



Seeing the Capital Differently

Barges & Narrowboats

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

the definition of a barge is 'a long flat-bottomed boat used for carrying freight on canals and rivers'. In this country barges are used nowadays more for pleasure or ceremonial occasions and may be attractively decorated in some way with carvings, paintings or flowers. They are often referred to as 'canal boats or narrowboats'

Haberdashers Company

39-40 Bartholomew Close, EC1A
020 7606 0967 www.haberdashers.co.uk
transport: St Paul's & Barbican u/g; buses 8,25,56,100, 172,242
opening: by prior application
the Company has a figurehead from its barge

Museum of London

150 London Wall, EC2Y
020 7600 3699 www.museumoflondon.org.uk
transport: Barbican, St Paul's & Moorgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,56,100, 172,242
facilities: audio tapes and braille sheets; disabled access via ramps; disabled wcs; library; restaurant and snacks; shop
opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.50, Sun noon-17.50 (last admission 17.30)
admission free
the collection includes an 80ft (24.4m) long Lord Mayor's barge of 1807

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
four late 17th century gilded and carved barges are on display. The Royal Barge (63ft (19m) long) was designed by the architect and artist, William Kent (1685-1748), for Prince Frederick, son of King George II. It is housed in the Neptune Court

Prenelle Gallery

Wets India Dock, Hertsmere Road, Isle of Dogs, E14
0207093 0628
transport: Canary Wharf u/g, West India Quay DLR; buses 277,D3,D7
the Dutch Barge 'Prins' is now an art gallery and claims it is the only floating gallery for contemporary art in London. It regularly display exhibitions of painting, sculpture, installation, videos and photography

Thames Police Museum

98 Wapping High Street, Wapping, E1
020 7275 4421
transport: Wapping u/g, Shadwell u/g & DLR; buses 100, D3
opening: by prior application
the museum has models of river (marine) police boats and an original Thames Sailing Barge. The River Police are the section of the London Metropolitan Police that looks after the River Thames

Bell and Crown pub

72 Strand on the Green, Chiswick, W4
020 8994 4164
transport: Gunnersbury u/g & rail, Kew Bridge rail; buses 65,237,267,391,H91
opening: all permitted hours
a picture of the smugglers' barge 'Lady Edith' can be found in this old riverside pub

City Barge pub

27 Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4
020 8994 2148
transport: Gunnersbury u/g & aril, Kew Bridge rail; buses 237,267,272,391,E3,H91
opening: all permitted hours
the pub sign shows barges belonging to the Lord Mayor of London. The river was the safest way to travel in the mid-1770s

Millbank Prison Transportation Bollard

opposite Tate Britain, Millbank, SW1
transport: Vauxhall u/g & rail; buses 2,36,77A,88,185, C10
the bollard was used for tying up the barges used for taking prisoners to boats at London Bridge for transportation to Australia. The writer, Charles Dickens (1816-1890) described its use in 'David Copperfield'. Where Tate Britain now stands was the site of Millbank Prison (1816-90)

Somerset House

Strand & Embankment, WC2
020 7845 4600 www.somerset-house.org.uk
transport: Temple, Embankment & Covent Garden u/g, Charing Cross & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1,6,9,11,13, 15,23,26,59,68,76,77A,91,168,171,172,176,188,341; boat Savoy & Embankment Piers
facilities: disabled access, wheelchairs available; Admiralty restaurant (bar & grill 020 7845 4646), summer bar on Terrace, café, Courtyard refreshments; shops in all galleries; tours about history & architecture (Thur & Sat 13.30 & 15.45 - a charge will be made)
opening: daily to Courtyard, Seamen's Waiting Hall & River Terrace 07.30-23.00 (19.00 in winter); collections daily 10.00-18.00
admission free but there is a charge for the collections
an 18th century gilded barge used by Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty is housed in the King's Barge House

Puppet Theatre Barge

Blomfield Road, Little Venice, W9
020 7249 6876 or 97836 202 745
transport: Warwick Avenue u/g, Paddington u/g & rail; buses 6,18,46,187
facilities: disabled access
opening: shows at weekends, daily during school holidays. Prior booking necessary by telephoning number above
admission charge
a barge staging marionette shows and moored in Little Venice between November and June

Couper Collection

Riverside Walk, Hester Road, Battersea, SW11
020 7738 1935
transport: Sloane Square u/g, Battersea Park & Queenstown Road rail; buses 19,49,319,345; boat Battersea Park
opening: Tue-Sun 13.00-17.00

admission charge

an art gallery on several converted Thames barges where you can see fictional art sculptures and artefacts inspired by the River Thames

St Katharines Dock

St Katharine-by-the-Tower, E1
www.stkaths.co.uk

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

the dock provides a mooring for some of the original Thames sailing barges

Doggett's Coat and Badge pub

1 Blackfriars Bridge, SE1
020 7633 9057

Southwark u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 45,63,100, 381

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-23.00

this pub has paintings of the City Livery Company's barges. The pub's name comes from Thomas Doggett, an Irish comedian, who instituted a river race to be held at the end of every July to commemorate the accession to the throne of King George I. The race is rowed between Chelsea and London Bridges and the winner receives a scarlet coat and a silver badge

Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A
020 7405 2107 www.soane.org

transport: Holborn u/g; buses 1,8,25,38,59,68,91,98, 168,171,188,242

facilities: library; sales desk; tours (Sats 14.30, small charge)

opening: Tue-Sat 10.00-17.00, 1st Tues of every month 18.00-21.00 when parts lit by candle
admission free except for tours

the museum displays some of the paintings of the artist J M W Turner (1775-1851) including 'Admiral Van Tromp's Barge Entering the Texel'

