



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Islam

### 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 antiquities and artefacts are examples of Islamic culture and religion including a mosque light, brasswork, enamelled glassware and ceramics*

## Courtauld Institute Gallery

Strand, WC2R  
020 7848 2526 [www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk)

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

facilities: *Summer Café, bar & resaurant; three gift and bookshops; delicatessen*

opening: daily 10.00-18.00 (last admission 17.15)  
admission charge

*here you will find one of the most important art collections in Britain including: world famous Old Master, Impressionist & Post-Impressionist paintings; sculpture; applied art. Among the collection are some lovely examples of Islamic metalwork*

*the Courtauld Gallery is an integral part of the Courtauld Institute of Art, the oldest centre for the teaching of History of Art in England.*

## 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. 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*

## 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

*Britain's National Museum of Art and Design has an interesting section of material illustrating the Islamic*

*world - religious calligraphy (especially examples of the Quran, the Holy Book of Islam), blue-painted tiles, carpets & wall hangings, lamps, carved & inlaid wooden furniture, ceramics, carved writing sets, brass furnishings and beautiful glassware. The majority is displayed in the Gallery of Islamic Art*

## Ismaili Centre

1 Cromwell Gardens, SW7  
020 7581 2071

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 14,49,70,74,345, C1

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-17.30; roof garden 14.00-17.00  
admission charge

*this centre for Islamic culture and prayer was built in 1985 for the Aga Khan Foundation. It has the Zamana Gallery on the ground floor devoted to the arts and architecture of the non-Western world especially the Islamic cultures, and, on the third floor, a peaceful roof garden where stone,water and sky intermingle and harmonise. The entrance hall of the Centre has a small granite fountain standing in the middle of an Islamic patterned floor*

## 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. The plain square main hall that holds 1800 worshippers is sparsely furnished apart from a vast carpet and magnificent chandelier. The ceiling has Arabic inscriptions . Elsewhere in the building there are temporary displays about the Islamic faith*

## Old Battersea House

30 Vicarage Crescent, SW11

transport: Clapham Junction rail; bus 239

opening: Wed by appointment only (apply to 56 Bradbourne Street, SW6; 020 7371 8385)

*this 1690 Dutch style manor house houses the De Morgan Foundation Collection of Victorian ceramics including several examples of the once popular Islamic style*

## Crown Estate Offices

13-16 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AH  
020 7210 4377 [www.crownestate.co.uk](http://www.crownestate.co.uk)

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,12,13,15,23,53,88,139,159; boat Embankment Pier

opening: by prior appointment

*four separate terraced houses were knocked together to form offices for this government department. The interior design of each was different and as a result the ceilings are varied - some are panelled, some carved and others have elaborate plasterwork. Those in No.15 are of plaster and have geometric Islamic patterns, designed by the architect John Nash (1752-1835)*

**David Aaron Antiques and Rare Carpets**

22 Berkeley Square, W1

020 7491 9588

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

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-18.00, Sat by appointment

*here you will find antique and rare textiles and carpets  
especially from the Islamic world*

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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