



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Toys

### 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**

## Guards Museum

Birdcage Walk, SW1W

020 7414 3271 [www.MKLmodels.co.uk](http://www.MKLmodels.co.uk)

transport: St James's Park & Westminster u/g; buses 3, 11,12,24,53,77A,88,159,211

facilities: *bookshop and giftshop (09.00-26.00), tours by arrangement*

opening: daily except Jan 10.00-16.00 (last admission 15.30)

admission charge

*the museum has a collection of new and antique model toy soldiers by famous makers*

## Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood

Cambridge Heath Road, E2

020 8983 5200 [www.museumofchildhood.org.uk](http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk)

transport: Bethnal Green u/g, Cambridge Heath rail; buses 8,106,253,309,D3,D6

facilities: *limited disabled access; library; parking; refreshments; shop; tours by arrangement*

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

admission free

*one of largest collections in the world devoted entirely to the history of children and all aspects of childhood especially toys. Displayed in a wrought-iron building that was originally at the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. it was established on this site in the 1860s. Besides toys and dolls (Victorian, rag, Barbie) there are exhibits of nursery furniture and child and teenage clothes. And of course a lovely collection of teddy bears*

## Crafts Council Collection

44A Pentonville Road, Islington, N1

020 7278 7700 [www.craftscouncil.org.uk/Collection](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/Collection)

transport: Angel u/g; buses 4,19,30,38,56,73,153,214, 274,341

facilities: *disabled access; shop*

opening: Tue-Sat 11.00-18.00, Sun 14.00-18.00

admission free

*this contemporary craft collection of leading British makers in last three decades includes toys, ceramics, glass, furniture, textiles, jewellery, metalwork, wood, and bookbindings. The gallery has changing displays while over 1,200 items are available for loan for exhibitions elsewhere*

## Museum of London

150 London Wall, EC2Y

020 7600 3699 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

transport: Barbican, St Paul's & Moorgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,56,100, 172,242

facilities: *audio tapes and braille sheets; disabled access via ramps; disabled wcs; library; restaurant and snacks; shop*

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.50, Sun noon-17.50 (last admission 17.30)

admission free

*among the displays about the history of London and the life of Londoners are penny toys presented to the Museum in 1918 by Ernest King. There is also a model of a butcher's shop and a collection of 20<sup>th</sup> century construction kits*

## Pollocks Toy Museum

1 Scala Street, W1P

020 7636 3452 [www.tao2000.net/pollocks](http://www.tao2000.net/pollocks)

transport: Goodge Street u/g; buses 10,24,29,73,134

facilities: *library by arrangement; toy theatre shows are arranged in the school holidays*

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00 UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE MARCH 2004 - PLEASE CHECK admission charge

*Benjamin Pollock (1856-1937) owned a shop selling toy theatres. The museum was established in 1956 from his collection of toy theatres, mechanical and constructional toys (including a 1907 Meccano set), dolls and pre-1910 teddy bears*

## Vestry House Museum

Vestry Road, Walthamstow, E17

020 8509 1917

[www.lbwf.gov.uk/leisure/intro/vestry\\_intro.stm](http://www.lbwf.gov.uk/leisure/intro/vestry_intro.stm)

transport: Walthamstow Central u/g & rail; buses W12, W16

facilities: *disabled access by prior arrangement; library; refreshments; sales desk; tours by arrangement*

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-13.00, 14.00-17.30, Sat 10.00-13.00, 14.00-17.00

admission free

*this local history museum (Borough of Waltham Forest) has a display of locally-made tin-plate toys*

## The Kite Store

69 Neal Street, WC2

020 7836 1666

transport: Leicester Square, Covent Garden & Tottenham Court Road u/g; buses 14,19,24,29,38,176,188

opening: Mon-Wed, Fri 10.00-18.00, Thur 10.00-19.00, Sat 10.30-18.00

*if you want to buy a kite or any other air-powered toy this may be worth a visit*

## Hamleys

188 Regent Street, W1

020 7494 2000

transport: Oxford Circus u/g; buses 3,6,12,13,15,23,53, 88,94,159

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-19.00, Thur 10.00-20.00, Sat 09.30-19.00, Sun noon-18.00

*this well-known toy and game shop was established in 1760. It has a selection of 40,000 toys on 5 floors. Formerly known as Noah's Ark, it is fascinating for children and adults alike at any time but especially near to Christmas (be warned - it can get very crowded then)*

## Whaam Kites

Unit 416 Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock,

Essex, RM20

01708 864074

transport: Chafford Hundred rail; buses 324,370,373

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-22.00, Sat 09.00-19.30, Sun 11.00-17.00

