

Taking the waters

A self guided walk around Royal Leamington Spa



Discover how a Warwickshire village became an elegant spa town
Find out how its spring water helped gout, rheumatism and paralysis
Explore the town's beautiful crescents, squares and avenues
See how Leamington has adapted to changing economic fortunes

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discovered through walks*





This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Cover image: Lansdowne Crescent © Jenny Lunn

Taking the waters

Discover the changing fortunes of the spa town of Leamington

Did you know that the spring waters of a West Midlands town can cure gout, rheumatism and paralysis?

On this walk you will discover how an unremarkable Warwickshire village became one of England's principal spa towns.

The healing waters drew many visitors and led to an economic boom for Leamington resulting in the building of an impressive and elegant new town.



Royal Pump Rooms
© Jenny Lunn

Discover how the town was deliberately laid out with crescents, squares, avenues and a grand Parade.



Jephson Gardens
© Jenny Lunn

Explore the natural necklace of open spaces on the floodplain of the River Leam which were used to create pleasure gardens for leisure, recreation and entertainment.

Find out why the spa declined and what industries and services took its place in the town's economy.

This walk gives you a geographical perspective on the changing fortunes of one of England's beautiful spa towns.

Practical information

Location	Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, West Midlands
Start point	All Saints Parish Church, Victoria Terrace, CV31 1GF
Finish point	Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall, The Parade, CV32 4AT
Getting there	<p>Train - Leamington Spa is well served by trains. Chiltern Railways run services roughly every half hour between London Marylebone and Birmingham Snow Hill. London Midland services run from Birmingham New Street and Worcester. CrossCountry services link from Bournemouth, Reading, Oxford, Coventry, Manchester Piccadilly and Newcastle.</p> <p><u>Directions from railway station to start</u> - Turn left out of the station then turn left into Lower Avenue. Continue under the railway bridge then turn right at the end into Spencer Street. All Saints Church is straight ahead at the end of Spencer Street.</p> <p>Bus - Leamington is served by local and regional buses. Routes 65 and 66 stop outside All Saints Parish Church.</p> <p>Car - access via Junction 13 of the M40 or use the A46 from Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon. Plenty of parking in the town centre but charges apply.</p> <p>Bicycle - National Cycle Route 41 runs through the centre of Leamington</p>
Distance	3 miles
Level	Gentle - An easy walks around the town
Terrain	The route is surfaced throughout - there is a combination of pavements and walkways through parks
Conditions	As a tourist destination the town centre and gardens can get busy, especially in the summer.

Suitable for

Families - Children will enjoy the various attractions in Jephson Gardens. Take particular care with young children when crossing roads and along the canal towpath.

Wheelchairs/pushchairs - An entirely step-free route

Refreshments

There are plenty of places to stop for refreshments in the town centre. Also on the route are

- **The Royal Pump Room Café** (Stop 4) serves lunches and teas

- **The Aviary Café** in Jephson Gardens (Stop 13) is a lovingly-restored Victorian tea pavilion serving snacks and refreshments

- **The Restaurant in the Park / Jephson's Brasserie** in Jephson Gardens (Stop 13) is a bit more upmarket

Facilities

Public toilets at the Pump Rooms (Stop 4), Jephson Gardens (Stop 13), Royal Priors Shopping Centre (Stop 20) and at the bottom of Regent Grove by the Town Hall (Stop 22)

Family friendly activities

The Royal Pump Rooms includes **Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum** (free entry but closed Mondays)

Jephson Gardens features a sensory garden and lake to feed ducks and swans. The free Temperate House indoor garden is open daily 10am-5pm summer, 10am-4pm winter

