



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Domes

### 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

## St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Churchyard, EC4

020 7263 4128 [www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk)

transport: St Pauls & Mansion House u/g, Blackfriars & Cannon Street u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8, 11,15, 26,56,76,172,100,172,242; boat Blackfriars Millennium Pier

facilities: *café in crypt (09.00-17.30 Mon-Sat, 10.30-17.00 Sun); shop in crypt (09.00-17.30 Mon-Sat, 10.30-17.00 Sun)*

opening: Mon-Sat 08.30-16.00 (restricted during services); Crypt 10.00-16.15 Mon-Fri, 11.00-16.15 Sat admission charge includes entry to galleries

*London's most famous cathedral has the second largest dome in the world after St Peter's in Rome, Italy. From inside you may be surprised to find that, when peering upwards, its dimensions seem much smaller to those outside. This is because Sir Christopher Wren constructed the dome in three separate shells. Above the Inner Dome lies a concealed conical dome of brick which acts as a load-bearing support for the heavy lantern (surmounted by a ball and cross) and takes the weight of the exterior dome's timber framework. The exterior dome is covered with lead and is 107ft (32.6m) in diameter and 365 ft (111m) above the ground at its top, 60 ft (18m) higher than the inside dome*

*the dome is supported on eight massive floor-standing piers faced with Corinthian pilasters. Above the columns is the Stone Gallery from where visitors get a good view of London. Other views further up are from the Inner Golden Gallery at the base of the lantern and right at the top from the Outer Golden Gallery*

*inside the dome is decorated with trompe d'oeil frescoes on the life of St Paul by Sir James Thornhill. They are best viewed from the Whispering Gallery*

## London Planetarium

Marylebone Road, NW1

020 7935 6861/0870 400 3000

[www.london-planetarium.com](http://www.london-planetarium.com)

transport: Baker Street u/g, Marylebone u/g & rail; buses 2,13,18,27,30,74,82,113,139,189,274

facilities: *disabled access; induction loop; souvenir shop*

opening: daily 10.30-17.30

admission charge

*a slightly different dome - opened in 1958 a Digistar projector situated in the famous domed auditorium reveals the mysteries of the cosmos and the wonders of the galaxy through interactive demonstrations, displays and scale models*

## 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

*the famous dome of what was once the Reading Room at the British Museum is copper-covered with a papier mache finish of light-weight paper. Measuring 106ft*

*(32m) high & 140ft (42m) diameter it was designed by the architect Sydney Smirke in 1854. The room now houses the Paul Hamlyn Reference Library of 25,000 books relevant to the museum's collections*

## Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1A

020 7930 4832 [www.royalresidences.com](http://www.royalresidences.com)

transport: Victoria, Green Park & St James's u/g; buses 2,8,9,10,11,14,16,19,22,24,36,38,52,73,74,82,137,185, 211,239,507,C1,C10

facilities: *disabled access but prior application needed for wheelchairs; shop*

opening: daily Aug-Sept 09.30-16.15

admission charge

*the Grand Staircase in this royal palace that serves as the office and official home of Her Majesty the Queen, has a glass domed skylight with eighty etched panels*

## 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 190,290,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

*here the central hall (tribunal) dome is coffered and decorated with Roman busts on wall brackets*

## 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 arrangement

*the dome of the Staircase Hall of this City of London livery company is richly moulded and gilded with a massive light fitting hanging from the centre*

## Hampton Court Palace

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8

020 8781 9500

[www.hrp.org.uk](http://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 dome of the Queen's Private Oratory in this former Royal palace is carved and moulded while that on the Queen's Staircase is coffered with trompe d'oeil reliefs by William Kent. Trompe l'oeil is literally 'something which deceives the eye' and was often used as a technique in painting or architecture.*

## Kensington Palace

Kensington Gardens, W8

020 7937 9561

[www.hrp.org.uk](http://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 10.00-17.00 summer; 10.00-16.00 winter  
admission charge

*the majority of the ceilings in this Palace were painted by William Kent. The one above the King's Grand Staircase gives the impression of a dome with balustraded openings with onlookers. On the north side you can see William Kent with his mistress and assistants while musicians play on the south wall (1725-7)*

### **Leighton House**

12 Holland Park Road, W14  
020 7602 3316

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhousemuseum](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhousemuseum)

transport: High Street Kensington & Kensington (Olympia) u/g; buses 9,10,27,28,49,94,328,C1  
facilities: disabled access; sales desk; tours by arrangement

opening: Mon, Wed-Sun 11.00-17.30  
admission free

*the unusual Moorish domed Arab Hall was created in 1877 and is based on the banqueting hall of a Moorish palace in Palermo. Richly decorated with Islamic woodcraft, mosaics and tiling, it was inspired by the travels of the Victorian artist, Lord Frederic Leighton (1830-1896). The fountains are of black marble and the tiling dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, was imported from Rhodes, Damascus and Cairo*

