



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Embroidery

### 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

## 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

*embroidered 17<sup>th</sup> century needlework collection*

## Fishmongers Company

north side of London Bridge, EC4  
020 7626 3531 www.fishhall.co.uk/company.html

transport: Monument u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 15,36,40,43,47,48,133,149,344

opening: not normally open to public but special days and free tours may be arranged. Please enquire

*among this City of London Livery Company's collection are pre-Reformation funeral palls embroidered with scenes from the life of St Peter*

## Embroiderers' Guild

Apt 41, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8  
020 8943 1229

transport: Richmond u/g, Hampton Court rail; buses 111, 216,411,416,461,513,727,R68; boat Hampton Court

facilities: *library (by appointment 020 8943 1229 Mon-Fri 10.00-noon, 14.00-16.30)*

opening: by prior arrangement  
admission free

*the museum has over 11,000 embroidered objects from all over the world including costumes, furnishings, decorative and non-functional textiles. It has a strong collection of British embroidery from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Future plans include a move to Manchester into custom-built accommodation the library has over 2,500 titles on embroidery*

## Chelsea Old Church (All Saint's)

Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, SW3  
020 7352 5627 www.domini.org/chelsea-old-church

transport: Sloane Square u/g; buses 19,49,239,319,345

opening: Tue-Fri 13.30-17.30, Sun 08.00-13.00, 14.00-19.00

*the kneelers are embroidered with coats of arms of notables including Queen Elizabeth I, the artist Holman Hunt (1827-1910), the physician Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) and the statesman Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)*

## St Andrew's

St Andrew Street, Holborn, EC4  
020 7353 3544

transport: Chancery Lane u/g; buses 8,17,25,45,242,341

opening: Mon-Fri 08.00-17.30, Wed 08.00-14.00, 18.00-21.00

*the embroidered banner of the Crucifixion is by Molly Arnold*

## 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

*the 800 hassocks, all embroidered in different designs, were made all over the world*

## Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Savoy Place, Strand, 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

opening: Tue-Fri 11.30-15.30

*a needlework panel of 1600 shows the Garden of Eden with a camel, elephant and unicorn. The background has a castle, windmill and other buildings. It was presented to the Chapel by Sir Harold Wernher of Luton Hoo*

## 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 Pier  
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

*there are eight panels of needlework from 1700 in the Queen's Closet*

## 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: *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

*the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection has interesting examples of embroidered men and women's clothes (suits, coats, waistcoats, knee breeches) often in silver & gold wire. The 18<sup>th</sup> century Dress Rooms include a 1780 suit in Beavais chain stitch and a velvet suit of 1790, both richly embroidered*

*besides that used to decorate clothing there is some other lovely embroidery including a 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian piece showing New Testament scenes. (In the Presence Chamber)*

## Jewish Museum - Camden Town

129-131 Albert Street, Camden, NW1  
020 7284 1997 www.jewishmuseum.org

transport: Camden Town u/g; buses 24,27,29,31,88, 134,168,214,253,274,C2

facilities: *audio guide; disabled access & wcs; refreshments; shop selling books, souvenirs & replicas; group tours by arrangement*

opening: Mon, Thur 10.00-16.00, Sun 10.00-17.00;  
closed Bank Holidays & Jewish Festivals  
admission charge

*illustrates the history and culture of the Jewish community in London. The collection has examples of ritual objects including a 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian Ark of the Law, embroidered silk mantles and prayer books*

### **Watts and Co**

7 Tufton Street, SW1  
020 7222 7169

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A, 88,159,211; boat Westminster Millennium Pier

*dating from 1874 this shop specialises in designing and making church furnishings. Here you will find handmade silver, embroidered altar coverings, carpets, wallpaper, fabrics, altar vessels and ornaments*

### **Gallery of Antique Costume and Textiles**

2 Church Street, NW8  
020 7723 9981

transport: Edgware Road u/g; buses 6,16,18,98,139,189  
opening: daily 10.00-17.30

*a gallery that establishes old textiles and costume as worthwhile antiques. Besides a collection of original costume and accessories it displays and sells vintage fabrics including silk ribbon, embroidered trim bedcovers, quilts and cushions. A large part of its work entails hiring suitable items to companies for film, television and magazine work*

