



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

COMMUNITY ACCESS SCHEME RESOURCE GUIDE



HAMPTON COURT PALACE

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

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

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INTRODUCTION

This resource guide aims to enable community groups and their members to access stories about Hampton Court Palace by providing guidance and activities to support their visit.

Hampton Court Palace was the home of Henry VIII, his family and followers five hundred years ago. Henry's six wives and three children all lived here, and another ten rulers after them. This was a place dedicated to royal pleasure and flamboyant display, where private intrigue and political debate played out to sometimes deadly effect. A riverside treasure house of art and stories, the palace is a unique mixture of Tudor and baroque architecture, within beautiful gardens and parkland. Once the exclusive preserve of monarchs, it is now for all to enjoy.

THE COMMUNITY ACCESS SCHEME

The Community Access Scheme (CAS) at Hampton Court Palace is currently for community groups and education providers based locally to Surrey, Kingston, Richmond, Hounslow, Sutton, Merton, Lambeth and Wandsworth.

Through this programme, we hope that local community members gain a sense of ownership and belonging at Hampton Court Palace and are able to engage with the stories and historic spaces in ways that are meaningful and relevant to them.

The Community Access Scheme is a free programme.

CAS leaders are required to attend a free one-day training session either at the palace or online via Zoom. We run training sessions twice a year (Spring and Autumn).

The scheme then offers:

- Staff support to help group leaders plan their visits.
- Free, unlimited visits for groups (up to 30 tickets per visit)
- Free entry tickets for group members to enable them to visit again independently.

HOW TO USE THE HAMPTON COURT PALACE RESOURCE GUIDE

This guide is to help CAS group leaders to make the most of their group visit to Hampton Court Palace and gardens. We welcome your feedback to help us improve.

The palace is full of unique stories and spaces and we hope this resource will offer practical information and support as well as some ideas to make your visit extra special.





GETTING TO KNOW HAMPTON COURT PALACE

- A brief history
- Hampton Court Palace: A history timeline
- Family Trees
- Henry VIII and his six wives

A BRIEF HISTORY

MEDIEVAL

Buried beneath the palace are remains of the first known house, built for the Knights Hospitallers of St John, some time before 1338. Thomas Wolsey acquired Hampton Court in 1514. He was the most dominant churchman and politician in the land having risen quickly from humble origins. He gained enormous power and wealth as Henry VIII's indispensable administrator and as a cardinal. He quickly began to turn the manor house into a palace in which to entertain his King and receive foreign dignitaries.

Being a cardinal, he also created a new chapel with a cloister for state processions. All this was ready for an important ambassadorial visit by the French in 1527, part of negotiations towards a permanent peace treaty which Henry needed to support his attempts to divorce Queen Katherine of Aragon. This was the start of the end for Wolsey. He was unable to persuade the Pope to annul the royal marriage and in 1529, Henry removed him from Hampton Court once and for all.

TUDORS

Henry VIII (reigned 1509-47) now began to take a much more personal interest in his palace which he was already preparing for his mistress and intended queen, Anne Boleyn. In the next decade, greater sums than ever were spent – the equivalent of many millions of pounds today – to create a suitably magnificent setting. New queen's lodgings were planned, a chamber for the king's council – the centre of government – and vastly enlarged kitchens to serve the new Great Hall. The King also desired greater privacy and created privy (private) lodgings for himself, complete with hot and cold running water, a rare thing at the time. He built himself a new indoor real (royal) tennis court and two bowling alleys.

Queen Anne was never to use her new apartments for she fell from grace and was executed for treason in 1536. In 1537 the new queen, Jane Seymour, provided a male heir, Prince Edward, who was baptised in the Chapel Royal, beneath its celestial new ceiling. After Jane's untimely death following childbirth, Henry's great building project soon ended. Later it was here that he divorced Anne of Cleves after another all-too brief marriage, and it was at Hampton Court too

that Catherine Howard's infidelity was reported to the King in his chamber by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Finally, in 1543, the marriage of Henry and Katherine Parr took place at the palace.

Edward VI (reigned 1547-53) was only 9 when he came to the throne and was put under the care and direction of his uncle, the Duke of Somerset and Lord Protector. It was at Hampton Court Palace that Edward's Catholic half-sister Queen Mary I (reigned 1553-8) accepted King Philip II of Spain's offer of marriage and here that she was confined during her 'phantom' pregnancy in 1555. No baby arrived; she was in fact fatally ill and died three years later.

Mary's half-sister, Elizabeth I (reigned 1558-1603) had been forced to stay at Hampton Court during Mary's false pregnancy, following suspicions of involvement in a rebellion. She held little affection for the palace.



STUARTS

James I (reigned 1603-25) spent his first Christmas as king at Hampton Court, where he and the court were entertained by plays and masques given by his private theatre company, the 'King's Men', which included William Shakespeare. In January 1604 the King attended to more serious business at the Hampton Court Conference, a somewhat staged religious debate that resulted in the King James translation of the Bible.

Charles I's (reigned 1625-49) greatest contribution to the palace was his art collecting, especially works by Italian masters. After the Civil War and Charles's execution, most of the valuable royal goods were sold for the benefit of the Commonwealth. Curiously the leader of the Parliamentary army, Oliver Cromwell, kept the palace and some of its greatest treasures for his own pleasure and lived here like a king. With the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the pleasure-loving Charles II (reigned 1660-85) added a new tennis court to the attractions of his greatest palace and hunting park.

In 1688 Mary II (jointly reigned 1689-1694), and her Dutch husband, William of Orange (William III, reigned 1689-1702) turned to the architect Sir Christopher Wren, whose office designed an ambitious new palace inspired by the baroque palaces of rival Louis XIV of France. In the end the cost led to only half the palace being rebuilt. For the first part of the reign Mary oversaw much of the work, while William fought abroad. After five years Mary died suddenly of smallpox, aged only 32, leaving the King distraught and the palace unfinished. William completed his rooms six years later but used them for just two years before he too died suddenly after a fall from his horse in the park.

