



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## **Cats - Domestic & Wild**

### **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

website: [www.citytheme.co.uk](http://www.citytheme.co.uk)  
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**Enjoy Your Explorations**

## British Museum

Great Russell Street, WC1B  
020 7323 8000 [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://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  
*among the collection of artefacts from Egypt are bronze and mummified cats*

## Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4  
020 7353 3745

transport: Chancery Lane u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,11,15,25,26,45,63,76,100,172, 341

facilities: *sales desk; tours by arrangement*

opening: May-Sep 11.00-17.30, Oct-Apr 11.00-17.00  
admission charge

*a statue of Dr Johnson's pet cat 'Hodge' sits outside the house, with an empty oyster shell at its feet*

## Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

Gower Street, WC1E  
020 7387 2884 [www.petrie.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.petrie.ucl.ac.uk)

transport: Goodge Street, Euston Square & Russell Square u/g, Euston u/g & rail; buses 10,18,24,29,30,59, 68,73,91,134,168

facilities: *library by arrangement; restaurant in main college; sales desk; tours by arrangement*

opening: daily 10.00-noon, 13.15-17.00; closed for four weeks in the summer  
admission free

*the museum has the Langton collection of miniatures of the cat goddess 'Bastet'*

## Cat Museum

49 High Street, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middx, HA1  
020 8422 1892

transport: Harrow-on-the-Hill u/g & rail; buses 258,H17

opening: Thur-Sat 09.30-17.00, Sun 14.00-17.00  
admission free

*there are 300 representations of the cat in this collection. Many are antiques from across the world and include woodcuts, art-deco ashtrays and nutcrackers*

## Tiger Tavern

Tower Hill, EC3  
020 7626 5097

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

opening: all permitted hours

*the bar has a mummified cat that was supposed to have been stroked by Queen Elizabeth I while she was imprisoned in the Tower*

## Victoria Memorial Gardens

The Mall, SW1

transport: St James's Park & Green Park u/g; Victoria u/g & rail; buses 2,8,9,14,16,19,22,36,38,52,73,82

*the gardens have three ornamental gateways that were gifts from member countries of the British Commonwealth. The gate east to Constitution Hill was the gift of West and South Africa and is decorated with a leopard and eagle (Wes Africa) and an ostrich and monkey (South Africa)*

## London Zoological Gardens Collection

Outer Circle, Regent's Park, NW1  
020 7722 3333

[www.londonzoo.co.uk/www.zsl.org/www.weboflife.co.uk](http://www.londonzoo.co.uk/www.zsl.org/www.weboflife.co.uk)  
transport: Regent's Park, Baker Street & Chalk Farm u/g; buses 18,27,30,274,C2; waterbus Camden Lock, Little Venice & The Zoo (020 7482 2550)

facilities: *large print guide; disabled access & wcs; parking and pay & display; 4 restaurants and cafes*

opening: daily Mar-Sept 10.00-17.30, last admission 16.30; Oct-Feb 10.00-16.00; last admission 15.00  
admission charge

*Asian lions and tigers can be seen at this 36 acre zoo dedicated to the conservation of and education about rare breeds*

## Whittington Stone

near Salisbury Walk, foot of Highgate Hill, Highgate, N19

transport: Archway u/g; buses 4,10,17,41,43,134,143, 210,263,271,C11,W5

*the statue of 1821 had a cat added in 1964. The stone commemorates Dick Whittington (c.1358-1423) who was alderman and then Lord Mayor of London three times (1397-9, 1406-7, 1419-20). Folk legend says that he had a cat as his companion and was on Highgate Hill when he was 'told' he would become Lord Mayor*

## Savoy Hotel

1 Savoy Hill, Strand, WC2  
020 7836 4343

[www.savoy-group.com/savoy/savoy.asp](http://www.savoy-group.com/savoy/savoy.asp)

transport: Temple u/g, Charing Cross 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 Pier

opening: hotel: all hours; American Bar: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-15.00, 19.00-22.30

*the hotel keeps a model of a cat that is always placed on a chair at a table if only 13 people are dining*

## 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

*a statue in the east side arcade is of Dick Whittington (c.1358-1423) and his cat. He was alderman and then Lord Mayor of London three times (1397-9, 1406-7, 1419-20). Folk legend says that he had a cat as his companion and was on Highgate Hill when he was 'told' he would become Lord Mayor*

### **Bates the Hatter**

21A Jermyn Street, SW1  
020 7734 2722

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14,15,19,22,23,38,53,88,139,159

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.30, Sat 09.30-16.00

*a stuffed cat complete with cigar and top hat is kept in a glass case in this hat shop. It is said to be the body of a stray cat 'Binks' who wandered into the shop in 1923 and never left*

### **St Michael Paternoster Royal**

College Hill, EC4  
020 7248 5202

transport: Mansion House u/g, Cannon Street rail; buses 8,11,26,76,100,172,242

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00

*a modern stained glass window has the theme of confrontation between good and evil. Included is Dick Whittington with knapsack and cat; above the City of London with the streets paved with gold; designed by John Hayward (for a description of Dick Whittington see entry under 'Guildhall')*

### **Lombard Street, EC3**

transport: Monument u/g, Bank u/g & DLR, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35,47,48,133,149,242,344

*a street sign of a cat playing a fiddle marks the site of the Cat and Fiddle Inn*

