The Great Fountain Garden

The garden gets its name from the great parterre with thirteen fountains, laid out for William III (1648-1702) and Mary II (1662-1694). Only one fountain remains. Queen Anne (1702-14) planted the large yew trees you see today but originally intended them to be smaller clipped specimens. In the 1820s, the herbaceous border was planted and it remains the longest in the world.

The Privy Garden

A privy, or private, garden has existed on the south side of the palace since first created for Henry VIII in 1533. In 1702, William III transformed the Privy Garden in the Baroque style with wrought iron screens by master of ironwork, Jean Tijou. Our gardeners have restored this garden, using the original plant varieties. The hornbeam border and statues were all part of William III’s original design.

The Wilderness

In the 17th century, the Wilderness was designed as a place for courtiers to wander and get enjoyably lost along intertwining paths and hedges clipped in geometric patterns. Today the Maze is the only part of the original layout that remains. The Wilderness is now famous for its glorious mass of flowering bulbs in the spring.

The Tiltyard & Rose Garden

Henry VIII and his courtiers watched jousting, wrestling and sporting tournaments from five brick towers in the Tiltyard. William III saw more potential for the Tiltyard as a kitchen garden than an area for sport and developed the grandest kitchen gardens in Europe.

Today the Tiltyard has been divided into smaller gardens including the Rose Garden. The one remaining brick tower contains the popular Tiltyard Café.

The Knot Garden

The Knot Garden was laid out in 1924 to show the type of garden that Henry VIII might have had at Hampton Court in the 16th century. It was designed by Ernest Law, a historian and grace and favour resident at the palace.

The Pond Gardens

These sunken gardens were originally ponds used to hold freshwater fish, such as carp and bream, to feed Henry VIII and his court. When Queen Mary II arrived at Hampton Court, they had dried up but, being south facing and sheltered, they were ideal for her collection of exotic plants. Today they are planted with an impressive selection of spring and summer flowers.

The Banqueting House

William III enjoyed small, intimate parties in the Banqueting House and it is still used for banquets today, hosting many prestigious events. Overlooking the River Thames, the beautifully painted interior is the work of Antonio Verrio who created many wonderful ceiling paintings inside William III’s palace.

Used for functions and private events, not normally open to visitors.

20th Century Garden

Previously known as the ‘Apprentice Garden’, this garden was used to train apprentices in the 1970s on how to plant and nurture trees and shrubs. Today, this quiet and secluded corner of Hampton Court is planted with ornamental trees, shrubs and hornbeam hedges. With plenty of seats and picnic benches, this is the perfect place to relax away from the crowds.

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Royal Tennis Court

Not to be confused with Lawn Tennis, Real Tennis goes back centuries. Henry VIII, Charles I, William III and Prince Albert all played at Hampton Court and you might still see a game on our historic court today.

Open summer months only and may close at short notice for tennis events.

The Great Vine

Want to try grapes grown for a King? The Great Vine was planted in 1768 by renowned gardeners Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown and is one of Hampton Court’s most famous features. It still produces a good crop of grapes every year which go on sale in the palace shops in late August/September.

The Lower Orangery Garden and Terrace

One of Queen Mary II’s great passions was collecting rare plants. She had the Orangery built to house her tender and exotic plant collection which was gathered from all over the world. Orange and lemon trees and cacti were popular specimens. You can see our collection of exotics displayed here from June to September.

Home Park

Henry VIII enclosed Home Park and used it for hunting and it remains home to three hundred fallow deer today. In the 17th century, Charles II had the Long Walk laid out and the avenues of lime trees planted. Today the park is the setting for the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for invertebrates, veteran trees and acid grassland.

The Magic Garden

The Magic Garden is a unique, interactive play garden, inspired by the history and stories of Hampton Court Palace. Built on the site of Henry VIII’s former Tiltyard, the garden includes a range of exciting elements for children and families to explore: from Tiltyard towers and aerial walkways to a fire-breathing dragon, a mythical beast’s lair, a huge bejewelled crown and an underground grotto.

Visit our website for more information www.hrp.org.uk
Plan your day at the palace

To plan your day at the palace and for details of today's special events, please ask a member of staff or pick up today's programme and a Hampton Court Palace Map from the Information Centre in Base Court inside the palace.

Visiting with the family

The Magic Garden provides a range of play equipment and different experiences for children of all ages. Sand and water play, aerial walkways, slides, climbing frames and magical beast's lairs make it an exciting and challenging place to play. Children should be supervised by an adult at all times.

Visit our website for more information
www.hrp.org.uk

Accessibility

We welcome visitors of all abilities and most paths in the gardens are step-free. However, there are some uneven surfaces and gravel paths. Enjoy the many sensory pleasures but please take care, particularly with children near water and cacti.

Map key

- Ticket office
- Palace entrance
- Picnic area
- Carriage rides*
- Male toilet
- Female toilet
- Accessible toilet
- Baby changing
- Clere Learning Centre
- Car park
- Shop
- Café
- Riverboats
- Ice cream kiosk*
- No entry

*Seasonal only

Gravel area as shown on the map. Please note there are uneven surfaces around the palace grounds.