

## Richmond

Richmond is the only London borough located on both sides of the River Thames. The borough is home to the [National Physical Laboratory](#) and [The National Archives](#). The attractions of [Kew Gardens](#), [Twickenham Stadium](#) and the [WWT London Wetlands Centre](#) are within its boundaries and draw domestic and international tourism.

About half of the borough is parkland, including Richmond Park, Kew Gardens, Bushy Park and Old Deer Park. There are 34 km of river frontage. Richmond is twinned with Fontainebleau (France), Konstanz (Germany) and Richmond, Virginia (USA).

Richmond bridge, which is Grade I listed, was built between 1774 and 1777, as a replacement for a ferry crossing. Its construction was privately funded and tolls were charged until 1859. It is today the oldest surviving Thames bridge in London.



The [Great River Race](#) was originally rowed from Ham to Greenwich but since 2009 has run in the opposite direction, finishing in the grounds of [Ham House](#). Here's a [video](#) to give you a flavour of the race.



[Richmond Lock](#), the lowest lock on the Thames, is unusual as it consists of a conventional lock and a barrage with three sluice gates which are raised 2 hours either side of high tide to permit boats to pass through – hence the timing of our tour to ensure we can take advantage of this.