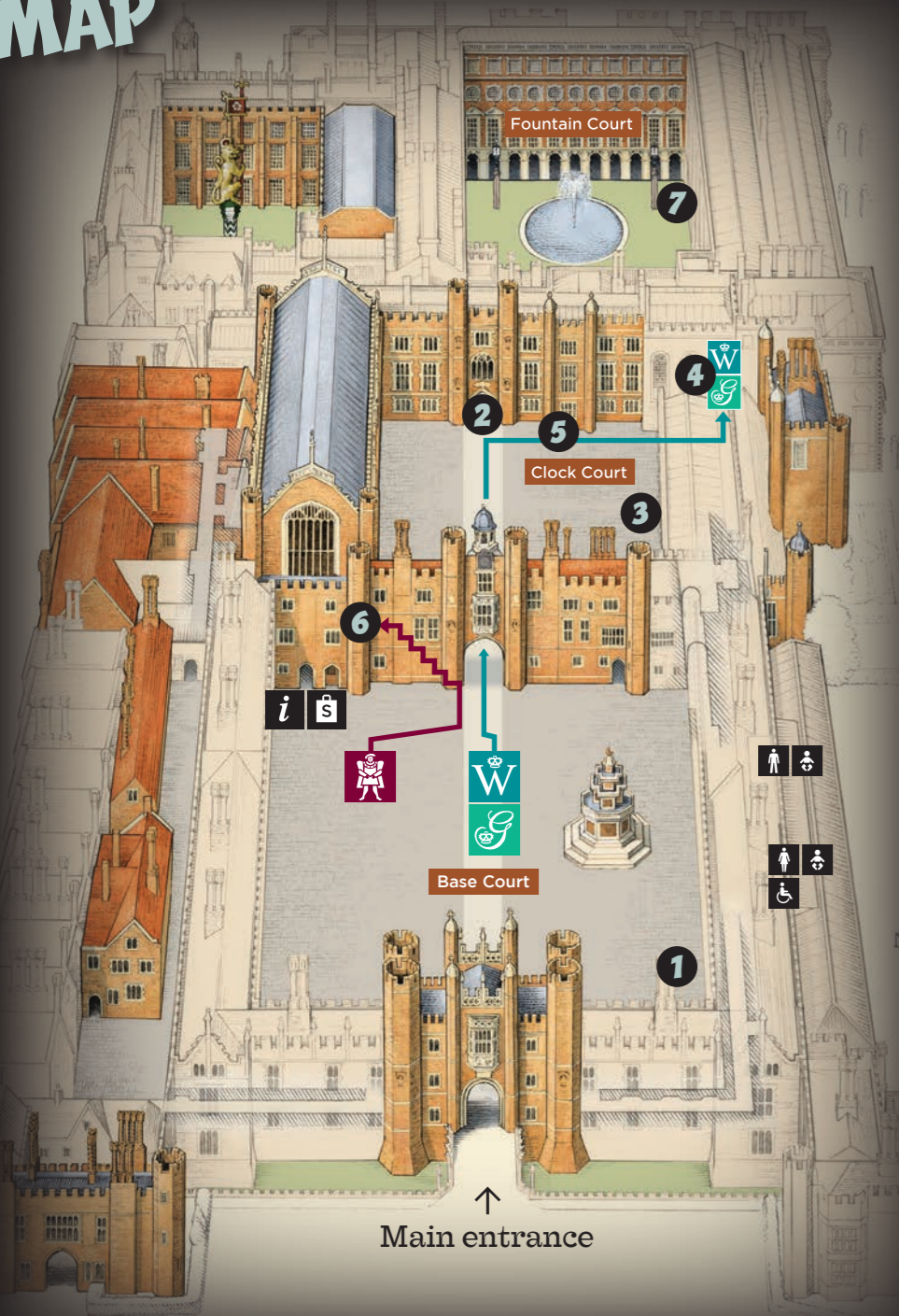


MAP



PLEASE HELP US

As an independent charity that generates all our own funds, we continue to face unprecedented challenges in the face of the Coronavirus. We have lost the vast majority of our income, and we face serious challenges ahead. If, like us, you love the palaces and believe in what we do, we welcome any support you are able to give us to sustain the charity through this difficult period. Joining our community of members or making a donation is an investment in their future – so visitors can continue to enjoy them for centuries to come.

Thank you.

You can also donate by Text:


Text TUDOR to 70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

hrp.org.uk

Historic Royal Palaces is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1068852).

 [hamptoncourtpalace](https://www.facebook.com/hamptoncourtpalace)

 [@hrp_palaces](https://twitter.com/hrp_palaces)

 [historicroyalpalaces](https://www.instagram.com/historicroyalpalaces)

[#hamptoncourtpalace](https://www.instagram.com/hamptoncourtpalace)

**10% OFF ALL HOT FOOD
BETWEEN 11:30 AND 2:30**

plus 10% off toys, games and books with a valid meal receipt. Offer valid 24 October – 2 November. Not to be used with any other discounts and applies to full price items only.

CREEPY STORIES AND GHOSTLY ENCOUNTERS

Hampton Court Palace has reputedly been the site of many strange and spine-tingling encounters, from eerie noises to unexplained sightings. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, discover just some of the events that have given Hampton Court such a spooky reputation. Are you brave enough to find out more?

