

Fanfare

Britain's Historic Royal Palaces Summer 2009

Ensure your 2009 Christmas excursions go down in history

The palaces really come into their own at Christmas time, as centuries of ceremony, merrymaking and feasting are re-enacted and enjoyed by a new generation of people.

This Christmas is special as it takes place in the year of Henry VIII's 500th anniversary of becoming king, so at **Hampton Court Palace** you can be sure your customers will be entertained by the best Tudor festivities including games, dancing, music and feasting. Henry's Great Kitchens will also be a hive of activity as the Tudor Cooks prepare and present a Christmas feast fit for a king! To mark this special year, the Tudor Cookery will take place over a longer period than usual, from 27 December to 3 January.

Also special for Henry VIII's anniversary year at Hampton Court is the unique Tapestry Re-colouration display which offers visitors the world's first opportunity to see one of Henry VIII's tapestries re-lit with its original stunning vibrant colours, from shining golds to bright blues. This display ends on the 3 January 2010 so make sure you include a visit in your programme before then.

At the **Tower of London**, medieval merry-making will reign with our Medieval Christmas event, so join Edward I and his Court as they enjoy festive music and dancing in the Medieval Palace and Upper Wakefield Tower. Also, the colourful ceremony of the Christmas State Parade will take place in December and will be one of the first ceremonial duties of the Tower of London's new Constable, General Sir Richard Dannatt, who takes up his post on 1 August 2009.

Why not book a Christmas celebration at one of the palaces and entertain your clients, customers or colleagues in grand style - see page 3 for more details.

For help and advice in organising a group visit to

Kensington Palace
or any of the
historic royal
palaces, contact
the Groups and

Travel Trade Team on
+44 (0) 20 3166 6311 or email
groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk



Groups and Travel Trade

Guided Tours: Get more for your group visit to the palaces by booking a private group tour. Call +44 (0) 203166 6311, e-mail groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk

Tower of London

Private viewing of the Crown Jewels

The British Crown Jewels, permanently on display to the public at the Tower of London, are the only working collection in the world. A private viewing of the Crown Jewels is your opportunity to enjoy exclusive, out-of-hours access to this

unique collection. With your own Jewel House Warder as your guide, your group will hear the stories and legends surrounding items such as the largest top quality cut diamond in the world, the Cullinan I, the famous

Koh-i-noor diamond, and the Black Prince's Ruby. Available in the morning at £60.00 per person plus VAT, or in the evening at £90.00 per person. Prices include refreshments. Minimum group number is 15.

Hampton Court Palace



Ghost Tours – from 31 Oct to March 2010

The ever-popular evening Ghost Tours at Hampton Court Palace will return again from Halloween through the winter months. A State Apartment Warder is your guide through the shadowy Baroque State Apartments, Henry VIII's Tudor apartments and the dark courtyards. Tour includes a glass of mulled wine and a warm mince pie. Public tours available on Friday and Sunday evenings from 7.30pm, duration 1.5 hours. Max 36 people per tour, £25.00 per person. Private ghost tour on another day of the week can do so for £1000.00 + VAT.

Kensington Palace



Enchanted Palace – from March 2010 to 2012

Kensington will become the an Enchanted Palace, as visitors travel through the State Apartments they will encounter a

surprising and magical Palace, filled with stunning cutting-edge fashion installations, inspired by royal dress and tradition. Representing different fairy tales from around the world, these will be woven with dress from leading designers and up-and-coming fashion talent. Take a journey through the spellbound palace and explore the tale of transformation that lies within. Please call for details of visits and private tours.



Winter warmers for groups

Tasty Tudor treats

This year the Tiltyard Café have created some tempting lunch buffet menus to complete your Henry VIII experience at Hampton Court Palace. Served in the private area called The Snug, there is a choice of six menus, one for each wife! The choices range from the Katherine of Aragon lunch of soup and freshly-made sandwiches, to the Kateryn Parr lunch consisting of cold meat platters, pies and savoury pastries with cakes and tarts to finish. Prices are from just £8.00 per person.

