



EALING

HAMPSTEAD

HACKNEY

MANOR PARK

HYDE PARK

CLAPHAM

WIMBLEDON

NORWOOD

GREENWICH

BROMLEY

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A GUIDE TO LONDON'S  
ELM TREE HERITAGE

## WHERE TO HUNT LONDON'S ELM TREES

### 1. THE MARYLEBONE ELM

At over 100 years old the huge Huntingdon elm tree on Marylebone High Street has survived the development of London and World War Two bombing raids. It is located on the north of the street, near the peaceful Memorial Garden of Rest where a church, was not as lucky in the war as the elm, once stood.

- 📍 NORTH END OF MARYLEBONE HIGH STREET, NW1 5JD
- 🚶 REGENT'S PARK OR BAKER STREET

### 2. ST PANCRAS CHURCHYARD

Behind St Pancras rail station you'll find an 18th century church with, among other things, a magnificent weeping Camberwell elm. The churchyard is also home to Thomas Edison's gravestones that are built around a magnificent tree, and a mausoleum that inspired Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's design for London's infamous red telephone box!

- 📍 ST PANCRAS CHURCHYARD, PANCRAS ROAD, NW1 1UL
- 🚶 KINGS CROSS ST PANCRAS OR MORNINGTON CRESCENT

### 3. HYDE PARKS ELMs

Site of the 1851 Great Exhibition, Hyde Park has long had elm trees, and such an up roar was caused when they were to be felled to make way for the exhibition's glasshouse that two huge elms were incorporated within it. Today, you can still find elms in the park. On the north east corner of the tennis courts are two elms near the exhibition's former site, whilst a crescent of elms can be found at the bandstand. You can also find seven recently planted disease-resistant elms at Speakers Corner, and five minutes walk to the south west are two large Siberian elms.

- 📍 HYDE PARK, LONDON
- 🚶 MARBLE ARCH OR SOUTH KENSINGTON

### 4. GORDON SQUARE

A dwarf weeping wych elm can be found in the southwest corner of Gordon Square. The square was for a time the centre of the Bloomsbury Group, which included writer Virginia Woolf. Woolf and her siblings, including painter Vanessa Bell, lived at No. 46, in the early 1900s with many of the great artists, writers and thinkers of the time visiting them during this period - and probably went for a stroll past a Gordon Square elm whilst there!

- 📍 GORDON SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY
- 🚶 RUSSELL SQUARE, EUSTON SQUARE OR GOODGE STREET

### 5. THE WEMBLEY ELM

A stones throw from Wembley Stadium stands a grand, century-old elm tree in the car park of the Arch pub. The elm will have seen the dragons for the first football matches played here and millions of visitors stream past to the remarkable Empire Exhibition in the 1920s which saw displays from 56 countries around the world!

- 📍 THE ARCH PUB, HARROW RD, WEMBLEY, HA9 6LL
- 🚶 WEMBLEY CENTRAL

### 6. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

A wych elm is one of the 34 species of trees included in the Ice Age Trail in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, next to the Imperial War Museum. The trail shows the trees that began to colonise Britain 7,000 years ago as the huge ice sheets began to retreat.

- 📍 IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LAMBETH, SE1 6HZ
- 🚶 LAMBETH NORTH

### 7. LADYWELL FIELDS ELM

On the river bank of Ladywell Fields you can find a huge Klemmer elm, whose great size and rarity has led to a 'Great Trees of London' plaque. This variety of elm is from Belgium and the name recognises their great height and speed of growth, coming from the Flemish for climber. The Waterlink Way cycle route runs through the park, ending in Greenwich near the Cutty Sark.

- 📍 LADYWELL FIELDS, LEWISHAM
- 🚶 LADYWELL

### 8. TOOTING BEC COMMON

On a sunny summers day Tooting Bec Common is home to swimmers flocking to one of the largest pools in Britain, the Tooting Bec Lido. But all year round you can visit its elms. Many were lost due to Dutch elm disease but surviving trees include a large European White Elm, thought to be less attractive to the beetle that spreads the disease than other varieties, by the railway bridge in the north east corner. You can also find elms on the south side of the duck pond.

- 📍 TOOTING BEC COMMON, WANDSWORTH
- 🚶 TOOTING BEC OR BALHAM

### 9. NINE ELMs

Opposite the American embassy, on Nine Elms Lane, next to the Thames, are the nine elm trees that are the current embodiment of the area's name, 'Nine Elms'. The 'Sapporo autumn gold' elms here were planted from root stock supplied by the University of Wisconsin as part of the 'Elms Across Europe' campaign, which sought to replace elms lost to Dutch Elm disease across the UK in the 1970's. The first trees were planted by the then American Ambassador long before the American Embassy was at Nine Elms. The 'Elms Across Europe' campaign led to the launch of The Conservation Foundation in 1982.

