



Seeing the Capital Differently

Bridges

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

there are many bridges across the River Thames and only a few that have specific details of interest have been included in this Theme. A complete list of all the Thames bridges together with basic details of each one will be the subject of a future Theme

*"Twenty bridges from Tower to Kew
Wanted to know what the River knew,
For they were young, and the Thames was old
And this is the tale that the River told"
Rudyard Kipling 1911*

Chiswick House

Burlington Lane, Hogarth Road, W4
020 8995 0508 www.english-heritage.org.uk
Turnham Green u/g ¾ mile, Chiswick rail ½ mile; buses
190,272,E3
facilities: audio tour in French & German, hearing loop for
video; disabled access with two steps at entrance & a
chairlift to upper floors; snacks; giftshop; group tours
during winter months

opening: house Apr-Sept 10.00-18.00, Oct 10.00-17.00
(Sats 10.00-noon only); gardens: daily dawn-dusk
admission charge to house, gardens free

*the 1774 stone bridge was designed by the landscape
architect, James Wyatt (1746-1813)*

Fishmongers Company

north side of London Bridge, EC4
020 7626 3531 www.fishhall.co.uk/company.html
transport: Monument u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail;
buses 15,36,40,43,47,48,133,149,344
opening: not normally open to public. Tours may be
possible by prior application in writing
*this City of London Livery Company owns a chair made of
wood from the piles of the medieval London Bridge*

Tate Britain

Millbank, SW1P
020 7887 8000 (recorded info. 020 7887 8008)
www.tate.org.uk
transport: Pimlico u/g; buses 2,36,77A,88,185,C10;
catamaran boat service 'Tate to Tate' between Tate &
Tate Modern via London Eye (40 mins, charge made)
facilities: audio self-tour guides; disabled access (4
wheelchairs are available on request); special touch tours
by arrangement; disabled wcs; library; 6 disabled
parking spaces; Tate café (daily 10.30-17.30), Espresso
Bar (daily 10.00-16.30), Tate Restaurant (daily for lunch
noon-15.00, Sun noon-16.00 (reservations 020 7887
8877)); Tate Shop (daily Mon-Sat 10.30-16.40, Sun
10.00-16.40), Clore Shop (daily noon-17.30) for books &
posters; tours
opening: daily 10.00-17.50
admission free

*amongst the paintings by James McNeill Whistler is the
famous 'Nocturne in Blue and Gold: Old Battersea
Bridge'*

Tower Bridge and Tower Bridge Experience, SE1

020 7403 3761 www.towerbridge.org.uk
transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch
Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium &
St Katharine's Piers
facilities: disabled access & wcs; gift shop
opening: daily Nov-Mar 09.30-18.00, Apr-Oct 10.00-
18.30; last admission 90 mins before closing

admission charge. Engine Room may be visited separately
for lower charge

*Tower Bridge is a neo-gothic 1894 metal bridge, clad in
Cornish granite and Portland stone, and designed by Sir
Horace Jones to serve both as a bridge allowing access to
the Pool of London and as a roadway connecting north
and south London. It was the last downstream Bridge
over the Thames for almost 100 years until the new
bridge at the Dartford Crossing was completed. The road
bridge is only 30ft (9m) above the water with a double lift
giving access for shipping. The two towers conceal the
lifting machinery. Originally hydraulic this was replaced in
1976 by electric motors.*

*The Experience will enable you to learn about the history
of the Bridge and how the engines, boilers and water
storage tanks were used to operate the bascules that
raise it. The Bridge's elevated walkways not only offer
panoramic views of London but have a display of
photographs illustrating the first 100 years of its history*

Mudlark pub

Montague Close, Borough High Street, SE1
020 7403 1517
transport: Borough u/g, London Bridge u/g & rail; buses
21,35,40,43,47,48,133,149,343
*this pub has drawings of various London Bridges from
Roman times onwards. Outside there are pieces of the old
London Bridge*

Vauxhall Bridge, SW1/SE1

transport: Pimlico u/g, Victoria u/g & rail; buses 2,36,
77A,88,185,C10
*on the upstream side there are sculptures of allegorical
figures representing agriculture (with a scythe),
architecture (with a model of St Paul's Cathedral),
engineering and pottery; by Frederick W Pomeroy, 1906
on the downstream side there are sculptures of allegorical
figures representing fine arts (with a palette), science,
education (with books) and local government; by Alfred
Drury, 1906*

