

V&A Academy

SOUTH KENSINGTON WALKING TOUR



Introduction

The walking tour will explore the neighbourhood of the V&A South Kensington, its buildings and their history. The V&A famously traces its origins to the 1851 Great Exhibition held in Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace. This walk will reveal the transformation of South Kensington from the semi-rural court suburb around Kensington Palace into the grandeur of late Victorian Albertopolis, named in honour of Prince Albert, envisaged as a centre of culture and learning.

This guided walk will begin at Kensington Palace and finish at the V&A and will consist of series of short stops designed to show the evolution of the area from eighteenth century court suburb to the great centre of the arts, sciences and learning that it is today. Highlights include Kensington Gardens and Palace, the Albert Memorial and the Royal Albert Hall, The Science Museum, The Natural History Museum and the V&A.

Linked to the 10-week online summer term course London The Global City 1851 to 2020 led by Mike Berlin. Course live session, Wednesdays 22 April - 24 June 2026 and access to lecture recordings until Wednesday 2 August 2026.

Information

Friday, 8 May, 11.15-14.45.

Off-site Meeting Point near Palace Avenue / Kensington Palace Gardens.

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.

Programme

11.00 – 11.15 Off-site meeting point is near Palace Avenue /
Kensington Palace Gardens, South Kensington

**Pre-booking is essential as the exact meeting point
will be shared closer to the event.**

11.15 Continuous walking tour led by Mike Berlin
12.30 Short break at V&A South Kensington*
13.15 Walking tour continues
14.45 Tour ends