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KINGSTON TO HAMPTON COURT

What you'll see

On this ride you will leave bustling Kingston town and within moments enter a wonderful country park and see deer roaming free. From there you cross the road to visit the charming gardens of the resplendent historic Hampton Court Palace. Hampton Court Palace was originally built for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, then acquired by Henry VIII who added to it, as did William III in the 1600s. In the park and the gardens there are cafés, toilets, a playground and a maze. If planning to visit the palace allow 3 hours just for that. (6 miles)

- A** From the Ancient Market Place leave by Thames Street and turn left onto Kingston Bridge.
- B** Continue on the shared path to the zebra crossing and, if you're not comfortable crossing two lanes on your bike to get into the right hand lane, dismount to use the crossing across Hampton Court Road. You can then walk the short distance to the Church Grove Gate into the park.
- C** Enter Bushy Park and cycle straight ahead through double gates. (Instead, if you wish to extend your trip, you can make the circuit of Bushy Park shown by a dashed line).
- D** After crossing a stream fork left, taking the unsurfaced path through the trees to the gate. Dismount to use the zebra crossing and enter Hampton Court Gardens by Lion Gate, designed by Sir Christopher Wren as part of a grand scheme for a north entrance to the palace, later abandoned.
- E** Please wheel bikes through the garden, carpeted with daffodils and crocuses in spring, taking signs for the Maze and the Tiltyard Café to the front of the palace.
- F** Join the shared riverside path and head left to cycle back to Kingston on the shared path, eventually re-crossing Kingston Bridge to the start.

