

# suburban stories

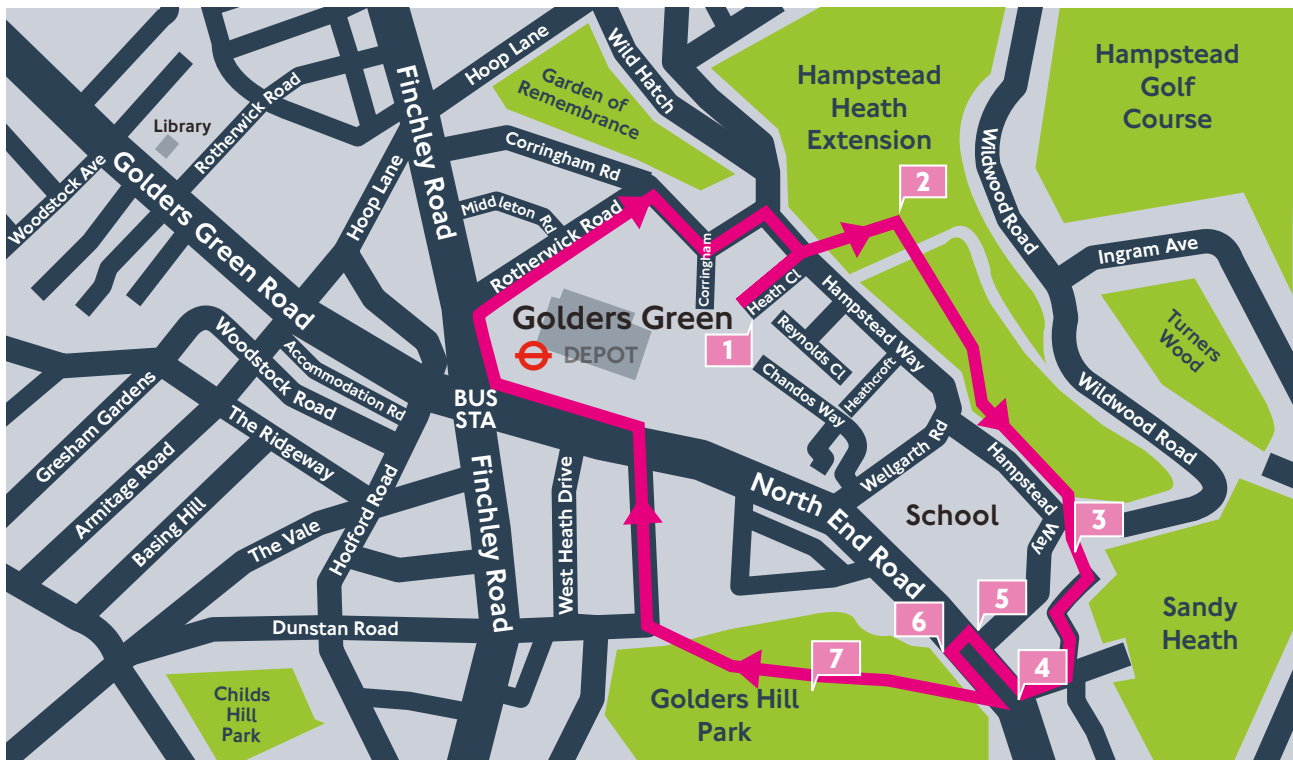
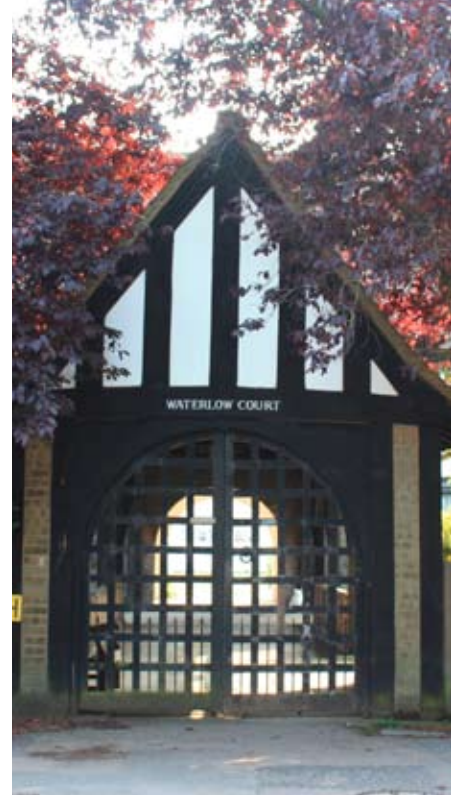
## Golders Green walk

From Japanese restaurants to Hampstead Heath secrets London Transport Museum invites you to take a closer look at Golders Green. The area is known by many for its diverse communities and proximity to Hampstead Garden Suburb. But what does it mean to the people that live there? Let our team of local residents guide you around some of the area's best sites that they believe shape this suburb's unique identity.