### **Methodist Central Hall**

Tothill Street & Storey's Gate, SW1

020 7222 8010

[www.wch.co.uk](http://www.wch.co.uk)

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

opening: daily 09.30-17.30 with guided tour

*here you will find the third largest dome in London and the second largest self supporting structure of its type in the world. The inner dome is of concrete, the outer of wood with lead panels*

### **Royal Hospital Chelsea**

Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, SW3

020 7881 5203

[www.chelseapensioner.org.uk](http://www.chelseapensioner.org.uk)

transport: Sloane Square u/g; buses 11,137,211,239; boat Cadogan Pier

facilities: café; sales desk; tours by arrangement

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-noon, 14.00-16.00; Sun 14.00-16.00

admission free

*this home for veterans of the regular army was founded in 1682 by King Charles II. The Chapel dome is painted with a fresco of Christ rising from the Tomb. It is by Sebastiano and Marco Ricci and dates from between 1712 and 1716*

### **Sir John Soane's Museum**

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A

020 7405 2107

[www.soane.org](http://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

*a canopied dome in one of this museum's rooms provides a suitable setting for this extraordinary collection of antiquities and works of art*

### **Old Royal Observatory**

Greenwich Park, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10

020 8858 4422

[www.rog.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.rog.nmm.ac.uk)

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

opening: daily 10.00-17.00

free but admission charge to Planetarium

*at one time the working headquarters of the Astronomer Royals the Observatory was moved in 1945 to Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex because of the need for cleaner air. A Telescope Dome provides video images from space while the Planetarium has an animated explanation of how the stars and planets move in relation to one another*

### **Her Majesty's (The King's)**

Haymarket, W1

020 7494 5400

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14,15,19,22,23,38,53,88,94,139,159

*this pavilioned theatre of 1897 has a baroque copper dome*

### **Leadenhall Market**

Gracechurch Street, EC3

transport: Bank & Monument u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 35,47,48,149,344

opening: Mon-Fri 07.00-16.00

*this attractive market was built by Sir Horace Jones in 1881 and is constructed of cast ironwork painted in cream and maroon. There is a central dome while each entrance is topped with an ornate stone arch. It now houses gourmet food and wine shops*

### **Royal Opera House**

Bow Street, Covent Garden, WC2

020 7212 9389 (information)

020 7304 4000 (box office & tours) [www.royalopera.org](http://www.royalopera.org)

transport: Covent Garden u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 1,6,9,11,13,15,23,26,59,68,76,77,77A,91,168,171, 172,176,188; boat Savoy & Embankment Piers

opening: tours Mon-Sat 10.30, 12.30, 14.30

admission charge for tours

*this lavishly decorated opera house has a blue dome with white & gold decoration and crimson & rose hangings*

### **Royal Albert Hall (of the Arts and Sciences)**

Kensington Gore, SW7

020 7589 8212

[www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

transport: High Street Kensington, South Kensington & Knightsbridge u/g; buses 9,10,52,70

*built in 1871 in memory of Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria, this 151ft (46m) high covered iron and glass-domed auditorium can accommodate up to 8000 people for events ranging from the annual classical music Promenade Concerts to the latest pop star concerts, from Christmas carols to the Remembrance Day service. The exterior is of red brick, terracotta and marble*

### **London Central Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre**

146 Park Road, Regent's Park, NW8

020 7724 3363

transport: Baker Street u/g, Marylebone rail; buses 13, 82,113,274

opening: daily 09.00-21.30. All shoes must be removed before entering and women must cover their heads. There is a separate gallery for women

*the Central Mosque was designed in 1978 as a place of worship, by the Frederick Gibberd Practice. The façade of pale grey has tall arched windows and blind arches supporting the copper dome, and a 145ft high minaret*

### **St Clement Danes**

Strand, WC2  
020 7242 8282

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: daily 08.30-16.30

*this is the memorial church of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and has mementoes, badges and record books of names of those airmen who died during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The domed ceiling has festoons of flowers and lacework on the columns*

### **St Stephen's**

Walbrook, EC4  
020 7283 4444

transport: Bank u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 8, 11,26,76,133,242

opening: Mon-Thur 10.00-16.00, Fri 10.00-15.00

*this church's central dome with its green copper exterior and lantern is surrounded by sixteen Corinthian columns and eight arches. The church was originally designed by Sir Christopher Wren but after suffering damage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War it was rebuilt between 1951 and 1954*

### **Old Royal Naval College**

King William Walk, Greenwich, SE10  
020 8331 7897 [www.greenwichfoundation.org.uk](http://www.greenwichfoundation.org.uk)