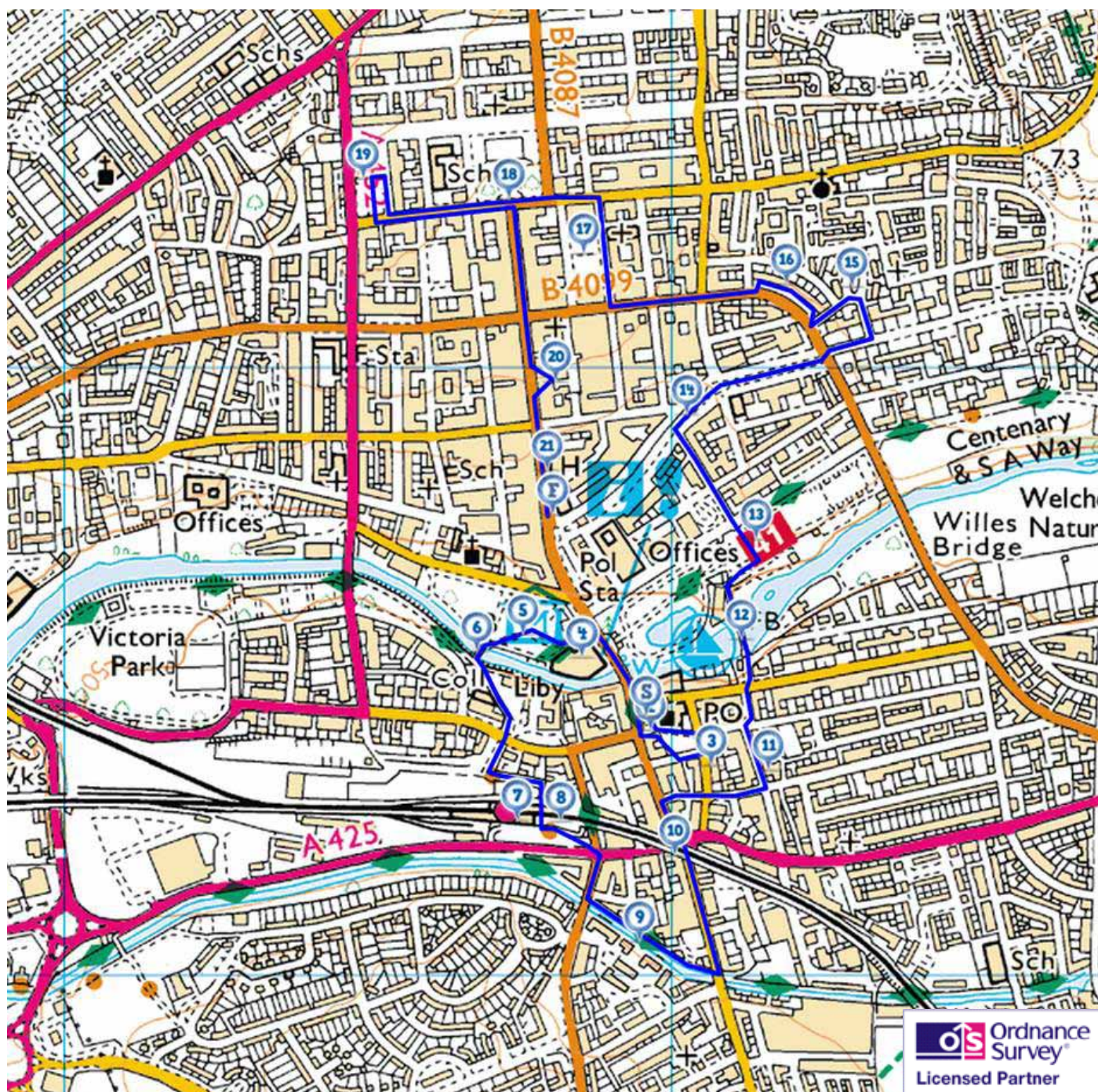
Pedalos and canoes for all ages can be hired from **Leam Boat Centre** (Tel: 0845 456 9533)

Mill Gardens features a ship themed play area with sandpit and ball games field

Tourist information

Leamington Spa Visitor Information Centre
Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade CV32 4AA
Tel: 01926 742762

