

The London Wetland Centre

Thursday 24th May 2012

This visit has been organised by Reinalt Vaughan-Williams

The London Wetland Centre is a beautiful wildlife reserve and international award winning visitor attraction in Barnes, just across the river from Hammersmith. It is acclaimed to be the best urban site in Europe to watch wildlife. It supports a wealth of wetland biodiversity including bitterns, kingfishers, a colony of endangered water voles and migratory birds, which arrive in large numbers from around the world. May is a good month for seeing some of these migratory birds.

The Centre is also a haven for people. You can watch the wildlife in one of several special viewing hides, enjoy a walk around the reserve and have a meal in the Water's Edge café. Our visit will enable you to do all 3 of these things. The paths are all level. Bring binoculars and clothing suitable for the weather on the day.

The Centre is divided into 2 sections. On the right of the visitor centre is the Waterlife with its stunning views of the water and birds, where our guide will take us in the morning and on the left is the World Wetlands and Wildside, which we can wander round in the afternoon. The map of the site below gives you an idea of the diversity of the place. You can find out more about the Centre by visiting their website at www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/london

I shall be inside the entrance of the Visitor Centre from 10:30 onwards. When you arrive, I will give you your entrance tickets and you can go through to the café for a drink. There are toilets inside that building on the left as you go in. The guided tour will start at 11:00 from the courtyard with the pagoda in it. There is likely to be another guided starting at the same time, so look out for the group with some members wearing REMS labels.

The cafe serves a selection of main dishes (both hot and cold) and sandwiches, soup, cakes, biscuits and snacks. There is a vegetarian dish at lunchtime and hot and cold drinks and wines are served throughout the day.

Getting there

The Centre is easily accessible by public transport (see the delightful animated map at [Quickmap](#)), just a 10 minute bus ride from Hammersmith Tube station and close to both Barnes and Barnes Bridge stations.

By bus

Hop on the number 283 bus direct to the centre from Hammersmith bus station (stand K). Alternatively buses 33, 72 and 209 stop nearby (alight at the Red Lion stop, approximately 150 metres walk from the wetland centre).

By rail

Barnes rail station is just 25 minutes from Waterloo or 10 minutes from Clapham Junction. It is then a 15 minute walk to the wetland centre (or 5 minutes by buses 72 or 33). You can also alight at Barnes Bridge station then walk through Barnes village (about a 15 minute walk) or catch a 209 bus (alight at the bus stop opposite the Red Lion pub, which is approximately 150 metres from the Centre).

By tube

Hammersmith tube (on the Piccadilly and District & Circle Lines) is the nearest tube station. From here it is just a 10 minute bus ride (see 'by bus').

By car

There is ample free parking for visitors arriving by car. The centre is located just off the main A306 which runs from the South Circular at Roehampton to Hammersmith. Once in Barnes, you can follow the brown tourist signs to the centre. Parking is free for visitors to the Centre, if you collect a token before you leave.

Timetable

10:30 – 11:00 Arrive, collect ticket, have refreshment in café, use toilets.

11:00 – 13:00 Guided tour.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch in the café. The timing of the afternoon activities is obviously optional. I shall certainly be in the café between the suggested times.

14:30 – 16:00 Walk round the World Wetlands and Wildside areas or return to the Waterlife area or do both, whatever you like.

16:00 - 16:30 Refreshments in café.

16:30 Depart, but do look in the shop on the way out.

Cost

£12 per person. You pay separately for your food. Minimum number of people is 12. There is no maximum. Please answer question in the booking form whether you'll eat in the café or not.

