

Historic Royal Palaces
Hampton Court Palace



“The King’s Court
should hath the
excellence. But
Hampton Court hath
the pre-eminence.”

John Skelton, one time tutor of Henry VIII, 1534



Beyond brilliant

A setting for stately spectaculars

For centuries, Hampton Court Palace has boldly and magnificently played host to gala celebrations, festive banquets and historic meetings.

England's most famous kings and queens, from Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to William III and Mary II, dazzled audiences of ambassadors, courtiers,

cardinals, artists and dignitaries with the grandeur and majesty of Hampton Court.

Today, your guests can step onto this inspiring stage and experience the soaring state rooms, grand staircases, cobbled courtyards and gorgeous gardens of one of the greatest palaces ever built.

Whatever your occasion, you will enjoy first-class, personal service from a dedicated manager able to advise and help you choose the perfect space for your event. We will attend to every detail, because we want to ensure your guests experience the astonishing potential of this unforgettable venue.

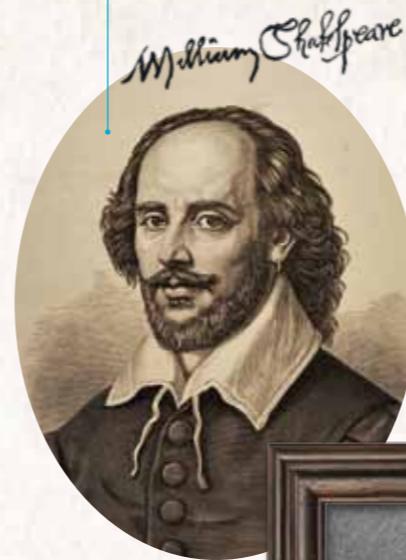


Staging unforgettable events since 1514

A rising star in the court of King Henry VIII, Thomas Wolsey acquired Hampton Court in 1514. His country manor soon evolved into a magnificent setting for resolving historic business and pursuing pleasure too.

1603

William Shakespeare and his company 'The King's Men' perform plays in the Great Hall (see p12) for King James I.



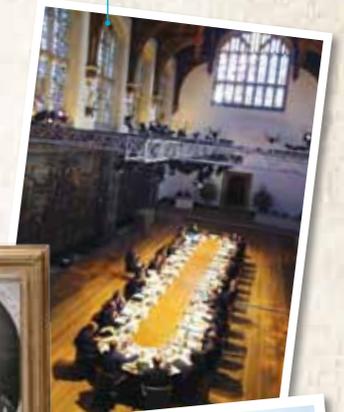
1606

The King of Denmark - James I's brother-in-law - is entertained at the palace. The royals enjoy theatre, dining and, given the Dane's reputation, plenty of drinking.



1689

William III and Mary II build magnificent state rooms for holding court and receiving dignitaries.



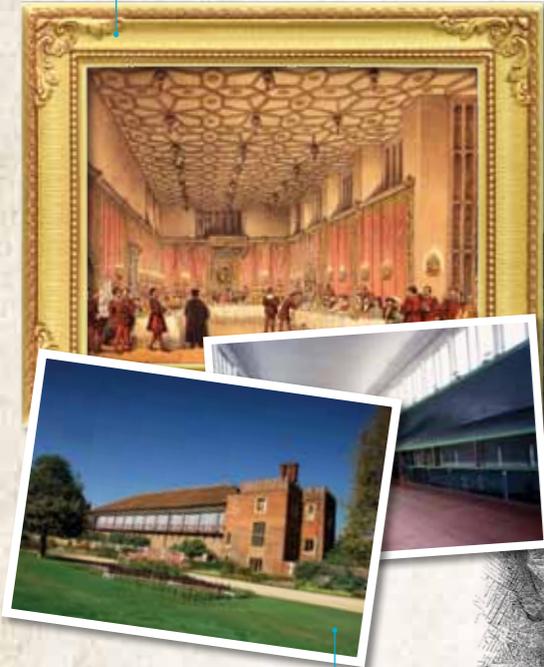
2005

Tony Blair hosts a heads of government conference in the palace's Great Hall (see p12).



