

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

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



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



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



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



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



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



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.royalparcs.org.uk/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



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.royalparcs.org.uk/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



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



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.





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



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