



Seeing the Capital Differently

Beds & Bedrooms

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

Carlyle's House

24 Cheyne Row, Chelsea, SW3
020 7352 7087, 01494 755559 (infoline)
www.rbkc.gov.uk/ArtsAndMuseums/CarlylesHouse
transport: Sloane Square u/g 1¼ miles; buses 11,19,22,49,211,239,319,328,345
facilities: language boards in 6 languages
opening: Apr-Oct Wed-Fri 14.00-17.00, Sat-Sun 11.00-17.00
admission charge
the kitchen dresser incorporates a maid's bed

Kensington Palace

Kensington Gardens, W8
020 7937 9561 www.hrp.org.uk
transport: Queensway, Notting Hill Gate & High Street Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,12,49,52,70,94
facilities: multi-language audio guides; refreshments in The Orangery - morning coffee, light lunches & afternoon tea; gift and souvenirs shop; tours
opening: daily summer 10.00-17.00; winter 10.00-16.00 admission charge
Queen Mary's Bedchamber has the four poster state bed of King James II. The headcloth and headboard are decorated with cyphers and crowns
the bed, chaise longue, walnut cabinets and portable writing desk as used by the young Queen Victoria, are in Queen Victoria's bedroom. Here can be seen portraits of two of her children, the Princess Royal (painted in 1846) and Prince Alfred. Both are by Mary Thornycroft

Museum of London

150 London Wall, EC2Y
020 7600 0807 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
a late Stuart 'tester' (canopied) bed is on display

Osterley Park House

Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7
01494 755566 (infoline) www.osterleypark.org.uk
transport: Osterley u/g ½ mile; Syon Lane rail 1½ miles; buses H28, H91
facilities: parking; refreshments; shop; tours by arrangement
opening: house 1 April-end Oct Wed-Sun 13.00-16.00; park daily 09.00-19.30 or dusk
admission charge to house; park free
Robert Adam's green State Bed of 1776 is domed to resemble a temple to the fertility goddesses Venus and Pomona. The vallance displays the Child Family crest of an eagle with an adder in its beak
the State Bedroom (Yellow Tafetta Bedchamber) has a bed of 1779 surmounted by cupped acorns

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

the collection in the British Galleries includes a variety of beds. Amongst them is the four-poster Great Bed of Ware (1590-1600) made from English oak and mentioned by Shakespeare, and the Melville Bed (1700), a state bed 3.65m (12ft) wide which has been alluded to in Charles Dickens' novels. A French bed of 1780 is upholstered in green silk and a Chinese canopied bed dates from 1650

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
there is an 18th century French domed bed in the King's Bed Chamber. This room also has paintings by Canaletto and Gainsborough

Cabinet War Rooms

Clive Steps, King Charles Street, SW1A
020 7930 6961 www.iwm.org.uk
transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,159,211; boat: Westminster Millennium Pier
facilities: audio guide in 6 languages; disabled access; shop
opening: daily Oct-Mar 10.00-18.00, last admission 17.15; Apr-Sept 09.30-18.00 last admission 17.15 admission charge
on display are the rooms where major decisions regarding the 2nd World War were taken. Included are the telephone room, map room and Sir Winston Churchill's Office and Bedroom

Hampton Court Palace

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8
020 8781 9500 www.hrp.org.uk
transport: Richmond u/g, Hampton Court rail; buses 111,216,411,416,461,513,727,R68; boat Hampton Court
facilities: audio guides in 6 languages; disabled access (wheelchairs available); disabled wcs; parking; Tiltyard Tearoom or Privy Kitchen Coffee Shop, ice cream kiosks; 4 themed shops (Base Court, Garden, Tudor Kitchen, Barrack Block); costumed guides and family trails; free group tours (choose from daily programme)
opening: daily mid Mar-Oct Mon 10.15-18.00, Tue-Sun 09.30-18.00 (last admission 17.15); Nov-mid Mar Mon 10.15-16.30, Tue-Sun 09.30-16.30 (last admission 15.45) admission charge
among the magnificent ceiling paintings in the Palace is one in the King's Great Bedchamber of Endymion (an eternal sleeper) in the arms of Morpheus (god of dreams and sleep). The Little Bedchamber has Mars in the lap of Venus. Both are by Antonio Verrio
there are at least two beds in the Palace that are worth a mention - one dates from 1714 and was made for Queen Anne (in the Queen's Presence Chamber); the other of 1715-16 is the State Bed in crimson damask to be found in the Queen's Bedroom

Marble Hill House

Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1

020 8233 7435 (information), 020 7413 1443 (box office)
www.english-heritage.org.uk

transport: Richmond u/g & rail, Twickenham & St
Margarets rail; buses 33,290,490,H22,R68,R70
facilities: audio tape with hearing loop to ground floor;
disabled access to ground floor (1 wheelchair available);
snacks & meals (200m from house); shop; guided tours
by arrangement; group access only during winter months

opening: Wed-Sun Apr-Sept, 10.00-18.00, Oct 10.00-
17.00 (last admission 30 mins prior to closing)
admission charge

*the Barrington Bed of 1740 is on loan from the Victoria
and Albert Museum*

Cross Keys pub

31 Endell Street, WC2
020 7836 5185

transport: Tottenham Court Road & Covent Garden u/g;
buses 1,59,68,91,168,171,188

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-22.30 (bar
food noon-14.30)

*in this pub that has been described as a 'high-class junk
shop', pottery bedroom chamberpots are used to hold
plants*

Houses of Parliament

Old Palace Yard, Abingdon Street, Westminster, SW1
020 7219 4272 (Commons), 020 7219 3107 (Lords)
www.explore.parliament.uk

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,
88,159,211; boat Westminster Pier
facilities: Aug/Sept tours to be booked 5 days in advance
(020 7344 9966)

opening: debates in House of Commons Mon-Wed 14.30-
22.00, Thur 11.30-19.30, Fri 09.30-15.00; debates in
House of Lords Mon-Wed from 14.30, Thurs from 15.00,
Fri from 11.00

*the Speaker's House has some lovely furniture including a
walnut and gilt State bed of 1858. Unfortunately the
house is not usually open to the public but is used for
official entertaining*

Ham House

Ham Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW10
020 8940 1950 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southern

transport: Richmond u/g & rail; buses 65,371
facilities: disabled access & wcs; parking; licensed
restaurant in the Orangery; tours

opening: house Apr-Oct Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 13.00-17.00;
gardens all year Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 11.00-18.00
admission charge

*here in the Yellow Bedroom the bed has carved cherub
feet*

Croydon Palace

Old Palace Road, Croydon, Surrey
020 8256 1891 www.friendsofoldpalace.org

transport: East & West Croydon rail; Tramlink Reeves
Corner or Church; buses 154,166,194,264,367,403,405,
412,450,494

facilities: regrettably no access for wheelchairs
opening: special days with 2 hour guided tours starting at
13.45. Telephone or visit internet site for dates
admission charge includes tea and scones. Booking not
necessary

*the 1000 year old former residence of Archbishops of
Canterbury is now a girl's school. Rooms to be visited
include the 15th century Great Hall, the Tudor Long
Gallery, Norman undercroft and a bedroom used by
Queen Elizabeth I*

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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