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Holland Park

Holland Park is beautiful.

It looks like a real forest and is a park with millions of visitors and gardens with flowers and Japanese gardens.

It is currently at the centre of the city of Westminster almost, but its origin was farmland as a continuation of the Hyde agricultural land (now Hyde Park) and Kensington Gardens and then Holland (now Holland Park).

One suggestion would be to walk from Marble Arch across Hyde Park, then Kensington Gardens and then to arrive to Holland Park.

A splendid walk of few miles.



Holland Park

It's about 22 hectares (54 acres) in area and is considered one of the most romantic and peaceful parks of West London, it's more rugged and rural than the Royal Parks of Kensington Gardens and Regents Park.

There are always new areas to discover.

The northern half or so of the park is semi-wild woodland, the central section around the ruins of Holland House is more formal with several garden areas, and the southernmost section is used for sport – which has tennis courts, children's playground.

History



The Earl of Holland

The history of Holland Park makes an interesting tale for history buffs and horticulturalists alike.

The park surrounds a Jacobean mansion, Holland House, named after its second owner, the Earl of Holland, whose wife was the first person in England to successfully grow dahlias.

In the 19th century, Holland House became a hub of political and literary activity, visited by Disraeli and Lord Byron amongst others, but was largely destroyed by German bombs during WWII.

These days, dahlias are still grown.



Geometrically arranged garden



The Orangery – which currently houses art and pottery exhibitions and is sometimes used for weddings





Wall pictures at Holland Park

The northern area is very bucolic and still quite rural, attracting a fair amount of wildlife to this semi-wild woodland area of the park.

You're likely to spot a peacock or two as well as a number of other animals.



Peacock in Holland Park



Formal Gardens in Holland park



Rose Garden in Holland Park



Part of the orangery

In the central section of the park, you'll find the ruins of the old Holland House mansion. There's not a lot to see as far as the house is concerned, but the gardens make up for it.

Near the former mansion is the Dutch Garden, a meticulously maintained geometric garden.



Dutch Garden, photo 1



Dutch Garden, photo 2



Dutch Garden, photo 3

The most popular garden is the beautiful Kyoto Garden (1991) and the Fukushima Memorial Garden (2012) - donated by the Chamber of Commerce of Kyoto in 1991. The Garden has a beautiful waterfall and pond with plenty of large koi.

There are colourful plants and shrubs only found in Japan.
Once you are in the Kyoto Garden you feel as though you have been transported to Japan, it's so beautiful, tranquil and surreal.



Entrance



Koi in Kyoto Garden, inside Holland Park

In the summer, an open-air theatre and opera are staged in the park, it also has a youth hostel, an oversized chess set and the Belvedere restaurant, which even has a history: Dating back to the 17th century, the Belvedere was once the summer ballroom to the Jacobean mansion, that was once Holland House. The interiors are similar to a Venetian mansion after a dramatic redesign by David Collins.



Historical Belvedere restaurant inside Holland Park



Interior of the historical Belvedere restaurant