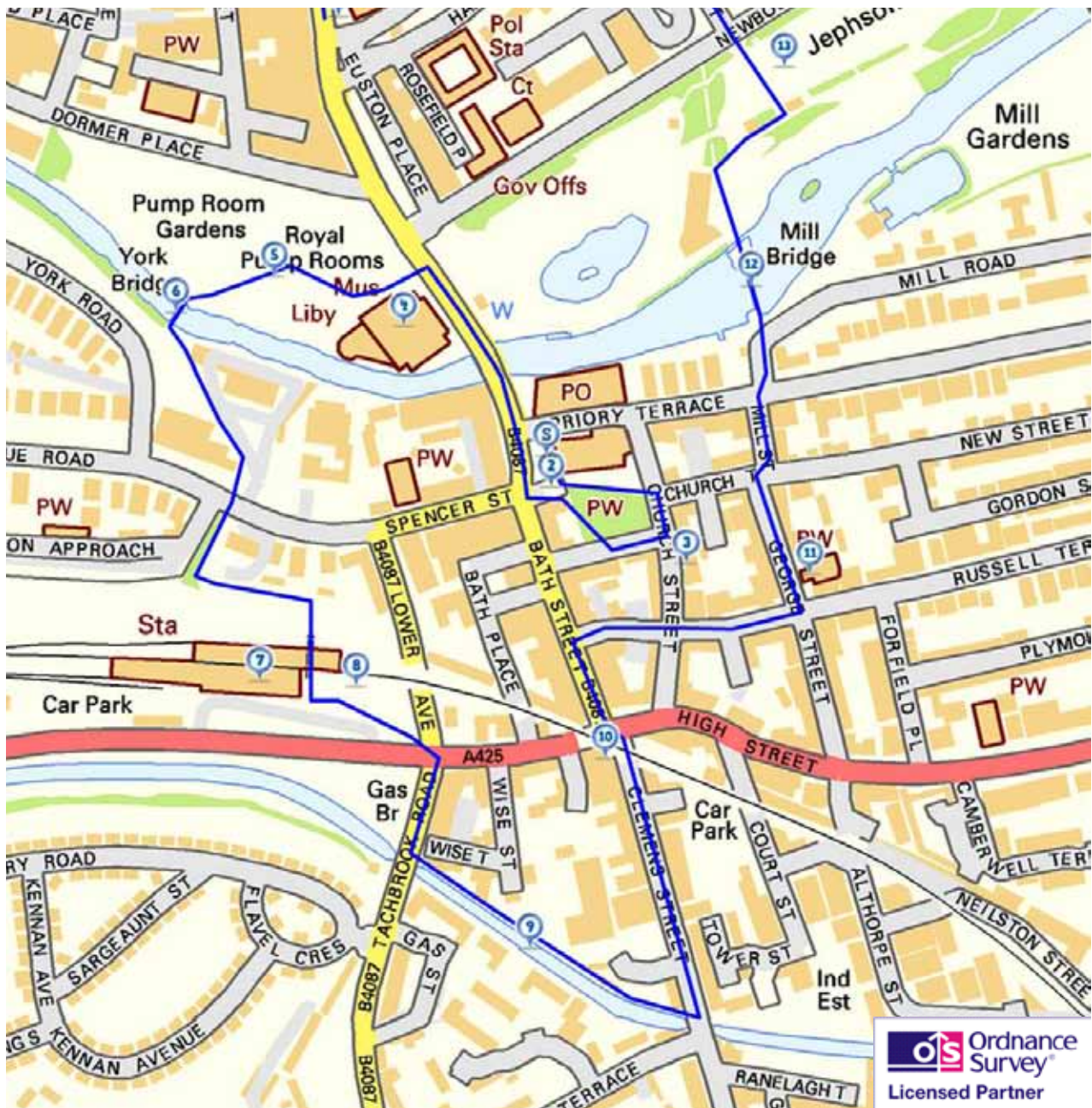
Route overview



Start point All Saints Parish Church

Finish point Town Hall

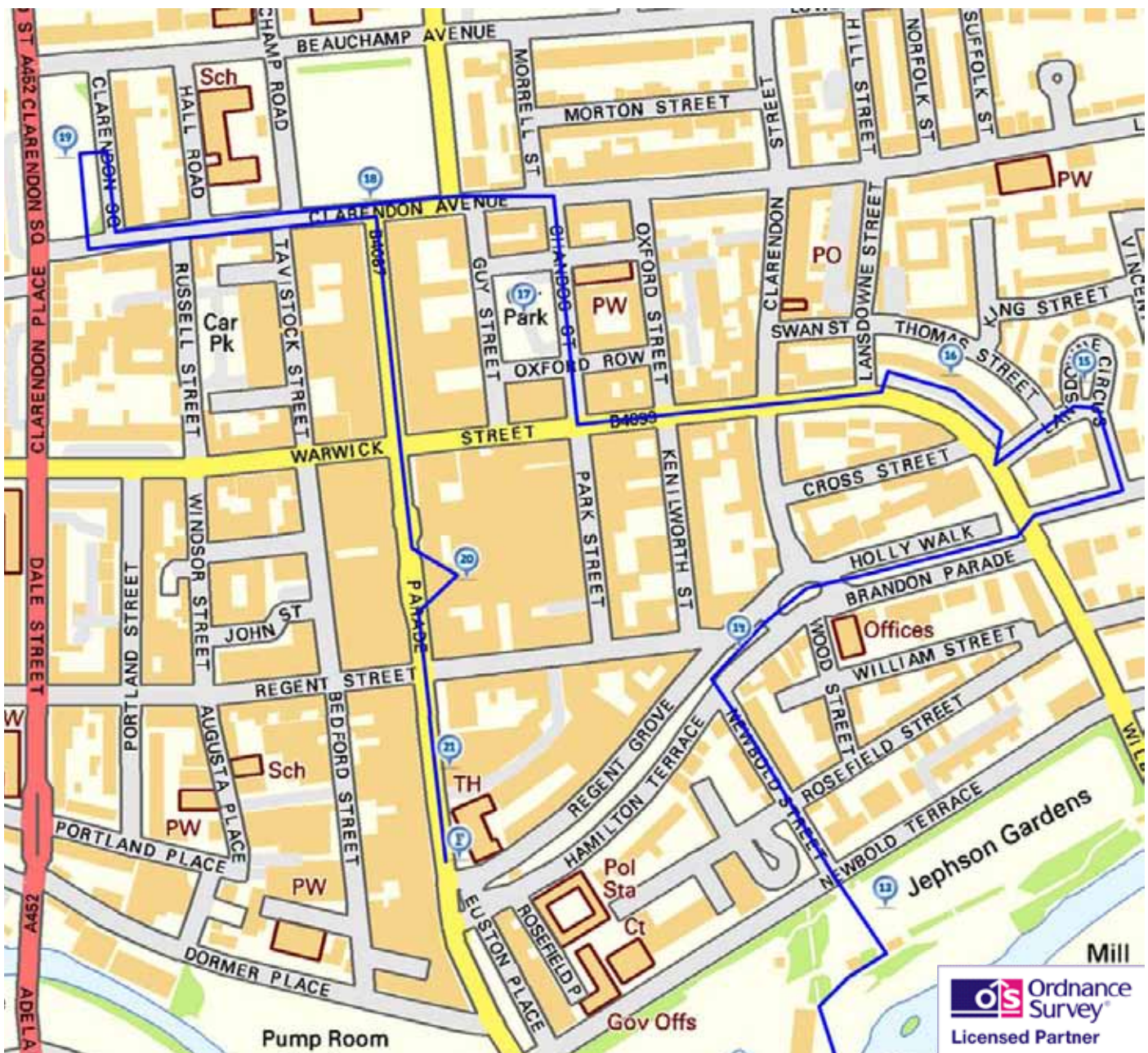
First part of route



Stopping points

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. All Saints Parish Church | 7. Leamington Spa railway station |
| 2. All Saints Parish Church | 8. Leamington Spa railway station car park |
| 3. 15 & 17 Church Street | 9. Grand Union Canal |
| 4. Royal Pump Rooms | 10. The Apollo Rooms, Clemens Street |
| 5. The bandstand, Pump Room Gardens | 11. Leamington Spa Mission, George Street |
| 6. York Bridge | 12. Suspension Bridge, off Mill Road |

Second part of route



Stopping points

- 13.** Jephson Gardens
- 14.** Regent Grove / Hamilton Terrace
- 15.** Lansdowne Circus
- 16.** Lansdowne Crescent
- 17.** Chandos Street car park
- 18.** Christ Church Gardens, Clarendon Avenue
- 19.** Clarendon Square
- 20.** Royal Priors Shopping Centre, off Parade
- 21.** Regent Hotel, Parade and Livery Street
- F** Statue of Queen Victoria, outside the Town Hall, Parade

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Leamington All Saints Parish Church

Directions 1

Remain outside the church and listen to Track 2.

2. Leamington Priors All Saints Parish Church

Directions 2

