



Seeing the Capital Differently

Buddhism

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

British Library

96 Euston Road, NW1
020 7412 7332 www.bl.uk

transport: King's Cross/St Pancras & Euston u/g & rail;
buses 10,20,73,91
facilities: *Acousta guides; disabled access & wcs;
refreshments; shop; tours (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun 15.00; Sat
10.30 & 15.00)*

opening: daily Mon,Wed-Fri 09.30-18.00, Tues 09.30-
20.00, Sat 09.30-17.00, Sun 11.00-17.00
admission free to Exhibition Galleries, reader's pass
required for reading rooms. Charge for tours

*sacred texts in the collection include rules for Buddhist
monks and a Burmese folding book about the life of
Buddha*

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
*precious manuscripts about Buddhist religion came from
Korea. Other artefacts from South East Asia including art
from Gaudhara*

Battersea Park and Zoo

Albert Bridge Road, SW11
020 8871 7540 (zoo) or 020 8871 6374 (playground)
www.wandsworth.gov.uk

transport: Sloane Square u/g, Battersea Park &
Queenstown Road rail; buses 19,44,45,49,137,140,239,
319,344,345

opening: park - daily dawn to dusk; zoo -daily Easter-
Sept 10.00-17.00; Sat-Sun Oct-Easter 11.00-15.00;
playground term time Tues-Fri 15.30-19.00, holidays &
weekends 11.00-18.00
admission free to park and playground. Admission charge
to zoo

*in 1985 Japanese Buddhist monks built the Peace Pagoda
by the side of the River Thames. It is built of two tiers of
Portland stone and Canadian fir wood and has four gilded
buddhas in the niches*

Buddhapadipa Thai Temple

14 Calonne Road, Wimbledon, SW19
020 8946 1357 www.buddhapadipa.org

transport: Wimbledon u/g & rail; buses 93,200
opening: grounds daily, Temple Sat-Sun 13.00-17.00

*moving to this site in 1976 this Thai temple was the first
Buddhist temple in the UK and is known as a centre for
the dissemination of theoretical and practical Buddhist
teachings in Europe.*

*the Temple has three Buddha statues - one of black
bronze (1966), one of gold (1982) and one a replica of
the Emerald Buddha in the Temple at the Grand Palace of
Bangkok (1992). At the base of the Buddha's throne are
nine tables inlaid with mother of pearl. A pair of Chinese*

*style vases hold golden lotus flowers and wall murals by
Thai painters depict aspects of Buddha's life*

London Buddhist Centre

51 Roman Road, E2
0845 458 4716 www.lbc.org.uk

transport: Bethnal Green u/g; Cambridge Heath rail;
buses 8,309,D6
facilities: *charity shop*

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00

*this centre provides an insight into Buddhism with courses
and drop-in consultations*

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 has notable Indian, Himalayan, Japanese
and South East Asian sculptures of Buddhas in terracotta,
stone, bronze, wood and ivory. One special piece of note
is an 11th-12th century buddha in gilt-bronze while a
Chinese head of Buddha in bronze dates from the Tang
dynasty of 750AD and stands over 1metre high*

Arya Daka Arch

51 Globe Road, E2

transport: Bethnal Green & Stepney Green u/g; buses 8,
309,339,D6

*this wrought iron arch has a lotus flower opening that
reveals two deer lying either side of a vase. Above is an
eight spoked wheel inset with coloured stones and a
trident within a decorative circle fringed with flames. This
is the crest of Nalanda with other Buddhist symbols
Nalanda was a great monastic university of India in the
time of Buddha and as the crest has been used by other
monastic institutions it is an appropriate symbol for a
teaching institution*

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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