When Queen Anne (reigned 1702-14) succeeded to the throne, she did not much like her brother-in-law's palace, nor the huge bills left unpaid. Nevertheless, she did complete some of his works, including part of the queen's side where her husband, Prince George of Denmark, could entertain. Anne herself rarely stayed at Hampton Court until in her last years, when this pious queen completed the modernisation of the chapel.

GEORGIANS

The new king, George I (reigned 1714-27) was also unenthusiastic about Hampton Court. His son, the Prince of Wales and his princess finally completed the Queen's Apartments for their rival court. Though George II (reigned 1727-60) and Queen Caroline filled the palace with their family and favourites, Hampton Court was already in terminal decline and after Caroline's death in 1737, King George never stayed at the palace again. His grandson, George III, reputedly had bad memories of his childhood at Hampton Court and never liked the palace. Instead, he formalised the system of granting unused apartments to courtiers who were deserving of royal 'grace and favour'. No British monarch ever lived here again and for two centuries Hampton Court became an unlikely village of well-to-do ladies (mostly widows) with royal connections, who were offered free accommodation in return for their husband's services to the monarch.

The various apartments, although extremely grand, were not always the most comfortable places to live. Residents regularly complained that the palace was 'perishingly cold' and damp, and some had no access to hot water. Apartments continued to be granted as late as the 1960!

VICTORIANS

In 1838, Queen Victoria ordered the gates of Hampton Court Palace to be 'thrown open to all her subjects' as an early act of generosity.

Hampton Court Palace was one of the few attractions open on a Sunday, the only day working people had to visit. Visitors flocked to enjoy the stunning palace architecture, get lost in the Maze and relax in the beautiful gardens. They arrived by every possible means, from boat to public coach. Their journeys were made easier by the railways arriving at Hampton Court in 1849.

By 1881, over ten million visitors had been recorded, a huge number for the time.

However, this sudden rush was not altogether welcomed by the grace and favour residents who had previously enjoyed exclusive rights to the palace gardens. They complained that the gardens became 'hell on earth, the people come intoxicated and the scenes in the gardens on the Lord's day are beyond description'.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE TODAY

The palace is still a magnet for visitors from all over the world. One of the newest attractions for families is the Tudor-inspired Magic Garden, which was opened in 2016 by the Duchess of Cambridge.

The Magic Garden is a wonderful play area for children (and their adults!) to explore. Entry is included with the palace ticket and there are quiet sessions on weekends. For more information see our website.

Also included with the palace ticket is a superb art collection throughout the palace and in the onsite Cumberland Art Gallery, a permanent, rotating display of some of the Royal Collections finest works.



HAMPTON COURT PALACE: A HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1494 ○ Giles Daubeney, later Lord Chamberlain, leases and modernises the medieval manor of Hampton Court.
- 1515 ● A year after leasing Hampton Court, Thomas Wolsey begins rebuilding on a grand scale, converting Hampton Court into a lavish palace.
- 1523 ● Henry VIII's former tutor John Skelton writes that, 'The King's court should hath the excellence. But Hampton Court hath the pre-eminence'.
- 1529 ● Henry VIII's royal workmen take over building works at Hampton Court Palace.
- 1530 ● Henry VIII and his councillors send the first letter threatening a break with the Papacy to Rome from the palace.
- 1537 ● Queen Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, gives birth to Prince Edward. He is baptized with great ceremony in the Chapel Royal, but she dies soon after due to complications from childbirth.
- 1540 ● Henry VIII's divorce from Anne of Cleves is signed at the palace. It is also where Henry VIII marries his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, and she is proclaimed queen.
- 1541 ● Catherine Howard's earlier sexual liaisons are revealed to Henry VIII at Hampton Court. She is interrogated and kept under house arrest in the palace.
- 1543 ● Henry VIII marries his sixth and final wife, Katherine Parr, in the Chapel Royal.
- 1603 ● Shakespeare and his company the 'King's Men' perform plays in the Great Hall for King James I.
- 1604 ● James I calls the Hampton Court Conference which commissions the King James Bible.
- 1689 ● Sir Christopher Wren demolishes large parts of the Tudor palace and begins building a new place for King William III and Queen Mary II.
- 1760 ● George III becomes king. He abandons Hampton Court as a royal residence, and it begins to be divided up into grace-and-favour apartments.
- 1838 ● Queen Victoria opens the gardens and state apartments to the public free of charge.

