

Historic Royal Palaces
Kew Palace



“The whole was a scene of enchantment and delight; Royalty living amongst their subjects to give pleasure and to do good.”

Mrs Papendiek, Assistant to Queen Charlotte, on Kew's jovial surroundings (1776)



Hidden gem



A remarkable rural (and royal) retreat in the centre of London

In the summer sun Kew Palace's distinctive red limewash glows all the more against the brilliant green of the splendid surrounding gardens.

This grade I listed venue is both regal and intimate, reflecting its history as the family home of Georgian royalty, particularly that of King George III,

Queen Charlotte and their children.

Today, you can welcome your guests into this tiny, perfectly-formed royal palace and its charming outbuildings – the Royal Kitchens and Queen Charlotte's Cottage. Their beauty and history promise to fascinate and enchant your guests.

Set within the fantastic Royal Botanic Gardens, this picturesque palace is an ideal location for summer weddings, family celebrations and corporate functions.

A Georgian spirit

The House of Hanover had a big influence on this tiny palace

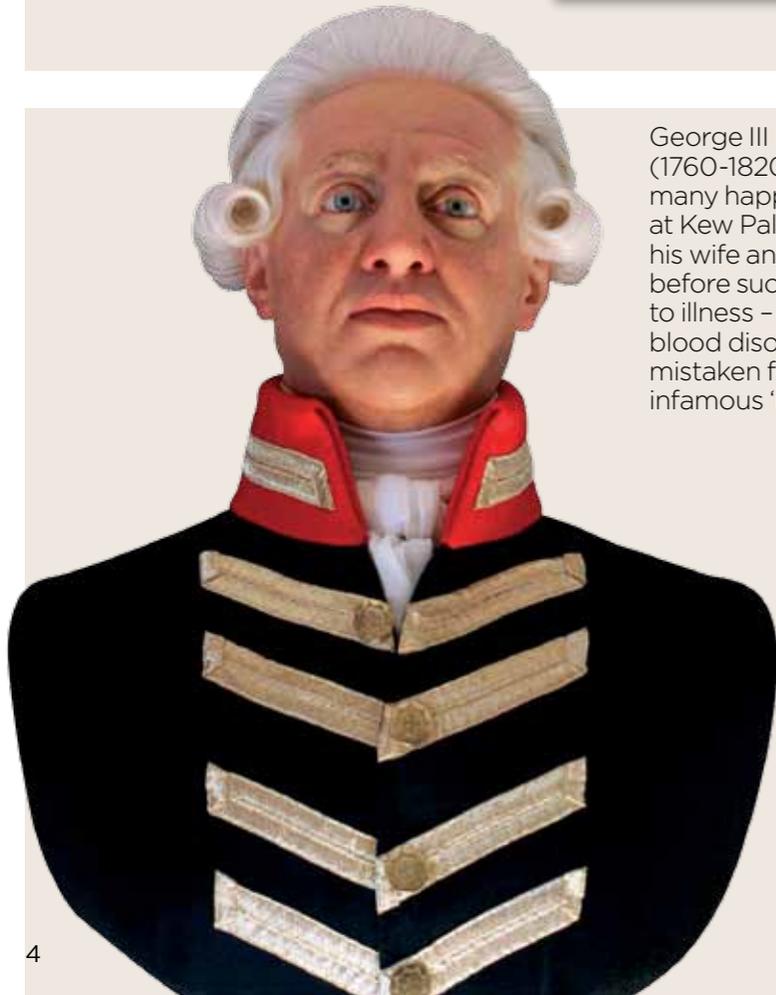
The royals were keen music lovers. George III had a passion for Handel, and played the flute and the harpsichord. His father Frederick is depicted in *The Music Party: Frederick, Prince of Wales and his Sisters*, a painting that hangs in the King's Breakfast Room (see p10).



For most of the year the palace's Royal Kitchens (see p14) were closed. Kitchen staff always arrived prior to the royal family in order to open up.



Sweeping lawns and glorious flowerbeds provide splendid surroundings for the palace and were enjoyed by the royal families that stayed here. The Royal Kitchens (see p14) also made use of the garden - for growing vegetables and herbs.



George III (1760-1820) spent many happy summers at Kew Palace with his wife and children before succumbing to illness - a hereditary blood disorder mistaken for his infamous 'madness'.



Extraordinary traces of the past can be found behind the scenes at Kew. Carved into oak beams in the attic are 'witch' or protection marks, left by early residents - probably servants - who superstitiously sought to ward off evil spirits. Closed to the public, these areas may be toured by your guests.

Britain's smallest royal palace gets its distinctive look from a red ochre colour wash which would have been used on the house in the 1730s.



A large paddock behind Queen Charlotte's Cottage (see p15) once contained a menagerie of exotic animals including oriental cattle, colourful Tartarian pheasants (still found near the cottage) and some of the first kangaroos to arrive in Britain.

