

Muslim Heritage Trail

Celebrating some of the most important Muslim heritage sites in Britain, this walking trail takes in the Muslim Burial Ground and Peace Garden, Shah Jahan Mosque, and the country's first Muslim cemetery, located in Brookwood Cemetery.

The route

1. Starting from the car park, with your back towards the road. Head through the trees along the worn path towards the Muslim Burial Ground and Peace Garden.
2. After spending time in the quiet and tranquil surroundings, return to the car park. Upon reaching the road, bear left over the canal bridge and continue along Monument Road. As you reach a set of mini-roundabouts, turn right onto Oriental Road and continue past the Mayer Brown building.
3. You will find yourself at a driveway that leads to the Shah Jahan Mosque. When entering the site please be considerate of worshippers, act and dress respectfully. Do take time to walk around the grounds.
4. Return to Oriental Road and retrace your steps back towards the Muslim Burial Ground. Upon reaching the canal bridge, turn left onto the towpath and continue towards Woking Town Centre.

Taking the train is less strain

For those of you taking the train, return to Oriental Road and turn right. Continue ahead until reaching Station Approach. The railway station is straight ahead. Hop on a train to Brookwood Station. Journey times are approximately five minutes. Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. Skip to step 5.



Muslim Burial Ground and Peace Garden

Commissioned in 1915, the site was once the final resting place of 19 Muslim soldiers from the Great War, and a further eight casualties of the Second World War.

After falling into disrepair in the 1960s, the Grade II site was restored in 2015 to create a lasting legacy for the 27 servicemen who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend Britain.

The Peace Garden was inspired by classic Islamic garden design. Look out for the central water feature, two stone prayer mats and the 27 Indian Silver Birches – one commemorating each fallen soldier.

Although the bodies of the 27 servicemen laid to rest at the site were later reinterred at Brookwood Military Cemetery in 1969, the Muslim Burial Ground remained sacred land.

Key facts

Start: Monument Road Car Park, Monument Road, Woking GU21 5LW

Finish: Brookwood Station, Connaught Road, Woking GU24 0ER

Time: 4 hours

Distance: 7 miles (11km) approx (walking route)

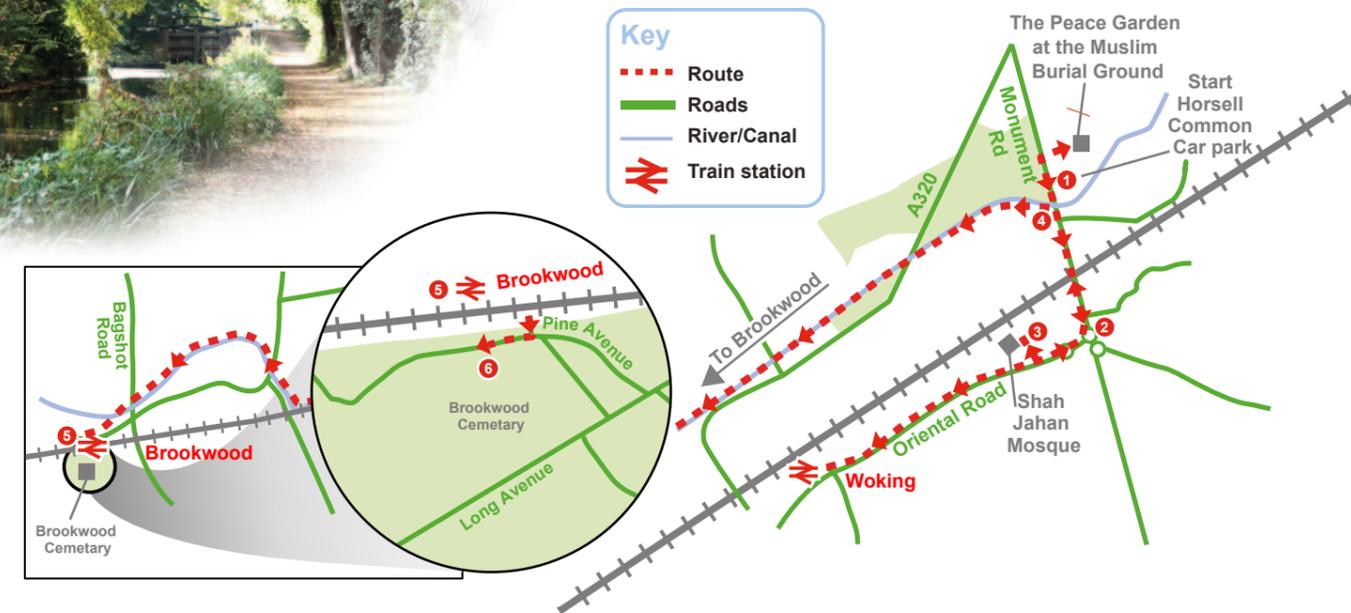
Type of walk: Flat, mainly pedestrian footpaths or towpaths, except when accessing the Muslim Burial Ground. This trail includes a short train journey from Woking to Brookwood. Alternatively, you can drive from each notable site of interest.

Shah Jahan Mosque

Commissioned by Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner to provide a place of worship for Muslim students the mosque was designed by Victorian architect, W. L. Chambers and completed in 1889.

Its green and white dome and minarets are considered one of Woking's landmarks. Decorative geometric patterns and Arabic calligraphy can be seen on the interior.

Now a Grade I listed building, the mosque welcomes visitors.



Continue along the towpath towards St Johns and beyond. Upon reaching Brookwood, turn left over the narrow bridge onto Sheets Heath Lane. Continue ahead until reaching Connaught Road. Carefully cross the road. Brookwood Station is directly ahead.

5. Upon reaching Brookwood Station, take the underpass to the cemetery. Alternatively, if arriving by train exit via the Brookwood Cemetery entrance. Go through the gate and continue ahead before turning right along Pine Avenue.

6. After discovering the cemetery, return to Brookwood Station to catch your train home.

Send us a photo

If you're enjoying this walk or you spot something interesting along the way, please share your photos with us by tagging @wokingcouncil on social media or by emailing images@woking.gov.uk when you get home.

Brookwood Cemetery

Built by the London Necropolis Company in 1854 to receive London's past residents, the cemetery is one of the largest privately-owned burial grounds in Britain and one of the biggest operating cemeteries in Western Europe. Since 1854, over 240,000 people have been laid to rest within its beautiful grounds, including Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner (South Cemetery).

The cemetery comprises approximately 230 acres of burial ground, some of which have been set aside for the use of specific communities and denominations.

In 1884, a Muslim cemetery was established where you'll find many important Muslims buried.

It also contains many remarkable Victorian memorials and graves, and the largest military

cemeteries in the country including the World War One American cemetery, the oldest Muslim cemetery and the unique Zoroastrian burial ground.



This walk was first published in the winter 2019 edition of The Woking Magazine using content supplied by the Everyday Muslim Heritage & Archive Initiative. Some features and reference points may have altered since this walk was first published. To inform us of any changes, please email editor@woking.gov.uk or call 01483 755855.