### **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, 211,239,507,C1,C10

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

opening: daily Aug-Sept 09.30-16.15  
admission charge

*the two thrones used by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at the Coronation in 1902 stand beneath a gold embroidered crimson velvet canopy*

### **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

*the crafts of British India are illustrated by arms, armour, carved screens, chintz and muslin, carpets, gold and silver thread embroidery and jewellery with enamel and semi-precious stones. More examples of embroidery come from the Himalayas and Nepal. A display of English embroidery covers 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century ecclesiastical pieces, the Oxburgh hangings with their exotic animals, birds and flowers (1500s) and a Bradford table mat with border illustrating late 16<sup>th</sup> century life. The Oxburgh Hangings were embroidered by Mary, Queen of Scots and her prison warder Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury  
the Costume Court shows the history of dress over four centuries (1540-1990) and includes Court mantua, shirts,*

*bodices, hooped skirts and suits covered with detailed embroidery*

### **William Morris Gallery**

Lloyd Park, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17  
020 8527 3782 [www.lbwf.gov.uk/wmg](http://www.lbwf.gov.uk/wmg)

transport: Walthamstow Central u/g & rail; buses 123, 212,275

*facilities: disabled access to ground floor only; library; refreshments; sales desk; tours by arrangement*

opening: Tue-Sat & first Sun in the month 10.00-3.00, 14.00-17.00  
admission free

*this gallery is devoted to a display of the decorative art works connected with William Morris(1834-96). It covers his career as a designer and the history of the firm of Morris and Company (1861-1940) with examples of stained glass, tiles, furniture, wallpapers, fabrics and embroidery*

### **Houses of Parliament**

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

*behind the Chair of State in the Queen's Robing Room is a needlework panel of 1856 with the royal coat of arms*

### **New West End Synagogue**

St Petersburg Place, Bayswater, W2  
020 7229 2631

transport: Bayswater & Queensway u/g, Paddington u/g & rail; buses 12,70,94

opening: Mon-Thur 10.00-13.00

*among the treasures of this 1877-79 synagogue are twenty Sifrei Torah and embroidery and silver from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century*

### **St Bartholomew-the-Great Church**

Cloth Fair, West Smithfield, EC1  
020 7606 5171

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

opening: Tue-Fri 08.30-17.00,Sat 10.30-13.30,Sun 08.00-13.00, 14.30-20.00

*the embroidered kneeler at the sanctuary rail was begun in 1956. It is 24ft (7.3m) long and 17in (43cm) wide with 1,360,800 stitches and was stitched in memory of those of 600 City of London Squadron Royal Auxiliary Airforce who gave their lives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It was funded by congregation donations*

### **Jocelyn Chatterton**

126 Grays Antique Market, 58 Davies Street, W1  
020 7629 1971

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

*this shop sells oriental textiles and embroidery*

## Slightly Further Afield

### Royal Engineers Museum

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4  
01634 822839      [www.royalengineers.org.uk](http://www.royalengineers.org.uk)

transport: Gillingham rail

*facilities: monthly workshops for children, trails & quizzes; disabled access; parking; light refreshments; shop; tours by appointment (please telephone 01634 82251)*

opening: daily Tue-Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat-Sun 11.30-17.00  
admission charge

*among the military artefacts in this museum aiming to trace the history of the Royal Engineers ('The Sappers') is an unexpected display of exquisite Chinese embroideries that had been presented to General Gordon (1833-85)*

### D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery

Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire PO5  
023 9282 7261

transport: Portsmouth & Southsea rail

*facilities: parking; shop; refreshments*

opening: daily  
admission charge

*the D-Day Museum tells the dramatic story of the Allied Landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944. The magnificent 83 metre long embroidery show scenes from the landings and life in wartime Britain. Archive film, military equipment, vehicles and landing craft help to understand the story*

### Museum of Costume

Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath, BA1  
01225 477789      [www.museumofcostume.co.uk](http://www.museumofcostume.co.uk)

transport: Bath rail

*facilities: disabled access & wcs; lift; giftshop & fashion bookshop; group tours*

opening: daily 10.00-16.30  
admission charge

*with over 30,000 objects in the collection and regular changing displays, this museum focuses on the fashionable dress of men, women and children from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. There are lovely examples of embroidery on some of the clothing and accessories, many dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century study tables can be booked on Thursdays or Fridays in order to examine any item in the collection more closely*

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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