HOUSE OF TUDOR

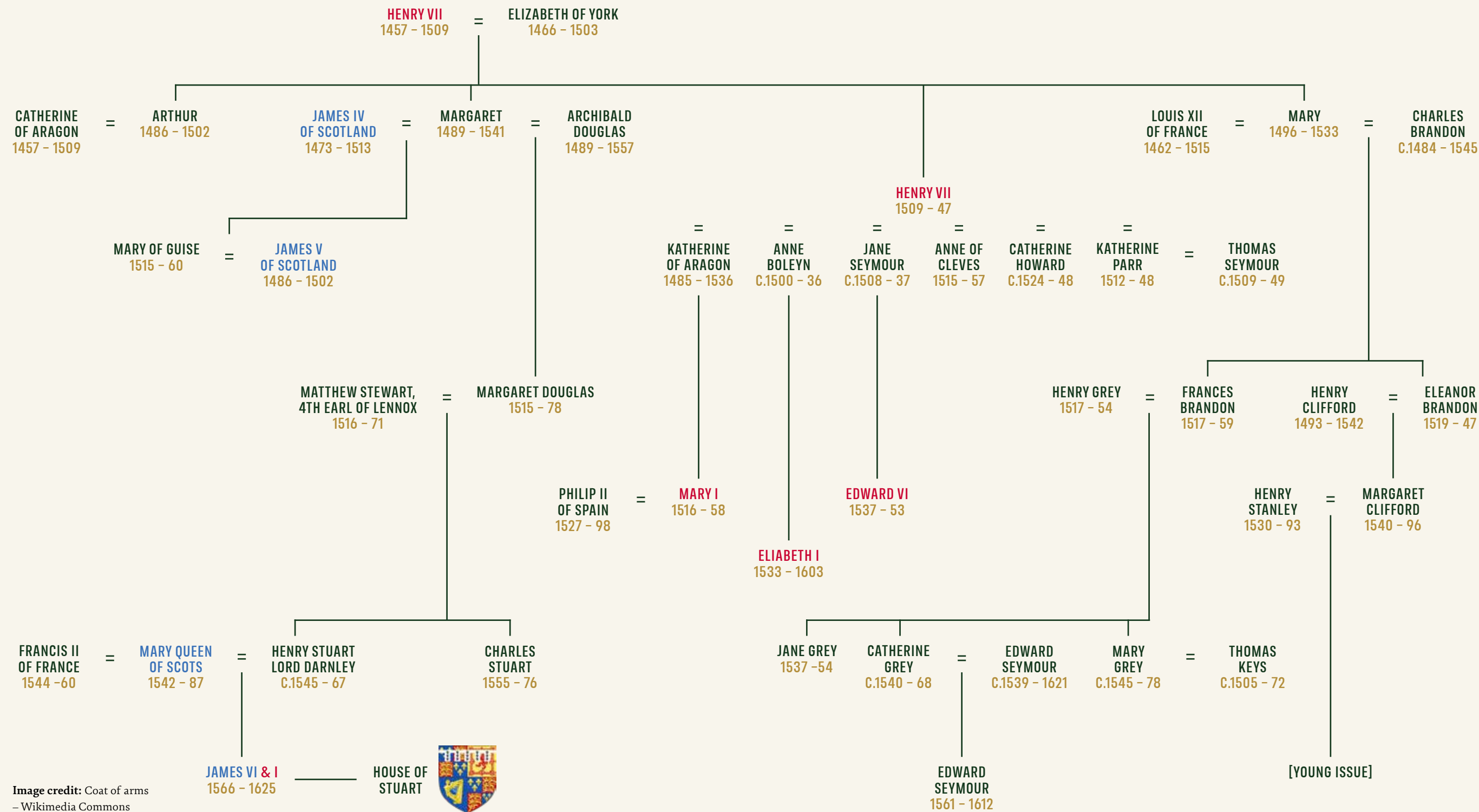
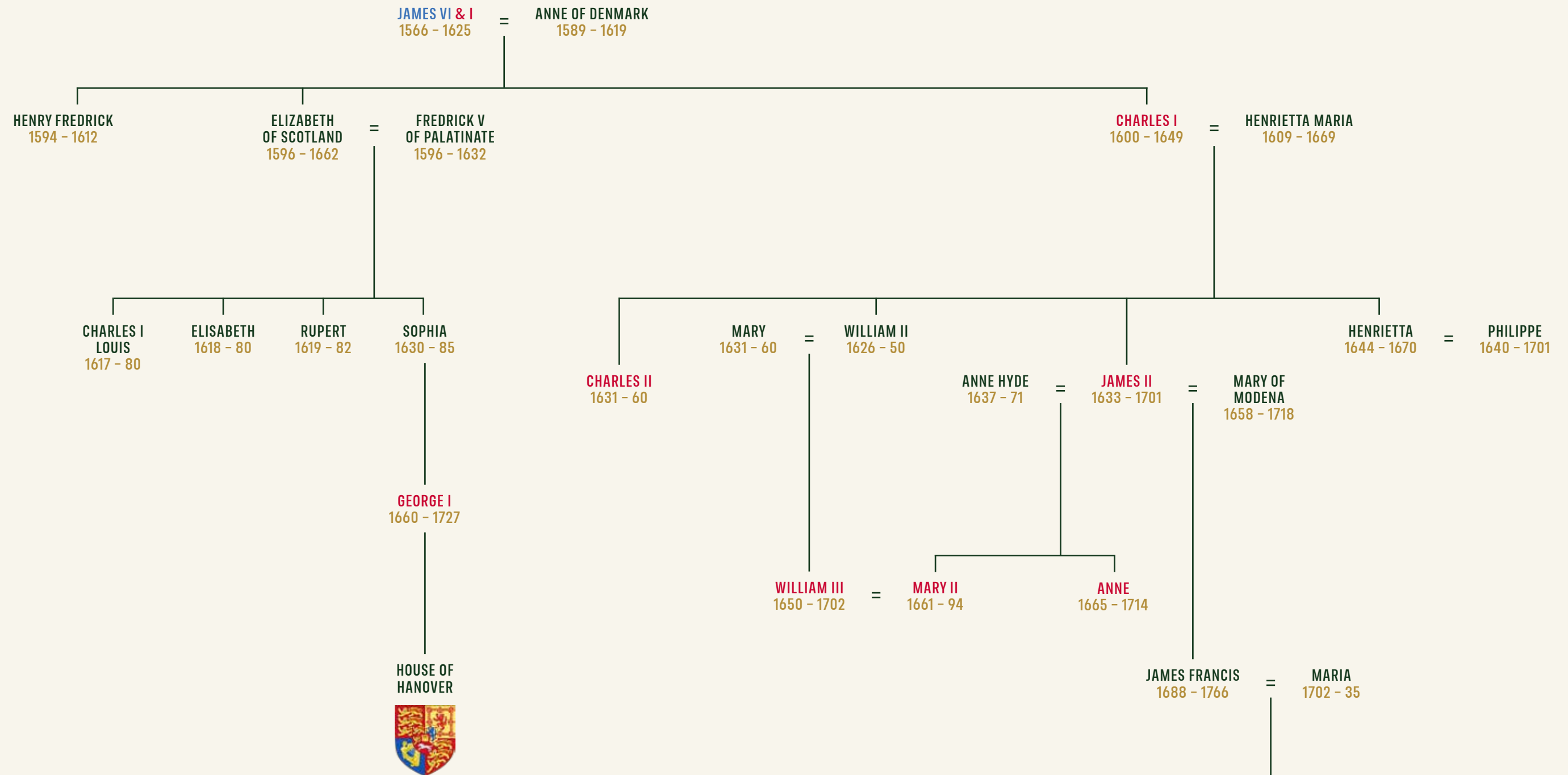


