

# CityThemes London

*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Armour

### 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

website: [www.citytheme.co.uk](http://www.citytheme.co.uk)  
e-mail: [info@citythemes.co.uk](mailto:info@citythemes.co.uk)  
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

### Enjoy Your Explorations

## Museum of the Order of St John

St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell, EC1M  
020 7324 4070 [www.sja.org.uk/history](http://www.sja.org.uk/history)

transport: Farringdon u/g & rail; buses 55,56,153  
*facilities: disabled access to ground floor only; disabled wcs; library by appointment; giftshop; tours of gatehouse & crypt (Tue, Fri, Sat 11.00 & 14.30)*

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat 10.00-16.00  
admission free - donation welcome for tour of gatehouse & crypt

*the collection covers the arms and armour of the Knights Hospitaller and includes Rhodian and Maltese pieces of armour. Also shown are cannon (presented by King Henry VIII), drawings, maps and portrait medals*

## Armourers and Brasiers Company

81 Coleman Street, EC2R  
020 7606 1199

transport: Bank, St Pauls & Moorgate u/g; buses 8,56,76,100,133,242

opening: by prior application

*above the door of this City Livery Company is the Company's coat of arms showing sculptured knights in armour. The Company possesses a suit of armour worn by Sir Henry Lee, champion of Queen Elizabeth I*

## Westminster Abbey

Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1  
020 7222 5152 [www.westminster-abbey.org](http://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

*in the Chapel on the east side of the northern transept is the tomb of Sir Francis Vere. Made of black marble slabs the upper slab is supported by four knights in armour. A full set of Sir Francis's armour is laid out on one of the slabs*

## Michael German Antiques Ltd

38B Kensington Church Street, W8  
020 7937 2771  
[www.antiquecanes.com/www.antiqueweapons.com](http://www.antiquecanes.com/www.antiqueweapons.com)

transport: Notting Hill Gate & High Street Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,12,27,28,49,52,70,94,328

opening:

*here you will find antique arms and armour together with an interesting collection of walking sticks*

## National Army Museum

Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, SW3  
020 7730 0717 [www.national-army-museum.ac.uk](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk)

transport: Sloane Square u/g; buses 11,137,211,239; boat Cadogan Pier

*facilities: wheelchair access to all galleries; snacks & light lunches; museum shop for souvenirs, gifts & books*

opening: daily 10.00-17.30  
admission free

*a collection of armour is kept in this museum's basement. The Museum records the British army's activities over 5 centuries since 1415*

## Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum

20 Princes Gate, SW7  
020 7598 9249

transport: South Kensington & Knightsbridge u/g; buses 9,10,52,70

*facilities: library; tours*

opening: museum: Mon-Fri 14.00-16.00, 1st Sat each month 10.00-16.00; archives Tue-Fri 09.30-16.00  
admission free

*this collection and library relates to the history of Poland's military achievements and includes pieces of 17<sup>th</sup> century armour*

## Tower of London

Tower Hill, EC3  
020 7709 0765 [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharines Piers

*facilities: White Tower: library; refreshments; shop*

opening: Mar-Oct Mon-Sat 09.00-18.00, Sun 10.00-18.00; Nov-Feb Tue-Sat 09.00-17.00, Sun-Mon 10.00-17.00; (last admission 1 hour before closing)  
admission charge

*this medieval fortress is famous as a place of imprisonment and death but has also been used as a royal residence, an armoury, a mint, a menagerie, an observatory & a place for safe keeping*

*the Royal Armouries collection in the White Tower records the history of armour and arms with examples including cannon and mortar. . A 'Line of Kings' shows 17<sup>th</sup> century life-size portraits of kings dressed either in personal attire or in armour. Please note that the main collection of armour is now kept in Leeds, Yorkshire with other pieces at Fort Nelson, Portsmouth, Hampshire*

## Tower Hill, EC3

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharines Piers

*unveiled in 2000, reproductions of oil paintings by Stephen B Whatley decorate the passageway from Tower Hill underground station to the Tower of London. They tell the story of the Tower and the people and events associated with it - kings and queens, collections of arms and armour, the Crown Jewels, the historic buildings, the Warden Beefeaters and the ravens*

