



Seeing the Capital Differently

Stairs with Decorative Features

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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e-mail: info@citythemes.co.uk
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Enjoy Your Explorations

St Bartholomew's Hospital

West Smithfield, EC1
020 7377 7000

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

opening: only as part of a guided tour of Smithfield &
area Fridays Apr-Nov at 14.00 - from hospital gate

*one of the staircases is decorated with biblical murals by
the artist William Hogarth (1697-1764)*

Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey)

Old Bailey, EC4
020 7248 3277

transport: St Paul's u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail, City
Thameslink rail; buses 8,11,15,25,26,56,76,100,172,242

opening: Mon-Fri 10.30-13.00, 14.00-16.00

*the staircase with its painted murals, sweeps up two
floors*

College of Arms

Queen Victoria Street, EC4
020 7248 2762

transport: Mansion House u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail;
buses 11,15,17,26,45,63,76,100,172
*facilities: visits to Records Office with lecture on heraldry
& genealogy (advance appication to telephone number
above)*

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00 to Earl Marshal's Court
only
admission free

*the staircase has woodcarving by the 17th century
craftsman, William Emmett, whose work can also be seen
in the Temple Church and Kensington Palace*

Burgh House

New End Square, NW3
020 7431 2516

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

*facilities: disabled access not easy; disabled wcs; library
by arrangement; restaurant & snacks; sales desk; tours
by arrangement*

opening: Wed-Sun noon-17.00
admission free

the original oak staircase has barley sugar balusters

Kensington Palace

Kensington Gardens, W8
020 7937 9561 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 souvenir shop; tours*

opening: daily 10.00-17.00 summer; 10.00-16.00 winter
admission charge

*the oak panelled Queen's Staircase, designed by the
architect Sir Christopher Wren, is by Alexander Fort,
master joiner to the King. Fort was responsible for most
of the panelling and sash windows throughout the Palace.
Christopher Wren also designed the marble King's Grand
Staircase*

Queen's House

Greenwich Park, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10
020 8858 4422

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

opening: daily 10.00-17.00

admission charge

*the Tulip Staircase is one of the earliest cantilevered
spiral staircases. Its name comes from the floral
patterning in the wrought-iron balustrade*

Charlton House

Charlton Road, Charlton, SE7
020 8856 3951

transport: Charlton rail; buses 53,54,380,422

opening: only if no events are taking place - telephone to
check
admission free

*an oak staircase carved with bulb- and plant-shaped
newels and grotesque faces on the balustrades*

Ham House

Ham Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW10
020 8940 1950 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southern

transport: Richmond u/g & rail; buses 65,371
*facilities: disabled access & wcs; parking; licensed
restaurant in the Orangery; shop*

opening: house Apr-Oct Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 13.00-17.00;
gardens all year Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 11.00-18.00
admission charge

*the Great Staircase of 1637 is of gilded oak and has wood
carving of bowls of fruit at the newel posts and trophies of
war in the balustrade. The Queen's Staircase, by William
Kent, has trompe d'oeil reliefs and a coffered dome*

Osterley Park House

Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7
01494 755566 (infoline) www.osterleypark.org.uk

transport: Osterley u/g ½ mile; Syon Lane rail 1½ miles;
buses H28,H91

*facilities: parking; refreshments; shop; tours by
arrangement*

opening: house 1 April-end Oct Wed-Sun 13.00-16.00;
park daily 09.00-19.30 or dusk
admission charge to house; park free

*neo-classical replica staircase with a fine iron balustrade
and delicate stucco decoration. Above is a Rubens ceiling
painting. The original was destroyed by fire in 1949*

Hatfield House

Hatfield, Herts, AL9
01707 262823

transport: Hatfield rail

*facilities: licensed restaurant & tea room; gifts and
garden shop; tours*

opening: March-Sept Tue-Fri noon-16.00 (guided tours
only), Sat-Sun 13.00-16.30 (no guided tours)
admission charge

the Grand Staircase is of carved wood

Civic Centre, Dagenham

Wood Lane, Dagenham, Essex

transport: buses 5,87,103,128,129,175

the marble staircase and foyer are in 1930s art deco style

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
*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 1700 King's Staircase was painted by Antonio Verrio as an allegory glorifying King William III as Alexander the Great. It alludes to William's victory over King James II who was deposed in 1688

the Queen's Staircase, with its wrought-iron balustrade by Tijou and lantern by Benjamin Goodison (1731), has the monograms of King George II and Queen Caroline on the ceiling. The trompe d'oeil reliefs and coffered dome are by William Kent (1735)

Rudolf Steiner House

35 Park Road, NW1

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

facilities: disabled access; library; bookshop

opening: Mon-Fri 10.30-18.00 (closed for lunch), Sat 10.30-17.00 (closed for lunch)

sculptured staircase based on plant forms

Victoria and Albert Museum

Cromwell Road, SW7

020 7942 2000/0870 442 0808 24hr information
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

one staircase has ceramic Minton tiles designed by Frank Moody between 1865 and 1871 and is moulded with motifs alluding to the sciences and arts; another is of glass with a glass balustrade, and forms part of the exhibition on the history of glass. The stairs from the main entrance hall are of marble

Royal Academy of Arts

Piccadilly, W1V

020 7300 8000 www.royalacademy.org.uk

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

facilities: acousti guides; disabled access & wcs; library by arrangement; restaurant; shop; tours (Tue-Fri 13.00)

opening: daily 10.00-18.00 (last admission 17.30); Fri 10.00-20.30 (last admission 20.00)

admission: free but a charge for special exhibitions

the staircase has allegorical paintings of 'The Triumph of Galatea' and 'Diana and her Nymphs' by Sebastiano Ricci. These were originally wall paintings dated about 1709 that had been painted for the 2nd Countess of Burlington

