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
Museum of the Order of St John
St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell, EC1M
020 7324 4070 www.sja.org.uk/history
transport: Farringdon u/g & rail; buses 55,56,153
facilities: disabled access to ground floor only; disabled
wcs; library by appointment; giftshop; tours of gatehouse &
crypt (Tue, Fri, Sat 11.00 & 14.30)
opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00, Sat 10.00-16.00
admission free - donation welcome for tour of gatehouse &
crypt
the collection covers the arms and armour of the Knights
Hospitalier and includes Rhodian and Maltese pieces of
armour. Also shown are cannon (presented by King Henry
VIII), drawings, maps and portrait medals

Armourers and Brasiers Company
81 Coleman Street, EC2R
020 7606 1199
transport: Bank, St Pauls & Moorgate u/g; buses 8,56,76,
100,133,242
opening: by prior application
above the door of this City Livery Company is the
Company's coat of arms showing sculptured knights in
armour. The Company possesses a suit of armour worn by
Sir Henry Lee, champion of Queen Elizabeth I

Westminster Abbey
Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1
020 7222 5152 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
in the Chapel on the east side of the northern transept is
the tomb of Sir Francis Vere. Made of black marble slabs
the upper slab is supported by four knights in armour. A
full set of Sir Francis's armour is laid out on one of the slabs

Michael German Antiques Ltd
38B Kensington Church Street, W8
020 7937 2771 www.antiquecanes.com/www.antiqueweapons.com
transport: Notting Hill Gate & High Street Kensington
u/g; buses 9,10,12,27,28,49,52,70,94,328
opening:
here you will find antique arms and armour together with
an interesting collection of walking sticks

National Army Museum
Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, SW3
020 7730 0717 www.national-army-museum.ac.uk
transport: Sloane Square u/g; buses 11,137,211,239;
boat Cadogan Pier
facilities: wheelchair access to all galleries; snacks & light
lunches; museum shop for souvenirs, gifts & books
opening: daily 10.00-17.30
admission free

Museum of the Order of St John
a collection of armour is kept in this museum's basement.
The Museum records the British army's activities over 5
centuries since 1415

Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum
20 Princes Gate, SW7
020 7598 9249
transport: South Kensington & Knightsbridge u/g; buses
9,10,52,70
facilities: library; tours
opening: museum: Mon-Fri 14.00-16.00, 1st Sat each
month 10.00-16.00; archives Tue-Fri 09.30-16.00
admission free
this collection and library relates to the history of Poland's
military achievements and includes pieces of 17th century
armour

Tower of London
Tower Hill, EC3
020 7709 0765 www.hrp.org.uk
transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch
Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium &
St Katharines Piers
facilities: White Tower: library; refreshments; shop
opening: Mar-Oct Mon-Sat 09.00-18.00, Sun 10.00-
18.00; Nov-Feb Tue-Sat 09.00-17.00, Sun-Mon 10.00-
17.00; (last admission 1 hour before closing)
admission charge
this medieval fortress is famous as a place of
imprisonment and death but has also been used as a
royal residence, an armory, a mint, a menagerie, an
observatory & a place for safe keeping
the Royal Armouries collection in the White Tower records
the history of armour and arms with examples including
cannon and mortar. A 'Line of Kings' shows 17th century
life-size portraits of kings dressed either in personal attire
or in armour. Please note that the main collection of
armour is now kept in Leeds, Yorkshire with other pieces
at Fort Nelson, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Tower Hill, EC3
transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch
Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium &
St Katharines Piers
unveiled in 2000, reproductions of oil paintings by
Stephen B Whatley decorate the passageway from Tower
Hill underground station to the Tower of London. They tell
the story of the Tower and the people and events
associated with it - kings and queens, collections of arms
and armour, the Crown Jewels, the historic buildings, the
Warden Beefeaters and the ravens

Emperor Trajan
Trinity Place, Tower Hill, EC3
transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch
Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium &
St Katharines Piers
an 18th century Italian statue of the Roman Emperor
Trajan (98-117) shows him in armour holding a weapon
and a scroll. Trajan had no connection with the Tower Hill
area - the statue was found in a scrapyard and presented
to the Tower Hill Improvement Trust in 1980