*a shop selling kites, boomerangs, skates, skateboards and juggling equipment*

## Legoland

Windsor, Berkshire

0990 040404

transport: Windsor rail then shuttlebus from High St

facilities: *refreshments (Restaurant, Pasta Patch, Barbecue, Café); shops (Racers' Shop, Big Lego Shop, Brick Bros Souvenir Co., Lego Clothes n Stuff, Turret Shop)*

opening: daily midMar-midJuly 10.00-17.00; midJuly-Aug 10.00-20.00; Sept-Oct 10.00-18.00 or dusk

admission charge

*an amusement park with lego bricks used in fascinating ways including trains*

### **Benjamin Pollock's Toy Shop**

44 The Market, Covent Garden, WC2  
020 7379 7866

transport: Covent Garden & Leicester Square u/g; buses 1,6,9,11,13,15,24,59,68,77A,91,168,171,176,188

opening: Mon-Sat 10.30-18.00

*named after Benjamin Pollock (1856-1937) who had a shop selling toy theatres, this toyshop sells a variety of toys including dolls, teddies, puppets and, of course, model theatres*

### **Honeywood**

Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5  
020 8770 4297

transport: Carshalton Beeches rail

facilities: *tearoom (Tue-Sun 10.00-17.00); gift shop*

opening: Wed-Fri 11.00-17.00, Sat-Sun 10.00-17.00

admission charge

*this 17<sup>th</sup> century London merchant's house has a collection of Edwardian toys*

### **Museum of Rugby**

Rugby Road, Twickenham, Middx, TW1  
020 8892 2817 [www.rfu.com/twickenham/museum.cfm](http://www.rfu.com/twickenham/museum.cfm)

transport: Twickenham rail, buses 281,R62,H20

facilities: *disabled access & wcs; parking; refreshments; shop; tours which include the dressing room & players tunnel (Tue-Sat at 10.30, noon, 13.30, 15.00, Sun 15.00. Booking advisable on above telephone number)*

opening: Tue-Sun 10.00-17.00, Sun 14.00-17.00. Ticket

holders only on match days

admission charge

*covers the history and growth of rugby football by using interactive displays, period set pieces and items from the Langton Collection. Harry Langton collected paintings and prints, balls and boots, toys and games, ceramics and sculptures to illustrate his love of football. The Twickenham Experience Tour visits the famous ground and is recommended*

### **British Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings**

Great Russell Street, WC1B  
020 7323 8408 [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

transport: Russell Square & Tottenham Court Road u/g; buses 10,24,29,73,134

facilities: *in Main Musuem: 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: Main Museum: 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

Study Room: Mon-Fri 10.00-13.00, 14.15-16.00, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat each month 10.00-13.00

admission free - no appointment for Study Room

necessary but you will need evidence of identification

*here you will find the Ralph Thomas collection of drawings and prints relating to toy theatres*

### **The Doll Makers Studio**

17 Station Road, Chingford, E4  
020 8523 9293

transport: Chingford rail; buses 97,179,212,313,379,444  
facilities: *holds doll making courses (ring number above for information)*

opening: Tue-Sat 10.00-17.00

*porcelain, modern and reproduction dolls are made and sold in the Studio*

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> century building has an interesting collection of antique English dolls*

### **Hoxton Square Market**

Shoreditch, N1  
020 8356 3367

transport: Old Street & Liverpool u/g & rail; buses 26,35,47,48,55,67,78,149,242,243

opening: Non-Sat enquire for hours on telephone number above

*the best day for this market is Saturday when you will find 150 stalls stocked with everything from clothing to art, food to toys*

### **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

*the delightful Queen Mary's Dolls' House was made in 1924. Designed in neo-classical style it has working water, electric lights and two lifts. Inside you may be able to spot a gramophone,vintage wine, vintage cars, original paintings, leatherbound editions of books by Rudyard Kipling & G K Chesterton and a French travelling set of dolls' clothes made in 1938 for the wife of King George V*

### **Japanese Gallery**

23 Camden Passage, N1  
020 7226 3347

transport: Angel u/g; buses 4,19,30,38,43,56,73,153,274,341

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-18.00

*amongst the Japanese antiques in this shop are dolls, porcelain and woodcut prints*

### **St Thomas' Hospital**

2 Lambeth Palace Road, SE1

transport: Westminster & Lambeth North u/g, Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 12,53,77,159,211

*a mini-museum looks at the hospital's 800-year history with a selection of operating instruments, medical 'firsts' and rosebud-style nursing dolls*

## **Important Collection Outside the London Area**

### **Brighton Toy and Model Museum**

52/55 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1  
01273 749494 [www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk](http://www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk)

opening: Tue-Fri 10:00-17.00, Sat 11.00-17.00 (last admission 16.00)

admission charge

*underneath the railway arches of Brighton Station this museum has over 10,000 toys and models on display including model trains & ships, meccano sets, puppets, toy theatres, tin plate and diecast toys, and dolls and dolls' houses*

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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