“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 spectacles

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

1516
Thomas Wolsey (the future Cardinal) entertains Henry VIII and his Queen Katherine of Aragon for dinner at the palace.

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.

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.

1564
James I calls the Hampton Court Conference, which commissions the King James Bible.

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.

1609
William III and Mary II build magnificent state rooms for holding court and receiving dignitaries.

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.

1689
Queen Anne meets with her Privy Council in the Cartoon Gallery (see p19) during the early part of her reign.

1700s
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.

2005
Tony Blair hosts a heads of government conference in the palace’s Great Hall (see p12).
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 jousted, 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 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).

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.

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.

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.

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

- Capacity: 400
- Reception: 270
- Dinner: 180
- Dancing: 220

The Undercroft

- Capacity: 250
- Reception: 100
- Dinner: 180

Great Watching Chamber

- Capacity: 150
- Reception: 100
- Dinner: 220

Tudor Kitchens

- Capacity: 150
- Reception: 100
- Dinner: 200

Cartoon Gallery

- Capacity: 300
- Reception: 200
- Dinner: 80

Queen’s Drawing Room

- Capacity: 150
- Reception: 100
- Dinner: 200

Mantegna Gallery

- Capacity: 200
- Reception: 80
- Dinner: 200

The King’s Eating Room

- Capacity: 60
- Reception: 40
- Dinner: 20

King’s Guard Chamber

- Capacity: 200
- Reception: 150
- Dinner: 150

Orangery and Privy Garden

- Capacity: 250
- Reception: 220
- Dinner: 50

Garden Room

- Capacity: 300
- Reception: 220
- Dinner: 70

Little Banqueting House

- Capacity: 80
- Reception: 60
- Dinner: 180

Marquees: Palace courtyards

- Capacity: 1,200
- Reception: 600
- Dinner: 360

Marquees: Palace grounds

- Capacity: 3,000
- Reception: 1,500
- Dinner: 1,000

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All yours.

Versatile venues to suit any occasion.
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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.

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.

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.

“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
Great Watching Chamber

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

Tudor kitchens

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

Capacity
150 for reception
100 for dinner
Available for evening hire
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.
Queen’s Drawing Room
Mary II’s Apartments

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

Capacity
150 for reception
80 for dinner
Available for evening hire

Mantegna Gallery

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

Capacity
200 for reception
Available for evening hire
Magnificent
Wondrous
Baroque

William III’s Apartments
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 hires.

**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
Little Banqueting House

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

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

Marquee sites

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

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### Space specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Specifications</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Hall</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>270 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Undercroft</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>220 Dancing 180 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Watching Hall</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>100 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudor Kitchens</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>100 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartoon Gallery</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>200 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s Drawing Room</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>80 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mantegna Gallery</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>(Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s Eating Room</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>40 Dinner 24 Reception and dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orangery and Privy Garden</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>150 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Capacity</em></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
<td><em>Reception</em></td>
<td>150 Dinner (Available for evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Room</td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>220 Dinner, dancing and lunch (Available for day and evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Banqueting House</td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>50 Dinner and lunch (Available for day and evening hire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marquees</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,000</strong></td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>Marquees: Palace courtyards 1,200 Reception 600 Dinner 360 Dinner and dancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Capacity</em></td>
<td><strong>1,500</strong></td>
<td><em>Marquees: Palace grounds</em></td>
<td>1,000 Dinner and dancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting here</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By train</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River launch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent river launch operators serving the palaces have a variety of boats for private hire – our team can provide more details on request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact us</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>T. 020 3166 6507 E. <a href="mailto:hamptoncourtpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk">hamptoncourtpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hrp.org.uk/HireAVenue">www.hrp.org.uk/HireAVenue</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**King’s Guard Chamber**
- 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

**Orangery and Privy Garden**
- 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

**Garden Room**
- Great for summer 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

**Little Banqueting House**
- Great for intimate dinners
- Available for day and evening hire
- Catering kitchen on-site

**Marquees**
- Great for large-scale events and special dinners
- Catering kitchen on-site
- Bespoke structures built for every event
- Events requiring use of the palace will be evening only, when it is closed to the public

**Marquees: Palace courtyards**
- Great for dinners and special dinners
- Catering kitchen on-site

**Marquees: Palace grounds**
- Great for drinks receptions and private viewings
- Available from: 18:30 in summer, 17:30 in winter
- Nearest toilets: Base Court
- Disabled access via lift
- Disabled toilets on same floor

**Getting here**
- The palace is on the A303 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 car:
  - 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.
- By train:
  - Independent river launch operators serving the palaces have a variety of boats for private hire – our team can provide more details on request.
- River launch:
  - Contact us:
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    - E. hamptoncourtpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk
    - www.hrp.org.uk/HireAVenue

Hampton Court Palace
Surrey KT8 9AU
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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.

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

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

Historic Royal Places – Palace Icons

SteersMcGillanEves Design
Historic Royal Palaces
Hampton Court Palace

Henry VII 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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