## Emperor Trajan

Trinity Place, Tower Hill, EC3

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharines Piers

*an 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian statue of the Roman Emperor Trajan (98-117) shows him in armour holding a weapon and a scroll. Trajan had no connection with the Tower Hill area - the statue was found in a scrapyard and presented to the Tower Hill Improvement Trust in 1980*

## Globe Theatre

21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1  
020 7902 1500 (exhibition) 020 7401 9919 (box office)  
[www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org)

transport: Southwark & Mansion House u/g, London Bridge & Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 344,381; boat Bankside Pier

facilities: *limited disabled access; Globe Café (daily Oct-Apr 10.00-18.00, May-Sept 10.00-15mins after last performance), Globe Restaurant (daily Oct-Apr noon-14.30,17.30-20.00; May-Sept 17.30-23.00); giftshop (Oct-Apr 10.00-18.00, May-Sept 10.00 to end of evening performance); guided tours every half hour except afternoons in summer*

opening: exhibition daily 10.00-17.00  
admission charge

*the costumes section outlines the process of designing, making & fitting Shakesperean costumes. Visitors can feel fabrics and try on armour*

## Victoria and Albert Museum

Cromwell Road, SW7  
020 7942 2000/0870 442 0808 24hr information  
www.vam.ac.uk

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 14,49,70,74,345,C1

facilities: *disabled access and wcs; library; café and restaurant; shop; tours*

opening: daily 10.00-17.45, Wed 10.00-22.00  
admission free

*examples of Japanese armour can be found in the Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art, and Indian armour and arms in the Nehru Gallery*

*the Henry Cole Wing has changing displays relating to printing techniques and includes design pattern books for armour,ceramics, furniture,silver and jewellery*

## Peter Dale Ltd

12 Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, SW1  
020 7930 3695

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

opening:

*this shop selling antique arms, armour and militaria*

## Wallace Collection

Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1M  
020 7563 9500 www.the-wallace-collection.org.uk

transport: Bond Street u/g; buses 2,13,30,74,82,113,139,189,274

facilities: *disabled access; library; shop; tours*

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun noon-17.00  
admission free

*this collection is considered one of the best in the world for French 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings, porcelain and furniture but it also includes some examples of European, Oriental, Renaissance and equestrian armour*

*of special interest is the Greenwich Field Armour of Lord Buckhurst. Made in the 16<sup>th</sup> century it is a full suit with peascod breastplate and thigh defences (tassets) specially shaped for the puffed trunk hose of the period. It could be used either on foot or on horse, pieces being added as necessary*

## Charles I

Trafalgar Square, WC2

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,11,12,13,15,23,24,29,53,77A,88,91,139,159,176; boat Embankment Pier

*the armoured statue of King Charles I has the date '1632' engraved on the horse's left front foot.The figure, sculptured by Hubert Le Sueur, stands on a pedestal designed by*

*Christopher Wren and carved by Grinling Gibbons. It has stood on the present site since 1675 and was given a new sword in 1947. The original armour is now in the Tower of London*

## St Andrew Undershaft Church

St Mary Axe, Leadenhall Street, EC3  
020 7283 2231

transport: Aldgate & Bank u/g; Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,26,35,40,42,47,48,78,100,149,242,344,

opening: admission by prior arrangement with St Helen's Church (020 7283 2231)

*a 10ft high monument to Sir Hugo Hammersley (d.1636) shows him in armour. His wife and two mourning soldiers are behind him*

## Samiramis Ltd

Grays Mews, 1-7 Davies Mews, W1Y  
020 7629 1161

transport: Bond Street & Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23,30,73,74,82,94,98,113,137,139,159,189,274

*this shop sells antique arms and armour as well as rugs and carpets*

## St Luke's Church

185 Charlton Church Lane, Charlton Village, SE7  
020 8858 8175

transport: North Greenwich u/g, Charlton rail; buses 53,54,161,177,180,380,422,486

opening: Tue, Thur 10.00-14.00, Sat 10.00-noon

*a free-standing monument shows Brigadier Michael Richards (died 1721) in armour*