Image credit: Coat of arms
– Wikimedia Commons

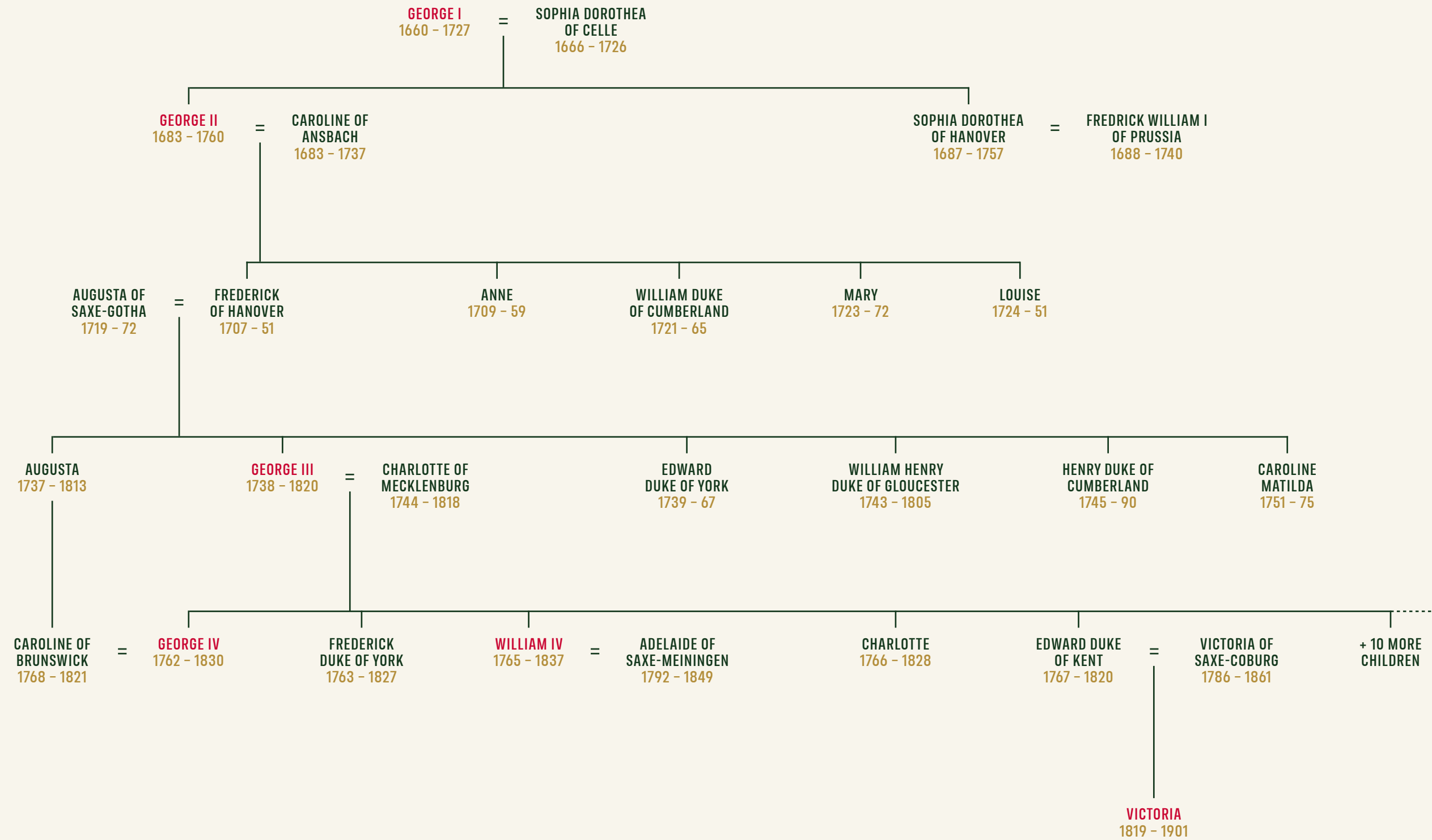
HOUSE OF STUART



Additional wives, husbands and other children have been left out for clarity.

Image credit: Coat of arms – Wikimedia Commons

HOUSE OF HANOVER



HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES



HENRY VIII

Born 28 June 1491
– died 28 January 1547

Born at Greenwich Palace, the son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, married six times.

All of his wives stayed at Hampton Court Palace at various times.

Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard were famously beheaded at the Tower of London.

KATHERINE OF ARAGON

Born 1485
– died 1536



Henry's *first* wife: married in 1509, they divorced in 1533.

She was a Spanish princess who was married to Henry for 18 years before he began divorce proceedings in his desperation to re-marry and produce a male heir.

They had several children, but only a daughter called Mary survived and later became Queen Mary I.

ANNE BOLEYN

Born c1502
– executed 1536



Henry's *second* wife: married in 1533.

They had one daughter called Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I.

Henry was deeply disappointed Anne did not have a son to succeed him.

He accused her of various plots, and she was executed at the Tower of London in 1536.

JANE SEYMOUR

Born 1509
– died 1537



Henry's *third* wife: married in 1536, two weeks after Anne's execution.

Jane had been lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn.

They had a son called Edward, later Edward VI. He died in 1553, aged only 15.

Jane died at Hampton Court two weeks after giving birth to Edward at the palace.

ANNE OF CLEVES

Born 1515
– died 1557



Henry's *fourth* wife: married in 1540, they divorced the same year.

Henry agreed to a political union with Anne, a German, but he disliked her upon meeting and sought an immediate divorce.

She lived in England until the end of her life, becoming quite popular at court – she was known as the 'King's sister'.

CATHERINE HOWARD

Born c1521
– executed 1542



Henry's *fifth* wife: married 1540, 16 days after divorcing Anne of Cleves.

She had been Anne's lady-in-waiting and only a teenager when she married the king.

She was accused of adultery and arrested at Hampton Court Palace and later executed at the Tower of London in 1542.

KATHERINE PARR

Born 1512
– died 1548



Henry's *sixth* wife: married 1543, he was 52 and she was 31 years old.

After Henry's death in 1547, Katherine was free to marry her true love Thomas Seymour but she died 15 months later, aged 36, having given birth to their daughter.



YOUR VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

- [Getting to the palace](#)
- [Useful information](#)
- [Health and Safety information](#)
- [Practical maps](#)
- [Access information](#)

GETTING TO THE PALACE

OPENING TIMES

Hampton Court Palace opening days and hours vary throughout the year so please always check our website before planning your group visit. There you can also find up-to-date information on palace route closures and special events which may affect your visit.

TRAVEL

Hampton Court Palace is within travel zone 6.

Bus

From Kingston: 111, 216, 411, 461, 513
From Richmond: R68

Underground

The nearest underground stations are in Wimbledon and Richmond, where connecting bus or train routes are available.

Train

Hampton Court train station is located a five-minute walk from the palace.

Trains returning to London Waterloo depart from Hampton Court station at regular times:

For further information please call **020 7941 2400** or visit Transport for London's website: **www.tfl.gov.uk**

Bicycle

Cycle racks are located to the left of the palace entrance (by the Works Yard, just before the barrier) and in the car park next to the Rose Garden.

Coach and Minibus

Please note that there are no drop-off or collection points outside the entrances to the palace or the gardens for coaches. The nearest is at the station. Taxis may drop off in the onsite car park.

Please contact communities@hrp.org.uk if you will be coming by minibuss or have any questions about parking on site.

Car Parking

Limited parking is available. Car parking is available on a first come, first served basis, with payment required on site. During our busy periods it is advisable to consider other means of travel.

On-site

£1.60 per hour (car parking bays fit a standard car only). Pay for your parking with card only. Please note the parking machines are touch screen and sanitiser dispensers are next to machines. Alternatively, you can use the Glide app.

If our on-site car park is full, please use our nearby off-site car park at Hampton Court Green.

- **Accessible Parking**
There are 10 disabled parking bays available on site. Parking on site is free for Blue Badge holders.

Our Blue Badge bays are now wider and two have now been relocated closer to the palace entrance.

- **Electric Vehicle Chargers**
We have four EV Chargers in operation for visitors to use at 44 pence per Kwh. These feature on the EV Podpoint map.

Nearby

Hampton Court Green is located 500m from the entrance of the palace and is charged at £1.50 per hour.

Hampton Court Train Station (200 metres from entrance): for information about prices, please visit the National Rail website.

Bushy Park (15 minute walk): for more information, visit the Royal Parks website.

Hampton Court Palace and the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ)

The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will come into effect from 29 August 2023, expanding across all London boroughs, which may affect visitors driving to Hampton Court Palace. Drivers are advised to check the following information below and the TfL website before travelling:

Is Hampton Court Palace and its car park in the expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone and Low Emission Zone boundaries?

Yes, but the entry to the palace is outside both zones and the private roads within the grounds and the carpark are not subject to any charges. However, cars exiting the car park are.

Will I be charged exiting the palace?

The exit of the car park onto Hampton Court Road emerges into the charging zones. However, left-turning, non-compliant cars exiting the palace car park back out of London will not be seen by ULEZ camera (located further north along the road) unless they re-enter the ULEZ zone elsewhere with a non-compliant vehicle.

How do I know if my vehicle is compliant?

Visitors can check their vehicle is compliant on the TfL website.

Will the position of the ULEZ camera change?

While the positioning of any camera could change, TfL has no future plans to review this location.

USEFUL INFORMATION

OUR STAFF

Our staff are here to help you and will be pleased to answer your questions, including any queries you may have about the history of the palace. Our staff wear uniforms and sometimes are in period costume. Our volunteers often wear a red sash. Our staff are there to welcome your group, support your visit and answer any questions you may have.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Non-commercial photography and filming are allowed everywhere except the Chapel Royal and Royal Pew, Cumberland Art Gallery and special exhibitions.

Historic Royal Palaces is a safeguarding aware organisation and takes its responsibility to protect children and vulnerable people seriously. We may therefore ask that visitors refrain from filming or photographing other visitors.

EATING AND DRINKING

Please make sure that your group do not eat or drink in any of the historic areas and buildings. If you are unsure please ask a member of the palace staff.

The Tiltyard Café in the palace gardens has indoor and outdoor seating and serves hot and cold food options. There are toilets and the café has level access and there are highchairs available.

There is a seasonal kiosk in the Wilderness serving ice creams, tea and coffee.

You are welcome to bring your own food should you wish to picnic in the palace gardens.

In our CAS group visit booking form there is an option to request one of our learning spaces for lunch, depending on availability.



TOILETS

Toilets are available in the following locations:

- The Wilderness
- Base Court
- Fountain Court
- The Kitchen Garden

All toilets have disabled access and there is a gender-neutral toilet located in Base Court.

BAGS

There are lockers in the by the buggy park off Clock Court that can take hand baggage and small rucksacks. A £1 coin is required to access the lockers which will be returned when you collect your belongings.

SHOPPING

We have two shops onsite, The Undercroft Shop in Base Court and the Palace Shop in the Barrack Block by the Clore Learning Centre

WIFI

Free Wi-Fi is available inside the palace.

Simply follow the on-screen prompts on your mobile device to get connected.

SMOKING

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is not permitted in or near any buildings in Hampton Court Palace. If you are unsure where you can smoke/vape please ask a member of the palace staff.

SECURITY INFORMATION

The safety and security of Historic Royal Palaces' staff and visitors is always of the utmost importance. Our security policies can be found on our website. Historic Royal Palaces reserves the right to conduct bag searches at any time in the event that a heightened level of security is required. All searches will be carried out by trained professionals. If you are concerned about bag searches for your group please contact the community team.



FAMILIES

- Balls, frisbees and rollerblades are not permitted in the formal gardens or the palace.
- Cycling and scooters are not allowed in any part of the courtyards or gardens.
- Extra care should be taken in the palace gardens where there are water features or wildlife.

Buggies and pushchairs

There is a buggy park beside the Family Room in Clock Court if you do not wish to take the buggy around with you.

Family Room

The Family Room is open during palace opening hours and located in the same area as the buggy park in Clock Court. This room has soft play equipment, and we ask adults to wipe down any toys/equipment after use. Antibacterial wipes are provided in the room.

Baby changing

Baby changing facilities are available in the following toilets:

- Base Court
- Fountain Court
- Magic Garden

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

- Our palaces are very old and have many uneven surfaces, for example cobbles, worn steps, uneven steps and slopes. Please choose footwear that is comfortable and appropriate for the conditions.
- Some surfaces may be slippery, particularly if they are wet from rain.
- Light levels can be low in some places, so please allow sufficient time for your eyes to adjust, particularly when using stairs.
- In some of our gardens we have steep slopes and drops from height, so please be aware of these, especially if you have children with you.
- Where water features are present, please ensure children are supervised at all times.
- Look out for our safety signs and follow the advice given to avoid spoiling your day.

FIRST AID/ACCIDENTS

Please alert a uniformed member of staff if someone within your party requires first aid during the visit.

A first aider is on duty every day.

Defibrillators are on site in the following locations:

- Trophy Gate
- West Gate
- Tiltyard
- East Gate
- Security Office
- Security Vehicle
- Tennis Courts

CLOTHING

Please ensure that all members of your group are suitably dressed for their visit. A large part of a visit to Hampton Court Palace may be spent outside or in rooms with no heating. Group members will need warm and wet weather clothing and / or sun protection if appropriate.

INSURANCE

Historic Royal Palaces has public liability insurance. Details can be provided on request.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ALARM

Please follow the directions given by our members of staff.

SAFEGUARDING

We want everyone to engage with our palaces and their stories. As our audiences include children, young people and vulnerable adults, we have created Safeguarding policies to ensure that all of our visitors can access our sites enjoyably and safely. Our policies and procedures are available on our website.

Reporting: If a safeguarding incident occurs while you are at the palace or in the gardens please report this immediately to a member of HRP staff.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

For more information on keeping safe whilst visiting the palace please see our website.

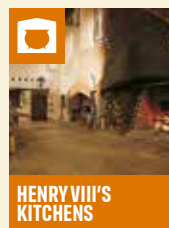
Group leaders are responsible for creating their own risk assessments for their group visit.

PALACE MAP

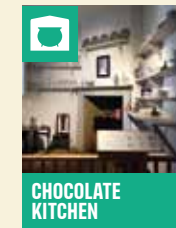
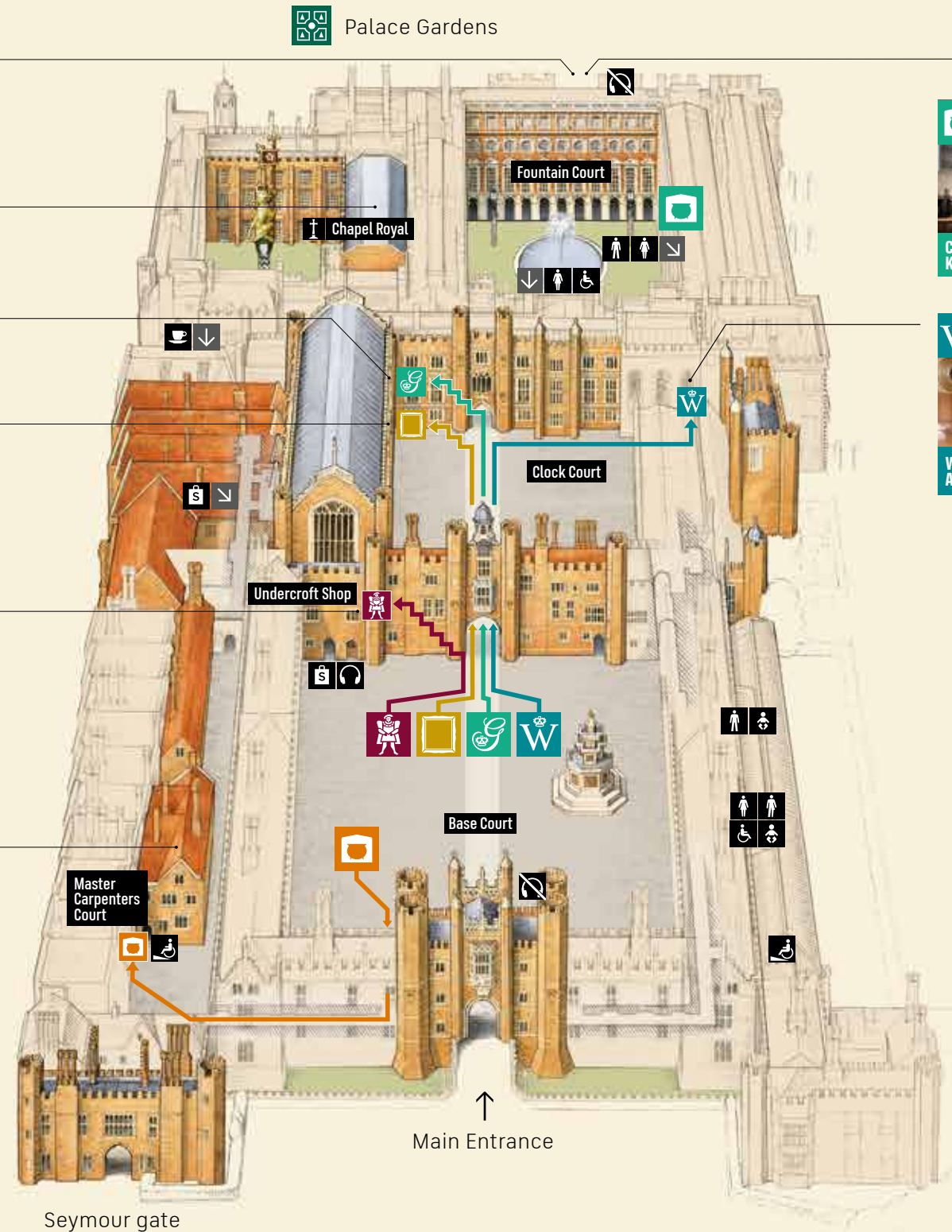
MAP KEY

