



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## **Musical Instruments**

### **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**

## Fenton House

Windmill Hill, Hampstead Grove, Hampstead, NW3  
020 7435 3471 (office), 01494 755563 (infoline)  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

transport: Hampstead u/g, Hampstead Heath rail; buses  
46,268

facilities: disabled access to ground floor only

opening: Mar Sat-Sun 14.00-17.00, Apr-Oct Wed-Fri  
14.00-17.00, Sat-Sun 11.00-17.00 (last admission 30  
mins before closing)  
admission charge

*this house was bequested to the National Trust by Lady  
Katherine Binning whose home is was between 1936 and  
1956. It houses the Benton-Fletcher Collection of Early  
Keyboard Instruments. All the instruments are maintained  
in playing condition for the benefit of musicians and  
scholars and the collection includes an English Grand  
piano, harpsichords and virginals*

## British Museum

Great Russell Street, WC1B  
020 7323 8000 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

*this well-known National museum has several musical  
instruments in its collection including items from Pre-  
history Europe, Egypt and Asia. There are harps, bells,  
drums from Europe and a lovely conch-shell trumpet  
decorated with gilt and precious stones from Tibet*

## Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1A  
020 7930 4832 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 White Drawing Room of this Royal Palace has a grand  
piano made by Erard about 1856*

## Chiswick House

Burlington Lane, Hogarth Road, W4  
020 8995 0508 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

*the ceiling paintings by William Kent are an allegory to  
the arts and include musical instruments, portraits of the  
gods and zodiac signs. The visual arts are architecture  
(represented by a woman with set square and a cherub  
with a plan of a temple), sculpture (a fallen bust of Inigo*

*Jones) and painting (a woman unveiling a self-portrait of  
Kent). Others are in panels and include a copy of a  
painting in the Doge's Palace, Venice*

## St Magnus the Martyr

Lower Thames Street, EC3  
020 7626 4481

transport: Monument u/g; buses 15,35,40,43,47,48,133,  
149

opening: Tue-Fri 10.00-16.00, Sun 10.00-14.00

*the organ case carvings of musical instruments are by  
members of the Grinling Gibbons School while the organ  
itself is by Abraham Jordan and dates from 1712. It was  
the first to operate on a swell mechanism*

## Hampton Court Palace

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8  
020 8781 9500 www.hrp.org.uk

transport: Richmond u/g, Hampton Court rail; buses 111,  
216,411,416,461,513,727,R68; boat Hampton Court Pier  
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 entry 17.15); Nov-mid Mar Mon 10.15-  
16.30, Tue-Sun 09.30-16.30 (last entry 15.45)  
admission charge

*this former Royal Palace has intricate woodcarving of  
musical instruments on the overmantle in the West Closet*

## Horniman Museum and Gardens

100 London Road, SE23  
020 8699 1872 www.horniman.demon.co.uk

transport: Forest Hill & West Dulwich rail; buses 63, 122,  
176,185,312,P4,P13

facilities: disabled access & wcs; library (Tue-Sun 14.00-  
17.30); snacks; shop

opening: museum daily 10.30-17.30; gardens Mon-Sat  
07.15-dusk, Sun 08.00-dusk  
admission free

*many of this museum's 32,000 objects cover the entire  
continent of Africa and show aspects of different lifestyles  
from hunter-gathering & farming to town & city life. There  
are African masks, mummies, puppets, Benu and Nigerian  
art, contemporary pottery, life-size cement sculpture and  
musical instruments including lutes, harps, whistles,  
Ethiopian religious music and Nigerian drums*

*over 7000 items and 1000 archive documents are  
classified as 'used to produce sound' and include clappers,  
guitars, synthesisers, sound & video recordings, reed,  
stringed, keyboard & percussion instruments. There are  
bells, rattles, violins, bagpipes & zithers from Europe;  
lutes, flutes & drums from India, Japan, Tibet & Malaysia;  
the Wheatstone collection of 127 concertinas (Charles  
Wheatstone 1802-75 was the inventor of the concertina);  
and a fine collection of pianos including ones by Robert  
Stodart (1790), John Broadwood & Son (1799 & 1801),  
William Rolfe (1825) and Robert Wornum (1870)*

