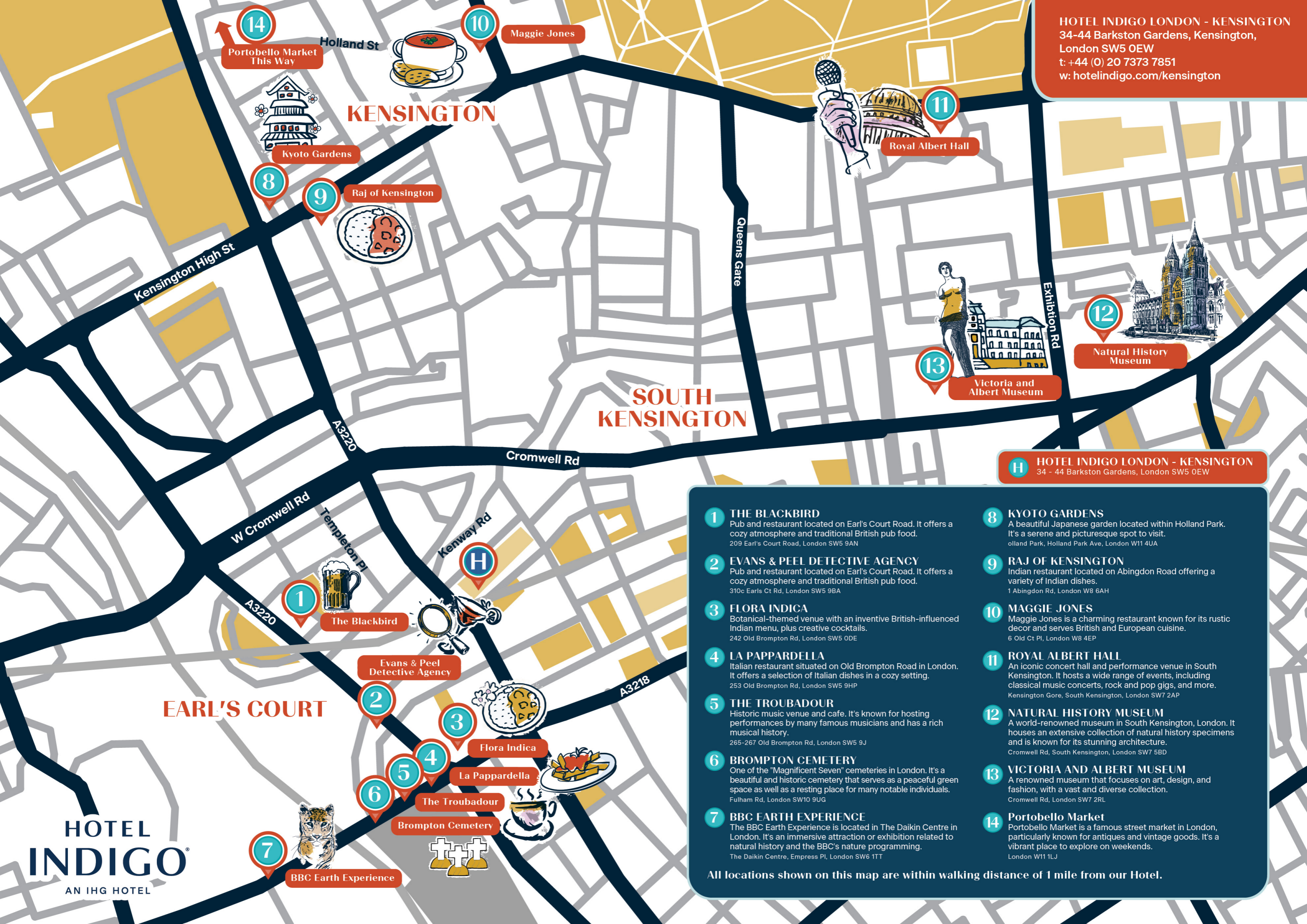


HOTEL INDIGO LONDON - KENSINGTON
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 London SW5 0EW
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 w: hotelindigo.com/kensington



H HOTEL INDIGO LONDON - KENSINGTON
 34 - 44 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0EW

