



Seeing the Capital Differently

Aircraft & Flight

Welcome to *CityThemes*

By printing this leaflet you have decided to discover, or rediscover, the sights and delights of **London** in a different way. We hope that you enjoy your explorations of our fascinating and historical capital city.

This leaflet has been designed to allow you to explore as the mood takes you. Both well-known and lesser-known attractions are included and they are randomly listed so that you plan your own itinerary and visit as many or as few as you wish.

Please note:- some places restrict entry and ask for prior application either in writing or by telephone. This is indicated where known. Others may change opening days and hours with little warning – it may be worth checking by phone if they are off the beaten track.

A very brief description of the reason for the choice of site is given but because of space it is not possible to include much detail. Again a telephone call to the site may help you to decide on whether a visit is worthwhile. Remember there may be other items that interest you at the same site.

Themes are constantly being updated and new titles added so please keep looking at our website or get in touch with us by e-mail or letter. We welcome your comments especially if you feel that some site should be included or details are incorrect/inaccurate. Contact details are

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Enjoy Your Explorations

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road, Lambeth, SE1
020 7416 5320 www.iwm.org.uk

transport: Lambeth North & Elephant & Castle u/g; buses 1,12,45,53,59,63,68,100,159,168,171,172,176,188,344, C10

facilities: library; licenced café; book shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission free

aircraft collection includes a Sopwith Camel, Spitfire and Mustang

Westminster Abbey

Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1
020 7222 5152 www.westminster-abbey.org

transport: Westminster & St James's Park u/g, Victoria & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,109,159, 211; boat Westminster Millennium Pier

facilities: audio guide & leaflets in 7 languages; guided tours (Apr-Oct Mon-Fri 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 14.00, 15.00, Sat 10.00, 11.00, 12.30; Nov-Mar Mon-Fri 10.00, 11.00, 14.00, 15.00, Sat 10.00, 11.00, 12.30)

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-16.45 (last admission 15.45);

Sat 09.00-14.45 (last admission 13.45); closed Sun

except for worship; Cloister daily 08.00-18.00; Chapter House daily 10.00-17.30 Apr-Oct, 10.00-16.00 Nov-Mar admission charge

a chapel dedicated to the Royal Air Force (RAF) has a stained glass window by Hugh Easton. It shows airmen of 68 Fighter Squadrons and angels in the 1940 Battle of Britain with badges of the fighter squadrons. The four panels have visions symbolising the Resurrection - a squadron leader before the Virgin Mary, a Sergeant Pilot before the Crucifixion, a Pilot Officer representing the Resurrection and a Seraphim with six wings and outstretched hands

Royal Air Force Museum

Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9
020 8205 2266/information line 09001 6055 633
www.rafmuseum.org.uk

transport: Colindale u/g; buses 204,303

facilities: disabled access & wcs; library; restaurant, snacks & picnic areas; shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission free

this museum, opened in 1972, is devoted to the history of the RAF and aviation and uses many interactive displays and flight simulators.

in the Main Aircraft Hall and Bomber Command Hall aeroplanes include a Harrier Jump Jet, Spitfire and Halifax and Wellington bombers. Elsewhere are Dh9A and Sopwith Tabloid aircraft from the 1st World War. There are also collections of Department of Aviation records, the Brabazon papers on flight history and the Camm Collection of aircraft designer Sir Sidney Camm

Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Brown

between Terminals 2 & 3, London Heathrow Airport, Middx

transport: Heathrow u/g, Heathrow Expressrail from Paddington

statue of 1954 by William Macmillan commemorating the first men to fly the Atlantic Ocean

Science Museum

Exhibition Road, SW7
020 7942 4455 www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,14,45,49, 52,74,C1

facilities: disabled access (helpline 020 7942 4446); disabled wcs; library; refreshments; shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission free

one of the collections shows the progress of aeronautical science & engineering from the mid 19th century until the present. It illustrates airframe development, propulsion and onboard systems. Looking at planes as transporters of people and goods the collection concentrates on civil aircraft. Military aeronautical science is covered only if it incorporates major innovation.

included are facts about propulsion, support equipment, radar and satellite communication systems. Examples of aircraft and aircraft engines include a replica of the Wright Brothers aeroplane of 1903, Amy Johnson's Gipsy Moth and a Spitfire

de Havilland Aircraft Heritage (incorp. Mosquito Aircraft Museum)

Salisbury Hall, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL2

01727 822051 www.rafmuseum.org.uk

transport: by road exit M25 at junction 22

opening: Mar-Oct Tue, Thur, Sat 14.00-17.00, Sun 10.30-17.00

admission charge

although further afield this small museum is worth a visit if you are interested in Mosquito aircraft. Run entirely by volunteers, it has a small, but unique, collection including the prototype Mosquito

Institution of Civil Engineers

Great George Street, SW1
020 7222 7722 www.ice.org.uk

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A, 88,159,211 boat: Westminster Millennium Pier

facilities: bookshop

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00 by arrangement

a collection of models of aircraft and marine engines

Civil Aviation Authority Library & Information Centre

Aviation House, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex
01293 573725

transport: Gatwick Airport rail

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30; 1st Wed in month 10.00-16.30

admission free for reference purposes

a library specialising in civil aviation and related subjects

Heathrow Visitors' Centre

Newall Road, off Bath Road, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3
020 8745 6655 www.baa.co.uk

transport: buses 81,105,111,140 no charge,222,285, 555,556,557

facilities: disabled access & wcs; pay & display parking; café and picnic area

opening: daily 10.00-17.00

admission free

interesting centre for seeing archive aviation photographs, a walk-in flight simulator, and equipment relating to the functioning of an airport including x-ray machines and examples of contraband

