



Seeing the Capital Differently

Insects

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

Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road, SW7

020 7942 5000

www.nhm.ac.uk

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,14,45,49,52,74,C1

facilities: disabled access via Earth Galleries entrance; disabled wcs; library; Waterhouse Café (10.00-17.00), Life Galleries Restaurant (10.00-17.00), Globe Fast Food (11.00-16.00), Snack Bar & Picnic Area (11.00-16.30); bookshop & gift shops; British Geological Survey Information Office; tours by arrangement

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.50, Sun 11.00-17.50; Wildlife Garden May-Sept noon-17.00 with guided tours at noon & 15.00 (020 7942 5011)

admission free

this world famous natural history museum has an incredible collection of 28 million preserved insects with 10% from the British Isles. Over 250,000 are added to the collection annually. It includes spiders, mites and myriapods and one of the rooms is appropriately named 'Creepy Crawlies'. A special exhibition of live ants allows you to see how they live

the Wildlife Garden in the gardens is a living exhibition of flowers, dragonflies and birds.

Kew Gardens/Royal Botanic Gardens and Museums

Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9

020 8332 5655/recorded information 020 8940 1171

www.rbgekew.org.uk

transport: Kew Gardens u/g & rail, Kew Bridge rail; buses 65,237,267,391,419; boat Kew Pier

facilities: disabled access; Orangery, White Peaks, Pavilion & Victoria Gate restaurants & snacks (10.00-one hour before closing); shops; tours from Victoria Gate Visitors' Centre (daily 11.00, 14.00 no charge)

opening: March-Aug Mon-Fri 09.30-18.30, Sat-Sun 09.30-19.30; Sept-Oct daily 09.30-18.00; Oct-Feb daily 09.30-16.15; Feb-Mar daily 09.30-17.30. (last admission and closure of glasshouses is 30 mins before closing time)

admission charge

the Gardens are managed using traditional methods such as coppicing and is a natural habitat for a variety of birds (tawny owls, blue & great tits, sparrowhawks, woodpeckers) and insects including hoverflies. A nest of leaf-cutter ants can be found in the Princess of Wales Conservatory

London Zoological Gardens Collection

Outer Circle, Regent's Park, NW1

020 7722 3333

www.londonzoo.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

this 36 acre zoo dedicated to the conservation of and education about rare breeds, has an 1912 Insect House with an interesting collection of ants, beetles, spiders, centipedes and locusts

Syon House and Park

Brentford, Middlesex, TW8

020 8560 0883/London Aquatic Experience 020 8847

4730 www.syonpark.co.uk

transport: Brentford & Syon Lane rail; buses 235,237,267,H28

facilities: parking

opening: house Wed, Thur, Sun Mar-Oct 11.00-17.00; gardens daily 10.00-17.30 or dusk; London Aquatic Experience daily summer 10.00-17.30, winter 10.00-16.30

admission charge for house & gardens

this park is the home of the London Butterfly House that houses 1000 tropical butterflies and insects. The garden is undercover with pools and water cascades and amongst its inhabitants can be found exotic insects, spiders, locusts & crickets, leaf cutting ants, scorpions and tropical beetles

Royal Exchange

Cornhill, EC3

transport: Bank u/g; buses 8,11,26,76,133,242

opening: tours by arrangement (telephone 020 7283 7101)

admission free

the gilded bronze weathervane is a grasshopper. This insect was the emblem of Sir Thomas Gresham, the banker and financier who built the Royal Exchange. His statue on the campanile of the Exchange also shows a grasshopper