Meal Deal vouchers

If you would rather save time why not offer a lunch, snack or tea stop by including our Meal Deal vouchers. At both the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace the self-service restaurants provide meal vouchers and you can choose from three different options depending on the time of day or the budget for your itinerary.



Events and private parties

Tower of London

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6226
E: toweroflondon@hrp.org.uk

Once again the popular Christmas marquee will be erected in the Tower's North Moat, hosting festive dinners and parties in the most sumptuously decorated space. Minimum party numbers 700, maximum 1200 for a sit-down meal. For enquiries call + 44 (0) 20 8682 4900 or email sales@planitevents.co.uk



Over hundreds of years, the five royal palaces have provided the backdrop to Christmas celebrations, from glittering banquets, music and games. Today, the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Banqueting House, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace can provide unique venues to make your Christmas go down in history!

Each palace has its own personality, style and wealth of stories that will ensure your occasion is both impressive and unforgettable.

Find out how we can make your Christmas extra special below at www.hrp.org.uk

Hampton Court Palace

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6505/6/7
E: hamptoncourtplaceevents@hrp.org.uk

Continuing the celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne, the palace is offering a special Christmas package - the black-tie Tudor Jewel Christmas Ball. The exclusive party packages, suitable for groups of 100 or more, start from £72.00 + VAT per person and include the following: a sparkling drinks reception, 3 course dinner with wine and coffee plus entertainment. Upgrades for pre-dinner drinks in the Tudor Kitchens or ice skating on our outdoor ice rink are also on offer.



Kensington Palace

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6505/6/7
E: hamptoncourtplaceevents@hrp.org.uk

Last chance to hire the Victorian Garden Rooms at Kensington Palace! These beautiful rooms are available for a limited time only as they will be closing in March 2010 to make way for an exciting new permanent exhibition at Kensington Palace. Ideal for lunches up to 50 guests, receptions for 100 and dinner for up to 80 these historic spaces have many stories to tell. Make sure you don't miss this opportunity to take your place in history!



Banqueting House

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6157
E: banquetinghouseevents@hrp.org.uk



Music has always been a major part of festive celebrations so why not include in your Christmas itinerary a concert at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, this December? There are lunchtime concerts on Monday 7 December featuring The Dufay Collective exploring 'Medieval Christmas' and on Monday 21 December soprano Hannah Francis will 'Sing a Song of Christmas'. Lunchtime concerts take place between 1pm and 2pm, and include a buffet lunch from 12.30pm. Tickets £19.00 and groups of 15 or more receive 10% discount. Call +44 (0) 203 166 6153.

Daytime Events

Last minute Summer

Autumn/Winter

Christmas



Tower of London

Siege and garrison: 1-31 Aug
Come and join the king's soldiers and try your strength and skill in shooting the mighty siege weapons.

Masters of the Sword: 1-31 Aug
As the Wars of the Roses rage, come and see the skills, armour and weapons needed to make sure knights and soldiers keep their heads!

Henry VIII: Dressed to Kill: until 17 Jan 2010
Some of the finest armour ever created for Henry VIII has been brought together for the first time in modern history this year at the Tower of London. In partnership with the Royal Armouries, this spectacular exhibition of Henry's armour explores the man behind the majesty.

Siege and garrison: 26 Sept-31 Oct
Come and join the king's soldiers and try your strength and skill in shooting the mighty siege weapons.

The Tower Festival: 10-20 Sept
The Tower Festival this year features dance, opera, jazz and world music. Confirmed for 2009 is Lesley Garrett, Gilbert and Sullivan's Yeoman of the Guard and Sadlers Wells presenting a night of dance. Buy tickets and find out more at www.towerfestival.com

Medieval Christmas: 27 Dec-31 Jan 2010
The king and queen host a merry medieval Christmas at the Tower, with music, dancing, feasting, drinking and games.

Tower Ice Rink: 21 Nov 09 - 10 Jan 2010
A fabulous place to enjoy this festive past-time, the Tower ice rink will be the place to skate in 2008. See more at www.toweroflondonicerink.com. Price includes skate hire.



