

THE THREE HORSESHOES LALEHAM TRAIL, SURREY



EasyTerrain

4 miles
Circular
2 hours

070915



Access Notes



1. The walking route is almost entirely flat.
2. Whilst half the paths are surfaced, the other half are across grass and dirt paths which can be muddy in the winter months and after periods of rain.
3. There are no stiles or kissing gates on route, just one single gate (which is quite generous) and several fairly wide footbridges to negotiate. (Only one of the bridges, across the lock gates, has a single step up to it so the route would be suitable for a rugged pushchair).
4. Dogs are welcome on the permissive paths on Penton Hook Island and a dog waste bin is provided here.

A 4 mile circular pub walk from the Three Horseshoes in Laleham, Surrey.

The Three Horseshoes is a friendly independent pub that's casual enough to be comfortable, whilst smart enough to feel special. The walking route takes in the village highlights, the peaceful Penton Hook Island, a long stretch of the Thames Path and Laleham Park. There is plenty of historical interest, lots of wildlife and boatlife to enjoy on the Thames and even a chance for a paddle.

Getting there

Laleham village is located in the Spelthorne borough of Surrey, beside the River Thames immediately downstream from Staines. The walk starts and finishes at the Three Horseshoes pub which is on the main road through the village, the B376, just south of the church. The pub has its own large car park.

Approximate post code **TW18 1SE**.

Walk Sections



Start to Pumping Station



Leave the pub car park via the vehicle entrance and turn right along the pavement, passing in front of the Three Horseshoes, part of which dates from the early 1600s. Further along on the right you will pass the Dial House, a fine three-storey Queen Anne house with a sun dial blocking one of its central windows.

Soon afterwards you will come to All Saints Church. Pass through the lych gate into the churchyard and you will see the pretty church directly ahead. All Saints Church is

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Grade I listed and dates from the 1100s, but was largely rebuilt around 1600 and the present tower was built c. 1730 to replace a wooden steeple. The churchyard houses the Lucan Memorial and it is here that the Earls of Lucan are buried. The 3rd Earl of Lucan, born in 1800, was the Field Marshall who gave the order for the Charge of Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854.

Take the path which leads you around the left-hand side of the church, taking time to admire the beautiful brick clock tower. The path leads you back out to the pavement, opposite the war memorial. Turn right and follow the pavement as it swings right. Immediately before the mini-roundabout, cross the road (taking care as it can be busy). Turn right on the pavement and then immediately left into Staines Road, swapping to the right-hand pavement as soon as you are able.

Follow the pavement passing the school on the right and, opposite this, Yew Tree Lodge on the left. This lodge, with the ornamental chimneys, was formerly called High Elms Lodge and was the lodge for the nearby High Elms Regency villa. Walk further along Staines Lane, passing the side road, Beech Tree Lane across to the left. Continue just as far as the blue railings on the left, marking the site of the Water Intake Pumping Station.

1 → 2 Pumping Station to Penton Hook Island



Look to the right at this point and you will see the water channel leading from the water intake station. This is where 200 million gallons of water from the River Thames is pumped along to the Queen Mary Reservoir every day. In turn, the reservoir supplies freshwater to Surrey and London.

Use the designated crossing point to swap to the left-hand pavement and continue heading away from Laleham. After passing just one more property (101B) on the left, turn left onto the signed public footpath, a narrow tarmac footpath between boundary walls. At the end of this path you will come to a T-junction with the lane directly alongside the River Thames, part of the Thames Path.

Turn right along the Thames Path, heading north. As you approach Penton Hook Lock ahead, pass alongside the vehicle barrier and then cross the lock via the bridge over the first set of lock gates. Turn right along the lock side and then fork left at the first path junction to reach a bridge across the weir. Cross this and the next weir crossing to reach the edge of Penton Hook Island.

2 → 3 Penton Hook Island to Town Quay



Take the stone path directly ahead and then stay on the path furthest right, following the edge of the circular island in an anti-clockwise direction. There are several benches on the way round as well as shallow beach-like areas which are ideal for a human or doggie paddle.

