

Distance: 12.6 miles (20.2km) **Ascent:** 85m (279ft)

Time: Allow 4h 30m to 7h 30m (plus time to visit attractions or shops)

Start/Finish: OS Locate TQ 289 817 **what3words** ///door.hook.lanes



Facilities

Public toilets throughout the route (expect to pay) and many museums and department stores also have toilets. Lots and lots of places to eat and drink.



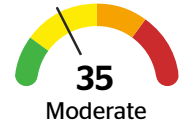
Seating throughout route



Wheelchair accessible



Pushchair accessible



Welcome to London! This walk is an efficient sightseeing tour of West London. Over 80 attractions have been highlighted but there is so much more to look out for – history, architecture, nature, monuments, statues, art and museums. And of course, the shops – some famous, some quirky. Enjoy!

Watch out for traffic and be aware that some areas may be busy. You can reduce the route or dip in and out using public transport – tfl.gov.uk

From the hostel turn left onto Bolsover Street, cross over Clipstone Street and look to the right for a great view of **1 the BT Tower**. Continue along Bolsover Street, turn left onto Carburton Street, right onto Great Portland Street, left onto Devonshire Street, right onto Portland Place and left onto Park Crescent. Carefully cross over Marylebone Road onto Park Square West, cross the Outer Circle and into **2 Regents Park** at Board Walk Gate.

Continue straight ahead, turn left onto Chester Road, cross the Inner Circle, continue straight to the centre of **3 Queen Mary's Gardens** and turn left. Cross the Inner Circle again onto York Bridge, continue to York Gate and turn right onto Marylebone Road.

Pass **4 Madame Tussauds** and look out for **5 the statue of Sherlock Holmes** near the entrance to Baker Street station. The **6 Sherlock Holmes Museum** is a short detour to the right along Baker Street. Otherwise turn left onto Baker Street, which becomes Portman Square and then Orchard

Street. Pass the side entrance to **7 Selfridges** and turn right on to **8 Oxford Street**.

Head along Oxford Street to **9 Marble Arch** then cross to **10 Speakers Corner** into **11 Hyde Park**. **12 Park Lane** runs alongside the park with the **13 the Animals in War Memorial**.

Head diagonally across the park (alongside the Parade Ground, the area designated for festivals and concerts which may be fenced), bear left at the **14 Reformers Tree**, turn right after the toilets and bear left after **15 The Look Out**.

There are many paths through the park but you can usually re-orientate yourself at **16 The Serpentine**. Turn right along the lake to the **17 Italian Gardens**. Head around the gardens and take Budge's Walk, the path to the left of the **18 Two Bears Drinking Fountain**. Pass **19 Speke Monument** to **20 Round Pond**. Pass to the left of **21 Queen Victoria's Statue** and **22 The Princess Diana Memorial Garden** on the way to **23 Kensington Palace**.

Turn left away from the Palace and left onto Mount Walk. A short detour ahead along the south side of the Serpentine is the **24 Serpentine Gallery**, **25 Princess Diana Memorial Fountain** and the **26 Serpentine Lido** for outdoor swimming. Otherwise turn right when you can see the **27 Albert Memorial**. Head around the memorial and cross Kensington Gore to the **28 Royal Albert Hall**.

Take the road to the left of the Royal Albert Hall, also called Kensington Gore, and follow the path around to the opposite side of the hall. **29 The Royal College of Music** is ahead, turn left onto Prince Consort Road, right onto Exhibition Road and pass **30 The Science Museum**, **31 Victoria and Albert Museum** and **32 The Natural History Museum**.