CASE 1: THE LADY IN GREY

Location

Corner of Base Court (turn right as you enter the palace via the main gate)

As seen by

Grace and Favour residents, The Ponsonby family, Princess Frederica of Hanover and her guards and servants

Event

In the 1830s the first floor rooms were home to the Ponsonby family. They complained that they were disturbed by the sounds of a spinning wheel and a woman's voice. It is reported investigations found a sealed chamber behind a wall containing... an old spinning wheel.

Around the same time, a guard saw a woman in a grey hooded robe leave these apartments, then vanish! Princess Frederica of Hanover described *'a tall, gaunt figure, dressed in a long grey robe, with a hood on her head and her lanky hands outstretched before her.'*

Possible explanation

The rooms above us are said to have been the home of Sybil Penn, Edward VI's nurse. She died of smallpox in 1568 and was buried in St Mary's Church, Hampton. In 1829 her grave was robbed. Not long after, the Ponsonby family moved in...

CASE 2: JANE SEYMOUR

Location

Archway in Clock Court opposite the Astronomical Clock

As seen by

Several people over the years, particularly in Victorian and Edwardian times

Event

A ghostly lady in a long white gown has been seen carrying a lighted taper down the stairs here and out into Clock Court.

Possible explanation

Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, lived in the apartments above the archway. She died here after giving birth to their son Edward.

Could this figure in white be Jane? She was buried at Windsor Castle, but her heart and other organs were buried somewhere underneath the high altar in the Chapel Royal here at Hampton Court Palace...

CASE 3: THE ROBED FIGURE

Location

Colonnade, Clock Court

As seen by

CCTV

Event

In October 2003, a new exhibition opened in the rooms behind the Colonnade. Shortly after opening, security staff went to investigate when the fire door alarm was triggered.

They found the fire doors open but nobody there. The security staff checked the CCTV footage, and saw the doors flying open, but no one was seen. The next day, the alarm went off again, but this time they found the doors closed. The CCTV showed the door opening, then being slammed shut by a mysterious and grainy robed figure just before the security staff had got there!

Possible explanation

There is currently no explanation for the mysterious robed figure, but these rooms had not been used for many years prior to this exhibition opening. Did we disturb someone?

CASE 4: THE PHANTOM DOG

Location

The King's Staircase, William III's Apartments

As seen by

Palace staff during the 1990s

Event

A ghostly dog has been seen and heard here several times in the past. Queen Victoria banned dogs from the palace, although exceptions were made for lap-dogs belonging to grace and favour residents. The definition of a 'lap-dog' was open to interpretation and many were in fact rather large!

Possible explanation

Could this have been the ghost of a much-loved pet? Don't tell Queen Victoria!

CASE 5: THE GHOSTLY CAT

Location

Clock Court, ground floor rooms opposite the Astronomical Clock

As seen by

Palace staff and visitors

Event

During the 1980s and 1990s, several visitors appeared to step over something in this area. When questioned by staff, the visitors claimed to be stepping over a white cat, but there were no cats to be seen!

Possible explanation

Chased away by the phantom dog!

CASE 6: CATHERINE HOWARD AND THE HAUNTED GALLERY

Location

Processional Gallery, Henry VIII's Apartments

As seen by

Grace and Favour residents, Mrs Cavendish Boyle and Lady Eastlake, staff and visitors

Event

Residents and visitors have reported seeing a woman dressed in white with long flowing hair, drifting down this gallery. One eyewitness said:

'Just as she reaches the Royal Pew she lets out an unearthly shriek and hurries back towards the top of the stairs with a ghastly look of despair.'

At other times a ghostly hand wearing an elaborate ring has appeared from behind the curtains. Visitors report suddenly feeling very cold and some have even fainted in the gallery!

Possible explanation

Some believe this figure is the ghost of Catherine Howard, Henry VIII's fifth wife. Legend has it that on the night after she was arrested for treason, she ran down the gallery - while Henry was in the Chapel Royal - begging the King to spare her life. However, she was executed at the Tower of London on 13 February 1542

CASE 7: THE 'CAVALIERS'

Location

Fountain Court (south-east corner)

As seen by

Grace and Favour resident, Lady Hildyard

Event

Lady Hildyard complained that her rooms were frequently visited by two invisible beings and she was often disturbed by the sound of knocking. When workmen were brought in to lay new drains, they discovered the skeletons of two men buried under the pavement of the cloister where you are standing.

Possible explanation

Lady Hildyard and many others believed that the two men were Cavaliers, executed during the Civil War and buried secretly here by the Roundheads. In fact, the skeletons were two workmen killed when William III's new apartments collapsed in 1689.

ARE THERE REALLY GHOSTS HERE AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE?

Some people believe so, others believe that there may be scientific explanations for the sightings and sounds.

Another explanation may be found from the Grace and Favour residents. From the Georgian period, people who had served the monarchy or country in some way, were given homes in parts of the Palace as thanks. Sometimes they didn't like the apartments they were given and wanted to swap. A good reason for swapping was to claim hauntings or ghostly sightings!