King's Dining Room

Intimate
Regal
Domestic





Capacity

40 for reception
30 for dinner

The space

The furnishings and décor of this dining room look as they did when King George III lived here; a time when the King hosted lively dinners for his friends, famous subjects and society's leading lights. Today, a long, graceful table can seat 24 of your most fascinating colleagues and friends for intimate dinners.

Features

- The Portland stone chimney piece and the ceiling's rose date from the mid-1730s
- This rare 1740s chamber organ represents one that George III kept in this room
- Suppliers' accounts from the early 1800s have guided the room's presentation, including bills for cotton chintz curtains

King's Dining Room

"He is the finest gentleman I have ever seen."

Samuel Johnson of George III, 1767



A palace story

What's on a monarch's menu? George III was renowned for his simple culinary tastes. He served former prime minister Henry Addington mutton chops and pudding in 1805. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 80th birthday here in 2006 with close family. They had a very British dinner - smoked salmon, venison and sponge cake.

Capacity

24 for reception

The space

The wonderful objects in this elegant room explore the palace's role in raising three generations of royal children. Scientific instruments that belonged to George III as a boy are displayed here and Philip Mercier's *The Music Party: Frederick, Prince of Wales and his Sisters* offers a charming glimpse into the family's favourite pastimes.

Features

- Perfect for receptions before dinner in the King's Dining Room (see pp8-9)
- Lovely views out onto the Great Lawn across to the Orangery
- Window seats with built in speakers tell stories of the royal children's schooling and about growing up at Kew



“Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Britain.”

George III

King's Breakfast Room

A palace story

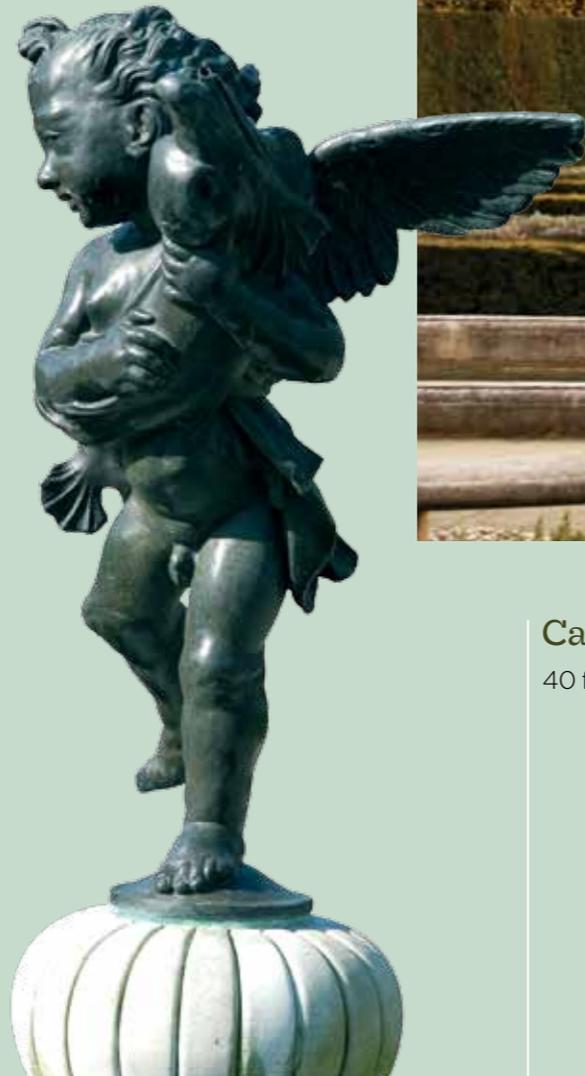
Always fit for a king, Kew Palace was also very much a family home. This room was an informal eating room used by George III and his family. Prior to that, it served as a school room for the future king and his brother Edward where they took lessons from private tutors.





“Kew is the favourite retreat of the present King [George III] to which he goes with the Queen for a few hours every Saturday morning.”

Diary of Count Friedrich von Kielmansegge, 1761-2



Queen's Garden

Capacity

40 for reception

The space

This enclosed garden, immediately adjacent to the palace, makes a wonderful space for summer receptions in fine weather. Laid out in a 17th-century style, the garden includes a gazebo, Florentine sculpture, a sunken garden and a 'mount' crowned with a rotunda.

Features

- A glorious riverside space, exquisitely maintained by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
- Only plants and herbs known in the 17th century are grown in the garden

A palace story

Kew Gardens occasionally opened to the public in the 1770s. Queen Charlotte's assistant described the lively time: 'Their Majesties were to be seen at the windows speaking to their friends ... Parties came up by water too, with bands of music, to the ait [island in the Thames] opposite the Prince of Wales's house.'

