

V&A Academy

WALKING TOUR STRUTTING DOWN THE KINGS ROAD

Friday 9 October 2026



Introduction



From high fashion to street style, the King's Road played a key part in London's design history. Come and find out more, with a particular focus on shoes and footwear. Between the 1950s and the 1990s the King's Road was a key part of London's fashion scene. This walk tells the story of fashion through shoes and footwear, from the Chelsea boot to the punk stiletto and the glam rock platform sole. We'll hear about some of the key designers such as Mary Quant, Manolo Blahnik and Vivienne Westwood. We'll talk about their celebrity customers such as the Beatles and David Bowie, and the ways in which fashion overlapped with popular music. We'll also think about how wider social changes and the introduction of new materials like plastics influenced shoe design.

Alongside Saville Row and Carnaby Street, the King's Road was a central part of 1960s Swinging London, and its influence continued long after that decade. This is a story of how one small area had a massive impact on fashion and footwear trends more widely.

Shoes alter the way we move through the world and the way we think about our bodies. The shoes we'll be talking about on this walk were designed to be sexy and subversive, to challenge cultural norms and allow the wearer to present a new version of themselves.

Information

Friday 9 October 2026

11.15-14.45

Offsite meeting point- **Our meeting point is on Sloan Square, nearest tube is Sloane Square Underground.**

V&A Academy events invite you behind the scenes to bring you closer to the places linked to the V&A extraordinary collections.

Handouts

A day before our walking tour you will receive a handout that accompanies this event: an itinerary of the walking tour with landmarks to invite you to re-visit the route of the tour in your own time and further reading recommendations and ways to learn more about the topic by exploring the V&A's extraordinary collections both online and onsite.

If you have any queries regarding the walking tour or if you have any specific access requirements, please do let us know by emailing courses@vam.ac.uk so that we can ensure the best experience on the day.

Further Information

Please note that we cannot guarantee that this tour is fully accessible; there will be curbs, narrow and uneven pavements on this tour. Comfortable shoes are strongly recommended for participants on the day.

Note: Programme and timings are subject to change

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Friday 9 October 2026

Walking Tour Strutting Down the Kings Road

Offsite meeting point- 5 minutes from Sloane Square tube, on Sloan Square. Click here for a digital map.

11.15 Arrival at the Meeting Point

- 11.30 Welcome by Zoë Hendon and start of your walking tour
- 12.45 Short convenience break. Facilities can be found around the junction of King's Road and Old Church Street
- 13.00 Walking tour continues
- 14.45 Tour ends near junction of King's Road and Beaufort Street
Bus 345 stop close by which connects V&A South Kensington

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

This walk complements the V&A Academy's London course series A History of London: 1066 to 2020. Online and in-person at V&A South Kensington.

Online booking available for A History of London: 1066–1666 (Online) 30 September – 2 December, available on catch up until 10 February 2027.