

# KENSINGTON SUMMER GUIDE 2025



opportunity **kensington**

**HIGH  
STREET  
KEN.**

DISCOVER  
**SOUTH  
KENSINGTON**

# EXPLORE CULTURE IN KENSINGTON

Discover a vibrant mix of events and activities that bring Kensington to life over the summer. From exhibitions and hidden gardens, there's always something new to explore.

## 1. LEIGHTON HOUSE

Step inside the ornate former home of Victorian artist Frederic Leighton, featuring the dazzling Arab Hall.

- **Current Exhibition:** Victorian Treasures from Cecil French and Scott Thomas Buckle, on until 21st September



For more info, visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums/leighton-house](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums/leighton-house)

## 2. DESIGN MUSEUM

Explore cutting-edge design from fashion to architecture at the award-winning Design Museum.

- **More than Human**, 11th July – 5th October
- **Splash! A Century of Swimming and Style**, on until 17th August
- **PLATFORM: Bethan Laura Wood**, free display – until January 2026
- **Future Observatory: Tomorrow's Wardrobe**, free display – until August 2025
- **Designer Maker User**, free collection display



For more, info visit [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)



## 3. SAMBOURNE HOUSE

Discover the beautiful house of illustrator Linley Sambourne, packed with Victorian charm.

For more info, [www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums/sambourne-house](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums/sambourne-house)



## 4. JAPAN HOUSE LONDON

Experience the very best of Japanese art, design and innovation at the cultural home of Japan in the UK.

- **The Craft of Carpentry: Drawing Life from Japan's Forests**, on until 6th July
- **Pictograms: Iconic Japanese Designs**, 30th July – 9th November



For more info, visit [www.japanhouselondon.uk](http://www.japanhouselondon.uk)



## 5. KENSINGTON PALACE

Explore the birthplace of Queen Victoria and home to young royals for over 300 years.

- **Dress Codes**, on until 30th November

For more info, visit [www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace)



## 6. SERPENTINE SOUTH

Serpentine South hosts free art exhibitions year-round, as well as the iconic annual architecture commission the Serpentine Pavilion and this year's fun Play Pavilion in the park.

- **Serpentine Pavilion 2025: Marina Tabassum Architects: A Capsule in Time**, 6th June – 26th October
- **Sir Peter Cook: Play Pavilion**, 11th June–10th August
- **Giuseppe Penone: Thoughts in the Roots**, on until 7th September

For more info, visit [www.serpentinegalleries.org](http://www.serpentinegalleries.org)



## 7. SERPENTINE NORTH

Visit the free contemporary art gallery housed in a former gunpowder store, plus a sleek Zaha Hadid designed café.

- **Arpita Singh: Remembering**, on until 27th July

For more info, visit [www.serpentinegalleries.org](http://www.serpentinegalleries.org)



## 8. HYDE PARK

Stroll, row, or cycle through London's most iconic green space!

- **BST Hyde Park**, 27th June – 13th July
- **Open House**, 30th June – 3rd July & 7th July – 10 July

For more info, visit [www.royalparksofuk.org/visit/parks/hyde-park](http://www.royalparksofuk.org/visit/parks/hyde-park)



## 9. ROYAL ALBERT HALL

From Proms to punk and everything in between. Explore a London landmark this summer.

- **BBC Proms**, 18th July – 13th September
- **Royal Albert Hall Tours**, most days
- **Café Bar, Afternoon Tea and Verdi Italian Kitchen**, open to the public

For more info, visit [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)



## 10. KENSINGTON GARDENS

Stroll through tree-lined paths, flower walks, grand vistas and cultural landmarks including the Albert Memorial, the Italian Gardens and Kensington Palace.

For more info, visit [www.royalparksofuk.org/visit/parks/kensington-gardens](http://www.royalparksofuk.org/visit/parks/kensington-gardens)



## 11. ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC MUSEUM

Experience rock history up close – see Kurt Cobain's legendary Martin Guitar – on display for the first time in Europe alongside fascinating musical treasures.

- **Kurt Cobain Unplugged**, on until 18th November

For more info, visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/museum](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/museum)



## 12. OPERA HOLLAND PARK

Opera Holland Park Theatre is a canopied open-air auditorium in the gorgeous gardens in Holland Park. Enjoy wonderful opera and events throughout their summer festival.

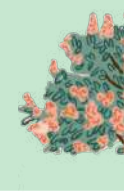
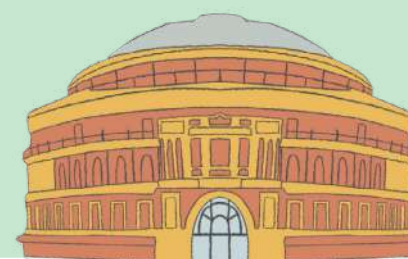
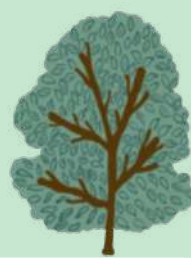
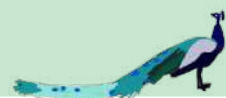
- **The Royal Ballet School**, 2 – 5 July
- **Songs on the Steps**, 16 May – 25 July
- **The Flying Dutchman**, 27 May – 14 June
- **La Traviata**, 19 July – 2 August

For more info, visit [operahollandpark.com](http://operahollandpark.com)



## AUDIO TOURS

Scan the QR code to listen to our curated audio tours for Holland Park, including the Japanese-inspired Kyoto Gardens, and Kensington Gardens featuring Kensington Palace and lots more.





# Summer in Kensington



Follow us on Instagram for daily updates  
@highstreet\_kensington  
@discover.south.kensington



For more places to explore in Kensington,  
visit [www.highstreetkensington.co.uk](http://www.highstreetkensington.co.uk)  
[www.discoverouthken.com](http://www.discoverouthken.com)



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## HIGH STREET KENSINGTON:

For a complete guide to High Street Kensington, including parks, where to stay, shop and eat visit our website  
[www.highstreetkensington.co.uk](http://www.highstreetkensington.co.uk)



## DISCOVER SOUTH KENSINGTON:

With many cultural venues within walking distance, plan a great day out this summer with exhibitions, events, music, films and more on our website –  
[www.discoversouthken.com](http://www.discoversouthken.com)