There are three different walks to explore Golders Green: orange, blue and pink.

In need of some fresh air and green spaces? Try the **pink** walk: Passing through the Heath Extension and Golders Hill Park, this route is perfect for escaping the hustle and bustle of the city and getting in touch with the area's rural roots. A leisurely 90 minute stroll.

Think we've missed a place? Why not visit our interactive map and add your own highlights. [www.ltmuseum.org/learning](http://www.ltmuseum.org/learning)



### Practical details

#### Transport:

All walks start and finish at Golders Green Underground station which is on the Edgware branch of the Northern Line. Buses that stop at or near to Golders Green include 13, 82, 102, 103, 210, 226, 240, 245, 260, 268, 328, 460, H2, H3

#### Walking conditions

Mainly pavements  
Some slopes and uneven ground  
Some paths unsuitable for wheelchairs

 = Points of interest

#### Walking tips

Wear sensible shoes  
Carry water and snacks for energy  
Pack a waterproof in case it rains  
Be careful around busy roads  
Be aware of your personal safety  
Walking in the daylight is recommended

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### 1 Waterlow Court

Almost hidden at the end of Heath Close (off Hampstead Way) Waterlow Court was built in 1909 as flats for single working women, providing a friendly and secure community atmosphere – rather like a college (or even a nunnery?). It offers an early sign of the residential vision for the area. When you visit please respect the privacy of the residents.

### 2 Anti-Aircraft Battery

When war broke out in 1939, an anti-aircraft battery of four guns moved in to protect Golders Green. There were searchlights criss-crossing the night sky and a radar installation. A barrage balloon, like a floating elephant, hung in the air near Wylde's Farm. Children could still play in the nearby fields. It was an exciting time to live there.

### 3 Wylde's Farm

Wylde's Farm, known at one time as Collins Farm, was once a haven for writers and artists. Home to John Linnell in the 1820s, VIPs such as John Constable and Charles Dickens were frequent visitors. Raymond Unwin, Hampstead Garden Suburb planner, moved here in 1906 and the house became the suburb's development office. It's a beautiful link between the area's rural past and suburban present. When you visit please respect the privacy of the residents.

### 4 Old Bull and Bush Pub

One of London's most famous pubs, the Old Bull and Bush was immortalised by music-hall star Florrie Forde's invitation to 'Come, come, come and make eyes at me, down at the Old Bull & Bush'. Its name stems from the yew trees that were supposedly planted by William Hogarth, the 18th century painter who drank here, and the tavern's past life as a farm. A great place to stop and rest on your walk.

### 5 North End Secret Underground Station

Did you know that hidden under Hampstead Way is a ghost station? Originally to be called North End Station, it would have been the deepest on London's Underground. It's the only London Tube station to be abandoned before completion. You can still see the concrete blockhouse entrance in Hampstead Way.

### 6 Ivy House

As the London Jewish Cultural Centre, local people use Ivy House and its cafe throughout the year. First built in the 1700s, the house acquired its distinctive 'Tudorbethan' exterior a century later. In 1912, it was bought by the famous Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova as her suburban home and dance studio. The swans living in the garden pond echoed her signature role in 'The Dying Swan' by Fokine.

### 7 Golders Hill Park

This park is a favourite open space for residents of all ages, in all seasons. The alphabet of attractions stretching down the hill-side ranges from A (aviary) to Z (breeding zoo). Formal gardens, children's play-area, tennis-courts, pond with ducks and flamingoes - even deer and an exotic Butterfly House. You'll need to refresh yourself at the famous ice-cream cafe!

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Fancy a bite to eat? Try the **orange** walk: Taking you past some of Golders Green's diverse communities, with plenty of places to stop and sample some of the local cuisine. A leisurely one hour stroll.

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### 1 Golders Green Tube and Bus Station

The rural fields of Golders Green were transformed with the coming of the Hampstead Tube in 1907, making this London's first Tube-created suburb. Today Golders Green, as you can hear, is still a busy public transport hub. The Tube, bus and National Express coach networks act as lifelines for the communities that live here, connecting them to inner and outer London and beyond.

### 2 Golders Green Hippodrome

The Hippodrome was originally built in 1913 as a 3000-seat music hall for North London. This social hub was used as a theatre until 1968 and was well loved and remembered for its annual pantomimes, scout shows and performances of the latest plays coming in or out of the West End. The theatre's cheap seats however were rumoured to be very uncomfortable! It is now a Christian Prayer Hall.

