



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## **Beds & Bedrooms**

### **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**

## Carlyle's House

24 Cheyne Row, Chelsea, SW3  
020 7352 7087, 01494 755559 (infoline)  
www.rbkc.gov.uk/ArtsAndMuseums/CarlylesHouse  
transport: Sloane Square u/g 1¼ miles; buses 11,19,22,49,211,239,319,328,345  
facilities: language boards in 6 languages  
opening: Apr-Oct Wed-Fri 14.00-17.00, Sat-Sun 11.00-17.00  
admission charge  
the kitchen dresser incorporates a maid's bed

## 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 souvenirs shop; tours  
opening: daily summer 10.00-17.00; winter 10.00-16.00 admission charge  
Queen Mary's Bedchamber has the four poster state bed of King James II. The headcloth and headboard are decorated with cyphers and crowns  
the bed, chaise longue, walnut cabinets and portable writing desk as used by the young Queen Victoria, are in Queen Victoria's bedroom. Here can be seen portraits of two of her children, the Princess Royal (painted in 1846) and Prince Alfred. Both are by Mary Thornycroft

## Museum of London

150 London Wall, EC2Y  
020 7600 0807 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  
a late Stuart 'tester' (canopied) bed is on display

## 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  
Robert Adam's green State Bed of 1776 is domed to resemble a temple to the fertility goddesses Venus and Pomona. The vallance displays the Child Family crest of an eagle with an adder in its beak  
the State Bedroom (Yellow Tafetta Bedchamber) has a bed of 1779 surmounted by cupped acorns

## 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

the collection in the British Galleries includes a variety of beds. Amongst them is the four-poster Great Bed of Ware (1590-1600) made from English oak and mentioned by Shakespeare, and the Melville Bed (1700), a state bed 3.65m (12ft) wide which has been alluded to in Charles Dickens' novels. A French bed of 1780 is upholstered in green silk and a Chinese canopied bed dates from 1650

## Windsor Castle

Windsor, Berks, SL4  
01753 831118 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  
there is an 18<sup>th</sup> century French domed bed in the King's Bed Chamber. This room also has paintings by Canaletto and Gainsborough

## Cabinet War Rooms

Clive Steps, King Charles Street, SW1A  
020 7930 6961 www.iwm.org.uk  
transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,159,211; boat: Westminster Millennium Pier  
facilities: audio guide in 6 languages; disabled access; shop  
opening: daily Oct-Mar 10.00-18.00, last admission 17.15; Apr-Sept 09.30-18.00 last admission 17.15  
admission charge  
on display are the rooms where major decisions regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War were taken. Included are the telephone room, map room and Sir Winston Churchill's Office and Bedroom

## 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  
among the magnificent ceiling paintings in the Palace is one in the King's Great Bedchamber of Endymion (an eternal sleeper) in the arms of Morpheus (god of dreams and sleep). The Little Bedchamber has Mars in the lap of Venus. Both are by Antonio Verrio  
there are at least two beds in the Palace that are worth a mention - one dates from 1714 and was made for Queen Anne (in the Queen's Presence Chamber); the other of 1715-16 is the State Bed in crimson damask to be found in the Queen's Bedroom

## Marble Hill House

Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1

020 8233 7435 (information), 020 7413 1443 (box office)  
www.english-heritage.org.uk

transport: Richmond u/g & rail, Twickenham & St  
Margarets rail; buses 33,290,490,H22,R68,R70  
*facilities: audio tape with hearing loop to ground floor;  
disabled access to ground floor (1 wheelchair available);  
snacks & meals (200m from house); shop; guided tours  
by arrangement; group access only during winter months*  
opening: Wed-Sun Apr-Sept, 10.00-18.00, Oct 10.00-  
17.00 (last admission 30 mins prior to closing)  
admission charge

*the Barrington Bed of 1740 is on loan from the Victoria  
and Albert Museum*

### **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)

*in this pub that has been described as a 'high-class junk  
shop', pottery bedroom chamberpots are used to hold  
plants*

### **Houses of Parliament**

Old Palace Yard, Abingdon Street, Westminster, SW1  
020 7219 4272 (Commons), 020 7219 3107 (Lords)  
www.explore.parliament.uk

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,  
88,159,211; boat Westminster Pier  
*facilities: Aug/Sept tours to be booked 5 days in advance  
(020 7344 9966)*

opening: debates in House of Commons Mon-Wed 14.30-  
22.00, Thur 11.30-19.30, Fri 09.30-15.00; debates in  
House of Lords Mon-Wed from 14.30, Thurs from 15.00,  
Fri from 11.00

*the Speaker's House has some lovely furniture including a  
walnut and gilt State bed of 1858. Unfortunately the  
house is not usually open to the public but is used for  
official entertaining*

### **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; 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

*here in the Yellow Bedroom the bed has carved cherub  
feet*

### **Croydon Palace**

Old Palace Road, Croydon, Surrey  
020 8256 1891 www.friendsofoldpalace.org

transport: East & West Croydon rail; Tramlink Reeves  
Corner or Church; buses 154,166,194,264,367,403,405,  
412,450,494  
*facilities: regrettably no access for wheelchairs*  
opening: special days with 2 hour guided tours starting at  
13.45. Telephone or visit internet site for dates  
admission charge includes tea and scones. Booking not  
necessary

*the 1000 year old former residence of Archbishops of  
Canterbury is now a girl's school. Rooms to be visited  
include the 15<sup>th</sup> century Great Hall, the Tudor Long  
Gallery, Norman undercroft and a bedroom used by  
Queen Elizabeth I*

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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