London Canal Museum

12-13 New Wharf Road, King's Cross, N1
020 7713 0836 www.canalmuseum.org.uk

transport: Kings Cross & St Pancras u/g & rail; buses 10, 17,45,46,63,91,259,274

facilities: publications shop; tours by arrangement

opening: Tue-Sun 10.00-16.30

admission charge

this museum looks at the history and working of London's navigable waterways including the construction of the Regent's Canal, the various methods of towing or propelling barges and the 20th century decline, and subsequent conversion to leisure use, of the canal system. A 1924 film shows what life was like on the Regent's Canal and there is a collection of Measham Ware, a pottery popular with canal boat families

Narrow Boat pub

119 St Peter's Street, N1
020 7288 9821

transport: Angel u/g; buses 4,19,30,38,43,56,73,153, 214,274,341

facilities: meals & snacks lunchtime & evening

opening: Mon-Sat noon-23.00, Sun noon-22.30

this canal-side pub overlooks the Grand Union Canal and the narrowboat moorings of Wenlock Basin. A dining

extension at the back of the pub is a reconstruction of the inside of a narrowboat complete with sloping, panelled walls

Goldsmiths Company

Foster Lane, EC2V
020 7606 7010 www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk

transport: St Paul's & Mansion House u/g, City Thameslink, Farringdon rail; buses 8,56,100,172,242

opening: for special exhibitions. These are advertised on the website or details can be obtained from the Company
this City Livery Company has a gilded wooden statue of St Dunstan and a carved wooden coat of arms. Both of 1744 they were made for the Company's state barge. St Dunstan is the patron saint of goldsmiths

Little Venice, W2

transport: Warwick Avenue u/g, Paddington u/g & rail; buses 6,16,18,46,98,187

a basin of the Regent's Canal with a small island. The name was coined by the poet, Robert Browning, who lived in Warwick Avenue from 1862 to 1887 after the death of his wife, Elizabeth Barrett-Browning. Little Venice provides a mooring for brightly coloured narrow boats usually decorated with tubs of flowers during the summer months.

the Waterside Café is a converted barge festooned with flowers while The Lady Venice is painted in blue & yellow, has a wooden gondola on the deck, five swan-shaped containers and hanging baskets, all full of flowers. More flowers can be found on the pergola arching over the towpath

Narrow Street

Limehouse, E14

transport: West Ferry DLR, Limehouse DLR & rail

an interesting area contains some historic riverside pubs including Booty's (that was at one time the home of Tugboat Annie who commanded a fleet of 200 barges that were used to load and unload the ships using the warehouses lining the banks of the River Thames east of Tower Bridge)

Limehouse Basin

between Commercial Road and Narrow Street, E14

transport: Limehouse DLR & rail

this basin is at the River Thames end of the Regent's Canal and links that Canal with the Lee (Lea) Navigation via the Limehouse Cut. It is now a marina for yachts and canal boats

Garden Barge Square

Reed's Wharf, 33 Mill Street, SE1

transport: Tower Hill & Bermondsey u/g, Tower Gateway DLR; buses 42,47,78,188,381,RV1

this is a floating village of eco-barges moored in a 200-year old dock. These old Thames lighters were converted into houseboats with gardens on top to form a floating square. Now covered with plants they provide nesting for waterbirds

Regent's Canal

can be seen at various locations including St John's Wood, London Zoo, Camden Town, Islington, Victoria Park, Mile End and Limehouse

opening: tow path daily 09.00-dusk

the Regent's Canal is the part of the Grand Union Canal that links the basin at Paddington with the basin at

Limehouse for access to the River Thames. Completed in 1820 it is 9 miles (14.5 km) in length, has 42 bridges, 12 locks and 2 tunnels. A striking feature of any canal are the narrow boats, usually brightly painted and decorated with flowerpots and knick-knacks. Some have been converted into cafes or galleries

Floating Boater

Regent's Canal, Little Venice, W2
020 7266 1066 www.floatingboater.co.uk

transport: Warwick Avenue u/g, Paddington u/g & rail;
buses 6,16,18,46,98,187

opening: advance booking only. Please ring number above

this company provides dining and music trips on the Regent's Canal aboard the 'Prince Regent', an Edwardian canal boat resplendent with mahogany and ash panelling or the 'Lapwing', an 86 years old narrow boat with timbered saloon

Christ Church, Southwark

27 Blackfriars Road, SE1
020 7928 4707

transport: Southwark u/g & DLR; buses 45,63,100

opening: telephone the above number for admission

modern stained glass windows (1957/59 and 1984/5) illustrate local life and trades since the church's founding in 1670. Others show changes in the last 25 years. One of the windows shows lightermen whose job it was to unload by barge the large ships that came up the River Thames to the warehouses that stretched along the river eastwards of Tower Bridge

Dolphin Yard Sailing Barge Museum

Crown Quay Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent

transport: by road along the A2; Sittingbourne rail

facilities: disabled access & wcs; shop; picnic site

opening: Sun & Bank Holidays 11.00-17.00

this museum in a converted sail loft and forge looks at the history of the Thames Sailing Barge and the associated industries of brick and cement manufacture. Here you will find shipwrights, blacksmiths and riggers tools and models, plans & photographs. The barge yard has facilities for the repair of barges and those under restoration may be seen in the inlet

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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