*the personal library of F J Horniman covers the history,  
entomology and botany of Africa and has been added to  
over the years to reflect the subject areas of natural  
history, musical instruments & ethnography. It has  
20,000 monographs, 100 current journals and 150 non-  
current journals*

## Cross Keys pub

31 Endell Street, WC2  
020 7836 5185

transport: Tottenham Court Road & Covent Garden u/g; buses 1,59,68,91,168,171,188

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-22.30 (bar food noon-14.30)

*various musical instruments are displayed in this pub which has been described as a 'high-class junk shop'*

### **Musical Museum**

368 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8  
020 8560 8108

transport: Kew Bridge & Brentford rail; buses 235, 237, 267

*facilities: disabled access (advance notice appreciated); refreshments in nearby Watermans Arts Centre with bar & riverside garden (open 11.00-21.00); shop for music rolls, records, cassettes, souvenirs & specialist books; tours with demonstrations; regular summer concerts*

opening: Sat-Sun Apr-Oct, Wed, Sat-Sun July-Aug 14.00-17.00

admission charge

*an interesting display of predominately self-playing musical instruments has musical boxes, organs and pianos. There is an art deco Wurlitzer organ from the Regal cinema in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey*

### **National Maritime Museum**

Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10  
020 8858 4422 [www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

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

*facilities: disabled access to all levels & galleries; Caird Library (open Mon-Fri 10.00-16.45 by arrangement 020 8312 6607); restaurant; bookshop; tours by arrangement*

opening: daily 10.00-17.00 (last admission 16.30)  
admission free

*a fascinating museum and art gallery dedicated entirely to maritime history and life at sea. The display has many examples, models and artefacts of the sea. Amongst the collection in the Explorers' Gallery can be found Hussey's banjo that was played by Leonard Hussey, one of Sir Ernest Shackleton's crew on the ill-fated ship 'Endurance' that was crushed by ice while the explorers were attempted to reach the South Pole (1915)*

### **Kew Gardens/Royal Botanic Gardens and Museums**

Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9  
020 8332 5655/recorded information 020 8940 1171  
[www.rbgkew.org.uk](http://www.rbgkew.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

*these well-known gardens have an exhibition showing the uses of plants for food, drink, health, clothing, as ornaments, fuel, paper, toys and musical instruments. Good use is made of touch-screen interactives*

### **Royal College of Music Donaldson Museum**

Prince Consort Road, SW7  
020 7591 4346

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,52,70

*facilities: library; snacks; tours*

opening: Wednesday termtime except Jan, 14.00-16.30  
admission charge

*this museum, primarily for the study and work of students of the Royal College, has almost 600 musical instruments dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. It includes important collections donated since 1884 by Donaldson, Tagore, Hipkins, Ridley and Hartley with many percussion and wind instruments and over 80 pieces from Asia and Africa*

### **Royal Military School of Music Museum**

Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2  
020 8898 5533

transport: Whitton rail & 10 mins walk

*facilities: library; parking; refreshments; tours*

opening: by appointment Mon-Tues, Thur-Fri 10.00-noon 14.00-16.00, Wed 10.00-noon

*this museum is devoted to instruments used in military bands - woodwind, brass & percussion - and includes a double bass of 1650 by Nicolo Amati*

### **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 was created to accommodate the contemporary works manufactured for the 1851 Great Exhibition and it has been collecting fine and applied art from all countries, styles and periods ever since.*

*the Historical Musical Instruments Collection has many interesting pieces collected for design and decoration rather than value as instruments. It includes a Stradivarius violin of 1699, 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian harpsichords, a spinet, lutes inlaid with ivory and shell and a neo-Jacobean piano decorated by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens*

