
With extension: **Fast** - 2hrs, **Medium** - 2hrs 40mins, **Slow** - 4hrs

Calories

Fast - 830, **Medium** - 740, **Slow** - 720
With Extension: **Fast** - 790, **Medium** - 700, **Slow** - 680

Difficulty

Route is accessible to all.

Start / end station

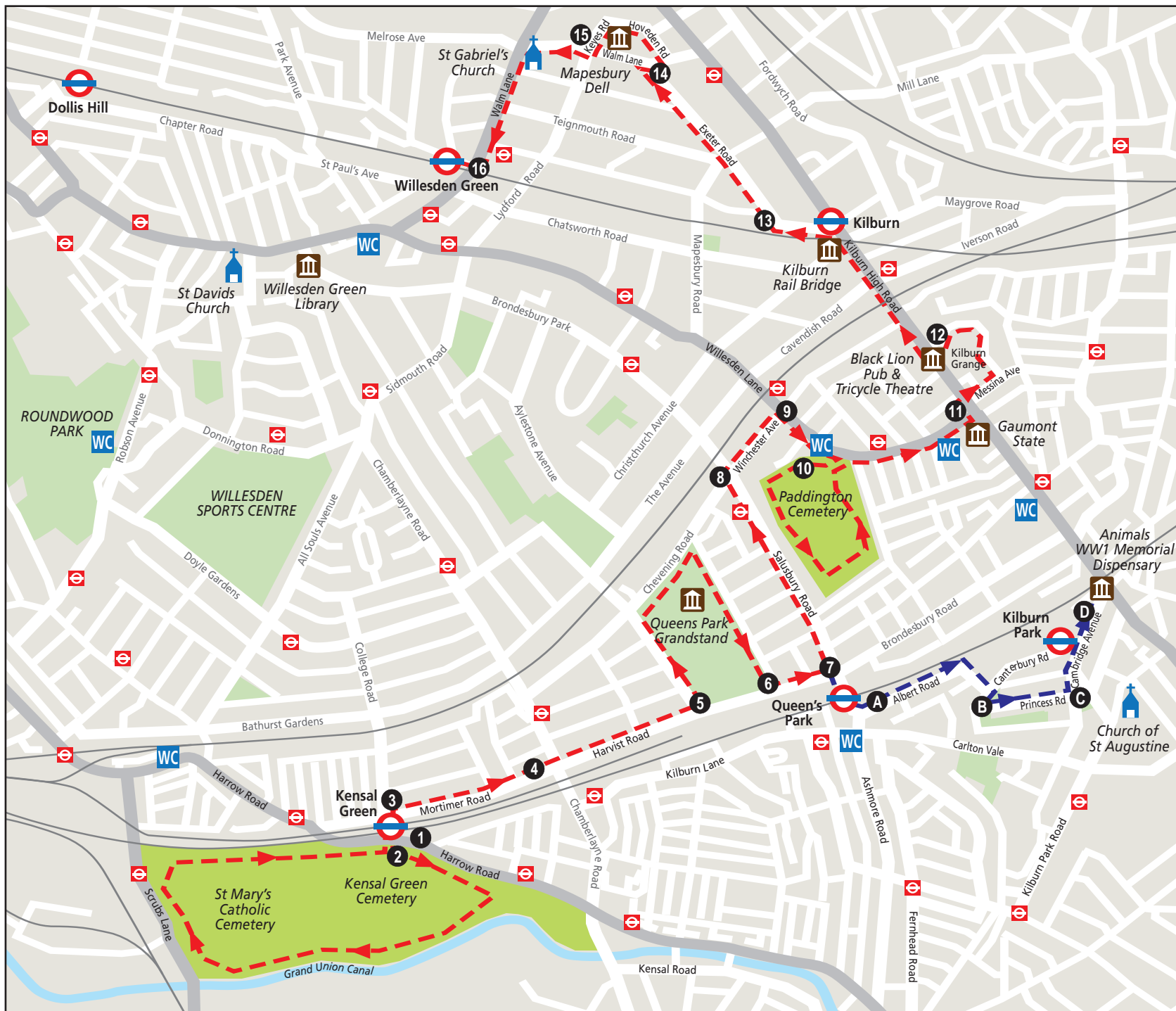
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KEY

- Walking Route
- British Rail Station
- Tube Station
- Bus Route
- Hospital
- Toilets
- Church
- Place of Interest
- Park / Open Space
- Extended Walk

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