Serpentine

Hyde Park, W2
transport: Knightsbridge & Hyde Park Corner u/g; buses
2,8,9,10,14,16,19,22,36,38,52,73,74,82,137
*an 1828 bridge by the civil engineer, John Rennie (1761-
1821), spans the end of Long Water and the Serpentine
Lake*

Queen Mary's Gardens

Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1
transport: Baker Street & Regent's Park u/g; buses 13,
18,27,30,74,82,113,189,274,C2
opening: 07.00-dusk
a Chinese bridge decorates the Gardens

Holborn Viaduct, EC1

transport: Chancery Lane u/g, Farringdon u/g & rail, City
Thameslink rail; buses 8,25,45,46,242,341
*Holborn Viaduct is a three-span iron bridge on granite
piers which originally spanned the valley of the River Fleet
and Farringdon Street. Built in 1896 it is 1400ft (427mt)
long and 80ft(24m) wide and has four Italian Gothic
gazebo at the corners. Two of the original houses at the
corners have carved Neptune heads over lower arches
and a balcony held up by male half-figures
the viaduct itself has bronze statues of City notables and
four figures depicting Commerce with open hand, money*

and a key to the City; Agriculture with a scythe, corn & belt; Science with an instrument for measuring the speed of a steam engine and a globe with Zodiac signs; Fine Art with drawing sheet & pen and pallet & brush on the floor. Two pairs of bronze winged lions stand at either end

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

these original docks built in the late 1820s are now a bustling marina. The old swing bridges, Ivory House warehouse and clock tower were designed and built by the British engineer Thomas Telford (1757-1834)

Guy's Hospital

St Thomas' Street, SE1
020 7955 5000

transport: Borough u/g, London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 21,35,40,43,48,133,149,343,381

part of the 18th century London Bridge is preserved in the quadrangle

Hampstead Heath

East Heath Road NW3/N6

transport: Hampstead, & Highgate u/g, Hampstead Heath rail; buses 24,46,168,210,214,268,271,C2, C11,C12,H3

a red-brick bridge over Viaduct Road is known as 'Wilson's Folly' after the man who wanted to build houses on the Heath. He decided where the access road would go and built the necessary bridge but had neglected to apply for planning permission. This was subsequently refused and his scheme had to be abandoned!

Eltham Palace

Court Yard, Court Road, Eltham, SE9
020 8294 2548

transport: Mottingham & Eltham rail; buses 124,126,132, 160,161,162,233,286,314,321,B16

facilities: audio tours in French or German and for hearing impaired; disabled access to ground floor; tearoom; giftshop; pre-booked tours for groups (020 8294 2548)

opening: Wed-Fri, Sun Apr-Sept 10.00-18.00, Oct 10.00-17.00, Nov-Mar 10.00-16.00

admission charge

a 15th century stone bridge spans the former moat

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 with wheelchairs provided; Admiralty restaurant (bar & grill 020 7845 4646), summer bar on Terrace, café, Courtyard refreshments; shops in all galleries; tours about history & architecture (Thu & Sat 13.30 & 15.45 for which a charge is made)

opening: Courtyard, Seamen's Waiting Hall & River Terrace daily 07.30-23.00 (19.00 in winter); Collections daily 10.00-18.00

admission free with a charge for collections

a modern glass and steel bridge connects the River Terrace to Waterloo Bridge

Prudential Assurance Building

Holborn, EC1

transport: Chancery Lane u/g, Farringdon u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,25,45,46,242,341

there is a Bridge of Sighs in the Courtyard

St Magnus the Martyr Church

Lower Thames Street, EC3
020 7626 4481

transport: Monument u/g; buses 15,35,40,43,47,48,133, 149

opening: Tue-Fri 10.00-16.00, Sun 10.00-14.00

the churchyard has stones from the medieval and 19th century London bridges. A plaque marks the approach road to the original stone London Bridge (1176). The present position was chosen when the 1831 bridge was constructed

Canary Wharf

Isle of Dogs, E14
www.canarywharf.com

transport: Canary Wharf u/g & DLR, West India Quay DLR; buses 277,D3,D7,D8

the 'Floating Footbridge' over West India Quay was designed by Future Systems who also designed an all-glass house in Islington & a grass-covered house in Wales