- 📍 NINE ELMs, VAUXHALL
- 🚶 VAUXHALL OR BATTERSEA PARK

## REVEAL LONDON'S ELM HERITAGE

### 10. MUSEUM OF WATER & STEAM

In the seventeenth century London's first water pipes were made of elm because of the wood's unique resilience to water. At the London Museum of Water & Steam you can find an example of a boring machine that was used to create the pipes. Elms were planted prolifically throughout the Thames Basin to produce London's pipes and it was said you could hear the sound of the boring machines echoing throughout the countryside at this time. Whilst there you can also find the huge elm down the road at St Paul's Park.

- 📍 LMWS, GREEN DRAGON LANE, BRENTFORD, TW8 6DN
- 🚶 GUNNERSBURY

### 11. HOLLY LODGE CHEMIST

Now only known through the occasional use of Slippery Elm as a herbal remedy for sore throats and stomach pains, the elm was once a common stock in pharmacies, used to clean the skin and treat wounds, giddiness and even leprosy! In Richmond Park's Holly Lodge Centre near Richmond Gate you can find an example of an old Victorian Chemist which would have stocked different forms of the elm for use in medicine.

- 📍 HOLLY LODGE CENTRE, RICHMOND PARK, TW10 5HS
- 🚶 RICHMOND

### 12. BRENT ARCHIVES

Following the Great War there was a surge in demand for affordable housing. To help, the visionary architect Ernest Trobridge suggested a return to traditional timber houses made of strong elm wood allowing a cheap, light, quickly built but robust house. Many of Trobridge's houses were built in Brent, where his elm houses can still be found, whilst his imaginative architectural designs and notes are available in Brent Archives.

- 📍 GEORGE FURNACE HOUSE, GRANGE RD, WILLESDEN, NW10 2QY
- 🚶 WILLESDEN GREEN

### 13. ACTON PARK SCULPTURE

In Ealing a 28ft sculpture made from a wych elm which succumbed to Dutch elm disease adorns Acton Park. Owls, fairies, flowers and dragonflies can be found in the fantasy world created by Dennis Heath near the park's main entrance.

- 📍 ACTON PARK, EALING, W3 6BD
- 🚶 ACTON CENTRAL

### 14. BRENTFORD LOCK GATES

Many lock gates are made of elms because of its water resistant qualities and a fine example can be seen in West London at the Hanwell flight of six locks which raises the Grand Union Canal by 53ft. At the Norwood Green end of the flight is Three Bridges, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel to carry road, rail and canal traffic.

- 📍 HANWELL LOCKS
- 🚶 BOSTON MANOR

### 15. SEVEN SISTERS MOSAIC

On the wall behind a bench on the platform of Seven Sisters tube station you will find a mosaic of seven elm trees, created by Transport for London designer Hans Unger. The mosaic is in reference to seven elms which were planted in a circle in this area and is from where Seven Sisters took its name in the 18th century. Tottenham's elms are also referenced in poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy's poem The English Elms.

- 📍 PLATFORM OF SEVEN SISTERS TUBE STATION
- 🚶 SEVEN SISTERS

### 16. ST MAGNUS THE MARTYR

Although Old London Bridge has become famous in nursery rhymes for falling down due to a fire, it actually lasted for several centuries thanks to the elm-wood piles that kept it out the water. Inside the St Magnus the Martyr church, which once stood at the end of London Bridge, you can find an incredibly detailed model of the Old London Bridge as it appeared in the 1400s, complete with King Henry V.

- 📍 LOWER THAMES ST, EC3R 6DN
- 🚶 MONUMENT

### 17. TYBURN CONVENT

The Tyburn Tree was an elm on the Tyburn River where now stands Tyburn Convent. Between 1196 and 1783 hangings took place off the branches and it was a major landmark at the time, close to a busy route into London. It was no coincidence that the hangings took place here as they showed passing travellers the power of the law.

- 📍 TYBURN CONVENT, HYDE PARK PLACE, W2 2LJ
- 🚶 MARBLE ARCH

### 18. HIGH ELMs COUNTRY PARK

The rare White-Tree Hairstreak butterfly depends on the elms for their survival and the decline of the tree has led to a drop in their population. However, you can still find these butterflies in some areas of London. The aptly named High Elms Country Park is one of these areas, as is Ealing's Horsenden Hill.

- 📍 HIGH ELMs COUNTRY PARK, BROMLEY
- 🚶 ORPINGTON OR CHELSFIELD

## How to spot an elm

Asymmetrical leaves with jagged edges & pointed tips

Grey-brown bark, with deep fissures

Seeds with light green paper-thin wings by April, turning brown & dropping in May

Map produced by

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION