

HENRY VIII'S ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

Henry VIII was fascinated by science and astronomy. This was a time when older beliefs in astrology and fortune-telling were merging with a new interest in scientific instruments.

The clock was designed by his astrologer Nicolaus Kratzer and built in 1540 by Nicholas Oursian, the keeper of the King's clocks. The dials rotate around the Earth - it was another 3 years before Copernicus presented his theory that the planets rotate around the sun.

The clock is an incredible feat of engineering. The largest dial with the signs of the zodiac rotates once a year. The middle dial rotates every 24 hours and the smallest dial rotates once a month with the moon. The clock could tell Henry the time, day, month, position of the sun and phase of the moon.

ABOUT THE DISPLAYS

Historic Royal Palaces commissioned award-winning outdoor arts event producer Wild Rumpus to create the experience. Their network of artists and skilled craftspeople have worked hard for the last few months to create unique displays and lantern sculptures.

Wild Rumpus consider the environmental footprint of every element of the project, and many of the displays incorporate recycled, reclaimed materials like metal, plastics and wood.

The projections of the astronomical clock were created by the Historic Royal Palaces events team.

PLEASE HELP US

Historic Royal Palaces is a registered charity. We generate all our own funds and the pandemic has had a devastating impact on our finances.

You can help us to care for the palaces by joining as a member or making a donation.

Text **TUDOR** to **70085** to donate **£5** and help us to keep the spirit of Hampton Court Palace alive.

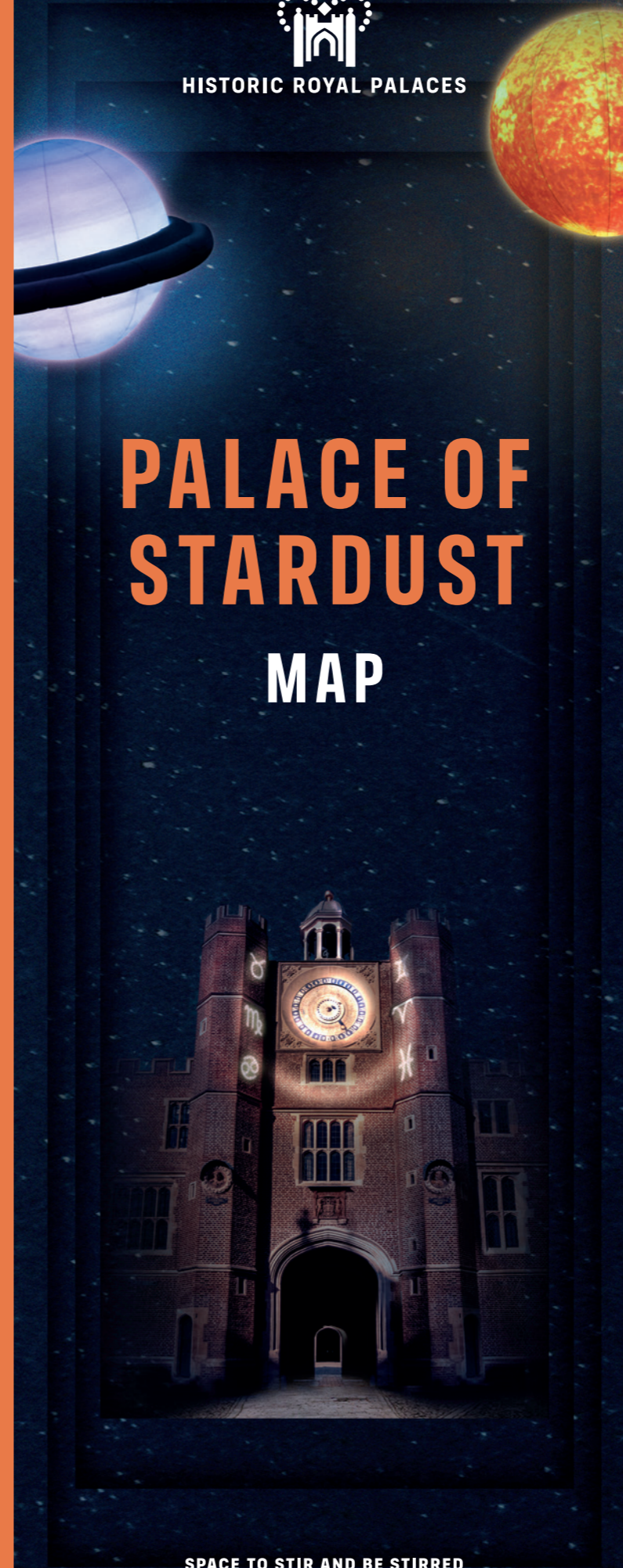
Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

