



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Tapestries

### 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)  
e-mail: [info@citythemes.co.uk](mailto:info@citythemes.co.uk)  
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

### Enjoy Your Explorations

## **Buckingham Palace**

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1A  
020 7930 4832 [www.royalresidences.com](http://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,C1,C10

facilities: *disabled access but prior application needed for wheelchairs; shop*

opening: daily Aug-Sept 09.30-16.15  
admission charge

*the West Galleries, Ministers' Stairs and Guard Room of this Royal palace have lovely Gobelin tapestries on the walls while ones of French silk can be seen in the Picture Gallery*

## **Grocers Company**

Princes Street, EC2R  
020 7606 3113 [www.grocershall.co.uk](http://www.grocershall.co.uk)

transport: Bank u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,11,21,26,35,47,48,76,133, 149,242,344

admission by prior application

*this City of London livery company has a tapestry designed by John Piper that depicts in brilliant colours the many spices and foreign food in which the wholesale traders and early members of the Company dealt*

## **Drapers Company**

Throgmorton Avenue, London Wall, EC2N  
020 7588 5001

transport: Bank u/g, Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 56,76, 100,133

admission by prior application

*a Gobelin depicting Jason & the Golden Fleece is one of a set of four, dated 1774, in the possession of this City of London livery company*

## **Goldsmiths Company**

Foster Lane, EC2V  
020 7606 7010 [www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk](http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk)

transport: St Paul's & Mansion House u/g, City Thameslink, Farringdon rail; buses 8,56,100,172,242

opening: for special exhibitions. These are advertised on the website or details can be obtained from the Company  
*another livery company with two 17<sup>th</sup> century Brussels tapestries depicting scenes from the story of Antony and Cleopatra*

## **Vintners Company**

corner of Queen Street, Upper Thames Street, EC4  
020 7236 1863

transport: Mansion House u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,76,344

opening: by prior application

*a tapestry of 1466 shows the Company's patron saint, Martin of Tours, dividing his cloak with a beggar. This Hall is the oldest livery hall in the City dating back to 1676*

## **Ham House**

Ham Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW10  
020 8940 1950 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southern](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southern)

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

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

*English silk (Soho Factory) tapestries are in the North Drawing Room while 17<sup>th</sup> century Flemish in the manner of Poussin are in Lady Maynard's Suite. 18<sup>th</sup> century examples are in the Queen's Suite*

## **Hampton Court Palace**

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8  
020 8781 9500 [www.hrp.org.uk](http://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 entry 17.15); Nov-mid Mar Mon 10.15-16.30, Tue-Sun 09.30-16.30 (last entry 15.45)  
admission charge

*this Royal Palace is adorned with many famous tapestries. Various rooms have works from series such as the Acts of the Apostles (Brussels), the Story of Abraham (Flemish 1540s by Van Orley) and the Story of Alexander the Great (Gobelin 18<sup>th</sup> century).*

*others include a 1540 Brussels tapestry of the Labour of Hercules and the Triumph of Bacchus commissioned by King Henry VIII for Whitehall Palace; five early 16<sup>th</sup> century ones showing scenes from Virgil's Aeneid; and four more from the 16<sup>th</sup> century representing the conflict between the Virtues and Vices. There is a Raphael in the King's Apartments and small armorial tapestries with the arms of Cardinal Wolsey and King Henry VIII in the Great Watching Chamber. In all a feast for the eyes!*

## **Kensington Palace**

Kensington Gardens, W8  
020 7937 9561 [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

transport: Queensway, Notting Hill Gate & High Street Kensington u/g; buses 9,10,12,49,52,70,94

facilities: *limited disabled access to Dress Collection & The Orangery only; multi-language audio guides; refreshments in The Orangery - morning coffee, light lunches & afternoon tea (Mar-Oct 10.00-18.00, Nov-Feb 10.00-17.00); jewellery, china & souvenirs shop (Mar-Oct 10.00-18.00, Nov-Feb 10.00-17.00 (Suns opens at 09.30)); tours*

opening: daily Mar-Oct 10.00-18.00 (last admission 17.00); Nov-Feb 10.00-17.00 (last admission 16.00)  
admission charge

*a Mortlake of 1623 can be found in the Privy Chamber*

## **Westminster Abbey**

Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1  
020 7222 5152 [www.westminster-abbey.org](http://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 Jerusalem Chamber is decorated with part of a series covering the history of Abraham, the return of Sarah from Egypt, the circumcision of Isaac, Rebecca at the well and*

*Peter healing the lame man. Unfortunately the Chamber is not usually open to the public as it is used for meetings and gatherings of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. It may be worth making enquiries of the Dean (in advance of your visit) if you are very interesting in seeing this collection*

### **Osterley Park House**

Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7  
01494 755566 (infoline) [www.osterleypark.org.uk](http://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

*this house has a Gobelin designed by the artist Francois Boucher (1703-70) entitled 'The Loves of the Gods'*

