



CRYSTAL PALACE PARK

Introducing Crystal Palace Park



Crystal Palace Park & the Trust

Historic landmark: The Crystal Palace, once the world's largest glass building, gave the 200-acre south London park its iconic heritage.

The Trust: A charity formed in 2016 who became the park's new custodians at the end of 2023, committed to managing and restoring the park as a world-class visitor destination.

Mission: The Trust protects, maintains, and enhances the park as a green, open, historic, ecological, recreational, cultural, and educational resource, working with a broad network of partners and stakeholders.

Regeneration: Spearheading one of the UK's most exciting regeneration programmes with multimillion pound investment secured over the coming years.

Programme: Hosts a vibrant range of cultural, sporting, educational and recreational activities and experiences throughout the year.

Investment: Every penny raised stays in the park, supporting visitors, the surrounding community, and local initiatives.

Team & networks: Dedicated staff and trustees collaborate with creative partners, community groups and educational organisations to inspire, innovate and create joyful experiences, together making a difference to people's lives.

Key moments in the park's history



1851

Crystal Palace designed

Joseph Paxton creates the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, showcasing global industry and culture.

1854

Palace relocates & dinosaurs arrive

The rebuilt Crystal Palace opens at Sydenham Hill, with landscaped grounds and Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins' life-sized dinosaur sculptures.

1895

FA Cup final held

Crystal Palace Park hosts the FA Cup Final, marking its place in football history.

1933

Television legacy begins

Baird Television Ltd establishes Europe's largest TV studios, installing transmitters in the south tower.

1936

Crystal Palace destroyed by fire

A major fire engulfs the Palace; it is lost within hours, though no lives are lost.



2016-2021

Trust formation & regeneration begins

Crystal Palace Park Trust is formed, incorporated, and registered as a charity to steward and regenerate the park for the community.

1987

Park becomes Grade II*

Crystal Palace Park is listed for its historic and architectural significance (the Dinosaurs were upgraded to Grade I in 2007).

1964

National Sports Centre opens

A modern sporting facilities, designed by LCC architect Norman Engleback.

1961

Crystal Palace Bowl opens

The 25,000-capacity open-air venue hosts iconic artists including Bob Marley, Pink Floyd, and The Rolling Stones.

Concert Platform and Concert Bowl

Crystal Palace Bowl is within Joseph Paxton's English Garden area of the park and is the site of the iconic Concert Platform, or "Rusty Laptop".

Established in 1961, the Bowl has played host to some of the biggest names in music including: Bob Marley, Pink Floyd, Elton John, The Beach Boys, Vera Lynn, Roxy Music, Gil Scott-Heron, Ian Dury, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English National Opera... and many, many more.



Regeneration overview

The park's multi-million-pound regeneration restored its Victorian heritage, including the Dinosaurs, Italian Terraces, and Grand Centre Walk alongside building a new Visitor Centre.

It also improved accessibility through step-free routes, enhanced footpaths, lighting, and wayfinding, while supporting biodiversity with new meadows, wildlife-friendly planting, and sustainable drainage systems.



The Italian Terraces

Restoration of the Grade II-listed terraces, included stonework and balustrades.

Step-free access and improved pathways for all visitors.

Seasonal planting and wildflower meadows enhance biodiversity.



Grand Centre Walk

Reopening of Paxton's historic central promenade to its full width.

Resurfaced paths, lighting, and wayfinding improve accessibility and visitor experience.

A new feature entrance at Penge Gate celebrates the park's heritage.



Visitor Centre

A new Visitor Centre designed to integrate with the park landscape.

Interpretation of the park's 170-year history, heritage, and ecology.

New signage and wayfinding improve navigation and orientation.



Museum

The Museum tells the story of both the Hyde Park and Sydenham Crystal Palaces in a series of unique images, large scaled models of the Crystal Palace and showcases displaying ceramics and other items.

Following a year's closure due to a fire, Crystal Palace Park Trust was delighted to reopen the Museum in June 2026 as its new custodian.



Dinosaur-inspired Playground

Dinosaur-themed playground inspired by the iconic Crystal Palace sculptures.

Features include slides, climbing structures, a sandpit, and a tail-shaped trail.

Accessible design allows children of all abilities to enjoy the play area.



Dinosaurs & Tidal Lakes

Restoration of Grade I-listed dinosaur sculptures and surrounding landscape.

Tidal Lakes cleaned, repaired, and enhanced with paleo-inspired planting.

Sustainable drainage and habitats improve biodiversity and protect the park's heritage.



Things to do and see

A rich tapestry of heritage to explore across 200-acres of beautiful green landscape, from Victorian architecture and sculptures to an iconic maze, museum, skatepark and modern cultural landmarks, Crystal Palace Park tells a story over 170 years in the making.

Today, the park is also a vibrant place for sports, play, festivals, cultural events and experiences, art, craft and food markets and relaxed café environments - a perfect day out with friends and family.

Location & access

South London location

Crystal Palace Park sits at the heart of 5 London boroughs: Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

Excellent transport links

Rail: Crystal Palace, Penge West, Penge East, Anerley stations

Bus: Multiple TFL routes

Cycle: Bike racks and local cycleways

Car parking on site

Three car parks, Thicket Road, Anerley Hill, Crystal Palace Park Road

Facilities & services

Life and Concert Platform Cafés;
Public toilets; Changing Places toilet.

Park open daily from 7.30am, with gates closed according to the season.



