



In London, the Van Gogh Route leads you along part of a walk that Vincent took from his home in Isleworth to London. He described his journey on foot in his letter of 25 November 1876 to his brother Theo:

"...I'd gone on a long journey to London, I left here at 4 in the morning, arrived at Hyde Park at half past six, the mist was lying on the grass and leaves were falling from the trees, in the distance one saw the shimmering lights of street-lamps that hadn't yet been put out, and the towers of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, and the sun rose red in the morning mist – from there on to Whitechapel, that poor district of London, then to Chancery Lane and Westminster, then to Clapham to visit Mrs Loyer again, her birthday was the day before. She is indeed a widow in whose heart the psalms of David and the chapters of Isaiah are not dead but sleeping. Her name is written in the book of life. I also went to Mr Obach's to see his wife and children again..." [Letter 099]



London

19 May 1873 – 26 October 1874

1 January 1875 – 19 May 1875

Vincent was transferred to the London branch of the art dealers Goupil & Cie in May of 1873. He had been working for their branch in The Hague for a few years and was sad to leave the city and his loved ones behind but he embarked on his new adventure with confidence. And, although his work was less interesting in London than it had been in The Hague, Vincent thoroughly enjoyed the English way of life and the city, with its lovely parks and interesting museums. Gradually he acquainted himself with English art and literature. Years later, Vincent would realize with a sigh that he had come to love London very deeply.

Vincent lived in various boarding houses in London before he was temporarily transferred to the Paris branch of Goupil & Cie in late October of 1874. He returned to the British capital in January 1875 due to the opening of a new Goupil location after the takeover of art dealers Holloway & Sons. Vincent was permanently transferred to Paris later in the spring.



van gogh route
 discover where Vincent lived and worked

London

19 May 1873 – 26 October 1874

1 January 1875 – 19 May 1875



- a** Hydepark / Rotten Row
Hydepark
- b** Westminster Abbey
Houses of Parliament
Westminster Bridge
- c** Loyer Boarding House
Hackford Road 87

Walk: circa 90 minutes



Hyde Park / Rotten Row

Address Hydepark

Vincent enjoyed strolling through Hyde Park; it undoubtedly evoked a certain poetic feeling in him: "When daylight came I was in Hyde Park, where the leaves were already falling from the trees and the Virginia creeper was so magnificently red against the houses, and it was foggy [Letter 092]. He especially liked the park's long, tree-lined bridlepath Rotten Row. The name likely derives from "Route du Roi": the lane was built in 1691 by King William III (1650–1702) as a royal carriage drive between St James's Palace and his new home, Kensington Palace. During the 18th century, Rotten Row was the place to see and be seen for the equestrian London.



Houses of Parliament & Westminster Bridge

Address Westminster Bridge

Vincent crossed the Westminster Bridge twice a day when he lived in London. He would later reminisce about the bridge in a letter he wrote his brother Theo from Paris in 1875: "A couple of days ago we got a painting by De Nittis, a view of London on a rainy day, Westminster Bridge and the Houses of Parliament. I crossed Westminster Bridge every morning and evening and know what it looks like when the sun's setting behind Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, and what it's like early in the morning, and in the winter with snow and fog. When I saw this painting I felt how much I love London." [Letter 039] Vincent made a sketch of this work by Giuseppe de Nittis.



Kosthuis Loyer

Address Hackford Road 87

It is not known to us where Vincent lived during his first months in London. We do know that he liked it in the house but that he soon began looking for cheaper lodgings. He found them in the Brixton neighbourhood where he boarded with the widow Sarah-Ursula Loyer who also ran a boys' school there. Vincent wrote his brother with enthusiasm about his room at the Loyers: "Oh, how I'd like to have you here, old chap, to see my new lodgings, which you'll have heard about. I now have a room, as I've long been wishing, without sloping beams and without blue wallpaper with a green border. It's a very diverting household where I am now, in which they run a school for little boys." [Letter 013] Vincent fell in love with the widow Loyer's daughter Eugenie. Unfortunately, she was already engaged to be married with someone else. Vincent's room was probably located on the top floor at the front of the house. New urban gardens were recently laid out in nearby Isabel Street. It was recently renamed the Van Gogh Walk as a tribute to Vincent.