



Self-guided walk Historic Public Gardens of Cheltenham

This walk explores the historic public gardens of Cheltenham which are a legacy of the town's popularity as a fashionable Georgian spa. A key part of the 19th-century spa experience was to be seen "promenading" and the central gardens were built in close proximity to the newly developed spas to facilitate this.

The walk takes about an hour to complete but you can shorten it by selecting your own route.

It is best followed using a smartphone to access our website which has historic information and images for each location, and an online map which displays the route.

The walk starts in front of Cheltenham Town Hall in Imperial Square, and takes you around Imperial Gardens before moving on to Montpellier Gardens and finishing outside the Queens Hotel, providing the historical background to some of the present – and past – features and events.



1. **Cheltenham Town Hall** With your back to the Town Hall, walk to your left towards the traffic lights and pause in front of The Quadrangle building.
2. **The Quadrangle** At the traffic lights, turn left and head up the Promenade towards the Queens Hotel. Enter Imperial Gardens at the path on the left.
3. **The Gustav Holst Memorial Fountain Statue** Continue through the gardens and pause at the Skillicorne Garden on your left.

4. **Skillicorne Garden** Continue through the gardens and visit points 5 & 6.
5. **Imperial Gardens**
6. **Site of the Winter Gardens** Continue southwards to exit the gardens onto The Broadwalk which runs along the top of the square to the left of the Queens Hotel.
7. **The Broadwalk**

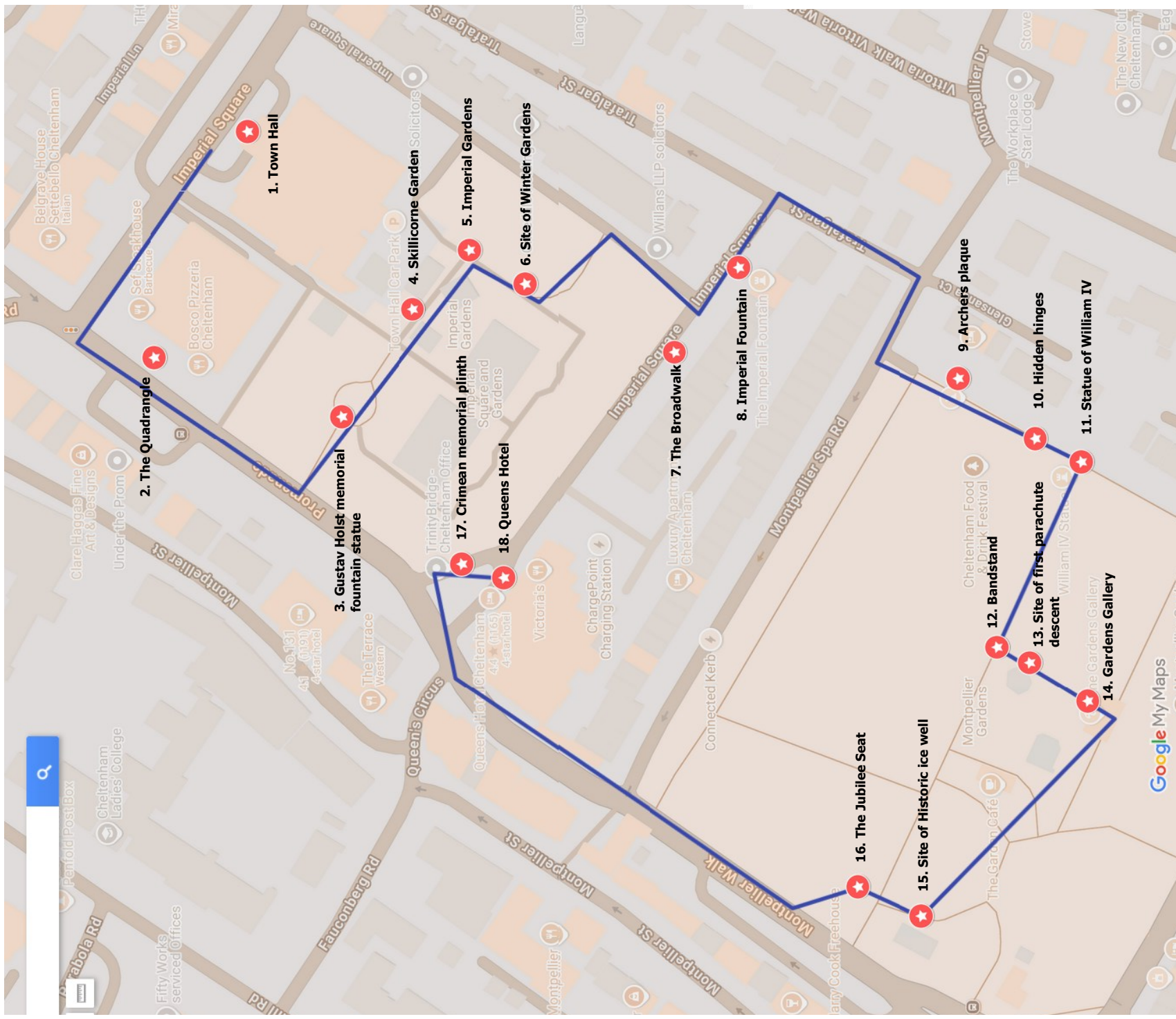
8. **The Imperial Fountain** Facing the fountain turn to your left and take the few steps onto Trafalgar Street. Turn right and at the top cross over Montpellier Spa Road to enter Montpellier Gardens via the entrance.
9. **The Cheltenham Archers Plaque** Continue along the path pausing at points 10 and 11.
10. **Hidden Hinges**
11. **Statue of William IV** With your back to the statue walk towards the Victorian Bandstand at point 12.
12. **The Victorian Bandstand**
13. **Site of the First Parachute Descent** Walk towards the black & white building at point 14.
14. **The Gardens Gallery** With your back to the Gardens Gallery, walk to your left towards the site of the public toilets.
15. **Site of Historic Ice Well** With your back to the Ice Well and you will see point 16 on the lawn in front of you.
16. **The Jubilee Seat** Continue northwards to exit Montpellier Gardens at the junction of Montpellier Spa Road and Montpellier Walk. Turn right to head towards the Promenade. At the junction with Imperial Square, cross to the Crimean Memorial Plinth.
17. **Crimean Memorial Plinth**
18. **Queens Hotel**

You have now reached the end of your walking tour. Stroll back along the Promenade or enjoy a well-earned rest on one of the park benches or at the Imperial Garden Bar.





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Visit our website to access the historic information and images which accompany this walk

<https://cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/resources/self-guided-walks/walk-historic-gardens/>