Globe Theatre
21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1
020 7902 1500 (exhibition) 020 7401 9919 (box office)
www.shakespeares-globe.org

Theme 78: Armour revised March 2006
Christopher Wren and carved by Grinling Gibbons. It has stood on the present site since 1675 and was given a new sword in 1947. The original armour is now in the Tower of London

St Andrew Undershift Church
St Mary Axe, Leadenhall Street, EC3
020 7283 2231
transport: Aldgate & Bank u/g; Fenchurch Street rail; buses 2,6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23,30,73,74,82,94,98,113,137,139,159,199,286,380,422,486
opening: Tue, Thur 10.00-14.00, Sat 10.00-noon
a free-standing monument shows Brigadier Michael Richards (died 1721) in armour

Samiramis Ltd
Grays Mews, 1-7 Davies Mews, W1Y
020 7629 1161
transport: Bond Street & Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23,30,73,74,82,94,98,113,137,139,159,199,274
this shop sells antique arms and armour as well as rugs and carpets

St Luke’s Church
185 Charlton Church Lane, Charlton Village, SE7
020 8858 8175
transport: North Greenwich u/g, Charlton rail; buses 53,54,161,177,180,380,422,486
opening: daily
among the art collection in this world-renowned gallery is a 1637 painting by Anthony Van Dyke (1599-1641) showing King Charles I on his horse dressed in armour and wearing the medallion of the Garter Sovereign

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. Free bus service between National Gallery, Tate & Tate Modern every 30mins
facilities: gallery soundtrack in 5 languages; tape guide for visually-impaired; sign language tours; large print labels; disabled access (wheelchairs on request); disabled wc’s; 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 art collection in this world-renowned gallery is a 1637 painting by Anthony Van Dyke (1599-1641) showing King Charles I on his horse dressed in armour and wearing the medallion of the Garter Sovereign

Queen’s House
Greenwich Park, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10
020 8858 4422
transport: Greenwich DLR & rail, Cutty Sark DLR; buses 177,180,188,199,286,386; boat Greenwich Pier
opening: daily 10.00-17.00
admission charge
among the naval portraits of this collection is one showing King James II in gold & orange Roman-style armour

Southwark War Memorial
Borough High Street, SE1
transport: London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 21,35,40,133,343,381,RV1

Theme 78: Armour revised March 2006
this war memorial commemorates the men of St Saviours, Southwark who gave their lives for the Empire during the 1914-18 War. It has the bronze figure of a soldier with tin hat and rifle marching through mud, figures of a knight in armour and a weeping woman & child. One bronze panel shows battleships and the other biplanes in aerial combat.

Armoury of St James's
17 Piccadilly Arcade, SW1
020 7493 5082 www.armoury.co.uk
transport: Piccadilly Circus & Green Park u/g; buses 8,9, 14,19,22,38
opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-18.00, Sat noon-16.00
this shop's main trade is selling model soldiers but it also has the occasional piece connected with armour.

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
among the collection of Celtic bronzeware are wine flagons, armour and mirrors.
in 1939 a 30ft (9m) oak Saxon burial ship was excavated in Suffolk. On board was found what is now known as the Sutton Hoo Treasure - . 41 items of solid gold including jewellery, silver objects including bowls, weapons, coins, cups and armour dating from between 575 and 620.

Achilles
Hyde Park, on the ring road from Hyde Park Corner to Marble Arch, W1
transport: Hyde Park Corner & Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,8,9,10,14,16,19,22,36,38,73,74,82,137
this nude bronze statue by Sir Richard Westmacott, was erected in 1822 as a memorial to Wellington. It holds a shield and sword and stands next to a suit of armour . Although called Achilles it is in fact not Achilles nor does it have the face of Wellington. Cast from cannon captured at the Peninsular War it stands 18ft (5 m) high, weighs 33 tons and is the copy of a Roman horse trainer.

Further Afield
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.
in the Grand Vestibule are pattered displays or trophies, arms and armour including armour seized from Tipoo, Sultan of Mysore, in 1799. A suit of a Royal Champion is in St George's Hall including the last suit made for King Henry VIII. Examples of equestrian armour can also be seen - they show how a man on horseback would have looked going into battle.

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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Theme 78: Armour revised March 2006