Go round the side of the church and diagonally across the grass. Go through the gate onto Gloucester Street and turn left. Stop at the corner of Church Street looking diagonally across at a pair of smaller houses between larger houses and listen to Track 3.

3. An ancient village 15 & 17 Church Street

Directions 3

Retrace your steps to the front of the church. Use the pedestrian crossing to go onto the opposite side and turn right towards the river. On the other side of the bridge is a stone building with columns. Stop outside and listen to Track 4.

4. Taking the waters Royal Pump Rooms

Directions 4

Around the side of the Royal Pump Rooms, go past the modern entrance and follow the path into the park. Stop by the bandstand and listen to Track 5.

5. Water and air

The bandstand, Pump Room Gardens

Directions 5

At the side of the Pump Room Gardens, not far from the bandstand, is a footbridge over the river. Stand on the bridge and listen to Track 6.

6. River – friend or foe?

York Bridge

Directions 6

Cross the bridge and take the path on the left passing a block of flats on the left hand side and a large red brick building on the right hand side. At Avenue Road, go straight across and follow the pedestrian signs for the railway station. Follow the path through the underpass. Stop outside the station entrance and listen to Track 7.

7. The beginning of the end

Leamington Spa railway station

Directions 7

With your back to the station entrance, turn to the left past the end of the underpass. Look up the bank towards platform level. From here you can see part of a garden. Stop below the garden and listen to Track 8.

8. An unexpected garden

Leamington Spa railway station car park

Directions 8

Make your way through the car park to the traffic lights. Use the pedestrian crossing to go up Tachbrook Road. After about 100 metres go down onto the canal towpath (there is access from both sides of the road). Turn left along the towpath with the canal on your right. Stop part way along the towpath and listen to Track 9.

9. An alternative industry

Grand Union Canal

Directions 9

Continue along the canal towpath. Immediately after going under bridge Number 40, turn left up to the street. Turn right down Clemens Street. Stop beside the last building on the left hand side immediately before (almost beneath) the railway bridge and listen to Track 10.

10. Sulphurous baths

The Apollo Rooms, Clemens Street

Directions 10

Go under the railway bridge and use the pedestrian crossing to go straight across into Bath Street. Take the first road on the right, which is Regent Place. Go straight on at the crossing with Church Street, where the road becomes Chapel Street. Then take the next left into George Street. On the opposite side is the Leamington Spa Mission. Stop outside and listen to Track 11.