### **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

*this museum's fine and applied art collection is one of the best in the world and it is a fitting place to display a collection of tapestries. Medieval examples include four from Flanders illustrating the 6th Duke of Devonshire's Gothic Hunts and dated between 1426 and 1450.*

*seven 'cartoons' (designs) by Raphael for tapestries ordered for the Sistine Chapel were bought by King Charles I in 1623 and have been on loan from the Royal collection since 1865. The word 'cartoon' comes from the Italian 'cartone' literally 'a large sheet of paper'. The original design would be reversed on the tapestries because the weavers cut the 'cartoon' into strips and pricked along the outlines with pins. If you look carefully you can still see the holes.*

*other tapestries come from famous manufacturers such as Mortlake, Soho, Fulham & Lambeth in Britain and from Gobelin and Aubusson on the Continent Chinese tapestry is rich with birds, beasts, dragons and flowers*

### **Chenies Manor House**

Chenies, Buckinghamshire  
01494 762888

transport: Chorleywood u/g & rail, then 1 mile walk  
facilities: refreshments; shop; group tours by arrangement

opening: April-Oct Wed-Thur 14.00-17.00

*this country house has a collection of modern tapestries*

### **St Clement Danes**

Strand, WC2  
020 7242 8282

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

opening: daily 08.30-16.30

*tucked away on the staircase up to the gallery are seven small tapestries showing events and scenes in London. Included are a music hall, the Battle of Britain, the*

*church, Dunkirk 1940, Malta 1942 and the words of the nursery rhyme 'Oranges & Lemons'.*

### **Notre Dame de France Church**

5 Leicester Place, WC2  
020 7437 9363

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

opening:

*the tapestry above the altar was woven by the factory of Aubusson and designed by Dom Robert of Buckfast*

### **Charterhouse**

Charterhouse Square, EC1  
020 7253 9503

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

facilities: guided tours only

opening: Weds April-July guided tour at 14.15

admission charge

*the Great Chamber is hung with a Flemish tapestry dating from 1600 and showing Solomon and Sheba*

### **Vinopolis**

1 Bank End, SE1  
0870 4444 777(booking) [www.vinopolis.co.uk](http://www.vinopolis.co.uk)

transport: Cannon Street & London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 21,35,40,43,47,48,133,149,343,344,381; boat London Bridge City Pier

facilities: audio guide; disabled access; Cantina Vinopolis restaurant & Wine Wharf (wine bar & light meals); Majestic wine warehouse, shop selling corkscrews, wine racks, books etc

opening: Mon 11.00-21.00, Tue-Fri 11.00-18.00, Sat 11.00-20.00, Sun 11.00-18.00; last admission 2 hours before closing  
admission charge includes wine tasting. Children are offered fruit juice tasting and a fun book

*a collection of retail outlets and wine-tasting halls provide an exhibition devoted to the history of wine production. The Vinopolis Tapestry shows Vintners Hall, King Henry II & Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen Victoria & Prince Albert and Chaucer's pilgrims at the Tabard Inn*

### **Windsor Castle**

Windsor, Berks, SL4  
01753 831118 [www.the-royal-collection.org.uk](http://www.the-royal-collection.org.uk)

transport: Windsor rail, Green Line coach from Victoria  
facilities: audio guide; disabled visitors should contact visitors' office; shop for books, postcards & gifts; pre-arranged tours for groups

opening: daily Mar-Oct 09.45-17.15 (last admission 16.00); Nov-Feb 09.45-16.15 (last admission 15.00)  
admission charge

*various rooms are hung with Gobelin tapestries*

### **Dutch Church of Austin Friars**

Austin Friars, Old Broad Street, EC2  
020 7588 1684

transport: Bank u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,11,21,26,35,47,48,76,133, 149,242,344

opening: Tue-Fri 11.00-15.00

*a work by Hans van Norden has the theme of Man and the Creation*

### **Butchers Company**

87 Barthlomew Close, EC2

020 7606 4106 [www.butchershall.com](http://www.butchershall.com)

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

opening: by prior appointment. Rooms are available for  
hire

*a tapestry in this City of London guild depicts the  
development of the guild and the trade of butchery*

### **Guildhall**

Aldermanbury, EC2

020 7606 3030

transport: Bank & Mansion House u/g, Moorgate u/g &  
rail; buses 8,56,76,100,133,242

opening: daily May-Sept 10.00-17.00; Mon-Sat Oct-Apr  
10.00-17.00 (advisable to check opening as often closed  
for events)

admission free

*a 1990 tapestry from New Zealand commemorates the  
150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitani  
while one completed in 1988 commemorates the British-  
Australian Bi-centenary (1788-1988)*

### **Julia Boston**

588 King's Road, SW6

020 7610 6783 [www.juliaboston.com](http://www.juliaboston.com)

transport: Fulham Broadway u/g; buses 11,22,328

*among the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Continental furniture  
displayed in this showroom are some tapestry cartoons*

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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