Hampton Court Palace

Tudor Cookery: 25-26 Jul and 29-31 Aug
The preparations for the wedding feast of Henry VIII and Kateryn Parr continue in Henry VIII's Great Kitchens.

Henry's Women: until 3 Aug
For the first time at Hampton Court, six rarely seen 16th century portraits and personal objects of Henry VIII's wives, plus his two daughters, Mary I and Elizabeth I, are brought together in the exhibition Henry's Women. A portrait of Henry himself watches over them all.

Tudor tournament: 29-31 Aug
For the first time in modern history, Hampton Court Palace plays host to a recreation of a Tudor jousting tournament. England's finest jousting compete to impress King Henry VIII and his bride Queen Kateryn Parr with a display of skill, strength and bravery.

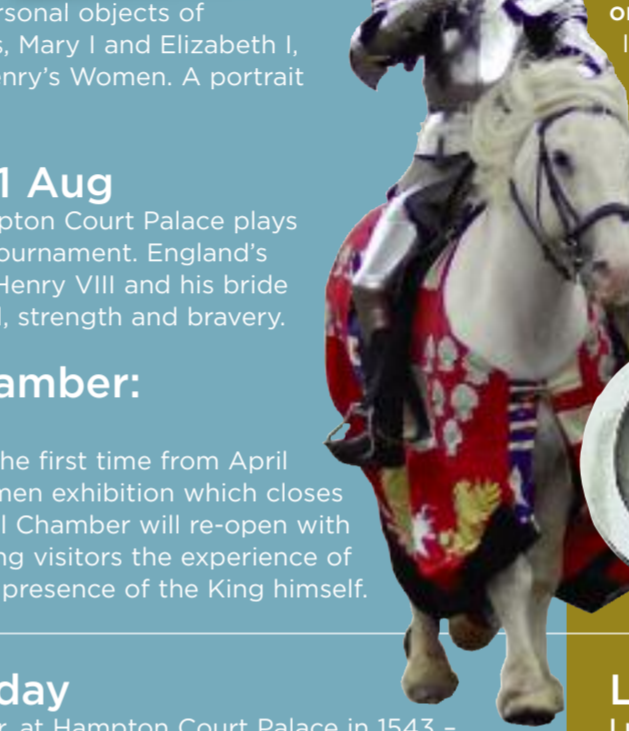
Henry VIII's Council Chamber: opens 29 Aug
This room was opened to the public for the first time from April 2009 to host the temporary Henry's Women exhibition which closes on 3 August. From 29 August the Council Chamber will re-open with a new permanent interactive display giving visitors the experience of being in Henry VIII's Privy Council, in the presence of the King himself.

Henry's Wedding: everyday
Henry married his sixth wife, Kateryn Parr, at Hampton Court Palace in 1543 - in 2009 you become a wedding guest, and can meet the bride and groom themselves, as the palace bustles with activity around you.

Ghost Tours
The ever-popular evening Ghost Tours at Hampton Court Palace will return again from November 2009 to February 2010. Public tours available on Friday and Sunday evenings from 7.30pm, duration 1.5hours. Max 36 people per tour, £25.00 per person.

Henry VIII's Christmas: 27 Dec-1 Jan 2010
Join King Henry VIII and his court as they celebrate Christmas at the palace with the most lavish entertainments yet seen. This includes the cooking of a special Christmas feast for Henry. The Tudor Cookery will continue until 3 January.

Hampton Court Palace Ice Rink: 29 Nov 09 - 10 Jan 2010
Enjoy a truly memorable festive experience as you skate with the Tudor West Front as a spectacular backdrop. See www.hamptoncourticerink.com for details. Price includes skate hire.



Banqueting House

Evening concert: 20 July Classic Touch
Featuring Toschko Todorov on harmonica and Dorian Todorov on piano.
Includes works by Debussy and Liszt. Concert at 19.00h, followed by a buffet supper. Tickets £20.00.

Lunchtime concert: 14 Sept
Lute songs from the new Stuart Court
Featuring Nathan Vale (tenor) and Benjamin Perrot on the lute. Devised by Ian McFarlane.

Lunchtime concert: 5 Oct
Jose Maria Guerrero
This sensational tenor will be performing operatic arias and songs from his vast repertoire.

