



Seeing the Capital Differently

Philately

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
e-mail: info@citythemes.co.uk
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

Enjoy Your Explorations

British Library

96 Euston Road, NW1
020 7412 7332

www.bl.uk

transport: King's Cross, St Pancras & Euston u/g & rail; buses 10,30,73,91

facilities: disabled access & wcs; refreshments; shop; tours (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun 15.00; Sat 10.30 & 15.00; a charge is made)

opening: Mon, Wed, Fri 09.30-18.00; Tue 09.30-20.00; Sat 09.30-17.00; Sun 11.00-17.00
admission free to Exhibition Galleries; a reader's pass is required for the reading rooms (phone library for details)

over 8 million items are kept by the National Library of which 80,000 are on display. Collections include: the Bonjanowitz Polish Collection specialising in stamps issued between 1939 and 1946 including those from the German and Russian occupations and from Prisoner of War camps; Turner (railway letter stamps); Tapling (whole world 19th century), Mosely (British Africa to 1935), Langmead (Great Britain and Ireland telegraph stamps), Chapel (Mauritius and postal history), Fitzgerald (airmails), and Model (Germany 1945-6)

Bruce Castle Museum

Lordship Lane, N17

020 8808 8772

www.brucecastlemuseum.org.uk

transport: Bruce Grove & White Hart Lane rail; buses 76, 123,149,243,259,279,341

facilities: disabled access & wcs; library of local history of Haringey & archives of the Borough of Haringey; parking; café (Suns 13-16.30); picnic area; sales desk for postcards, prints & books; tours by arrangement

opening: Wed-Sun 13.00-17.00
admission free

this museum has a postal history collection with stamps, post boxes and postal ephemera

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road, Lambeth, SE1

020 7416 5320

www.iwm.org.uk

transport: Lambeth North & Elephant & Castle u/g; buses 1,12,45, 53,59,63,68,100,159,168,171,172,176,188, 344,C10

facilities: library, licensed café, bookshop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00
admission free

a collection on warfare may be seen on application to 020 7416 5211

Grays Market

38 Davies Street, W1

020 7629 7034

transport: Bond Street u/g; buses 6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23, 73,94,98,113,137,139,159,189

facilities: Victory Café for snacks

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-18.00

this market has stalls selling stamps

Westminster Abbey

Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1

020 7222 5152

www.westminster-abbey.org

transport: Westminster & St James's Park u/g, Victoria & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,109,159, 211; boat Westminster Millennium Pier

facilities: audio guide & leaflets in 7 languages; guided tours (Apr-Oct Mon-Fri 10.00,10.30,11.00,14.00,15.00, Sat 10.00,11.00,12.30; Nov-Mar Mon-Fri 10.00,11.00,14.00, 15.00, Sat 10.00,11.00,12.30)

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-16.45 (last admission 15.45); Sat 09.00-14.45 (last admission 13.45); closed Sun except for worship; Cloister daily 08.00-18.00; Chapter House daily 10.00-17.30 Apr-Oct, 10.00-16.00 Nov-Mar admission charge

the grave of Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879), the originator of the penny postage which was introduced in Britain in 1840, can be found in the Chapel of St Paul

National Philatelic Society

107 Charterhouse Street, EC1M

020 7336 0882

transport: Barbican & Farringdon u/g & rail; buses 45,55, 56,63,153

opening: by application only

this private library covers all aspects of philately both national and international and is especially rich in its holdings of philatelic journals in the English language

Queen's Gallery

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1A

020 7839 1377

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: sorry no wheelchairs; sales desk; group visits, private evening tours and viewings

opening: daily 10.00-17.30 (last admission 17.00) entry by timed ticket
admission charge

on display in the Gallery is the Coronation Diadem. A crown worn by British Queens and Consorts it appears being worn on the monarch's head on British postage stamps

Science Museum

Exhibition Road, SW7

020 7942 4455

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

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

facilities: disabled access (helpline 020 7942 4446) & wcs; library; refreshments; shop

opening: daily 10.00-18.00
admission free

the Penn Gaskell Collection of airmail postage stamps was donated to the Museum in 1940 and is one of the most outstanding and comprehensive collection of airmail stamps covering the period 1870 to the late 1930s

Charing Cross Collector's Fair

Charing Cross, WC2

020 8398 8065

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 6,9,11,13,15, 23,77A,91,176

opening: Sat 08.30-16.00

an opportunity to buy stamps and other philatelic bits and pieces

Mayflower pub

117 Rotherhithe Street, Rotherhithe, SE16

020 7237 4088

transport: Rotherhithe & Bermondsey u/g; buses 47, 188,225,P11

opening: Mon-Sat noon-23.00, Sun noon-22.30

this riverside pub was the mooring in 1620 of the 'Mayflower', the ship in which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America. In honour of its connections with the USA it is

the only pub in Britain licensed to sell both British and American postage stamps

Sir Rowland Hill

Aldersgate Street, EC1

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

this 1881 statue was erected as a memorial to Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879), the originator of the penny postage which was introduced in Britain in 1840. By Onslow R Ford it was moved here in 1923 from its original position outside the Royal Exchange. Its present location is outside the former home of the National Postal Museum

Stanley Gibbons

399 Strand, WC2

020 7836 8444

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 6,9,11,13,15, 23,77A,91,176

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.30, Sat 09.30-17.30

well-known throughout the world as stamp dealers and producers of stamp catalogues, a visit to this shop is a must for any collector

Cecil Court, WC2

transport: Leicester Square u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 24,29,176

this interesting court has shops for antique books, maps, stamps and theatre posters

No.1 Orme Square, W2

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

this was the home of Sir Rowland Hill between 1839 and 1845

Post Office Archives

Mount Pleasant Sorting Office, Rosebery Avenue, EC1A

020 7239 2570

transport: Farringdon u/g & rail; buses 19,38,55,63,341

the archive records preserved in this major post office sorting office date from the 17th century to the present day and cover administration, the development of services including stamps, broadcasting, the Post Office Savings Bank and the distribution of mail. This building may become the future home of the National Postal Museum but a decision has yet to be made - watch this space!

Royal Philatelic Society

41 Devonshire Place, W1N

020 7486 1044

transport: Baker Street & Regent's Park u/g; buses 18, 27,30

opening: entry restricted to society members & their guests. Others by special application

this private Society library covers philately throughout the world and also has a few philatelic artefacts

Rack and Tenter pub

45 Moorfields, EC2

020 7628 3675

transport: Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 76,100,133,153, 214

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-21.30

an unusual item to be found in a pub - this one has a stamp collection on display

Harmers of London

41 New Bond Street, W1 www.newbondstreet.com

transport: Bond Street & Green Park u/g; buses 6,7,8,10, 12,13,15,23,73,94,98,113,137,139,159,189

this leading stamp stockist, has been here since 1918

Brompton Cemetery

Fulham Road, SW10

020 7352 1201 www.open.gov.uk/rp/rphome.htm

transport: West Brompton u/g & rail; buses 14,74,190, 211,328,C3

opening: daily 09.00-dusk

admission free

this Victorian cemetery of 40 acres was originally the 'West of London & Westminster Cemetery' and has some notable graves among its 200,000. One belongs to Henry Cole (1808-82) who was director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 1842 he had the first Christmas card published and sent to his friends using the Penny Black postage stamp (printed 1840) that required the sender instead of the recipient to pay the postage

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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