

Horsell Walks A4: Horsell High Street to Goldsworth Park, St John's and Hook Heath

To Goldsworth Park, St Johns and Hook Heath and return via Basingstoke Canal and Well Lane.
Easy walk and great for buggies

Time: allow 2 hours, Distance: 5 to 6 miles

1. High Street to Bullbeggars Lane: Start at the Beijing Restaurant, looking into the Horsell High Street. Cross at the pedestrian crossing, go right and shortly after number 72A turn left into a rough track between the house and shops. Follow round to Manor Road and at the end, turn right into Bury Lane. Soon cross Ormonde Road and enter Bullbeggars Lane. Continue straight on until you reach a house called "Tantallon"
2. Tracious Close to Claydon Road: Cross the road here onto a small area of grass with some tall silver birch trees. Enter the footpath keeping the allotments on your left. Continue for 120m then turn right at junction and after another 100m join Horsell Birch. You will see the green in front of The Cricketers Pub. Turn left on Horsell Birch. Soon cross Kestrel Way (take care: vehicles go too fast on this road) Keep straight on footpath through woods.
3. To Goldsworth Park: Cross Claydon Road and keep straight on, passing houses on left and small post box on right until you reach busy Littlewick Road and can see Squires Garden Centre on the other side of the road. Turn Left into Littlewick Road and almost immediately left again through an offset barrier into Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground.
4. To Goldsworth Lake: Follow the path, keeping the hockey pitches and football pitches to your right. After 100m, turn right at the junction and follow the path as it curves round to the left and soon you will see the car park ahead. Cross the car park using the pedestrian raised path, passing the play area and playground on your left and reach Goldsworth Lake
5. Lake to Waitrose and Basingstoke Canal Turn right and walk half way round lake until you see a sign to Goldsworth Park shopping Centre. Follow this path and continue straight past Waitrose until you reach Bampton Way. Cross straight ahead and follow the signs to the Basingstoke canal, via a footbridge over Lockfield Drive
6. Canal to St Johns Lye: Once on the towpath, turn right and keep going until you reach St Johns. Either cross the road itself or continue under the bridge and turn back on yourself in order to get across the canal. Once over the canal, turn right towards St Johns Lye and take the left hand lane/footpath, which keeps to the left of the playing field and playground. This gradually rises until it reaches a footbridge which crosses the railway line.
7. Hook Heath Golf club circuit: Cross the railway bridge and the footpath emerges at the entrance to Hook Heath Golf Club. Go left, passing the large pond on your right and then turn right into Pond Road. Continue straight on until reaching the Mile Path and turn right. The Mile Path crosses the golf course: please check carefully for any golfers. Continue then along the footpath until it reaches Hook Heath Road. Turn right and immediately right (follow the footpath sign),

past a large white building on your left and soon emerging onto the golf course again. Follow the path and soon you will see the club house. Pass the club house and flag pole on your right, continue and enter the car park and you will see a footpath to the left, lined with logs which comes to a green metal gate. Go through the gate and turn left onto the footpath (the same one you arrived by!)

8. Return to St John's Lye and Basingstoke canal: Continue straight on and cross the Railway Bridge ahead. Walk past the playground on your left and once at St John's High Street, turn left across the canal bridge. At this point, you are aiming to get to the canal either by crossing the road or by going under the bridge and turning back on yourself: Direction: Woking.
9. St Johns to Well Lane and Horsell High Street: Continue towards Woking along the Basingstoke Canal. Once you see the Bridge Barn on the opposite side of the canal, leave through the gap in the hedge on your left and cross Lockfield Drive via the pedestrian crossing into Well Lane. Follow Well Lane to the roundabout: cross Bullbeggars Lane, turn right and cross Ormonde Road into Bury lane and continue along Bury Lane to Horsell High Street. You will see the Red Lion on the right!

NB.1 This route can be made shorter by simply turning back once you have reached St Johns.

NB.2 This route can be simplified by joining the Basingstoke Canal at The Lightbox and walking straight along the canal to St Johns, then Hook Heath Golf club and returning by the same route.

NB.3 It is possible to extend the walk and simply continue along the canal towpath as far as you feel like going. Also, a great cycle path.