*a hole cut between floors adds modern interest to the Collection. It displays Cornelia Parker's sculpture 'Breathless' - crushed Salvation Army brass instruments hung in a perfect circle*

### **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Orange Square, junction of Ebury Street and Pimlico Road, SW1

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

*this bronze statue of 1994 by Philip Jackson shows the composer (1756-91) as a child holding a violin*

### **Bill Lewington**

144 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1

transport: Leicester Square u/g; buses 14,19,24,29,38, 176

*this shop specialises in brass and wind instruments including bagpipes*

### **St Lawrence Jewry**

Gresham Street, EC2  
020 7600 9478

transport: Bank & St Pauls u/g; buses 8,56,76,100,133, 172,242

opening: Mon-Fri 07.30-14.00

a graceful Steinway Concert Grand piano belonged to Sir Thomas Beecham is in the possession of this City church

### **Kettners Restaurant**

29 Romilly Street, W1  
020 7734 6112

transport: Leicester Square u/g; buses 14,19,24,29,38, 176

opening: daily noon-midnight. No bookings are taken here you can listen to the resident pianist while you dine

### **St Botolph-without-Aldgate**

Aldgate High Street, EC3  
020 7283 1670

transport: Aldgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,40,42,67,78,100,253

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-15.00

this church has a wooden carving of King David surrounded by musical instruments

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

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

the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) memorial in the north transept shows two mounted Yeomans with drums and drumcloths

### **St Mary's**

St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe, SE16  
020 7231 2465

transport: Rotherhithe & Canada Water u/g; buses 1,47, 188,199,255,381

opening: Mon-Thur 07.00-18.00, Sat-Sun 08.00-18.00

this organ of 1764 is adorned with musical instruments and angels blowing trumpets

### **Royal College of Organists Building**

Kensington Road, SW7

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,52,70

the exterior decoration of this 1875 building is cream, maroon and sky-blue graffiti with chocolate brown panels patterned in cream. The frieze shows putti carrying musical instruments while garlands with a Victoria Regina monograph surround the door

### **St Mary at Hill**

Lovat Lane, Eastcheap, EC3  
020 7626 4184

transport: Monument & Bank u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,35,47,48,149,344

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-15.00

the dark woodcarving of the organ (restored after a fire in 1988) shows the Royal coat of arms, musical instruments and lions & unicorns at the corners. A clock completes this detailed piece of work. In a glass case in the vestibule is a trombone used by Prebendary William Carlile, founder of the Church Army. He was rector of the church between 1892 and 1926

### **Hatchlands Park**

Guildford, Surrey, GU4  
01483 222482

transport: road east of East Clandon off A246 between Leatherhead and Guildford

facilities: disabled access; braille guide to house; courtyard restaurant for lunches and teas; trails leaflets and information boards for parkland

opening: House & garden: Tue-Thur, Sun 1 April-31 Oct 14.00-17.30; Park: daily 1 Apr-31 Oct 11.00-18.00

this Georgian country house is home to the Cobbe collection of musical instruments. One of the world's largest group of keyboard instruments such as harpsichords and fortepianos it dates from 1750 to 1840 and is associated with famous composers such as Purcell, J C Bach, Chopin, Mahler and Elgar. There is also an Erard piano reputedly made for Queen Marie Antoinette. An audio guide allows visitors to hear the instruments being played

### **Royal Academy of Music**

Marylebone Road, NW1

transport: Baker Street & Regent's Park u/g; buses 13, 18,27,30,74,82,113,189,274

facilities: loans of instruments to students and professional musicians; musical performances & demonstrations

opening: daily Mon-Fri 12.30-18.00, Sat-Sun 14.00-17.30

admission free

this leading school of music has a collection of English pianos that illustrate the technical developments in piano design and manufacture during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It also displays Italian stringed instruments, musical memorabilia and original musical manuscripts