Westminster Bridge, SW1/SE1

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

a 7-arched bridge of 1862 by Thomas Page and Charles Barry, it was immortalised in William Wordsworth's poem 'Upon Westminster Bridge' written in 1802

Battersea Bridge, SW3/SW11

transport: buses 11,19,22,49,211,239,319,345; boat Cadogan Pier

the present bridge was built in 1890 by the engineer Sir Joseph William Bazalgette (1819-91). The original wooden one of 1772 appears in paintings by J M W Turner and James McNeill Whistler (see entry under Tate Britain)

Albert Bridge, SW3/SW11

transport: bus 239; boat Cadogan Pier

the 1873 iron girder suspension bridge by Rowland Ordish is most attractive when lit at night. On the south-east corner there is a warning that troops must break step when marching across it for fear of damaging the structure. This is because the bridge bounces

Hungerford Bridge, SE1

transport: Embankment u/g, Charing Cross & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 6,9,11,13,15,23,77A,91,176

the combined foot and rail bridge from Embankment Station to Waterloo was built in 1864 as a toll bridge. Two new pedestrian footbridges were opened in 2003 as the Golden Jubilee Bridge 2002 and cross the Thames on both sides of the railway. The views both upstream and downstream are outstanding especially that of St Paul's Cathedral and the City. The bridges aim to echo the original suspension bridge of 1841 built by the great engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Chelsea Bridge, SW1/SW8

transport: Sloane Square u/g, Battersea Park rail; buses 137,211,239

an attractive suspension bridge (especially at night) opened in 1927 to replace the 1858 original

Blackfriars Bridge, EC4/SE1

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

the original bridge on this site was built in 1769 as the William Pitt Bridge after the prime minister of the time. It had nine elliptical arches of Portland stone and its designs are depicted on the walls of the southern pedestrian underpass.

the present 1860s bridge has abutments like pulpits & buttress piers resting on art nouveau pelicans. Railway insignia are engraved on the stone piers. The widest bridge across the Thames it is still possible to see the pillars built in 1862-4 which supported the line of the London, Chatham & Dover Railway from Blackfriars Station. The Railway subsequently went bankrupt

London Bridge, EC4/SE1

transport: Monument & Bank u/g, London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 15,21,35,40,43,47,48,133,149,343,381

the present bridge was built in 1973 to replace the previous one which was sold to the USA and now stands in the Arizona desert at Lake Havasu

Mile End Park, E2

www.mileendpark.co.uk

transport: Mile End u/g; buses 25,277,D6,D7

a new innovation by Gough Piers the Green Bridge is a 82ft (25 m) span of landscaped parkland across a main road thus enabling the two parts of the park to be linked together

Waltham Abbey Church

Greenyard, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 01992 767897 (Parish Office)

transport: Waltham Cross rail; bus 505

opening: daily 10.00-16.00 winter, 10.00-18.00 summer
some parts of the original 12th century Norman building remain including the stone bridge, cloister entry, gateway, precinct and chapter house walls

Engineers Company

Wax Chandlers' Hall, Gresham Street, EC2V 020 7726 4830 www.engineerscompany.org.uk

transport: St Paul's & Bank u/g, Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 8,56,76,100,133,242

the coat of arms of this City of London Livery Company includes a sun with 16 rays (the 16 original institutions forming the Company), Tower Bridge, Pegasus, Smeatons Lighthouse and the IronBridge at Coalbrookdale

Millennium Bridge

Peters Hill, near St Paul's Cathedral to Tate Modern, EC4/SE1

transport: Mansion House & Southwark u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 26,45,63,76,100,172,344,381

a suspension bridge 320 yards (370mt) long of stainless steel with curving stainless steel balustrades. In 2000 it was opened briefly to the public but was found to sway and was subsequently closed for re-engineering. It reopened in 2002 after dampers had been fitted

the concept of a 'wobbly' bridge has since been used in the design of a bridge in Hong Kong - in this case it will be used to generate electricity!