Capacity

60 for reception
24 for dinner

The space

Guests enter the Royal Kitchens' most impressive room – the Great Kitchen – through its beautiful and original 18th-century split door. With its roasting range, charcoal grill, pastry oven and kitchen table, this fascinating space would have been bustling with activity when the royal family was at Kew.

Features

- A wonderfully atmospheric venue for large receptions
- Kew's Royal Kitchens laid untouched for 200 years before being re-opened by Historic Royal Palaces in 2012
- They have been re-presented to evoke what life was like on 6 February 1789, after King George III's first episode of 'madness'

Royal Kitchens



Queen Charlotte's Cottage

Capacity

40 for reception
24 for dinner

The space

Set amongst the bluebells, this rustic cottage was where the royal family picnicked and took tea on summer walks through the gardens. Today, this romantic cottage and its rural setting are a picturesque place for an intimate dinner à deux or for an informal summer gathering.

Features

- The Print Room is hung with over 150 satirical engravings, mostly after William Hogarth
- The terracotta-tiled floor is beautiful in its simplicity
- A royal menagerie was once stationed here, containing rare pheasants and some of the first kangaroos to arrive in Britain (see p5)



Where you will make history



Your wedding at royal Kew

Splendid royal gardens and a grade I listed palace that is as pretty as a picture make Kew an unforgettable summer wedding venue.

Holding your wedding at Kew Palace or Queen Charlotte's Cottage means you will receive dedicated, personal attention from our events team to help you plan and realise the event of a lifetime.

On the day, you will feel free to relax knowing first-class professionals are on hand tending to your guests, and to your every need. Our suppliers' knowledge and experience of Kew Palace means they will cover every detail, so you don't have to.

For us, yours is another royal wedding.

Don't hesitate to call our events team on 020 3166 6115 for more information.



A royal wedding story

Kew Palace and Queen Charlotte's Cottage were the setting for a double royal wedding in July 1818. William, Duke of Clarence (and future king) was married alongside his brother Edward, Duke of Kent (and future father of Queen Victoria).



Expect the royal treatment

Every successful event begins with a vision – and our events team prides itself on working with clients to realise their ideas, whatever the occasion or requirement.

Whether you are planning a summer wedding, a family celebration or a corporate event, we will make sure you get the

personal attention and support to deliver a brilliant experience for your guests.

From day one, a personal functions manager will be at your service, helping you in the early planning stages through to the culmination of your event.

You will also be free to treat guests to tours of the palace and the Royal Kitchens, including areas not open to the public – all as part of the hire fee.

So call us with your ideas – we would love to hear from you. Or why not arrange a visit?

Space specifications

King's Dining Room

Capacity

40

Reception

30 Dinner



- Great for intimate dinners with friends
- A wonderful space for weddings
- Disabled access

King's Breakfast Room

Capacity

24

Reception



- Great for lively drinks receptions
- Disabled access

Queen's Garden

Capacity

40

Reception



- Great for summer parties and receptions
- Convenient access to the palace's Welcome Centre gift shop and toilets

Royal Kitchens

Capacity

60

Reception

24 Dinner



- Great for drinks receptions
- Unique atmosphere is wonderful for special events
- Disabled access

Queen Charlotte's Cottage

Capacity

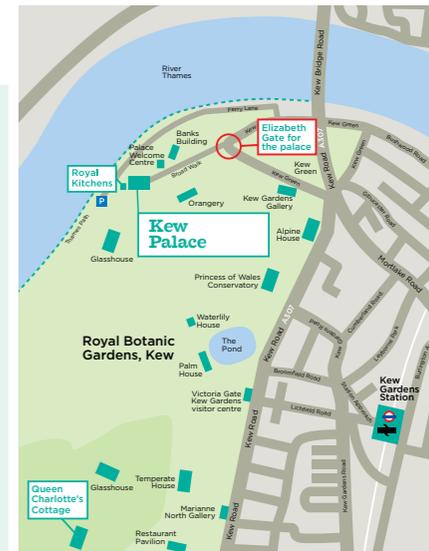
40

Reception

24 Dinner



- Great for intimate wedding receptions
- Nature reserve surrounding the cottage is known for its bluebells that bloom in May



Getting here

Kew Palace is situated within the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the south bank of the River Thames.

Contact us

T. 020 3166 6115
E. kewpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk
www.hrp.org.uk/HireAVenue

Kew Palace

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Richmond, Surrey
TW9 3AB

By tube or rail

Nearest underground station is Kew Gardens. Nearest mainline stations are Kew Bridge station and Kew Gardens station.

Car parking

Available on request.

By riverboat

In summer, riverboats run from Westminster Pier as well as Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames.

Giving history a future

By hosting your event at Kew 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.

Corporate gifts

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.

Please visit our website www.historicroyalpalaces.com or contact us on 020 3166 6857 or corpgifts@hrp.org.uk



Tower of London

Breathtaking fortress and iconic symbol of a world city



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

