



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## **Battle of Britain**

### **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**

## 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

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

also in the Chapel is a roll of honour for the 1497 pilots and crewmen killed during the Battle of Britain

## Royal Air Force Museum

Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9  
020 8205 2266 (general); 09001 6055 633 (info line)  
[www.rafmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk)

transport: Colindale u/g; buses 204,303

facilities: disabled access & wcs; library; restaurant & snacks; shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00  
admission charge

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

the Battle of Britain Museum has a sound and light show with tableaux on the Munich Crisis, the Declaration of War and Evacuation. Aircraft involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War (Junkers, Henkel, Tiger Moths, Spitfires & Hurricanes) and an operations room, uniforms, medals, documents and memorabilia make it a fascinating place to visit and get some idea of what the battle in the skies above Southern England was like

## London Biggin Hill Airfield

Kent TN16  
01959 572277 for airshow (Airdisplays International Ltd)

transport: road M25 junction 4; Bromley South rail; buses 246,320,464

Biggin Hill was originally a Royal Air Force station and played a vital role during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, being the base for the Spitfires during the Battle of Britain. It is now an important light aviation centre for business flights and flying lessons. See also entry under St George's RAF Chapel

its history as a military airfield began in 1917 when it became part of the inner patrol zone of the London Air Defence. It became famous in 1943 when it was the first station and sector airfield to claim 1000 enemy aircraft

destroyed. After the war it became Transport Command Terminal, then between 1946 and 1949 Reserve Command, then 49-57 Fighter Command. In 1958 it was made non-operational until the RAF left in 1992. If you are interested in learning more the website, [www.bigginhill.co.uk](http://www.bigginhill.co.uk), has a description of the history of the Base and the squadrons that flew from there

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

## St Clement Danes

Strand, WC2  
020 7242 8282

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

opening: daily 08.30-16.30

seven small tapestries on the staircase to the gallery show various events in London including the Battle of Britain and the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940

## RAF Uxbridge, No.11 (Fighter) Group Operations Room

Hillingdon, Middlesex UB10

transport: Uxbridge u/g, West Drayton rail; buses 207, A10,U3,U4,U7

opening: by appointment only. Please write to the above address

a visit to this Royal Air Force underground centre that was used for command and control of the South East sector of the United Kingdom during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, will give you an insight into operations during the Battle of Britain in 1940. The Plotting and Control Rooms are on view and the Briefing Room has a collection of wartime memorabilia

## 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 is in the shape of an aircraft hangar and has stained glass windows commemorating the spirit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War air and ground crews. A remembrance book lists the 454 allied aircrew during the Battle of Britain and there is a list on one wall of the overseas pilots who fought for the Royal Air Force

outside stand full size replicas of Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft

## Battle of Britain Memorial

Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey

transport: Waddon rail; buses 119,289

this 1991 23ft obelisk is topped with a bronze eagle and commemorates the Fighter Command Squadrons, WAAFs, Royal Observer Corps, medical staff and police who were all involved in the Battle of Britain

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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