

## Picnics, walks and cycle routes in London

It's easy to get caught up in a world of blinding lights and flashy shopping centres but sometimes all we really need is the comfort of nature. Although it sounds a little clichéd, nature grounds us and connects us to our true selves. So, we have compiled a list of tranquil, nature related places and activities in the heart of the bustling city we know and love, in the hope of people appreciating the simple beauty of our natural world.

Kew Gardens with its beautiful conservatories and woodland walks, is the perfect location for a nice day out. The long walks and great picnic spots are wonderful for long meaningful conversations with the people most important in our lives. It also tests our map reading skills! Next we have Greenwich Park. A quick trip to the Royal Observatory can be followed by a fun picnic with a fantastic view of the Thames. Another excellent places for a picnic nearer to home is Primrose Hill, located north of Regent's Park. The beautiful sunsets are truly a sight to behold.

Cycling around London has also got a lot simpler with the new Santander cycles, from as little as £1.65 for 30 minutes along with memberships and discounts, hiring bikes in London has never been easier. There are also various picturesque routes for cyclists of all abilities to enjoy, the most popular route being the Hyde Park loop, starting near The Serpentine Gallery, with various attractions such as the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum and Kensington Palace where you can stop and enjoy the attractions at a low cost. This is a leisurely cycle through one of London's biggest green spaces.

Another popular cycle route is from the Tower of London to Big Ben, a route filled with London's most popular attractions. At only 5km long, this is a leisurely and enjoyable ride for all cycling levels.

And if you're looking for a more calm and nature filled ride, this route connects one of London's most beloved parks, Alexandra Palace to Finsbury Park. It's a 6 km cycle during which you can spot some of London's most popular landmarks, this ride is scenic as well as not too busy.

For more information about cycling visit the website: [tinyurl.com/37mtjwfj](http://tinyurl.com/37mtjwfj).

London really does have something for everyone and we hope these walking and cycling routes will be just right for you to get some exercise, relax with a picnic and enjoy lots of other low-cost activities in London.

Riya Shah & Saanvi Akula (HBS)

## Our top four food places to try in London

1) **Rosa's Thai:** Here, customers can find a wide selection of Thai foods with mostly affordable prices and the shop has a pleasant atmosphere with comfortable seating and good lighting. There is great service and it is also suitable for vegetarians. It is located in Soho and is easily accessible by train or bus. Personally, we would recommend the chicken satay and green curry as they are both very aromatic and have just the right amount of spice.

2) **Violas:** This Cafe is located in the centre of Covent Garden. It is only ten minutes away from Leicester Square so is easily accessible by public transport. It is the perfect place to go for a day out with friends or family. They serve many picturesque drinks and deserts as well as many other options to choose from.

3) **Indulge:** This is a dessert shop located in the heart of Pinner. There are many flavours to choose from and a variety of waffles, ice creams and many more. It has a well decorated interior and a warm ambience. In our opinion, it is a great place to go with friends to relax after a tiring week. We would recommend the cookies and cream waffles but you can also customise to your own taste.

4) **Kova Patisserie:** Located in the centre of Chinatown, this bakery is famous for its mille crepe cake which, despite costing around £7.00, is said to taste phenomenal. As well as this, customers can also buy items such as bubble tea, souffles and tarts which have a much lower cost. This shop is part of a chain of bakeries, which are in other locations like South Kensington and Battersea. The bakery is open from 11am-10:30pm most days, so is a good place to stop by next time you are in London.

Armitha Panchalingam & Praneeta Karjodka (HBS)



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