Richmond Park

Richmond, Surrey, TW10

020 8948 3209

www.open.gov.uk/rp/rphome.htm

transport: Richmond u/g & rail; buses 33,65,74,85,170,371,K3

facilities: bikes for hire at Roehampton Gate carpark, two Golf courses (020 8876 3205), horseriding, playground, fishing on Pen Ponds; parking; Pembroke Lodge café (Apr-Oct 10.00-17.30 Mon-Fri, 10.00-19.00 Sat-Sun; Nov-Mar 10.00-30mins before park closing); kiosks (10.00-30min before park closing)

opening: daily Mar-Sept 07.00-dusk, Oct-Feb 07.30-dusk

admission free

this park was made a Site of Special Scientific Interest when it was found to contain more than 200 species of beetle. It is especially rich in Stag Beetles

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

the golden grasshopper outside Banque Paribas is dated 1563 and is the emblem of Sir Thomas Gresham, the banker and financier who built the Royal Exchange and lived on Lombard Street

Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum (Natural History Museum)

Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23

020 7942 6171

www.nhm.ac.uk/museum/tring

transport: Tring rail + 2 miles; car

facilities: disabled access to ground floor; parking; café and two picnic areas; gift shop

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 14.00-17.00

admission free

this museum, attached to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, has a good collection of insects including beetles, and fleas dressed as Mexican dancers. The fleas can be seen in the Victorian Gallery

Alexandra Palace and Park

Alexandra Palace Way, N22
020 8365 2121 (information) www.alexandrapalace.com
transport: Wood Green u/g, Alexandra Palace rail; buses 144,184,W3,W7

facilities: boating lake; café; pre-booked tours of palace (one Sun per month 11.30 & 14.00.- small charge.telephone 020 8365 2121)

opening: Park 24hrs

the park of 5 acres (2 hectares) has secondary woodland, meadow, pond and scrub with different species of birds (155 over past 30 years), 24 species of butterfly, and dragonflies

The Wetland Centre

Queen Elizabeth Walk, Barnes, SW13
020 8409 4400 www.wetlandcentre.org.uk

transport: Hammersmith u/g, Barnes rail; buses: 23,33,72,265,283,485

facilities: café & restaurant, shop

opening: daily 09.30-18.00 summer, 09.30-17.00 winter (last admission one hour before closing)
admission charge

this wildlife reserve is one of the largest in Europe and was created from 105 acres (42.5 hectares) of disused reservoirs. The Slate Garden provides a habitat for overwintering insects

Lee Valley Regional Park

01992 702200 (information centre)
www.leevalleypark.org.uk

the park stretches 26 miles on both sides of the River Lee (often spelt 'Lea' on maps) from Ware in Hertfordshire to the River Thames at East India Dock Basin. It covers 10,000 acres of countryside, heritage sites, country parks, nature reserves, lakes & riverside trails, and sports & recreation centres

there is a Grasshopper Walk, and a Dragonfly Sanctuary in Cornhill Meadows where 221 different types have been seen. It is now a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. For maps of the Park visit the website or ring the above telephone number

Thames Barrier Park

North Woolwich Road, E16
www.thamesbarrierpark.org.uk

transport: Royal Albert DLR, Silvertown and City Airport rail; buses 69,474

opening: daily dawn-dusk

this is the first major public park to be created in London for 50 years. Opened in November 2000 its 22 acres (8.9 hectares) are built on levels and angles to echo the old docks. It was designed by Alain Provost. On the edge of the wildflower meadows are beehives which will hopefully produce enough honey to market as Thames Barrier Honey

Austin Friars, EC2

transport: Bank u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8, 11,23,26,100,153,205,242,388

the sculptures in this small street are of friars. No.4 has a standing friar writing in a book with a quill pen; No.6a has a modern bearded monk holding book. The wall below has a bee is attached to it

Slightly Further Afield

Bedford Butterfly Park

Renhold Road, Wilden, Bedford, MK44
01234 772770

transport:

facilities: disabled access; parking; tearoom; shop; tours by arrangement; adventure playground

opening: Feb-Oct daily 10.00-17.00

admission charge

conservation park centred on a tropical glasshouse with waterfalls, ponds and beautiful butterflies. There is also a bugs room, leaf-cutting ants and pygmy goats

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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