



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Chairs

### 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)  
e-mail: [info@citythemes.co.uk](mailto:info@citythemes.co.uk)  
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

**Enjoy Your Explorations**

## Chiswick House

Burlington Lane, Hogarth Road, W4  
020 8995 0508 [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

transport: 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 (Sat 10.00-noon only); gardens: daily dawn-dusk admission charge to house; gardens free

*the mahogany hall chairs of 1730 were part of a set of sixteen*

## Fishmongers Company

north side of London Bridge, EC4  
020 7626 3531 [www.fishhall.co.uk/company.html](http://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. Prior application in writing may be possible  
*this City of London Livery Company owns a chair made of wood from the piles of the medieval London Bridge*

## Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Pub

Wine Office Court, 145 Fleet Street (off Shoe Lane), EC4  
020 7353 6170

transport: Blackfriars u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 11,15,26,45,63,76,100,172,341  
opening: Mon-Fri 11.30-23.00, Sat 11.30-14.00, 17.30-23.00, Sun noon-16.00  
*this pub boasts being in possession of a chair used by Dr. Samuel Johnson*

## St Mary's

St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe, SE16  
020 7231 2465  
transport: Rotherhithe & Canada Water u/g; buses 1,47,188,199,381

opening: Mon-Thur 07.00-18.00, Sat-Sun 08.00-18.00  
*in the chapel the altar table and sanctuary chairs are made from timber from HMS Temeraire, a ship that fought alongside Lord Nelson's ship 'Victory' at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. She was made famous by Turner's 1838 painting 'The Fighting Temeraire' that he composed as she was being taken up river to Rotherhithe to be broken up*

## Ham House

Ham Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW10  
020 8940 1950 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southern](http://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

*English japanned chairs can be seen in the Queen's Suite of this 17<sup>th</sup> century house*

## 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  
*the 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture includes Dr. Johnson's gout chair from the Old Cock Tavern, Fleet Street, one of his favourite watering holes*

## Lobby Bar

1 Aldwych, WC2  
020 7300 1000  
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: Mon-Sat 11.30-23.00, Sun 11.30-22.30  
*the interior of this bar has a cathedral look with high ceilings, tall arched and semi-lead windows and 'throne' chairs*

## Marble Hill House

Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1  
020 8233 7435 (information), 020 7413 1443 (box office)  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://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  
*this Palladian riverside villa is furnished with 18<sup>th</sup> century English furniture. The Northey Suite of six chairs and a settee was made in 1760 and is decorated with petit-point scenes*

## St Mary's

Church Road - south side Battersea Bridge, SW11  
020 7228 9648  
transport: Clapham Junction rail 3/4m; buses 19,49,239,319,345  
*this church has the chair used by the artist J M W Turner when painting clouds and sunsets from the oriel vestry window*

## Museum of London

150 London Wall, EC2Y  
020 7600 3699 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://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  
*here you will find a 19<sup>th</sup> century chair used by the author Charles Dickens*

## National Gallery

Trafalgar Square, WC2N  
020 7747 2885 [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://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

*this time a painting of a chair. By Van Gogh the 'Chair and Pipe' dates from 1888*

### Sketch

9 Conduit Street, W1  
0870 777 4488

transport: Piccadilly Circus & Oxford Circus u/g; buses 3, 6,12,13,15,23,53,88,139,159

opening: Mon-Sat: Gallery Restaurant 17.00-22.30; West Bar noon-02.00; East Bar 17.00-02.00; Parlour 10.00-19.00; Lecture Room/Library Tue-Sat noon-14.00, 19.00-22.30

*this Patisserie and Bars have tables covered with grey silhouettes resembling Quality Street characters, chairs that are covered with reproductions of Old Masters and chandeliers & lampshades encased in cylinders of light-polarising fabric*

### 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

*John Linnel designed, in 1775, the lyre-backed mahogany chairs, desk and side tables to be found in the Breakfast Room and Library*

### Blue Posts pub

6 Bennett Street, St James's, SW1  
020 7493 3350

transport: Green Park u/g; buses 8,9,14,19,22,38

*the sign of this pub shows two people waiting to hire a sedan chair and standing next to a blue painted post. Blue-coloured sedan chairs could be hired in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the pub was named after the blue posts which stood in the courtyard at the side of the horse troughs. It was the custom before street numbering was introduced to distinguish a building by a colour - hence the blue posts indicating chairs for hire*

### 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, small charge)

opening: Tue-Sat 10.00-17.00; 1st Tues of every month 18.00-21.00 when parts lit by candle  
admission free except for tours

*among the assorted pieces of furniture in this fascinating museum is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic kitchen table and chairs, a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century Indian ivory table and chairs, and 1720 chairs of Chinese padouk wood inlaid with mother-of-pearl*

### Coach House

189 Westbourne Grove, W11  
020 7229 8306

transport: Bayswater & Notting Hill Gale u/g; buses 7,23, 27,36,70

opening: Mon-Sat

*this old 19<sup>th</sup> century garage is now an antique dealers specialising in neo-Gothic armoires and Arts & Crafts chairs*