### **St Bartholomew-the-Great Church**

Cloth Fair, West Smithfield, EC1  
020 7606 5171

transport: Barbican & St Paul's u/g, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,25,56,242

opening: Tue-Fri 08.30-17.00, Sat 10.30-13.30, Sun 08.00-13.00, 14.30-20.00

*there is a sculptured face of 'The Smithfield or Clerkenwell Cat' in the arch of the south transept. Carved when the arch was erected you will need very good eyesight or glasses. If you can't find it ask at the Information Desk*

### **Chessington World of Adventures**

Chessington, Surrey, KT9  
0870 444 77 77      www.chessington.com

transport: Chessington South rail and 10min walk; bus 465 from Kingston, 467 from Epsom

opening: mid Mar-Oct with some mid week closing during off-peak times. Check days and times by telephoning the number given above or by looking on the internet

*the zoo has Asian lions, Persian and snow leopards and Sumatran tigers*

### **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)

opening: Tue-Sat 10.00-17.00  
admission free

*among the many unusual items in this personal collection of the architect Sir John Soane is a mummified cat*

### **Jubilee (Silver Jubilee Fountain)**

New Palace Yard, Westminster, SW1

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

*made of black painted galvanised steel strips and rotating on an axis, it is decorated with animals - unicorn (Europe), lion (Africa), tiger (Asia), kangaroo (Australia), penguin (Antarctica): constructed by Walenty Pytel, 1977*

### **No.18 Cannon Street**

transport: Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,76,100,172

*a very attractive statue of a leopard poised on a tree trunk above rocks stands outside this City office. In bronze it is by Jonathan Kenworthy (1985)*

### **Whipsnade Wild Animal Park**

Dunstable, Beds, LU6  
01582 872171

transport: easiest by car although a Green Line coach runs from Victoria station during the summer. Luton & Hemel Hempstead rail is 10 miles from the park

opening: daily Mon-Sat 10.00-18.00, Sun 10.00-19.00 (last admission 1 hour before closing)

admission charge

*the other part of London Zoo set in the Bedfordshire countryside. It is home to 2,500 animals including tigers, elephants, giraffes, brown bears, rhinos and hippos*

### **Bbar**

43 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1  
020 7958 7000

transport: Victoria u/g & rail; buses 8,11,16,38,52,73,82,185,211,239,C1,C10

opening: Mon-Fri 11.30-23.00

*this bar is decorated with black and white posters of big cats, leopard print bar stools and a stuffed running cheetah*

### **Hyde Park Barracks**

Carriage Drive, Hyde Park, SW7

transport: Knightsbridge & Hyde Park Corner u/g; buses 2,8,9,10,14,16,19,22,36,38,52,73,74,82,137

*on the wall of the Barracks you will find a plaque, complete with columns & pediment, inscribed 'To the honoured memory of Major Matthew Fontaine Mouray Meiklejohn, Gordon Highlander, killed on duty opposite this spot June 28 1913'. Beneath the inscription is a sphinx and a tiger of India. Major Meiklejohn was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1899 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War for leading the depleted Gordon Highlanders against an enemy attack at the Battle of Elandslaagte. He was badly wounded but recovered, only to be killed in 1913 in a riding accident in Hyde Park. He is buried in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey*

### **National Gallery**

Trafalgar Square, WC2N  
020 7747 2885      www.nationalgallery.org.uk/

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,11,12,13,15,23,24,29,53,77A,88,91,139,159,176; boat Embankment Pier. Free bus service between National Gallery, Tate & Tate Modern every 30mins

facilities: gallery soundtrack in 5 languages; tape guide for visually-impaired; sign language tours; large print labels; disabled access (wheelchairs on request); disabled wcs; library by arrangement; restaurant & snacks; shop; tours (daily 11.30 & 14.30 plus 18.30 Weds)

opening: daily 10.00-18.00, Weds 10.00-21.00

admission free

*amongst the many masterpieces in this collection are 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)' by Henri Rousseau (1891); 'The Painter's Daughters with a Cat' by Thomas Gainsborough (1760); and 'Woman with a Cat' by Edouard Manet (1880)*

### **Victoria and Albert Museum**

Cromwell Road, SW7

020 7942 2000/0870 442 0808 24hr information

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://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

*among the fine art material from India to be found in the Nehru Gallery of Indian Art is Tipu's Tiger made in 1795. It is a wooden automata showing a tiger mauling an officer of the East India Company. Getting his own back??*

### **Battersea Dog's and Cat's Home**

4 Battersea Park Road, SW8

020 7622 3626 [www.dogshome.org](http://www.dogshome.org)

transport: Battersea Park rail; buses 44,137,344

opening: Mon-Wed & Fri 10.30-16.15, Sat-Sun 10.30-15.15

*this charity's motto is 'Rescue, Reunite, Rehabilitate, Rehome' and the Home exists to take in lost and abandoned dogs and cats. Established in 1860 in Holloway, North London it moved to this site in 1871. Here visitors can see how the Home operates and find out about the work of kennel hands, vets, clinics and the team who pick up strays throughout London. You can meet the volunteers who are always needed for walking and petting and learn about the excellent work done. Here microchipping of animals and computerised registration systems were pioneered in 1989 and 1993 while during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War a War Dog School*

### **Cheyne Walk**

Chelsea, SW10/SW3

transport: buses 19,49,239, 319,345

*this 1925 sculpture of a 'Boy with Cat' is in bronze and is by P Lindsay Clark*

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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