### **Tiroler Hut Restaurant**

27 Westbourne Grove, W2  
020 7727 3981

transport: Bayswater, Queensway & Royal Oak u/g; buses 7,23,27,36,70

opening: Tue-Sat 18.30-01.00, Sun 18.30-23.00

this restaurant specialises in German beers and presents a Cow Bells Show complete with yodelling and Austrian music

### **Ray Man**

54 Chalk Farm Road, NW1  
020 7692 6261

transport: Camden Town & Chalk Farm u/g; buses 24,27, 31,168

opening: Tue-Sun 10.30-18.00

a shop stocking musical instruments especially those from Middle Eastern and South American countries

### **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 this 151ft (46m) high covered amphitheatre 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 Father Willis organ dates from 1871 and was the largest one in world when unveiled. Restored in 2004 it has 9,999 pipes and is still the largest organ in the United Kingdom. The largest pipe spans 5 floors (39ft (12m)) and the smallest is 26ft (8m) long

## **Tobacco Dock**

The Highway, Wapping, E1

transport: Wapping u/g, Shadwell u/g & DLR; buses 100, D3

*built in 1814 with timber and cast-iron framing supporting a timber-framed roof, this warehouse is set on a brick and stone system of wine cellars where tobacco and wine were once stored. Converted into a shopping complex in the late 1980s it was never successful and although other schemes were attempted nothing materialised. As a result the warehouse is rather deserted but worth looking at to get some idea of its former use and to see the interesting sculptures depicting by-gone local life and the people to be found in 'Sailor Town'. One of these is the Chaunter - a man in an overcoat and bowler hat playing a violin*

## **Spitalfields**

between Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green Road, Brick Lane & Aldgate, E1/EC3

transport: Shoreditch u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,26,35,42,47,48,67,78,149,242,344,388

*around the area of Spitalfields there are several cast iron roundels to be found in the pavements showing the former use of the buildings. Outside 6 Princelet Street there is a viola marking the site of the first built Yiddish Theatre while a pair of scissors can be found opposite the Bagel Bake at the north end of Brick Lane*

## **Sticky Fingers**

1a Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, W8  
020 7938 5338

transport: High Street Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,27,28,49,328,C1

opening: daily noon-23.30

*this rock n'roll themed restaurant part owned by Bill Wyman has Rolling Stones memorabilia including signed guitars, concert posters and golden discs*

## **Organ Museum**

320 Camp Road, St Albans, Herts,  
01727 851557 [www.stalbansorganmuseum.org.uk](http://www.stalbansorganmuseum.org.uk)

transport: St Albans City rail + 2 miles

facilities: *disabled access; parking; group tours by arrangement*

opening: Sun 14.00-16.30

admission charge

*an interesting collection of mechanical instruments ranging from musical boxes to theatre organs. There are occasionally live performances*

## **Croydon Parish Church of St John the Baptist**

Church Street, Croydon, Surrey

transport: West Croydon rail; Croydon tramlink; buses 64, 109,154,166,194,198,250,264,289,367,403,405,412, 450,494

opening: Mon-Wed, Fri 10.00-16.00, Sat 10.00-20.00

*this church dates from 15<sup>th</sup> century but was rebuilt in 1867 by Sir Gilbert Scott. It is the burial place of six Archbishops of Canterbury The nave and chancel timber roofs are supported by angel corbels, some holding musical instruments*

## **Finchcocks**

Goudhurst, Kent,  
01580 211702 [www.finchcocks.co.uk](http://www.finchcocks.co.uk)

transport: off A262 10 miles from Tunbridge Wells, Marden rail

facilities: *musical tours; group tours most days between April and October by appointment*

opening: Easter-Sept Sun & Wed (Thur in Aug) 14.00-18.00

*a historical keyboard collection housed in an 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house*

## **Tony Bingham**

11 Pond Street, NW3  
020 7794 1596

transport: Belsize Park u/g, Hampstead Heath rail; buses 46,168,268

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-18.30

*a shop specialising in antique musical instruments*

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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