11. A grand church

Leamington Spa Mission, George Street

Directions 11

Go past the church and continue along George Street. At the next junction with Church Terrace and New Street, go straight across along Mill Street. At the next junction with Priory Terrace, go straight across into Mill Road. Straight ahead is a suspension bridge over the river (at the time of creating this walk it was painted blue). Go onto the bridge and listen to Track 12.

12. Washing elephants

Suspension Bridge, off Mill Road

Directions 12

Cross the bridge and follow the path. Note the passageway and tunnel straight ahead but do not go through it. Instead turn right into the gardens. Stop in a convenient place and listen to Track 13 then take time to explore the gardens.

13. The jewel in the crown

Jephson Gardens

Directions 13

When you have finished exploring the gardens, find the exit at the top end by the clocktower which leads onto Newbold Terrace. Cross Newbold Terrace into Newbold Street with the Royal Spa Centre on your left. At the end of Newbold Street is a very wide tree-lined road with pedestrian path in the centre. Cross over to the centre and listen to Track 14.

14. Design against convention

Regent Grove / Hamilton Terrace

Directions 14

Follow the pedestrian path up Regent Grove / Hamilton Terrace, which becomes Holly Walk and Brandon Parade. At Willes Road, use the pedestrian crossing to go straight across into Upper Holly Walk. After about 100 meters, turn left into Lansdowne Circus. Take your time to walk around the crescent admiring the beautiful houses. Stop somewhere convenient and listen to Track 15.

15. The best address in Leamington

Lansdowne Circus

Directions 15

Leave Lansdowne Circus by the other exit (not the one where you came in). At Willes Road, turn right and immediately right again into Lansdowne Crescent. This is a private driveway but you can walk along it. Stop in a convenient place and listen to Track 16.

16. The finest crescent in Leamington

Lansdowne Crescent

Directions 16

Continue to the end of Lansdowne Crescent and back onto the pavement of Willes Road. At the traffic lights, go straight on into Warwick Street. At the second junction, turn right into Chandos Street. Stop by the car park on the left hand side and listen to Track 17.

17. A major new development?

Chandos Street car park

Directions 17

Continue up Chandos Street and then turn left onto Clarendon Avenue. Use the pedestrian crossing to go onto the opposite pavement. At the junction with Kenilworth Road, cross over to the grassy area. Make your way under the large trees beside the junction with traffic lights. Stop when you have a good view down the Parade and listen to Track 18.

18. The focus of attention

Christ Church Gardens, Clarendon Avenue

Directions 18

Continue along the right hand side of Clarendon Street for about 200 metres until you reach Clarendon Square. Walk along the pavement beside the houses, cross the road and then walk through to the garden in the centre of the square. Stop in a convenient place and listen to Track 19.

19. The finest square in Leamington

Clarendon Square

Directions 19

Retrace your steps back along Clarendon Street and turn right down Parade (the road that you looked down earlier). Go straight across at the junction with Warwick Street. In the next block on the left hand side are several entrances to the Royal Priors Shopping Centre. Stop outside and listen to Track 20 then go inside the shopping centre afterwards.

20. An invisible shopping mall

Royal Priors Shopping Centre, off Parade

Directions 20

If you went into the shopping centre return onto Parade and continue down the road. Go straight across at the junction with Regent Street and shortly after look for the Regent Hotel on the left hand side. Stop outside and listen to Track 21.

21. An old hotel with a new look

Regent Hotel, Parade and Livery Street

Directions 21

Next to the Regent Hotel is the red-brick Town Hall. Find the statue of Queen Victoria outside the Town Hall and listen to Track 22.

22. Royal approval

Statue of Queen Victoria, outside Town Hall, Parade

Directions 22

To return to the starting point continue straight along Parade past the Pump Rooms and over the river to the Parish Church. To return to the train station continue along the Parade then turn right into Spencer Street. Alternatively you may wish to revisit some of the stops on the walk or go shopping.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Martin Haslett** for creating the walk
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