- 1 THE BLACKBIRD**
 Pub and restaurant located on Earl's Court Road. It offers a cozy atmosphere and traditional British pub food.
 209 Earl's Court Road, London SW5 9AN
- 2 EVANS & PEEL DETECTIVE AGENCY**
 Pub and restaurant located on Earl's Court Road. It offers a cozy atmosphere and traditional British pub food.
 310c Earls Ct Rd, London SW5 9BA
- 3 FLORA INDICA**
 Botanical-themed venue with an inventive British-influenced Indian menu, plus creative cocktails.
 242 Old Brompton Rd, London SW5 0DE
- 4 LA PAPPARDELLA**
 Italian restaurant situated on Old Brompton Road in London. It offers a selection of Italian dishes in a cozy setting.
 253 Old Brompton Rd, London SW5 9HP
- 5 THE TROUBADOUR**
 Historic music venue and cafe. It's known for hosting performances by many famous musicians and has a rich musical history.
 265-267 Old Brompton Rd, London SW5 9J
- 6 BROMPTON CEMETERY**
 One of the "Magnificent Seven" cemeteries in London. It's a beautiful and historic cemetery that serves as a peaceful green space as well as a resting place for many notable individuals.
 Fulham Rd, London SW10 9UG
- 7 BBC EARTH EXPERIENCE**
 The BBC Earth Experience is located in The Daikin Centre in London. It's an immersive attraction or exhibition related to natural history and the BBC's nature programming.
 The Daikin Centre, Empress Pl, London SW6 1TT
- 8 KYOTO GARDENS**
 A beautiful Japanese garden located within Holland Park. It's a serene and picturesque spot to visit.
 Holland Park, Holland Park Ave, London W11 4UA
- 9 RAJ OF KENSINGTON**
 Indian restaurant located on Abingdon Road offering a variety of Indian dishes.
 1 Abingdon Rd, London W8 6AH
- 10 MAGGIE JONES**
 Maggie Jones is a charming restaurant known for its rustic decor and serves British and European cuisine.
 6 Old Ct Pl, London W8 4EP
- 11 ROYAL ALBERT HALL**
 An iconic concert hall and performance venue in South Kensington. It hosts a wide range of events, including classical music concerts, rock and pop gigs, and more.
 Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London SW7 2AP
- 12 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**
 A world-renowned museum in South Kensington, London. It houses an extensive collection of natural history specimens and is known for its stunning architecture.
 Cromwell Rd, South Kensington, London SW7 5BD
- 13 VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM**
 A renowned museum that focuses on art, design, and fashion, with a vast and diverse collection.
 Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL
- 14 PORTOBELLO MARKET**
 Portobello Market is a famous street market in London, particularly known for antiques and vintage goods. It's a vibrant place to explore on weekends.
 London W11 1LJ

All locations shown on this map are within walking distance of 1 mile from our Hotel.

HOTEL INDIGO
 AN IHG HOTEL

A Victorian garden party in Kensington



The neighbourhood of Victorian roots and global appeal

Garden parties and great exhibitions, a beloved blue whale and a singing superstar in this opulent, effortlessly chic London district

The neighbourhood surrounding Hotel Indigo - Kensington is the epitome of Victorian style, filled with elegant terraces, ivy-clad private gardens and graceful mews houses. Its walls are lined with blue plaques celebrating the great and the good of 19th-century London, when its well-to-do residents were among the most notable members of a vast empire. Ever since its rapid metamorphosis from sparsely populated rural retreat to London's most desirable district, our neighbourhood has welcomed the world to bask in its exquisite architecture, leafy squares and world-leading museums.



Victorian Garden Party

– the landed gentry who visited the capital for the politicking, gossip and matchmaking of 'The Season' – such socialising often meant lavish high-society parties. In spring and early summer each year, the rural elite would swap their country estates for the handsome red-brick mansion blocks of our neighbourhood so they could throw extravagant balls, exuberant parties and charity concerts. The genteel garden parties of the late Victorian era were often epic, with attendees sparing no expense when hiring the city's finest milliners to create suitably theatrical headwear, top chefs to make the excessively luxurious dishes promoted by the era's popular cookbooks, and top coiffeurs to create attention-grabbing hairstyles. The Victorian tradition of genial get-togethers and summer shindigs in our neighbourhood gardens continues to this day, although the lavishness has been somewhat toned down. Many of the local garden squares host residents' parties, movie nights and theatrical performances – the Barkston Gardens residents' music concert is a particular favourite summer event.

THE GARDEN DISTRICT

As London expanded rapidly westwards during the Victorian era, not every inch of land was paved over. Developers and landowners built communal gardens to offer oases of calm in the midst of the growing city – and to save many old trees from being felled. These gardens, around 350 of which still exist in London today, have helped our neighbourhood's residents relax, play and party since their inception.

The creation of Barkston Gardens, a tranquil sanctuary located in front of Hotel Indigo - Kensington, was driven by the wealthy and influential Gunter family, proprietors of a confectionery company (they were famously responsible for creating a "great beast of a plumcake" for Queen Victoria's wedding) and the highly fashionable Gunter's Tea Shop in Mayfair. Three generations of the Gunter family acquired land in the area on a piecemeal basis over the first half of the 19th century, and during the period of the post-Great Exhibition development boom almost the entire neighbourhood belonged to the fortunate family.

For many years the Gunters lived in Barkston Gardens itself, in an 18th-century Georgian mansion called Earl's Court House. It had an unusual history; before the Gunters' purchase it belonged to Sir John Hunter, the founder of scientific surgery, and the owner of a private zoo of exotic animals from around the world. According to one biography of Hunter, he kept buffalo, leopards, deer, bats, snakes, a jackal, a zebra and birds of prey in his garden, not to mention "a young bull, given to him by Queen Charlotte, which he used to wrestle." And in the years before it was knocked down, Earl's Court House was known as Mrs Bradbury's House, which was described in literature of the time as an "establishment for the reception of ladies nervously affected". Illustrations of the garden from the time depict women practising archery amongst the trees and flowers, playing badminton, and exercising in the "extensive gardens and pleasure grounds". With its zoological and psychiatric institutions no longer present, in the 1880s Barkston Gardens became a place primarily for neighbourly socialising. Since many of the new residents came from the so-called "carriage classes"



Barkston Gardens Concert (©TlC)



Barkston Gardens (©TlC)