### 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

*Britain's National Museum of Art and Design was created to accommodate the contemporary works manufactured for the 1851 Exhibition. It has exhibited examples of arts and crafts from all countries and all periods ever since. There is a range of furniture by eminent designers and manufacturers including Robert Adam, Chippendale, William Kent, Sheraton and Hepplewhite. Other treasures include Art Nouveau chairs, designs by Macintosh, a golden chair belonging to Ranjit Singh, last Sikh Emperor and an armchair and cabinet decorated with ormolu mounts. This last was probably made for the Emperor Napoleon by the firm of Jacob, early 19<sup>th</sup> century cabinet makers*

### St Anne and St Agnes Lutheran

Gresham Street, EC2  
020 7606 4986

transport: St Paul's & Bank u/g; buses 8,25,56,100,172, 242

opening: Mon-Sat 09.00-18.00, Sun 09.00-20.00. 1<sup>st</sup> Sun at 14.00 Swahili service, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun at 14.30 Estonian service, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun at 14.30 Latvian service

*the sanctuary chairs have birds with long, sharp beaks, intricate foliage and arms terminating in lions' heads*

### 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 Fri

*in the Princes Chamber you can see lion-headed chairs designed by Augustus Pugin, the interior designer of the Houses of Parliament. The House of Lords' Chamber has the traditional woosack (wool stuffed cushion) that originally symbolised the importance of wool to the wealth of the British nation*

*other interesting chairs include the gilded and finely carved Chair of State in the Robing Room with its back surmounted by a crown*

### Wycombe Local History and Chair Museum

Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks,  
01494 421895

transport: High Wycombe rail

facilities: disabled access & wcs; parking; drinks machine; gift shop; picnic area

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00; Sat 10.00-13.00,14.00-17.00

admission free

*furniture has always been an important industry in this area and this local history museum illustrates the history of chair design using examples of chairs made in the Thames Valley (including Windsor, G-plan and Ercol) and the tools used in their manufacture - saws, mortice machinery, upholstery stuffers. Along with archive material, oral history tapes and the reconstruction of a woodturner's (bodgers) workshop this collection is a source of fascinating material on chairmaking*

### **Cutty Sark Tavern**

Ballast Quay, Greenwich, SE10  
020 8858 3146

transport: Cutty Sark DLR, Greenwich DLR & rail; buses 177,180,188,199,286,386; boat Greenwich Pier

*this 19<sup>th</sup> century pub has bare floorboards, wood boarding on the walls, a mantelpiece made out of a ship's timber, brass lanterns and chairs fashioned out of barrels*

### **St Martin-within-Ludgate**

Ludgate Hill, EC4  
020 7248 6054

transport: St Pauls u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 11,15,26,45,63,76,100,172

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-15.00

*this church has the only known example of a 1690 church wardens' double chair*

### **St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe**

St Andrew's Hill, Queen Victoria Street, EC4  
020 7248 7546

transport: Mansion House u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,45,63,76,100,172

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00

*the sanctuary chair dates from 1687*

### **Two Chairmen pub**

Dartmouth Street and Old Queen Street, SW1

transport: St James's Park u/g; buses 11,24,88,211

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-23.00

*this pub's open framed metal sign shows two chairmen and a sedan chair*

### **Athanaeum Club**

Waterloo Place, SW1  
020 7930 4843

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

*the novelist Charles Dickens (1812-70) was a member of this London club and on display is one of the chairs said to have been used regularly by him*

### **Goldsmiths Company**

Foster Lane, EC2V  
020 7606 7010 [www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk](http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk)

transport: St Paul's & Mansion House u/g, City Thameslink, Farringdon rail; buses 8,56,100,172,242

opening: by prior application

*a good example of a Hall Porter's leather chair stands opposite the stairs to the lower floor*

### **Conversation**

St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, SW17

transport: Tooting Broadway u/g, Haydon Road rail; buses 57,155,219,280,493

*this 1992 sculpture by Sam Boffey has three backed chairs in wood each surmounted by a metal stylised bird*

### **Rosie's**

50A Berkeley Square, W1  
020 7629 0808

transport: Green Park & Bond Street u/g; buses 8,9,14,19,22,38

opening: Mon-Tue 17.00-01.00, Wed-Fri noon-14.30, 17.00-01.00, Sat 17.00-01.00

*the Café Grand's basement art deco cocktail bar has curvaceous leather armchairs and glitzy gold frescoes*

### **Windsor House Antiques**

23 Grafton Street, W1  
020 7659 0340

transport: Green Park & Bond Street u/g; buses 8,9,14,19,22,38

facilities: also has a branch at 28/29 Dover Street W1

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-18.00

*an antiques dealer stocking 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century English and Continental furniture including chairs, tables, and sofas*

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.

© CityThemes 2006