1516

Thomas Wolsey (the future Cardinal) entertains Henry VIII and his Queen Katherine of Aragon for dinner at the palace.



1546

The last of Henry VIII's great 'revellynges': six days of banquets, hunting, masques and celebration follow the ratification of a peace deal with French ambassadors.



1562

Under Elizabeth I, the palace remains a centre for diplomatic meetings. The Treaty of Hampton Court is agreed, lending support to the Huguenot cause in France.



1604

James I calls the Hampton Court Conference, which commissions the King James Bible.



1662

Newlyweds Charles II and Catherine of Braganza arrive at the palace for a celebration with councillors of state, foreign ministers, peers and lords and ladies of the court.



Early 1700s

Queen Anne meets with her Privy Council in the Cartoon Gallery (see p19) during the early part of her reign.



2012

Champion cyclist Bradley Wiggins is presented with the gold medal for winning the men's time trial event as Hampton Court Palace serves as a 2012 Olympic games venue.

1530s

Henry VIII makes Hampton Court a sporting playground. A tiltyard is built and jousts and grand tournaments are held where the King distinguishes himself.



A captivating spirit

The compelling character of Hampton Court is woven invisibly throughout its myriad stories and tangibly into its historic fabric.



King Henry VIII enjoyed this palace to the full. He joustted, feasted, hunted and entertained here. Matrimonial adventurer that he was it's also where he divorced once and married twice.



Henry VIII's extraordinary astronomical clock watches over the palace's central courtyard, still in working order. Its complex gears and gilded dials depict a medieval world in which the sun orbits the earth.

More than any other monarchs William III and Mary II shaped the palace that survives today. Many of the grand South Front rooms they built serve as beautiful event spaces (see pp22-29 and pp34-36).



A wealth of creative genius has shaped the palace. Antonio Verrio. Christopher Wren. Andrea Mantegna. Around nearly every corner lays another masterpiece by history's artistic and architectural heavyweights.



A food factory for the hungry Tudor court, the palace kitchens (see p15) went through 1240 oxen, 8200 sheep, 2330 deer, 760 calves and 1870 pigs annually (all washed down with 600,000 gallons of beer).



Three hundred courtiers packed the stunning Chapel Royal to attend a magnificent christening ceremony for Prince Edward, the future King Edward VI.

Henry VIII's second wife (of six), Anne Boleyn was a glamorous addition to the King's court. She spoke French and Latin, wore French styles and was a talented dancer.



Charles I loved Hampton Court and filled it with wonderful works of art. Gerrit van Honthorst's painting (hanging in the Queen's Staircase) depicts Charles as Apollo, the Greek god of the sun.



Great Hall	The Undercroft	Great Watching Chamber	Tudor Kitchens	Cartoon Gallery	Queen's Drawing Room	Mantegna Gallery	The King's Eating Room	King's Guard Chamber	Orangery and Privy Garden	Garden Room	Little Banqueting House	Marquees: Palace courtyards	Marquees: Palace grounds
p12	p13	p14	p15	p18	p20	p21	p24	p26	p28	p32	p36	p37	p37
Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity
400	250	150	150	300	150	200	60	200	250	300	80	1,200	3,000
Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception	Reception
270 Dinner	180 Dinner 220 Dancing	100 Dinner	100 Dinner	200 Dinner	80 Dinner		40 Dinner 24 Reception and dinner	150 Dinner	150 Dinner	220 Lunch Dinner Dancing 250 Theatre style	50 Lunch Dinner	600 Dinner 360 Dinner and dancing	1,500 Dinner 1,000 Dinner and dancing

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Henry VIII's Apartments

Majestic
Dramatic
Prestigious



Great Hall

Capacity

400 for reception
270 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

It is simply one of the most spectacular spaces in Britain. England's last and greatest medieval hall, this magnificent venue is where royal residents dined with courtiers, entertained dignitaries and danced, laughed and celebrated until the early hours underneath its awesome hammer beam ceiling.