Lunchtime concert: 19 Oct
Benjamin Bayl and Saraband with James Bowman
Benjamin Bayl (harpsichord) and this dynamic consort bring music alive through period instruments and here are joined by one of the world's leading countertenors.

Lunchtime concert: 2 Nov
James Bowman and the English Consort of Viols
This world-renowned countertenor performs a programme of music accompanied by viols and lutes.

Lunchtime concert: 7 Dec
The Dufay Collective present Medieval Christmas
An atmospheric concert of traditional festive music.

Lunchtime concert: 21 Dec
Hannah Francis - Sing a Song of Christmas
This highly-acclaimed soprano presents her take on famous festive music.

Unless otherwise stated, concerts take place 13.00h - 14.00h and tickets are £19.00 each, group bookings of 15 or more will receive a 10% discount. To book tickets or for more information call +44 (0) 20 3166 6153.



Diana, Fashion and Style

This display continues, showcasing some of the princess's most glamorous outfits, most never displayed at Kensington Palace before.



Kensington Palace is open throughout festive season except 24-26 December inclusive, so why not bring your family or group to this charming royal home for a special treat?

Kensington Palace

The Last Debutantes: 1958 Season of change
Explore the story of the changing world of the late 1950s as we unite some of the 'debs' of 1958 and display some original dresses.

Kew Palace

Kew Palace, the intimate and domestic side of the royal palaces is nestled within Kew Gardens and offers more options for a fantastic day out. So, if you have an existing trip to the Gardens planned, why not add Kew Palace into your itinerary? The palace is open until 27 September, closing with a Sunday Evening tour. The palace will also be marking the 250th anniversary of the beginnings of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.



Make sure you visit Kew Palace before it is put to bed for the winter! Kew Palace closes on 27 September 2009.

Booking open for 2010

The former home of King George III opened in 2006 after 10 years of painstaking conservation work. Book now for summer 2010!



Historic Royal Palaces embraces the social networking world!

YouTube

www.youtube.com/HistoricRoyalPalaces

We currently have 24 videos on our YouTube channel, from Toilets through Time to various Henry VIII stories – log on and watch!

Facebook

www.facebook.com/pages/Historic-Royal-Palaces/4638888467

Our page highlights our work and special events across the palaces. Become a 'fan' and you'll be updated when we add new content!

Twitter

www.twitter.com/IamHenryVIII

We 'tweet' as IamHenryVIII, updating his 700 plus 'followers' on the world-changing events between his accession and coronation, 500 years later. This is the first use of Twitter by an historical character 'tweeting' in the first person in real time.



Christmas shopping

T: +44 (0) 203 166 6848

E: mailorder@hrp.org.uk

Every year Historic Royal Palaces produces an exclusive, limited edition Christmas Decoration for collectors, and in 2009 the decoration celebrates the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's succession to the throne. It is supplied complete with a gift box and historical notes. The decoration is £19.53 and is available by mail order via email, by post or by phone, and via the internet: www.historicroyalpalaces.com

You will also find many other inspiring christmas gift ideas here. So get shopping!

Need help?

Visit us

Buy tickets for 15 or more people: T: 0844 482 7770
E: traveltradeorders@hrp.org.uk

Find out

about the five palaces on our website: www.hrp.org.uk

Calling from overseas, please dial

T: +44 20 3166 6000

Ask us questions

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6311 or
E: groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk

Party in style!

Functions and Events

Tower of London T: +44 (0)20 3166 6226
Hampton Court Palace T: +44 (0)20 3166 6505/6/7
Banqueting House T: +44 (0)20 3166 6157
Kensington Palace and Kew Palace T: +44 (0)20 3166 6115
E: events@hrp.org.uk

Retail therapy!

Souvenirs and shopping

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6848
E: mailorder@hrp.org.uk
W: www.historicroyalpalaces.com
T: +44 (0)20 3166 6857
E: corpgifts@hrp.org.uk

Corporate gifts



Historic Royal PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace. We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We receive no funding from the Government or the Crown, so we depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, volunteers and sponsors.