



Mighty oaks: Tottenham's oldest tree is more than 450 years old NOEL TREACY, TOTTENHAM TREES

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Tree-mendous trips

BRANCH OUT AND EXPLORE SOME OF THE GREATEST TREES IN THE CAPITAL

WITH National Tree Week returning to the UK this week, why not celebrate by visiting some of London's oldest and mightiest trees?

Here are MetroTravel's suggestions, with advice on how to get there.

THE TOTTERIDGE YEW

Estimated to be more than 2,000 years old, the yew is believed to be the oldest tree in the capital.

You'll find the wondrously gnarled and craggy specimen in the yard of St Andrew's Church in Totteridge, north London.

How to get there: Head for High Barnet or Totteridge & Whetstone stations [Northern line]. The church is approximately a 15-minute walk from either station. Bus route 251 runs past St Andrew's Church.

THE BRUCE CASTLE OAK, TOTTENHAM

This huge oak tree was a recent runner-up in a public poll conducted by the Woodland Trust to find the Tree of the Year 2018.

Estimated to be more than 450 years old, it dates back to the time of Henry VIII. The majestic landmark sits near the centre of Bruce Castle Park, which also houses Bruce Castle Museum.

How to get there: It's a five-minute walk from Bruce Grove station [London Overground]. Bus routes 123 and 243 stop outside the park.

SWEET CHESTNUTS IN GREENWICH PARK

One of London's Royal Parks, Greenwich Park has trees dating back hundreds of years.

The park was designed by André Le Nôtre, gardener to Louis XIV of France. He installed the park's avenue of sweet [Spanish] chestnut trees in the early 1660s. With loving care, they continue to thrive today.

How to get there: Take the Jubilee line to North Greenwich, then catch the 188 bus to Greenwich Park gate. Alternatively, take the DLR to Cutty

Sark for Maritime Greenwich or Greenwich station, or catch a boat to Greenwich Pier.

KEW'S TREETOP WALKWAY

The arboretum and gardens at Kew have more than 14,000 trees, including several different species of oak.

The biggest in the collection is a mighty chestnut-leaved oak near the Waterlily House. It's actually the largest of its kind in the country.

One of the best ways to view Kew's spectacular collections is from the gardens' treetop walkway, 18 metres above ground.

How to get there: Head to Kew Gardens station [District line and London Overground]. Bus route 65 stops outside the entrance.

THE PLANE TREES OF BERKELEY SQUARE

Londoners fell in love with the plane tree in the late 1600s. Thanks to the fact the species sheds its bark regularly, the trees have not been blackened by London's smoggy air.

They have become so ubiquitous here that they are known simply as

the London Plane. The majestic plane trees in this Mayfair square date back to 1789.

A valuation in 2008 estimated one to be worth £750,000, making it the most valuable tree in London.

How to get there: Bus route 22 passes through Berkeley Square. It's also a five-minute walk from Green Park station [Jubilee, Piccadilly and Victoria lines].

RICHMOND PARK ROYAL OAK

One of the capital's oldest royal oaks is the 750-year old specimen in Richmond Park.

With a distinctive, hollowed-out trunk, this ancient tree sits near the centre of the park. Find it close to Pen Ponds, on the path between Sidmouth Wood and Queen Elizabeth's Plantation.

How to get there: Several buses run from Richmond, Kingston, Ealing Broadway and Hammersmith. Richmond [District line and London Overground] is the nearest train station.

Plan your travel to see the trees at tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey



Top trees: Greenwich Park's avenue of sweet chestnuts THE ROYAL PARKS

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