The Undercroft

Capacity

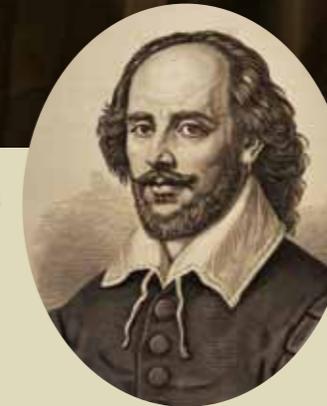
250 for reception
220 for dancing
180 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

It was once Henry VIII's beer cellar. Today, the atmospheric Undercroft complements the majestic hall above, offering the perfect venue for dancing and after-dinner entertainment. Together with the Great Hall, the two spaces make a magnificent setting for an unforgettable event.



William Shakespeare



Features

- Commissioned by Henry VIII, The Story of Abraham tapestries cost £3 for less than a square yard at a time when a family could survive on £5 a year
- A special venue for music - with its wonderful acoustics and a dais that makes a natural stage
- Increase capacity with use of the Great Watching Chamber (see p14)

A palace story

William Shakespeare and his company of actors 'The King's Men' performed here more than once for James I. The King used the Great Hall to host some of the most expensive and elaborate theatricals ever staged at an English royal court.

“Hampton Court is as noble and uniform a pile, and as capacious as any Gothic architecture can have made it ... The great hall is a most magnificent room”

John Evelyn, diarist, 1662

Capacity

150 for reception
100 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

Adjoining the spectacular Great Hall (see p12), this warm and spacious state room has a history of entertaining. When James I's courtiers had finished dancing they would pile into the Great Watching Chamber to eat. Wonderful for receptions, the chamber welcomes round table or banquet-style arrangements for dinner.

Features

- Fantastic golden ceiling and the Triumphs of Petrarch tapestries survive from Henry VIII's time
- Welcome your guests via the grand Queen's Staircase
- Henry VIII's Yeoman of the Guard 'watched' the court from here, controlling access to the King's apartments beyond



Great Watching Chamber



Tudor kitchens



Capacity

150 for reception
100 for dinner

The space

Rustic ovens, slab stone floors and a great roasting fireplace characterise the largest surviving Renaissance kitchens in Europe. Here, bustling teams of cooks churned out two meals a day for Henry VIII's 600-strong royal court. An unusual venue and a palace favourite.

Features

- Mingle in the charming passages and red Tudor brick courtyards nearby
- A roasting fire, lit during events, adds to the atmosphere
- Costumed food historians available to entertain guests with stories of Tudor recipes and cooking

Impressive
Stately
Entertaining



Georgian
Rooms



Cartoon Gallery



Capacity

300 for reception
200 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

King William III intended this long, oak-panelled room for his personal use, before deciding to display an awesome set of 'cartoons' by the Renaissance master Raphael. Today, guests enjoy the wonderful 17th-century copies of Raphael's originals, as well as views of fountains and colonnades in the courtyard below.

Features

- This large reception space easily links to the grand William III's Apartments (see p22) to accommodate even larger numbers
- The impressive cartoons (working drawings) that currently occupy the gallery are probably by painter Henry Cooke



A palace story

William III wished to be seen as a modern-day Hercules. In Fountain Court, just below the Cartoon Gallery, this is powerfully illustrated as carvings of Hercules' lion skin drape over each round window and arches are topped with characterful heads of classical gods and mythic creatures.



Capacity

150 for reception
80 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

One of the palace's most imposing, this room is decorated with the lavish paintings of Antonio Verrio. Commissioned by Queen Anne, the artist depicted her husband George, Prince of Denmark, in heroic naval guise and Anne herself being crowned by the gods Britannia and Neptune.