Heathrow Spectator's Viewing Gallery

Queens Building roof, Terminal 2, London Heathrow Airport, West Drayton, Middlesex
020 8745 5259

transport: Heathrow u/g, Heathrow Express rail from Paddington

opening: daily 08.00-dusk
admission free

includes an interactive exhibition explaining how the airport works. Excellent views over the runways of one of the world's busiest airports

London City Airport

King George V Docks, E16

transport: Royal Albert DLR, Silvertown City rail; bus to & from Liverpool Street via Canary Wharf

for an exciting view of takeoffs & landings, try the bridge over the Royal Albert Dock Basin that is at the end of the runway

The Roof Garden

99 Kensington High Street, W8
020 7937 7994

transport: High Street Kensington, Holland Park u/g; buses 9,10,27,28,49,94,328,C1

this 1930s former department store has art deco decoration with reliefs on the stonework that include aeroplanes & cars; carved by Bernard George

St Michaels Cornhill

St Michael's Alley, Cornhill, EC3
020 7248 3826

transport: Bank u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 8, 11,26,35,47,48,76,133,149,242,344

opening: Mon-Fri 08.30-17.00

the City's Guild of Air Pilots & Air Navigators holds its annual services in this church

American Bar

St James's Place, SW1
020 7493 0111

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14,15, 19,22,23,38,53,88,139,159

opening: all permitted hours

model aircraft hang from the ceiling of this bar

Southwark War Memorial

Borough High Street, SE1

transport: Borough u/g, London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 21,35,40,133,343,381,RV1

the bronze figure of a soldier with tin hat and rifle is shown marching through the mud. Figures of a knight in armour and a weeping woman and child complete this commemoration to the Men of St Saviours Southwark who gave their lives for the Empire 1914-18. Two bronze panels show battleships, and biplanes in aerial combat

Sir Sydney Camm

Camm Gardens, off Victoria Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey

transport: Norbiton & Kingston rail; buses 57,85,131,213, 726,K1

this 1984 memorial to aircraft designer Camm (1890-1966) includes part of a propeller from a Hurricane aeroplane mounted on a teak base. Camm was the designer of the Hurricane fighter of the 2nd World War

London Biggin Hill International Air Fair

London Biggin Hill Airfield, Kent TN16

01959 572277 for airshow (Airdisplays International Ltd)

transport: road M25 junction 4; Bromley South rail and 320 bus

the largest public airshow in Europe has been held each year since 1962 usually in June (7-8 June in 2003). There are flying displays including vintage aircraft, helicopters, parachute teams and a display of static aircraft, funfair, craft stalls, music etc

Biggin Hill was originally an Royal Air Force station and played an important role during the 2nd World War. It is an important airport now for business flights and flying lessons. See also entry under St George's RAF Chapel the website www.bigginhill.co.uk has a description of the history of the Base and the squadrons that flew from there

Piccadilly Line (Underground)

transport: Heathrow u/g

along with many other of the stations on this line of London's underground railway, the decoration of the walls of Heathrow Central follow a theme - in this case aircraft based images. Very appropriate for a station serving such a world-famous airport

National Maritime Museum

Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10

020 8858 4422 www.nmm.ac.uk

transport: Greenwich DLR & rail, Cutty Sark DLR; buses 177,180,188,199,286,386; boat Greenwich Pier

facilities: disabled access to all levels & galleries; Caird Library (open Mon-Fri 10.00-16.45 by arrangement 020 8312 6607); restaurant; bookshop; tours by arrangement

opening: daily 10.00-17.00 (last admission 16.30)
admission free

this fascinating museum traces the development of Britain's might as a sea power from King Henry VIII's Tudor fleet through voyages of discovery to 20th century naval warfare in the Falklands and the Gulf. The Historic Photographic Collection has material showing the role of aircraft at sea including flying boats and aircraft carriers

Claud Grahame-White

Royal Airforce Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9

020 8205 2266/information line 09001 6055 633

www.rafmuseum.org.uk

transport: Colindale u/g; buses 204,303

facilities: disabled access & wcs; library; restaurant, snacks & picnic areas; shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission free

these memorial gates commemorate the pioneer aviator & aircraft manufacturer Grahame-White (1874-1959) who was based at Hendon and made the name of Hendon aerodrome famous

St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance

Main Road, Biggin Hill, Kent

01959 570353

transport: Bromley South rail; bus 320; New Addington Tramlink and bus 464

opening: daily 11.00-16.00

this chapel in the shape of an aircraft hangar has stained glass windows commemorating the spirit of the 2nd World War air and ground crews. Outside stand full size replicas of Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft

Walthamstow Marshes

Lea Bridge Road, E10

transport: Clapton rail; buses 48,55,56,253

a plaque on the railway arches commemorates A. V. Roe's 1st all-British powered flight in 1909. The tri-plane flew 900 ft (274m) across the marshes

Brooklands Museum

Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13

01932 857381

transport: by road M25 10 mins from Junctions 10 & 11 and A3; Weybridge rail

facilities: picnic area; special weekend events; parking; giftshop

opening: Tue-Sun winter 10.00-16.00, summer 10.00-17.00

admission charge

this motoring and aviation museum was opened in 1991 and stands in 30 acres of the original 1907 racing circuit. Its collection includes over 30 aircraft representing the 80 years of aviation at Brooklands and a refurbished motoring village with historic cars & motorcycles

Brooklands was the 1st motor racing circuit in the world and the ERA Shed houses speed record exhibition that tells the story of the men and machines that established world records in vehicles developed and tested at the circuit

A great deal of care has been taken in collecting the information in this leaflet but *CityThemes* cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of that information. It can cover only a few of the many interesting sites to be found in London and therefore must not be considered a definitive guide.

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