

CityThemes London

Seeing the Capital Differently

Mythology

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
e-mail: info@citythemes.co.uk
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

Enjoy Your Explorations

the traditional stories of a people that have usually been orally passed from one generation to another. Often of unbelievable things mythological tales deliberately set out to show the various deities and their relationships with each other and humans. This Theme looks at the objects portraying these stories

British Museum

Great Russell Street, WC1B
020 7323 8000 www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
transport: Russell Square & Tottenham Court Road u/g; buses 10,24,29,73,134
facilities: 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: 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
admission free except for some tours - donation welcomed
here, in this national collection, you will find some of the lovely Greek vases that have narrative scenes from mythology. One is the Portland Vase. Dating from the early 1st century AD it is of cobalt-blue blown glass with opaque white cameos
the museum also has several portrait busts of mythological heroes

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 10.00-17.00 summer; 10.00-16.00 winter
admission charge
the majority of the ceilings in this Palace were painted by William Kent. The Presence Chamber has a trompe l'oeil painting. Trompe l'oeil is literally 'something which deceives the eye' and was often used as a technique in painting or architecture. This ceiling of 1724 is in the 'grotesque' style (painting in antique style) and the centre has Apollo in his chariot
the King's Drawing Room ceiling shows Jupiter and his lover, Semele (1723) while that above the King's Grand Staircase gives the impression of a dome with balustraded openings with onlookers. On the north side can be seen William Kent with his mistress and assistants while musicians play on the south wall (1725-7)
some of the paintings were executed on canvas and the one in the King's Gallery has seven mythological scenes taken from the story of Ulysses. The Privy Chamber has a 1723 imitation of ancient Roman paintings with Mars and Minerva surrounded by the Arts and Sciences. Mars is wearing the Order of the Garter!

Leighton House

12 Holland Park Road, W14
020 7602 3316 www.rbkc.gov.uk/leightonhousemuseum
transport: High Street Kensington & Kensington (Olympia) u/g; buses 9,10,27,28,49,94,328,C1
facilities: disabled access; sales desk; tours by arrangement

opening: Mon, Wed-Sun 11.00-17.30
admission free

the frieze of animals, mythological birds and stylish flora was designed by William de Morgan (1839-1917). He was a leading arts and crafts designer and designed pottery, tiles and stained glass. He later turned to writing novels.

National Gallery

Trafalgar Square, WC2N
020 7747 2885 www.nationalgallery.org.uk
transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,11,12,13,15,23,24,29,53,77A,88,91,139,159,176; boat Embankment Pier
facilities: gallery soundtrack in 5 languages; tape guide for visually-impaired; sign language tours; large print labels; disabled access (wheelchairs on request); disabled wcs; library by arrangement; restaurant & snacks; shop; tours (daily 11.30 & 14.30 plus 18.30 Weds)
opening: daily 10.00-18.00, Weds 10.00-21.00
admission free
among the treasures in this famous art gallery you will find mythological works by Nicholas Poussin (1594-1665), Luca Giordano (1634-1705) and Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553 including 'Cupid complaining to Venus' (1530))

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 was originally part of the private collection of the Hertford-Wallace family with most of the items acquired in London or Paris between 1800 & 1872. The collection of armour and weapons is of note and includes a cannon cast with scenes from Greek mythology

Peter Pan

west bank of Long Water, Kensington Gardens, W2
transport: Lancaster Gate, Queensway & Knightsbridge u/g; buses 9,10,12,49,52,70,94
this famous bronze statue of 1912, loved by children of all ages, has sculptures of birds around the pedestal. The statue depicts the boy who never grew up, created by J M Barrie, playing the pipes while fairies, mice and rabbits play round his feet

Nymph

Berkeley Square, W1
transport: Green Park u/g; buses 8,9,14,19,22,38
the unused fountain of 1858 by Alexander Munro was restored in 1994 and shows a white marble nymph with reeds and a pitcher

