

A Walk for Diana



THE Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Walk takes visitors through four of the most beautiful parks in the world, and within sight of famous buildings and locations associated with the Princess during her life.

The seven-mile-long walk, which crosses St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, is charted by 90 plaques set in the ground, and along the way the Royal Parks Agency has improved and enhanced the existing environment including landscaping, restoring ornamental gates, fountains and memorials.

Chancellor Gordon Brown, Chairman of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee, describes it as 'one of the most magnificent urban parkland walks in the world.'

From the walk visitors can see three palaces and two mansions which figured in the life of the Princess: Kensington Palace, Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, St James's Palace, and Spencer House, the one time town house of the Spencer family.

The plaques, the work of sculptor Alec Peever, have at their centre a rose emblem, etched in aluminium, which appears like a precious metal. The rose is heraldic in design, and while symbolising the Princess's enduring image, also symbolises Britain's traditions and heritage. The plaques are immediately recognisable at any point, and clearly direct walkers along the route.

The walk is one of two memorial projects officially opened on 30 June 2000, the day before the Princess's 39th anniversary. The other is the redesigned children's playground in Kensington Gardens. Together they celebrate the Princess's affection for the open spaces around her home in Kensington Palace, and her love of children.