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

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-16.15, Sun 12.30-17.00  
admission free

*started by John Webb in the 1660s and completed by Sir Christopher Wren, Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir John Vanbrugh, the College was formerly a hospital for disabled seamen (1705-1869), then a Naval College (1873-2000) and is now part of the University of Greenwich. The twin domes were said to have been designed by Wren as a trial for the dome of St Paul's Cathedral*

### **Avery Hill Park**

Avery Hill Road, SE9

transport: Falconwood rail; buses 132,162,286

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-noon, 13.00-16.00

*the Victorian domed greenhouse of the Winter Garden is regarded as southeast London's finest greenhouse*

### **St Pancras Chambers**

Euston Road, NW1

transport: King's Cross/St Pancras & Euston u/g & rail; buses 10,17,30,45,46,63,73,91,214,259

facilities: no disabled access at present or working lifts; coffee lounge (Mon-Fri 11.30-15.30); guided tours (Sat-Sun 11.00,13.30 - no booking, small charge; ring enquiries on 020 7304 3921)

opening: guided tours only except for entrance hall & coffee lounge

*this Victorian Gothic former Midland Grand Hotel closed in 1935 and was then used as railway offices. At the moment it is being converted into a Marriott Hotel with the upper rooms as loft apartments. The domed sectioned ceiling of 1876-7 shows the Virtues: humility, liberality, industry, chastity, temperance, truth, charity and patience, together with the first coat of arms of the Midland Railways incorporated with the coats of arms of the cities served by the railway*

### **St Mary Abchurch**

Abchurch Lane, Cannon Street, EC4  
020 7626 0306

transport: Monument & Bank u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,15,26,76,133,242

opening: Mon-Thur 10.30-15.00, Fri 10.30-noon

*this City church has a painted domed ceiling by William Snow and shows angels round Glory. The cornice is decorated with swags, shells and figures*

### **Shanghai Restaurant (formerly F Cooke)**

41 Kingsland Road, E2  
020 7254 2878/9322

transport: Old Street u/g & rail; buses 26,48,55,67,149, 242,243,394

opening:

*this restaurant was opened in 1910 as a eel and pie shop. It was designed with glass domes in the roof so that the eels, kept in tanks until needed, would get light*

### **Royal Mausoleum**

Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire  
01753 743900 Visitor Office, Windsor Castle

transport: Windsor rail, Green Line coach from Victoria

opening: 3 days in May and few days in Aug (enquire 020 7799 2331) 10.00-18.00

admission charge

*this mausoleum was built by Queen Victoria as a shrine to her husband, Prince Albert. The main feature is the grey granite double sarcophagus carved in 1861 and topped with the recumbent figures of Victoria and Albert in white marble. The entire interior is decorated with marble and gilt frescoes in the style of Raphael while a starry blue dome opens directly above the figures of the royal couple*

### **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. Services in Swahili 1<sup>st</sup> Sun in month (14.00), in Estonian on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun (14.30), in Latvian 4<sup>th</sup> Sun (14.30)

*another church with a low central dome, this time supported on four Corinthian columns*

### **Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Aghia Sophia**

Moscow Road, Bayswater, W2  
020 7229 7260

transport: Bayswater u/g; buses 12,70,94

opening: Sun 09.00-noon

*here the dome is lined with mosaic and has the figure of Christ sitting on a rainbow with four cherubim*

## **Millennium Dome**

Greenwich Peninsula, North Greenwich, SE10

transport: North Greenwich u/g; buses 108,161,188,422,472,486

*the Millennium Experience dome was completed in 2000 at a great expense to the British taxpayer. Since the initial millennium celebrations it has mostly remained empty and unused. Its future is unknown. Designed by the architect Richard Rogers it is an impressive structure being the largest construction of its kind in the world - 1050 ft (320m) diameter, 164 ft (50m) high and a circumference of 0.6 miles(1km). Internal area covers 19.8 acres (8 hectares). The 108,000 sq.ft (10,000 sq m) of fabric are supported by twelve 328 ft (100m) steel masts held by 230 ft (70m) steel cable The translucent roof is strong enough to support the weight of a Jumbo Jet*

## **Brompton Oratory (Oratory of St Philip Neri)**

Brompton Road, SW7  
020 7808 0900

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 14,74,414,C1  
opening: daily 07.00-20.00

*built between 1880 and 1884 this was the first new Catholic church in London after the Reformation. It has the third widest nave in Britain after Westminster Abbey & York Minster and is of High Baroque (Italian Mannerist) style with side aisles decorated with gold, Siena marble & Venetian mosaics. The main dome and lantern oratory are by George Sherrin and is of a congregation of secular priests living together without vows. The Oratory is well-known for its music and solemn masses sung in Latin*

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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