Phoenix

St Paul's Churchyard, EC4
transport: St Pauls & Mansion House u/g, Blackfriars & Cannon Street u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,11,15,26,56,76,100,172,242; boat Blackfriars Millennium Pier
the phoenix is a well-known mythological bird said to burn itself every 500 years and then to rise rejuvenated from its own ashes. This phoenix by Caius Gabriel Cibber depicts the rise of the new St Paul's Cathedral from the old after the Fire of London in 1666

Warrington Hotel pub

93 Warrington Crescent, W9
020 8519 3029

transport: Maida Vale & Warwick Road u/g; buses 6,16, 46,98,187

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-22.30

two sculptured fauns playing pipes can be seen above the bar

Muse Euterpe

Archer Street, W1

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14, 15,19,22,23,38,53,88,94,139,159

this stone sculpture of 1921 by Charles Petworth depicts the Muse of lyric poetry & music

The Minotaur

St Alphage Highwalk, London Wall, EC2

Moorgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 76,100, 133,153,214

a bronze sculpture of 1973 by Michael Ayrton shows the legendary Greek minotaur. The minotaur was a creature half bull, half human that lived in the Cretan labyrinth made by the Athenian inventor, Daedalus. It was killed by Theseus with the help of Ariadne

Icarus

Old Change Court, Distaff Lane, EC4

transport: Mansion House & St Paul's u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,76,100,172

another 1973 statue by Michael Ayrton portrays Icarus, the son of Daedalus the Athenian inventor. Using wings made by his father to escape from Crete he flew too near to the sun. The wax melted and he fell into the Aegean Sea at a point now known as the Icarian Sea

Alounak

10 Russell Gardens, W14
020 7603 7645

transport: Shepherd's Bush u/g, Kensington (Olympia) u/g & rail; buses 49,94,148

opening: daily noon-midnight

this restaurant has an interesting collection of Iranian bric-a-brac - plates, teapots & prints from Persian mythology, tanks of fish and stonework fountains

Vino Veritas Cheapside

8 Russia Row, EC2

transport: St Pauls & Moorgate u/g; buses 8,56,76,100, 133,242

inside this pub you will find a clock where models of the two mythical British giants Gog and Magog confront each other at a quarter to every hour. Legend has it that the giants were continually fighting each other

Eros

Piccadilly Circus, W1

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14,15, 19,22,23,38,53,88,94,139,159

this famous memorial standing in the centre of Piccadilly Circus was the first aluminium statue and was made in 1893 by Sir Alfred Gilbert. Although known as Eros, the winged archer of love, it was intended to represent the Angel of Christian Charity. It was erected as a memorial to Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801-85), the philanthropist and social reformer. Disappearing for some time for much needed repairs it was reinstalled in 1993

Nymph

Carlos Place, W1

transport: Bond Street u/g; buses 2,10,16,36,73,74,82, 137

this 1973 fountain was 'a gift to the City of Westminster from the President of the Italian Republic Nov.1987' and was erected to commemorate the friendship between Britain and Italy

Avery Hill Park

Avery Hill Road, SE9

transport: Falconwood rail; buses 132,162,286

opening: Mon-Sat 10.00-noon, 13.00-16.00

the Victorian domed greenhouse of the Winter Garden is regarded as southeast London's finest greenhouse. On the top is an 1890 statue of Mercury the winged messenger of the gods, standing on one leg and wearing a winged helmet

Broadgate Circle, EC2

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 11,23,100, 133,153,205,214

this 1985 development of the former Broad Street Railway Station has open spaces, fountains and sculptures including one entitled 'Bellerophon taming Pegasus'. Dating from 1990 it shows a small figure wrestling with Pegasus in its death throes. The wings resemble human hands

The Nymph

Chelsea Town Hall Library, Kings Road, SW3

transport: buses 11,19,22,49,319

this marble nude seated on a pedestal is by L S Merrifield

Banco di Napoli

1-5 Moorgate, EC2

transport: Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 21,43,76,100,133, 141,153,205,214

these 1988 bronze doors with heraldic relief have reliefs of two females dressed in peasant costume. They are believed to be depictions of the goddesses Flora and Demeter

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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