

# The Royal Marsden: Chelsea Walking Map

Inspiring you to be part of an active Royal Marsden



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## The Dovehouse Green Loop (18mins 1.2km)

Available in all seasons, on pavements and footpaths.

Leave St Luke's Gardens and cross Sydney Street towards Chelsea Farmer's Market, an eclectic mix of quality independent shops, garden centre and cafes. Wander through the area to explore spaces in Chelsea that often go unnoticed and enter the corner of Dovehouse Green.



Dovehouse Green was an old King's Road burial ground that was re-landscaped for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The Green is now an attractive garden with a lovely display of Spring flowers and some original tombstones around the edge. It is laid out with crossing paths, an obelisk and seating to provide a quiet, shady spot to sit among the trees and shrubs away from the bustle of King's Road.

Return to the hospital along Manresa Road, considered to be the third most expensive street in Britain. Observe the historical features of the buildings and different styles of architecture. Finally, discover the rewilding of 'Serenity Forest' on the corner of Chelsea Square, near the hospital. A tranquil and nourishing space for hospital patients and the local community – SUGi [sugiproject.com](http://sugiproject.com)



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[royalmarsden.nhs.uk](http://royalmarsden.nhs.uk)

[royalmarsden.org](http://royalmarsden.org)

[livingstreets.org.uk](http://livingstreets.org.uk)



This map was designed with the help of patients, staff and volunteers from The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust.

*"I like to walk to the next bus stop before going home, so that I have time to reflect and go back to being a parent"* - Outpatient

There are three walking routes which offer a starting point to explore the local area. They are of differing lengths and can be done in part, as single or multiple loops, depending on your time and fitness level. Where possible, the routes take you away from roads with higher levels of traffic and use quiet ways that highlight Chelsea's local features and points of interest. All routes are suitable for wheelchair users.

## St Luke's Gardens Loop (15mins 1.0km)

Nearest park corner 3mins 0.2km

Available in all seasons, on pavements and footpaths.

Enjoy a quiet, peaceful place away from the hubbub and traffic just around the corner from the hospital. Walk along Cale Street and notice the seats in the courtyard of Imperial College, which are perfect to appreciate the warmth of the sun during Autumn. Compare different door styles and colours in Guthrie Street before crossing busy Sydney Street to enter St Luke's Gardens.

*"Sometimes you just need to breathe fresh air and focus on something different"* - Outpatient



St Luke's Church is Grade I with Grade II gardens - according to English Heritage. The first part of the gardens offer multi-use sports zones and a soft surface children's play area. Next to borders planted for all-year seasonal interest, there are many seats for spectators to watch the world go by. Another area of the gardens has been landscaped with formal flower beds including roses and trees, to provide shade, shelter and interest throughout the year.

St. Luke's is one of the first Neo-Gothic churches to be built in London in 1820. The 60ft high nave is the tallest of any parish church in London, and the tower reaches a height of 142 ft. It is worth exploring inside to see the stained-glass windows, café and where the author Charles Dickens was married.



# The Embankment and Albert Bridge (37mins 2.5km)

Each side of this route to the Embankment only takes 16 minutes.

Available in all seasons, on pavements and footpaths.

Chelsea began life as a Saxon village and is named after the chalk riverbank which runs alongside the River Thames. The area has adapted through the years to become a busy riverside town, a royal suburb and the artists' quarter of London. Many famous people of the past including Henry VIII and Sir Thomas More have lived here (see the map in Roper's Garden).

The King's Road has existed since King Charles travelled along it to Kew Gardens, but through the years has become known for its iconic fashion, culture, and music. It is worth exploring Chelsea Town Hall with its library, clock, registry office and range of unusual boutique shops along King's Road on a drizzly day!



Leave King's Road and head towards the River Thames, looking for the Blue Plaques and architectural details along Chelsea Manor Street and Cheyne Gardens. [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

The Embankment Gardens contain spring and summer bedding, trees, shrubs and grass areas with several attractive sculptures. They are situated alongside the Chelsea Embankment with views across The River Thames to Battersea Park. [www.batterseapark.org](http://www.batterseapark.org) [www.goparks.london](http://www.goparks.london)



Take care crossing Oakley Street to continue along the Embankment, walking towards Chelsea Old Church and Roper's Gardens or cross Albert Bridge, a rare mix of 3 bridge designs, to Battersea Park. Roper's Gardens is a small, quiet sunken garden created from a WW2 bomb blast. It has sheltered seating, sculptures and shrub areas, including a beautiful cherry tree which marks the introduction of Judo to the UK. There is also an interesting map that shows where many famous historical characters lived.

Return towards the hospital via Old Church Street, which is the oldest street in Chelsea. It was home to the recording studios, **Sound Techniques**, known to many famous 1960s bands and still includes the designer shoe shop **Manolo Blahnik**. No. 56, The Rectory has the largest private garden in London next to Buckingham Palace. Cross the King's Road, turning right to walk briefly alongside Carlyle Square Gardens, before turning left into Manresa Road, Chelsea Square and back to the hospital entrance.

**"The dots have been joined to make it easier to find unusual places. I had no idea these places existed"** - Volunteer