Features

- Offers guests spectacular views of the 1200m tree-lined Long Water
- Overlooks the beautiful East Front and Great Fountain Garden
- The Queen and her ladies-in-waiting would retire here to play cards



Queen's Drawing Room

Mary II's Apartments



Capacity

200 for reception
Available for evening hire

The space

Highlighting the gallery are its nine spectacular canvases depicting The Triumphs of Caesar, a set of paintings among the most famous and important in European art history. Created between 1484 and 1506, the works have been at the palace for nearly 400 years. A popular space for drinks receptions.

Features

- Nestled in a quiet corner of the palace, the gallery offers easy access to the lush gardens of Mary II
- Mantegna's paintings portray Julius Caesar arriving 'triumphantly' in ancient Rome with captured jewels, women and elephants



Mantegna Gallery



Magnificent
Wondrous
Baroque

William III's
Apartments



Royal Collection Trust /
© HM Queen Elizabeth II 2012.

King's Eating Room

Capacity

60 for reception
40 for dinner
24 for reception and dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

Observing royal protocol, William III would dine here in the presence of important courtiers. The King sat and ate at a large table while everyone watched. Today, the luxurious King's Eating Room is popular for drinks receptions and dinners where hosts aim to impress.

Features

- Glorious views over the Privy Garden (see p28)
- Furnished with torcheres (stands), pier glasses (mirrors) and pier tables
- Perfect for an intimate dinner or reception



A palace story

One of the room's paintings depicts a portly, well-dressed man with dark hair and a cane. This was James I's jovial brother-in-law, the King of Denmark. Christian IV visited the palace in 1606, bringing his reputation for hard drinking and sometimes bad behaviour at court.

King's Guard Chamber

Capacity

200 for reception
150 for dinner
Available for evening hire

The space

Nearly 3,000 swords, bayonets, muskets and pistols adorn the walls of this striking space, originally decorated this way for a military-conscious King William III. Guests will enjoy the grandest of entrances as they climb one of the palace's true treasures – the remarkable King's Staircase.

Features

- Spectacular views of the Privy Garden below (see p28)
- A team of conservators take four years painstakingly cleaning each piece of armour
- As guests climb the spectacular staircase they join Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar vying for a seat beneath the gods' banquet on the ceiling above

A palace story

The King's Guard Chamber is one of the baroque rooms designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren for William III. The chambers were designed for the court protocols in place for meeting the King. Access to each successive room was granted according to a person's status.



The Orangery and Privy Garden



“Hampton Court, Hampton Court, the words ... give off ring after ring of sound, booming, sonorous; and pictures rise - summer afternoons, boats, old ladies holding their skirts up, one urn in winter, some daffodils in March...”

Virginia Woolf, from *The Waves*

Capacity

250 for reception
150 for dinner

The space

This long graceful room was originally designed as a private greenhouse for King William III. The Orangery opens onto the immaculate Privy Garden, where guests can wander among the pyramid yews and round-headed holly trees.

Features

- A fantastic venue for summer drinks receptions
- Just as monarchs did, guests can arrive by river and through the fabulous gilded screens by French master blacksmith Jean Tijou



A palace story

The Privy Garden has a long history. Henry VIII created legendary heraldic gardens here. Charles I added many statues. Oliver Cromwell added even more, shocking his puritan supporters who disliked the naked classical figures. Today, the garden is accurately restored to its baroque style of 1702, during William III's reign.



Garden Room

Serene
Spacious
Versatile





“I’ve often thought I should like to live at Hampton Court ... it is such a dear old place to ramble in the early morning before many people are about.”

Jerome K Jerome, *Three Men in a Boat*

Garden Room

Capacity

300 for reception
220 for lunch, dinner and dancing
250 theatre style
Available for day and evening hire

The space

An all-purpose venue, nestled within its own private walled garden, the Garden Room is perfect for conferences, awaydays and corporate parties. Light and airy, the venue includes Wifi access and offers easy access to the gardens for team-building activities.