-  Audio Guide
-  Audio Guide dropbox
-  Shop
-  Privy Kitchen Café
-  Tiltyard Café
-  Chapel Royal (open Weds-Sat)
-  Accessible toilet
-  Baby change
-  Female toilet
-  Male toilet
-  Level access route
-  Stairs

Please note there are uneven surfaces around the palace. For all access needs including lifts please speak to one of our Palace Hosts.



Palace Gardens,
Maze, Magic Garden,
and Tiltyard Café



The East Front



The Colonnade, Clock Court

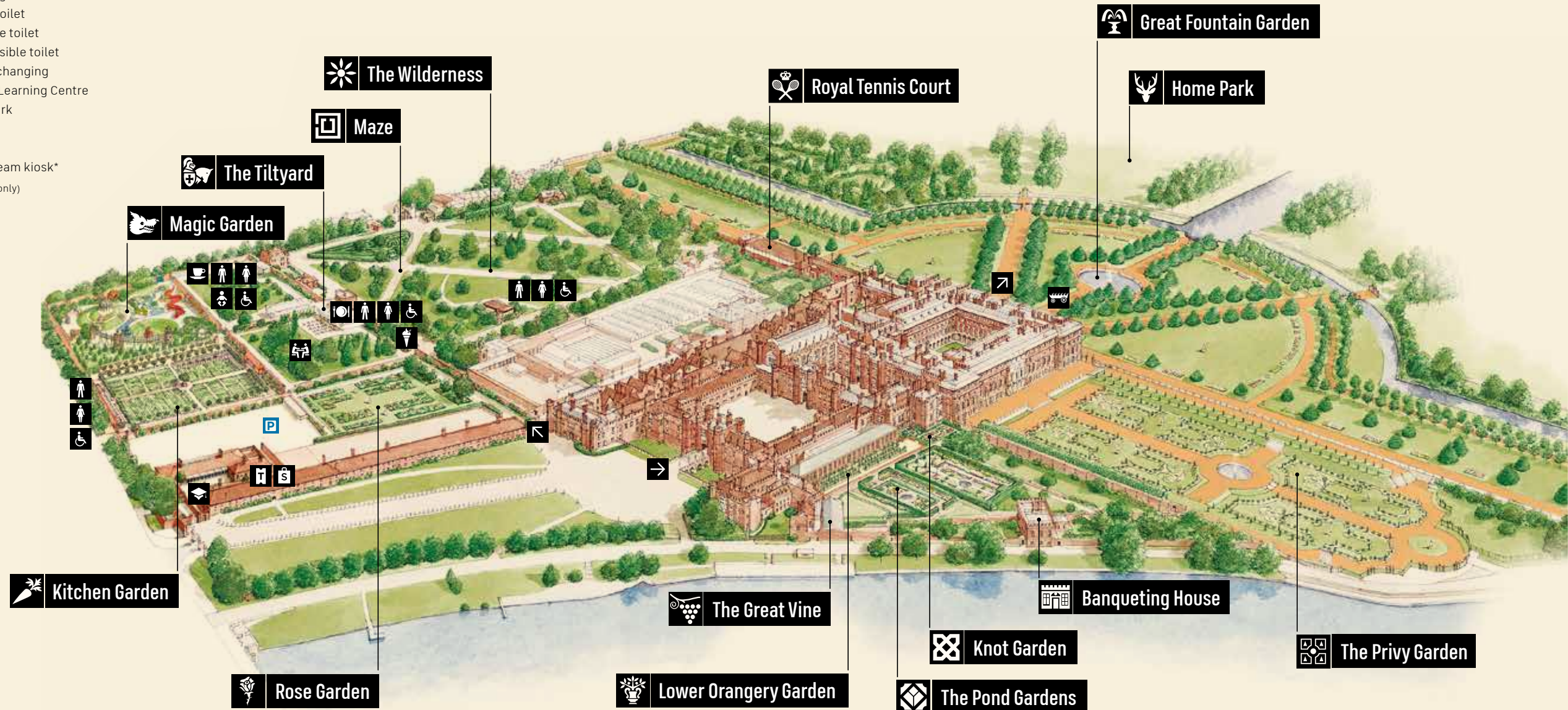


GARDENS MAP

MAP KEY

-  Ticket office
-  Palace entrance
-  Picnic area
-  Carriage rides*
-  Male toilet
-  Female toilet
-  Accessible toilet
-  Baby changing
-  Clore Learning Centre
-  Car park
-  Shop
-  Cafe
-  Ice cream kiosk*

* (seasonal only)



Level access past Privy Kitchen café exit.
From cloister: 2 steps down with handrail on RHS as you go down before turn and then one step up into the courtyard when approaching from Privy Kitchen.
Or:
1 step up from cloister when approaching from Chapel Royal Fountain Court.
Outside area: Paving with central drainage gullies.