Wallace Collection

Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1M

020 7563 9500 www.the-wallace-collection.org.uk

transport: Bond Street u/g; buses 2,13,30,74,82,113, 139,189,274

facilities: disabled access; library; shop; tours

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

admission free

this house's collection is considered one of the best in the world for French 18th century paintings, porcelain and furniture. The building is also interesting with features like the stair balustrades that were made for Louis XV's Grand Staircase

Royal Institute of British Architects

66 Portland Place, W1

020 7580 5533

transport: Oxford Circus, Great Portland Street & Regent's Park u/g; buses 18,27,30,88,C2

facilities: café (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 08.00-18.00, Tue & Thur 08.00-21.00); bookshop

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-17.30, Sat 10.00-17.00

a 1930's staircase has etched glass balustrades, walnut veneer & two black marble columns

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

King Charles Street, SW1A

020 7270 1500

www.fco.gov.uk

transport: Westminster u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,159; boat Westminster Millennium & Embankment Piers

opening: special open days. Telephone above number to find out

the Grand Staircase is of marble and chrome with red and gold decoration and is surmounted by a dome. The 1921 stencilled mural walls & ceilings by Goetze depict the origin, education, development, expansion and triumph of the British Empire leading up to the covenant of the League of Nations

the Muses (Naiad) staircase has an octagonal glass lantern supported by goddesses and cherubs. Portraits of the Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie hang on the walls

La Porte des Indes

32 Bryanston Street, W1

020 7224 0055

www.laportedesindes.com

transport: Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,6,7,13,15,16,23,30, 36,74,82,98,113,139,189,274

this restaurant has a marble waterfall & carved staircase set amid giant palm trees, exotic flowers and antiques

House of St-Barnabas-in-Soho

Greek Street, Soho, W1

020 7437 1894

transport: Leicester Square & Tottenham Court Road u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 14,19,24,29,38,176

opening: Wed 14.30-16.30, Thur 11.00-12.30

admission - small donation welcome

the main staircase has fine plasterwork Rococo ceilings and walls. There is also an unusual crinoline staircase

Methodist Central Hall

Tothill Street & Storey's Gate, SW1

020 7222 8010

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

the Grand Staircase has decorative wrought-iron balustrades and lamp standards

No.2 Temple Place, WC2

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

this 1895 residence and estate office of William Waldorf Astor has a three flight staircase to the first floor of solid mahogany. The newel posts have seven carved wood figures representing the chief characters of the novelist Alexander Dumas' book 'The Three Musketeers'

Sketch

9 Conduit Street, W1
0870 777 4488

transport: Piccadilly Circus & Oxford Circus u/g; buses 3,6,12,13,15,23,53,88,139,159

opening: Mon-Sat: Gallery Restaurant 17.00-22.30; West Bar noon-02.00; East Bar 17.00-02.00; Parlour 10.00-19.00; Lecture Room/Library Tue-Sat noon-14.00, 19.00-22.30

here you will find two restaurants, two bars, a tea room, a patisserie and an art gallery. The design is very modern-with stone stairs covered in pools of paint, sculptures and fibreglass pod toilets with Swarovski crystal-studded metal walls. The domed gallery restaurant is extremely expensive (about £40 for a main course)

Alma Tavern

499 Old York Road, Wandsworth, SW18
020 8870 2537

transport: Wandsworth Town rail; buses 28,37,39,44, 77A,156,170,295,337,C3

facilities: bar & restaurant (noon-22.30 not Sun evening)

opening: Mon-Sun noon-23.00

a pub with a carved Victorian mahogany staircase

Boston Manor House

Boston Manor Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8
020 8583 4463 www.cip.org.uk/heritage/boston

transport: Boston Manor u/g, Brentford rail; buses E2,E8,H91

opening: Apr-Oct Sat-Sun 14.30-17.00 CLOSED APRIL 2004 (enquire 0846 456 2800)

admission free

this unusual staircase of 1623 has a trompe l'oeil balustrade

Sutton House

2 & 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, E9
020 8986 2264 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

transport: Homerton rail; buses 30,236,242,276,S2,W15

facilities: Brick Place café & contemporary art gallery (Wed-Fri 11.00-23.00, Sat-Sun 11.00-17.00); classical concerts, craft fairs

opening: Feb-end Nov Wed & Sun 11.30-17.30 (last admission 17.00)

painted with coloured oil paint directly onto plaster these stairs have coats of arms, a frieze with trompe d'oeil work and animals on pedestals holding shields

Fenton House

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

transport: Hampstead u/g, Hampstead Heath rail; buses 46,210,268

facilities: disabled access to ground floor only

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

admission charge

this house was built between 1629-36 as the Jacobean home of Sir Nicholas Raynton. The original 1693 pine staircase with twisted balusters and wide handrail is still an outstanding feature

Freemasons Hall

60 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, WC2
020 7831 9811

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

facilities: disabled access, guided tours of Grand Temple (Mon-Fri 11.00 & 16.00 no charge)

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat 10.30-13.00

admission free

the Hall was built between 1927-33 as a memorial to all freemasons who died in the 1st World War; by Ashley and Newman it has a tiled staircase (often used in films), stained glass in the ceiling, and a Grand Temple with mosaics, stained glass and ceilings with symbolic masonic decoration

St Olaf House

London Bridge City, Tooley Street, SE1

transport: London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 17,21,35,40, 43,47,48,133,141,149,343,381,RV1

this 1930s warehouse of Portland stone with its name in gold lettering on the river side has an art deco staircase with zig-zag balustrade and window

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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