### 3 St. Alban's Church

St Alban's Church celebrates its centenary in August 2009. Services were originally held in the current church hall. The church, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (who also designed the famous red telephone boxes), was considered strikingly modern on completion in 1933. Can you spot its unusual outside pulpit? Desmond Tutu, South African cleric, activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, was curate here in the 1960s. Today the church welcomes a thriving international congregation.

### 4 and 8 Restaurants

Golders Green's restaurants (there are about 45 of them!) reflect its cosmopolitan community. Around the station you can find Japanese, Korean, Italian, Chinese, Hungarian and Halal eateries and supermarkets. At the end of Golders Green Road there are a diverse range of kosher restaurants, some of which have been here many years. While you are here why not stop and try some sushi or some falafel, or a salt beef sandwich?

### 5 Hindu Temple

Since 1982 Golders Green has counted a Hindu Temple in its diverse mix of religious buildings. Originally a Presbyterian Church, the Shree Swaminarayan Temple is used by the local community along with people from as far away as Harrow and Woolwich. Its community-focused activities make it popular amongst Golders Green residents, especially at Diwali, the Festival of Lights, when everyone is invited to join in the celebrations.

### 6 Dunstan Road Synagogue

The first meeting of the Golders Green Synagogue was held in July 1915 in the Ionic Cinema, now part of Sainsbury's supermarket on Finchley Road. Subsequent Jewish services were held in the Hall of St Albans Church with permission from its vicar. The building in Dunstan Road was consecrated in 1922; it is Grade II listed and is of both architectural and spiritual significance to its 500 strong community.

### 7 Woodstock Avenue

Built in 1909, the nearby Woodstock Estate was one of Golders Green's first housing estates. Half-timbered, tiled and cottage-like, their architectural style was considered quite radical at the time and set the tone for various suburbs across London during the inter-war period. What do you think of the houses you see along this street?

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Feeling reflective? Try the **blue** walk: Featuring the area's many religious buildings, this tour offers an introduction to the community's many different faiths, and offers lots of places to rest, pause and reflect. A leisurely 45 minute stroll.

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Feeling reflective? The [blue](#) walk features many of the area's religious buildings and offers an introduction to the community's many faiths with lots of places to rest, pause and reflect.



### 1 Hoop Lane Unitarian Church

Hoop Lane Unitarian Church celebrates the unity of worship and welcomes visitors from any established faith or none. It boasts a stained glass window and wall hangings, and a beautiful mural by English artist Ivon Hitchens. The first woman minister in London served here from 1926 to 1930. This dynamic establishment offers children's activities, concerts, lectures, poetry readings and Workers' Education Association classes at the premises.

### 2 The first house

The first new house in Golders Green since the coming of the Hampstead Tube is today the Central Hotel. Note the new sapling you see outside. It has recently replaced the mature and fondly remembered tree that stood there since 1906 when the house was originally built. What will this one look like in 100 years time?

### 3 St. Edward the Confessor Roman Catholic Church

St Edward's Church dates from 1916 and serves the increasingly cosmopolitan congregations of Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb. It has many beautiful features including stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross as oil paintings. Can you spot the 10 statues of English saints? Mass is typically accompanied by the church's excellent choir.

### 4 Express Dairies

Imagine that Golders Green's lush fields were once home to herds of cattle providing milk for the growing residential population. Express Dairies, known for their distinctive blue and white milk floats, had a depot and shop here. Before the Second World War the milk floats were horse-drawn. At the sound of the horses' hooves people rushed out of their homes to buy milk.

### 5 Hoop Lane Jewish Cemetery

The Jewish Year Book 1897-98 reflected that '...a new cemetery at Golders-green was made ready for its melancholy purpose this last year'. The cemetery at Hoop Lane has the curious distinction of being one of the few used by both the Orthodox Sephardim (Jews who came originally from Spain and Portugal) whose gravestones lie flat, and the Reform Congregation of the West London Synagogue of British Jews, whose gravestones stand upright.

### 6 Golders Green Crematorium

Golders Green Crematorium is London's oldest, offering services from Humanists to people of no particular faith. The gardens are a tranquil space, with trees, shrubs and flowers dedicated to the departed and a Children's Memorial Garden. A summer house, a cafe and a pond complete the site and offer a quiet place for reflection.

### 7 Number 2 Meadway

The first service of the North Western Reform Synagogue, now situated in Alyth Gardens, was held here on Friday 16th June 1933. The Jewish Chronicle reported that Reverend Reinhart officiated and brought choristers and some fifty people welcomed the Sabbath in the drawing room with extraordinary enthusiasm. From its humble beginnings the community has grown in strength and now numbers more than 2000 people.

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