

Hampton Court Palace: 1509-1838

Significant moments and events in the palace's history

Pre-16th century

The site of Hampton Court is owned by the Knights Hospitallers of St John Jerusalem, a religious order founded in the 11th century.

1509

Henry VII dies. Henry VIII becomes king and marries his brother's widow, Katherine of Aragon.

1514

Thomas Wolsey is made Archbishop of York and takes up residence at Hampton Court.

1515

Wolsey becomes a cardinal and Lord Chancellor of England.

1516

Cardinal Wolsey entertains Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon at Hampton Court.

1528

Henry VIII acquires Hampton Court from Cardinal Wolsey.

1530

Cardinal Wolsey dies. Henry VIII hears the news at Hampton Court.

1533

Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn. Their honeymoon is spent at Hampton Court.

1534

The Act of Supremacy is declared, recognising Henry VIII as the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

1536

Anne Boleyn is beheaded at the Tower of London. Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour.

1537

Jane Seymour prepares for the birth of her baby at Hampton Court. Prince Edward (the future King Edward VI) is born at the palace and baptised in the Chapel Royal. Jane Seymour dies at Hampton Court and lies in state in the Chapel Royal.

1540

Henry VIII marries Anne of Cleves; the marriage is annulled. Henry marries Catherine Howard. Their honeymoon is spent at Hampton Court.

1541

Henry VIII is told about Catherine Howard's infidelity while at Hampton Court.

1542

Catherine Howard is beheaded at the Tower of London.

1543

Henry VIII marries his last wife, Kateryn Parr, in the Holy Day Closet at Hampton Court.

1547

Henry VIII dies at Whitehall Palace.

1554

Mary I and Philip II spend their honeymoon at Hampton Court.

1562

Elizabeth I is struck down by a near-fatal attack of smallpox while at the palace.

1689

Sir Christopher Wren begins Hampton Court's second great building phase; he replaces the old Tudor lodgings with new apartments for the king and queen.

1732

Architect William Kent rebuilds the apartments on the east side of Clock Court.

1760

George II dies. He is the last monarch to live at Hampton Court Palace.

1838

Queen Victoria opens the palace to the public.

The Tudor rose of England. A boss from the ceiling of the Great Watching Chamber at Hampton Court Palace.

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