Features

- Private paved terrace leads guests to the stunning surrounding gardens
- Delegates can enjoy archery, football and other team-building activities in the nearby Tiltyard, once Henry VIII’s tournament and jousting venue
- Beautiful wall of French doors open out into the private walled garden

A palace story

King Henry VIII established Hampton Court as his own ‘pleasure palace’ in the 1530s. Facilities were created for all sorts of activities including hunting, jousting and playing tennis. There was even a bowling alley.

Little Banqueting House

Intimate
Peaceful
Picturesque



Capacity

80 for reception
50 for lunch and dinner
Available for day and evening hire

The space

From the terrace of this hidden gem guests will enjoy stunning views of the Tudor and Baroque palaces merging together. Inside, the venue's main room offers spectacular decoration, with 18th-century paintings and murals by Antonio Verrio, as well as beautiful views of the river.

Features

- Built by King William III for his personal entertaining
- Idyllic private walled garden and easy access to other areas, including the picturesque Pond Gardens
- Just as guests of the King once did, yours may wish to make an entrance and arrive by river



Little Banqueting House



Capacity

**Marquees:
Palace
courtyards**
1,200 for
reception
600 for dinner
360 for dinner
and dancing

**Marquees:
Palace
grounds**
3,000 for
reception
1,500 for
dinner
1,000 for dinner
and dancing

The spaces

By special permission, marquees can be raised throughout the palace's complex of charming courtyards or within its immaculate gardens and grounds. With 750 acres of tranquil rolling parkland available, Hampton Court offers a wonderful backdrop for large-scale events.

Features

- Purpose-built structures can be positioned to take advantage of unforgettable vistas of Hampton Court
- Gardens run down to the River Thames and feature sparkling fountains and glorious displays of over 200,000 flowering bulbs

Marquee sites



Space specifications

<p>Great Hall</p> <p>Capacity  400 Reception 270 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for prestigious dinners and banquets, concerts and awards dinners - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court or Base Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>The Undercroft</p> <p>Capacity  250 Reception 220 Dancing 180 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for dancing and after-dinner entertainment - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court or Base Court - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Great Watching Chamber</p> <p>Capacity  150 Reception 100 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for receptions or dinners - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Tudor Kitchens</p> <p>Capacity  150 Reception 100 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for special drinks receptions - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Cartoon Gallery</p> <p>Capacity  300 Reception 200 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for larger receptions - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court or Base Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Queen Anne's Drawing Room</p> <p>Capacity  150 Reception 80 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for drinks receptions - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Kitchen not easily available so food must be via hot box - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Mantegna Gallery</p> <p>Capacity  200 Reception (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for drinks receptions and private viewings - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Nearest toilets: Base Court 	<p>King's Eating Room</p> <p>Capacity  60 Reception 40 Dinner 24 Reception and dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for intimate dinners - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Fountain Court or Base Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor
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<p>King's Guard Chamber</p> <p>Capacity  200 Reception 150 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for dinners and receptions - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Base Court - Disabled access via lift - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Orangery and Privy Garden</p> <p>Capacity  250 Reception 150 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for summer receptions - Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter - Good access to kitchens - Nearest toilets: Base Court - Disabled toilets on same floor 	<p>Garden Room</p> <p>Capacity  300 Reception 220 Dinner, dancing and lunch 250 Theatre style (Available for day and evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for conferences and dinner dances - Available for day and evening hire - Catering provided by in-house supplier - Fully accessible and excellent facilities on-site - Equipped with AV facilities including screen and projector, Wi-Fi available
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<p>Little Banqueting House</p> <p>Capacity  80 Reception 50 Dinner and lunch (Available for day and evening hire)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for intimate lunches and special dinners - Available for day and evening hire - Catering kitchen on-site
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<p>Marquees</p> <p>Capacity</p> <p>Marquees: Palace courtyards</p> <p>1,200 Reception 600 Dinner 360 Dinner and dancing</p> <p>Marquees: Palace grounds</p> <p>3,000 Reception 1,500 Dinner 1,000 Dinner and dancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great for large-scale events and increasing the capacity of the palace - Bespoke structures built for every event - Events requiring use of the palace will be evening only, when it is closed to the public
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Getting here

By car

The palace is on the A308 and easily reached by road from London, Heathrow and surrounding areas by the M4, M3 and M25 motorways. One mile from Kingston-upon-Thames, Hampton Court Palace is just 15 miles from London's West End.