Penton Hook Island was originally a peninsular where the natural course of the River Thames forms almost a complete loop. In 1815 the lock was built, cutting through the neck of peninsular and forming the island. Today the uninhabited island is in public ownership and is used for fishing, nature conservation and recreation.

Eventually you will come back to the weir bridges at the neck of the island. Retrace your steps back across the two weir bridges and across the lock gates. Turn right and follow the Thames Path back towards Laleham. Stay on the riverside path and you will pass the back of the water intake station, with its blue railings, on your left.

Where the wide stone lane bends left, keep straight ahead on the narrower path running directly alongside the river. Across on the opposite bank, you will see the first of two boatyards in Laleham, Michael Dennett.

Continue down the Thames Path until you reach Blacksmiths Lane on the left (marked with a blue Local Shops signs pointing to the left). Look across to the opposite riverbank here and you will see the Harris Boatyard. Harris Boatyard has been owned by the Harris family for more than 100 years. Between the two world wars, the yard hosted an annual regatta, building and hiring out dozens of punts and skiffs.

3 → 4 Town Quay to Laleham Park



Do NOT turn down Blacksmiths Lane, instead keep ahead on the Thames Path, passing a very old brick wall on the left. This

is the site of the old Town Quay. From 1197 until the middle of the 1800s the City of London held jurisdiction over the lower Thames as far up as Staines. Barge traffic was almost continuous and the goods carried included coal, timber, rushes, grain, malt and slate. You will see black and white posts in front of the wall, marked with a cross symbol within a shield. These are the old City Posts, designating the City of London's jurisdiction at this quay.

Continue south along the Thames Path which soon widens out to become another access lane. As you reach a road junction, fork right to join the path running through the wide grass verge parkland (with the river on the right and the road on the left). Further along you will pass Burway Rowing Club on the left and next on the left is the walled site of Laleham Abbey.

Laleham House was built by Papworth (architect to the Prince Regent) in 1805 for the Second Earl of Lucan. It stands in 83 acres of parkland, has an imposing neo-classical style and the interior includes marble floors and pillars. Sometime after the 5th Earl had sold the house in 1928 it was used by the nuns of the Community of St Peter (hence the name Laleham Abbey). In 1981 it was converted into private residences.

Continue south along the Thames Path which narrows alongside the road, passing a camp site on the left. Immediately after the camp site, turn left through the gap in the railings and cross the road with care to enter the vehicle entrance for Laleham Park. Keep ahead past the vehicle barrier and continue up to the top of the access lane with the toilet block on your right. Walk forward to reach the edge of the large open grassland of Laleham Park.

4 → 5 Laleham Park to End



Walk at about 11 o'clock across the open grassland. Laleham Park is home to a healthy population of ring-necked parakeets. Originally from Africa and Asia, they have now set up home in Surrey as well as other parts of Britain. They feed on fruit and nuts and, being sociable birds, you may hear their screeches as they keep in touch with one another.

As you approach the tree line in the far corner, bear left and follow the line of the waymarker posts which guide you onto a path through the trees. As you emerge from the first section of trees, walk at about 11 o'clock (keeping to the left of the next tree clump) to reach the next waymarker post. Now walk directly ahead to reach a small car park, heading for the large white sign. Pass through the gap in the railings and turn left along the access drive, Abbey Drive.

As you reach another small parking area on the right, turn right by the parking sign and enter the next section of grassland. Walk directly ahead, with a very old brick wall running on the right. This is the boundary wall for the park's plant nursery. Running in front of the wall is a line of old walnut trees.

Keep ahead past the white house and join the narrow tarmac path which leads you out of the park via an old iron gate. Turn right along the stone track, with the nursery wall still running on the right. You will see a row of small fireplaces built into this section of the wall. Historically these were lit during cool periods of the summer months to help ripen the fruit in the adjoining orchard.

At the junction with the road, turn left along the pavement and follow this heading north back towards the centre of Laleham. Before you reach the centre of the village you will come to the Three Horseshoes on the right for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