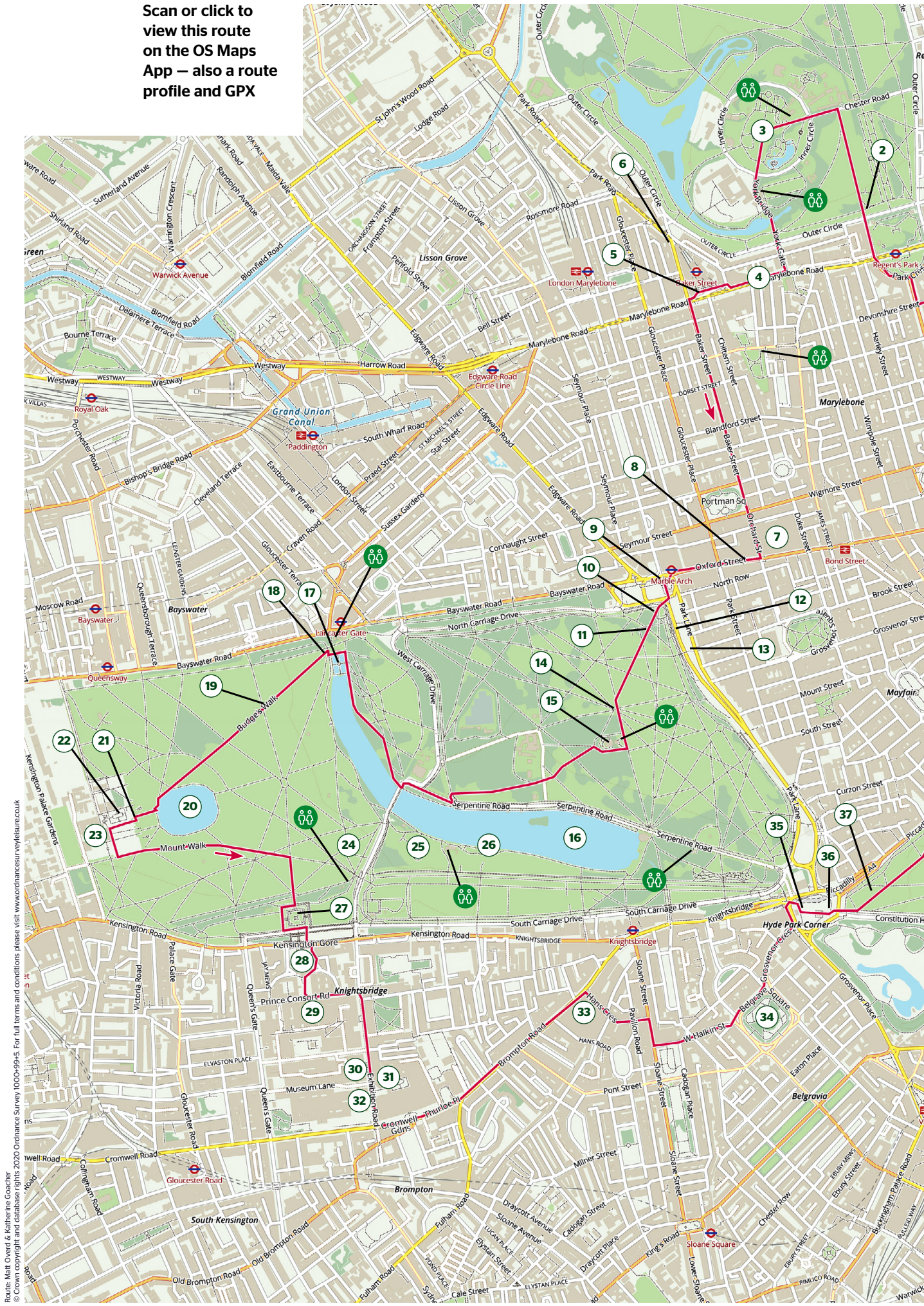
Turn left onto Cromwell Gardens, continue onto Thurloe Place, then Brompton Road and after **33 Harrods** turn right onto Hans Crescent. Turn right onto Sloane Street, left onto Cadogan Place leading to West Halkin Street and left onto **34 Belgrave Square**. Turn left onto Grosvenor Crescent to **35 Hyde Park Corner** and pass under **36 Wellington Arch**.