Parking is available within the grounds.

By train

Train service is half-hourly at Hampton Court Rail station, only a short walk from the palace. Journeys from London Waterloo take just 35 minutes via Wimbledon and Clapham Junction.

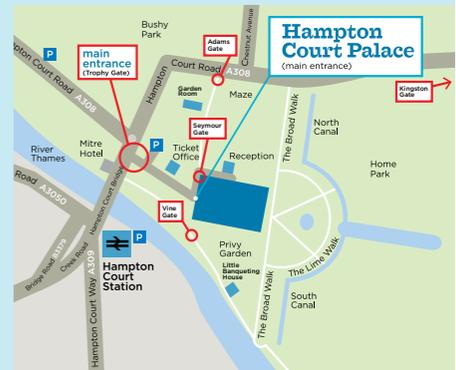
River launch

Independent river launch operators serving the palaces have a variety of boats for private hire – our team can provide more details on request.

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Giving history a future

By hosting your event at Hampton Court Palace you're not only contributing to the upkeep and protection of this magnificent building and its splendid grounds, but also to the conservation of four other very special historic buildings.

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. Our aim is to help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society in five of the greatest palaces ever built.

Your event directly supports this mission, as we raise all our own funds and count on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers in our continuing work to conserve these palaces and their stories for future generations.

In good company

We are pleased to invite you to discover some of the benefits of corporate partnership with Historic Royal Palaces.

Every year, we entertain and engage millions of visitors. Every day we are forming new relationships, as we help people explore the stories of the five famous royal palaces in our care. At Historic Royal Palaces our business is very much about welcoming people, and creating surprising, enriching experiences they will never forget.

So, whether it is sponsoring a blockbuster exhibition, lending support to an award-winning outreach or education programme or getting involved in one of our corporate partnership schemes, you can be sure we will welcome your employees and clients with the same panache we do our visitors and guests, while offering you exclusive benefits and opportunities not found anywhere else.

We have designed partnership packages to help you access the royal palaces in ways that will best meet your company's aims. But you will also receive a highly individual range of benefits, tailor-made to suit your interests. We can inspire your employees with exclusive events, private viewing and volunteering opportunities. And we can help you build client relationships and extend your networks in a variety of ways – from the use of our breathtaking

venues to exclusive exhibition openings and supporters' dinners.

For more information please contact us on 020 3166 6321 or email development@hrp.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

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If you are looking for an unusual and unique gift for your guest, may we suggest that you look to Historic Royal Palaces for inspiration. All our products are inspired by our five magnificent palaces, so we know you will find just the right gift for your event, whether you are searching for one special present or entertaining a large number of guests.

If you would like help in choosing gifts, our experienced team can discuss individual requirements. We pride ourselves in offering high quality products, unrivalled customer service and working with all our customers' varied requirements to provide the complete gift service.

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Hampton Court Palace

Hosting magnificent and unforgettable events since 1514



Banqueting House

One of London's most desirable venues and home to the irreplaceable Rubens' ceiling



Kensington Palace

Where style meets power, this elegant royal retreat enchants and surprises



Kew Palace

A hidden gem of a palace tucked away among beautiful royal gardens



Historic Royal Palaces Hampton Court Palace

Henry VIII and Hampton Court Palace are closely linked both in history and the popular imagination. Of Henry's great Tudor palace, half survives. The rest was rebuilt by William III as a stunning baroque palace. We use Henry's royal coat of arms, which is supported by the Tudor symbols of the red dragon of Wales and a greyhound.

Henry's Chapel Royal at the palace boasts a flamboyant vaulted ceiling with gold stars set against a blue ground, and this inspires the Hampton Court Palace pattern.

We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Contact us to arrange
a site visit

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