ACCESS ALL ERAS

WITH MEMBERSHIP

PRICES START FROM £59

UPGRADE YOUR TICKET
ON-SITE OR SCAN THE QR CODE
TO JOIN VIA HRP.ORG.UK



PALACE OF STARDUST MAP

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

LISTEN! I'VE GOT A SECRET...

The astronomical clock at Hampton Court Palace is no ordinary clock... it runs on stardust: the stuff you, me and the palace are made from.

A secret has been passed down through generations of Secret Keepers, descended from the first clockmaker's assistant. But today's Secret Keeper is the last in her family. She must tell the secret to good people with kind hearts. People like you.

She's conjured up light and sound displays for you, inspired by the clock's beautifully painted rings, which show more than the time and date - they chart the movement of planets and stars, the moon and even the tides.

Take your time along the trail to enjoy each space. It's a rare chance to explore the palace after dark...



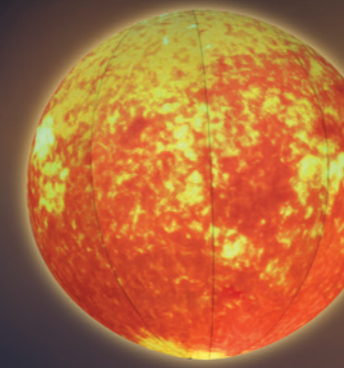
#PALACEOFSTARDUST



Children must be supervised at all times
Danger: deep water and steep drops on site
Due to the historic nature of our site, some of the flooring may be uneven

PALACE OF STARDUST

The trail route is one-way, starting and finishing at the West Gate.



1 WE ARE ALL MADE OF STARDUST
Take a deep breath and let time slow down. Tonight, imagine we're all connected by stardust: it's the stuff that you, me and the palace are made from.

2 INSIDE THE CLOCK
Step inside giant clock faces to play with your shadow, then gaze up high to watch the enchanted clock changing – it's running on stardust.

3 TIDES AND THE RIVER
For centuries the clock has predicted the tide times for boats travelling the Thames. Walk beneath the waves and look out on glowing fish lanterns and distant starlight.

4 STARGAZING
Ancient stargazers named constellations after real or mythical animals. Pass Taurus the bull, Pegasus the winged horse and Cygnus the swan on your left, and Pavo the peacock, Scorpio the scorpion and Pisces the fish on your right.

5 WHISPERING TREES
A secret about the clock has been passed down through generations of Secret Keepers, descended from the first clockmaker's assistant. Listen to their voices from the past beneath ancient yew trees.

6 MOONLIT BALL
The gently glowing moon waxes and wanes to light colourful dancers, spinning in time to a waltz. Dance and spin too, if the mood takes you...

7 PIECES OF SPACE
Glowing hand-crafted metal sculptures are inspired by sundials and devices for watching the stars. All shaped and connected by hand, just like the metalwork in the ancient clock.

8 THE SECRET IS REVEALED
Listen out for the Secret Keeper as you discover miniature shadow worlds, reflecting the displays she's created for you.

9 OUT THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM
From our huge sun, pass Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter on your right, Earth, Mars, Saturn and Uranus on your left, before Neptune and tiny Pluto complete your journey through the Palace of Stardust.

- ★ Trail displays
- 🍴 Food and drink
- 🛒 Shop and tickets*
- ♂️ Male toilets
- ♀️ Female toilets
- ♿️ Accessible toilet
- 🚻 Unisex toilets
- 🚗 Carriage rides**
- 🅅️ Car park

* subject to availability

** 18 December – 3 January

East Front Gardens food and drink stands are open until 1945.

Food and drink cannot be consumed within the Palace or courtyards.