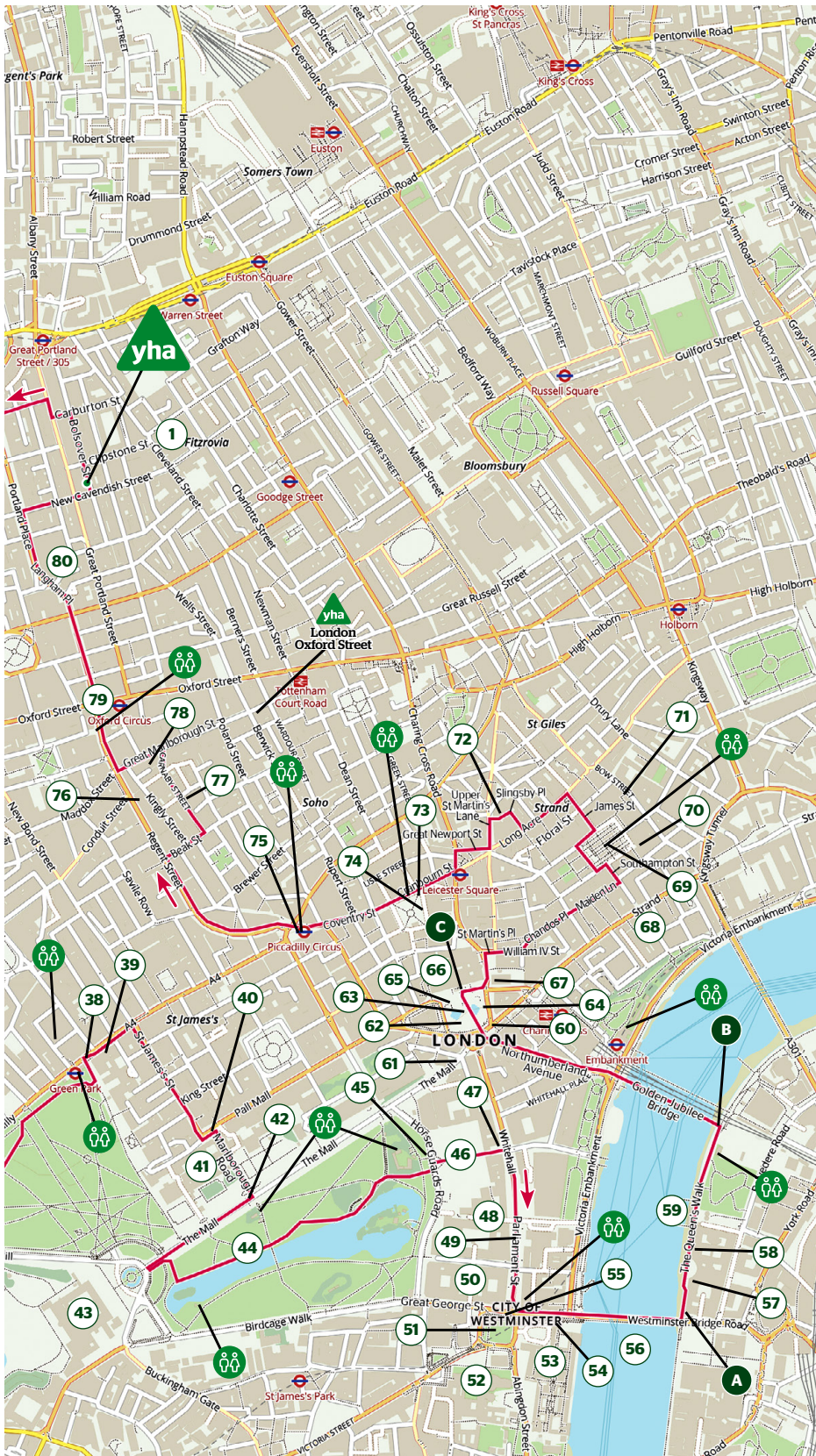
Head into Green Park, pass **37 the Queen's Meadow** and bear left to exit the park near Green Park station onto **38 Piccadilly**. Turn right, pass **39 The Ritz Hotel** and turn right onto St James's Street. Turn left onto **40 Pall Mall**, immediately right onto Marlborough Road, pass **41 St James's Palace** and turn right onto **42 The Mall** to **43 Buckingham Palace**.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.

Continued overleaf

Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX





Head into **44 St James's Park** and to the lake. Turn left and follow the lake through the park, exiting past the **45 Guards Memorial** onto Horse Guards Road. Go straight ahead onto **46 Horse Guards Parade**. If the gate is open head under the arch and pass the **47 Mounted Sentries** to Whitehall. Turn right to pass **48 Downing Street**, continue onto Parliament Street and pass **49 The Cenotaph** and **50 The Imperial War Museum** to **51 Parliament Square**.