## National Gallery

Trafalgar Square, WC2N  
020 7747 2885 www.nationalgallery.org.uk/

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,11,12,13,15,23,24,29,53,77A,88,91,139,159,176; boat Embankment Pier. Free bus service between National Gallery, Tate & Tate Modern every 30mins

facilities: *gallery soundtrack in 5 languages; tape guide for visually-impaired; sign language tours; large print labels; disabled access (wheelchairs on request); disabled wcs; library by arrangement; restaurant & snacks; shop; tours (daily 11.30 & 14.30 plus 18.30 Weds)*

opening: daily 10.00-18.00, Weds 10.00-21.00  
admission free

*among the art collection in this world-renowned gallery is a 1637 painting by Anthony Van Dyke (1599-1641) showing King Charles I on his horse dressed in armour and wearing the medallion of the Garter Sovereign*

## Queen's House

Greenwich Park, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10  
020 8858 4422

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

opening: daily 10.00-17.00  
admission charge

*among the naval portraits of this collection is one showing King James II in gold & orange Roman-style armour*

## Southwark War Memorial

Borough High Street, SE1

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

*this war memorial commemorates the men of St Saviours, Southwark who gave their lives for the Empire during the 1914-18 War. It has the bronze figure of a soldier with tin hat and rifle marching through mud, figures of a knight in armour and a weeping woman & child. One bronze panel shows battleships and the other biplanes in aerial combat*

### **Armoury of St James's**

17 Piccadilly Arcade, SW1  
020 7493 5082                      www.armoury.co.uk  
transport: Piccadilly Circus & Green Park u/g; buses 8,9,14,19,22,38  
opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-18.00, Sat noon-16.00  
*this shop's main trade is selling model soldiers but it also has the occasional piece connected with armour*

### **British Museum**

Great Russell Street, WC1B  
020 7323 8000                      www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk  
transport: Russell Square & Tottenham Court Road u/g; buses 10,24,29,73,134  
*facilities: audio guides for certain displays including the Parthenon Sculptures (6 languages); disabled access & wcs; licensed restaurant (self-service) and snacks (daily Mon-Sat 10.00-16.30, Sun noon-17.30); shop selling books, postcards, posters and replicas; eyeOpener gallery tours of 50mins +Spotlight talks of 20mins*  
opening: daily Sat-Wed 10.00-17.30, Thur-Fri 10.00-20.30. Great Court Mon-Wed 09.00-21.00, Thur-Sat 09.00-23.00, Sun 09.00-18.00. Clearance 10mins before closing  
admission free except for some tours - donation welcomed  
*among the collection of Celtic bronzeware are wine flacons, armour and mirrors*  
*in 1939 a 30ft (9m) oak Saxon burial ship was excavated in Suffolk. On board was found what is now known as the Sutton Hoo Treasure - . 41 items of solid gold including jewellery, silver objects including bowls, weapons, coins, cups and armour dating from between 575 and 620*

### **Achilles**

Hyde Park, on the ring road from Hyde Park Corner to Marble Arch, W1  
transport: Hyde Park Corner & Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,8,9,10,14,16,19,22,36,38,73,74,82,137  
*this nude bronze statue by Sir Richard Westmacott, was erected in 1822 as a memorial to Wellington. It holds a shield and sword and stands next to a suit of armour . Although called Achilles it is in fact not Achilles nor does it have the face of Wellington. Cast from cannon captured at the Peninsular War it stands 18ft (5 m) high, weighs 33 tons and is the copy of a Roman horse trainer*

## **Further Afield**

### **Windsor Castle**

Windsor, Berks, SL4  
01753 831118                      www.the-royal-collection.org.uk  
transport: Windsor rail, Green Line coach from Victoria  
*facilities: audio guide; disabled visitors should contact visitors' office; shop for books, postcards & gifts; pre-arranged tours for groups*  
opening: daily Mar-Oct 09.45-17.15, (last admission 16.00); Nov-Feb 09.45-16.15, (last admission 15.00)  
admission charge  
*in the Grand Vestibule are patterned displays or trophies, arms and armour including armour seized from Tipoo, Sultan of Mysore, in 1799. A suit of a Royal Champion is in St George's Hall including the last suit made for King Henry VIII. Examples of equestrian armour can also be seen - they show how a man on horseback would have looked going into battle*

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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