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 Lib (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*

the Maritime London Gallery shows the history of the River Thames from being a major port to what it is today. It has sections on shipping and shipbuilding, bridges and buildings, cargoes and commerce, pomp and pageantry, and local community life in London along the Thames

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*

a civil engineering section looks at all aspects including construction materials and techniques, building services, transport infrastructure, roads and bridges

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road, EC1
020 7332 3820

transport: Angel u/g; buses 19,38,56,153,341

opening: Mon, Wed, Fri 09.30-16.45, Tue & Thur 09.30-19.30

here you will find half a million photographs on the history & topography of London especially the Inner London area. They include negatives of schools, housing estates, parks, bridges, churches, theatres, pubs, hospitals, historic houses, areas designated for clearance and 2nd World War damage

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
the Staircase Hall displays a painting by David Roberts entitled 'St Paul's and Blackfriars Bridge'*

St Saviour's Dock, SE1

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

a modern (1995) suspension bridge links the two sides of the dock

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
the original bridge and moat were built by King Henry VIII. The moat was filled and the bridge covered by King Charles II. Excavated in 1910 the bridge is now fronted by the King's Beasts - the lion and the unicorn

Victoria Park

Grove Road, Bow, E9
020 8533 2057

transport: Bethnal Green u/g, Cambridge Heath rail;
buses 8,277,309,D3,D6,S2

opening: daily 07.00-dusk

two more alcoves from the old London Bridge can be found by the cricket pitch in this East London park

Lambeth Bridge, SW1/SE1

transport: Lambeth North u/g, Victoria u/g & rail; buses 3,77,77A,344,C10

the bridge's stonework is carved with pineapples in honour of the Tradescant Family, gardeners to King Charles I and buried in the grounds of the Museum of Garden History. The bridge is painted red to echo the colour of the House of Lords benches in the Houses of Parliament while Westminster Bridge is painted green after the colour of the House of Commons benches

Museum in Docklands

No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, Isle of Dogs, E14
020 7001 9800 www.museumindocklands.org.uk

transport: Canary Wharf u/g & DLR, West India Quay DLR; buses 277,D3,D7,D8

facilities: disabled access; bar & restaurant, café; shop (Mon-Sat 10.00-18.00, Sun noon-18.00)

opening: daily 10.00-18.00

admission charge allows as many visits for one year as wish

this Grade 1 listed Georgian warehouse has five floors of exhibits illustrating 2000 years of Docklands history from 43AD to the present time. Using interactive techniques, paintings, photographs, models and artefacts you can trace the history of the ports, the warehouses and the trades and companies associated with them.

London Bridge was the first bridge to be built across the river and two large scale models show stages in its history. The first is of the 15th century bridge, lined with houses and a church with the added touch of the heads of traitors on poles. The second is the 17th century bridge with its waterwheels and Nonesuch Palace. There are two 1830 etchings by E W Cooke - one shows a new bridge being built alongside the old and the other the new bridge in use with the old being dismantled

Guildhall

Aldermanbury, EC2
020 7606 3030

transport: Bank & Mansion House u/g, Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 8,56,76,100,133,242

opening: daily May-Sept 10.00-17.00; Mon-Sat Oct-Apr 10.00-17.00 (advisable to check opening as often closed for events)

admission free

modern stained glass roundels show a variety of subjects:- Samuel Pepys, the City of London in December

1940, 4 different bridges, the Mansion House and Henry Fitzalwin, 1st Lord Mayor of London (1189-1212)

Waterloo Bridge, WC2/SE1

transport: Embankment & Temple u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail, Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1, 6,9,11,13,15,23,26, 59, 68,76,77,77A,91,168,171,172,176,188,211,211,341, 381

the present bridge replaced that built by John Rennie. Faced in Portland Stone it has five concrete arches and is 230ft (70m) long. Designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960) it was opened in 1944 and was known as The Ladies Bridge as most of the work was done by women during the 2nd World War

the original bridge by the engineer John Rennie (1761-1821) was opened on the 2nd anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and was originally known as the Strand Bridge. There is an observation platform below bridge where you can find a panoramic relief of John Rennie's bridge showing nine semi-elliptical arches resting on Doric columns. The observation platform is the last remaining pier of the old bridge

Myddleton House Gardens

Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2
01992 702200 www.leevalleypark.com

transport: Turkey Street rail 1 mile

facilities: disabled wcs; parking; light snacks Sun only; plant shop; tours by arrangement

opening: Easter-October Mon-Fri, Suns 10.00-16.30
admission charge

although these gardens are usually visited to see the collections of different and unusual varieties of iris and bulbs (especially tulips), it does contain a part of the old London Bridge

Foots Cray Meadows

North Cray Road, Bexley, Kent

transport: Albany Park rail

opening: daily

the attractive Five Arches Bridge over the River Cray is in a delightful area of woodland and open parkland

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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