If there is no access from Horse Guards Parade to Whitehall then turn right along Horse Guards Road, left onto Great George Street and left onto Parliament Street and Whitehall to see the sights and then turn back to Parliament Square.

From Parliament Square you can see **52 Westminster Abbey**, **53 The Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)**, **54 the Clock Tower which houses the Great Bell of Westminster – Big Ben**, and many statues including **55 Winston Churchill**.

Leave Parliament Square on Bridge Street, the road to the left of Big Ben and onto Westminster Bridge to cross **56 the River Thames**. Turn left immediately after the bridge onto The Queen's Walk and pass **57 the London Aquarium**, **58 the London Dungeon** and **59 the London Eye**.

Cross the Thames again at the first bridge, the Golden Jubilee Bridge, and continue ahead onto Northumberland Avenue to **60 The Strand** – look to the left for **61 Admiralty Arch** and continue to **62 Trafalgar Square** where you can see **63 Nelson's Column**, **64 Britain's smallest Police Station** hidden in an ornamental light fitting, the fountains, statues, lions and **65 the Fourth Plinth**.

Head towards the **66 National Gallery** and turn right towards **67 St Martin-in-the-Fields Georgian Church**. Turn left before the church onto St Martin's Place, right onto William IV Street, left onto Chandos Place and continue onto Maiden Lane. The **68 Savoy** is a short detour away to the right along Southampton Street on The Strand. Otherwise turn left onto Southampton Street to **69 Covent Garden**. Here you will find the **70 London Transport Museum**, market stalls and street performers.

Head around or through Covent Garden onto James Street. The **71 Royal Opera House** is a short detour away to the right along Floral Street on Bow Street. Otherwise pass Covent Garden station and turn left onto Long Acre. Turn right onto **72 Slingsby Place** and follow the lane around to the left to Upper St Martin's Lane. Turn left, then right onto Great Newport Street, left onto Charing Cross Road and right onto Cranbourn Street to **73 Leicester Square** with **74 The Odeon Cinema** – one of the cinemas used for red carpet film premiers. There are also statues of William Shakespeare and characters including Mr Bean, Paddington and Mary Poppins.

Continue onto Coventry Street, onto Piccadilly, to **75 Piccadilly Circus** with the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain and illuminated advertising boards. Continue ahead onto Regent Street. **76 Hamleys Toy Shop** is a short detour ahead on Regent Street. Otherwise turn right onto Beak Street, then left onto **77 Carnaby Street**.

Turn left onto Great Marlborough Street, pass **78 Liberty department store**, turn right onto Regent Street, cross over **79 Oxford Circus**, continue along Regent Street, which becomes Langham Place, then Portland Place and pass **80 BBC Broadcasting House**.

Turn right onto New Cavendish Street and left onto Bolsover Street back to the hostel.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Exploring the cities and towns of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. Our city hostels provide a base to wander through parks and streets and discover history, culture, sights and attractions.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – of differing levels of difficulty. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Remember:

- Check the local weather forecast (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Wear the right clothing for the route and weather and shoes that you can easily walk in.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Be considerate in residential areas or places of work.
- Take care when crossing busy roads and look out for cyclists.
- Dispose of litter properly in bins.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.

In case of emergency call 999 and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/walks

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk

Scan or click to shop for OS maps
online osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



Accessibility

The route follows roads, paths and parks. Flat surfaces throughout – mostly tarmac, paved or flat path. Main road crossings have traffic lights and dropped kerbs. Some narrow pavements in places. Some steps in places, but alternative routes available. During events and development work access to parts of the route may be restricted, follow diversions and be prepared to make your own if necessary.

See map

A Avoid the steps from Westminster Bridge to The Queens Walk by continuing ahead and turning left onto Belvedere Road.

B There is lift access to and from Golden Jubilee Bridge.

C The steps outside the National Gallery can be avoided by exiting the square from the opposite side and taking the pavement on the other side of the wall.