CHAPEL COURT GARDENS

Smooth marble floor. Live or recorded music.
No photography

CHAPEL ROYAL

Slope up at entrance, very slight step to serving area. 2 steps down to seating area (handrail RHS as you go down).
Level access to seating area via exit.
1 step up to additional seating room.

PRIVY KITCHEN CAFE

8 steps down from the cloister.
Handrail on LHS as you go down.
Very dim lights.
1 step + ramp from Undercroft Shop into Henry VIII's Wine Cellar section

HENRY VIII'S WINE CELLAR

Slope x2 then ramp or 2 + 1 steps (with handrail on both sides) from Base Court.
Or:
1 step + 5 steps + 1 step from cloister.

UNDERCROFT SHOP

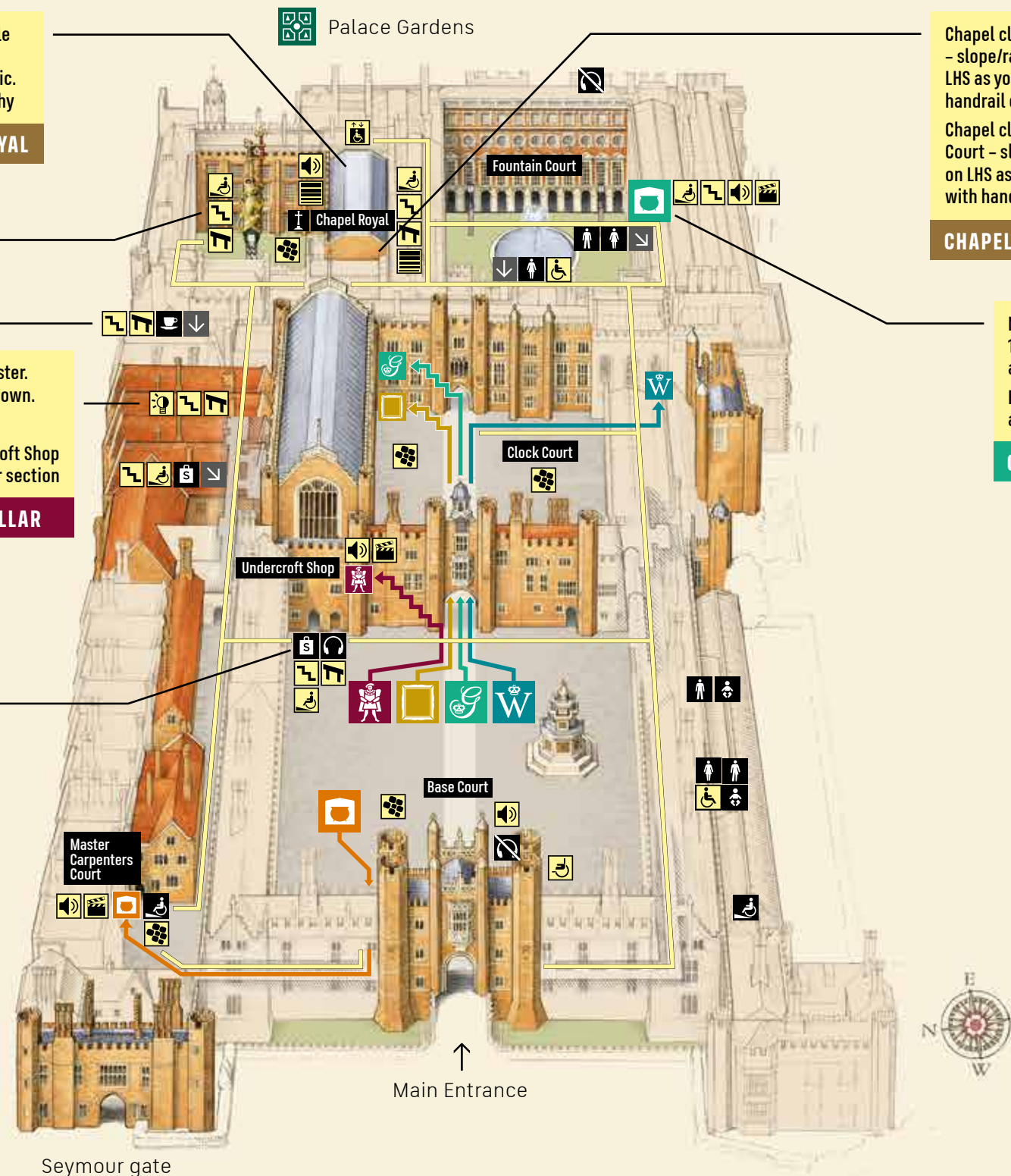
PALACE MAP

ACCESS KEY

- Ramp or slope
- Wheelchair store – a limited number of wheelchairs and motorised scooters are available to borrow
- Accessible toilet
- Accessible lift (please ask a warder in a red coat for access)
- Cobbled and uneven surfaces
- Smooth or polished surface
- Area of low light levels
- Handrail
- Steps
- Sound interpretation
- Interpretive film
- Best route for wheelchair users

Please note there are uneven surfaces around the palace. For all access needs including lifts please speak to one of our Palace Hosts.

←
 Palace Gardens, Maze, Magic Garden, and Tiltyard Cafe



Chapel cloister from Privy Kitchen – slope/ramp down with handrail on LHS as you go down or 2 steps with handrail on RHS as you go down.
Chapel cloister towards Fountain Court – slope/ramp up with handrail on LHS as you go up, or 2 steps up with handrail on RHS as you go up.

CHAPEL CLOISTER

Narrow ramp up into Chocolate Room.
1 step into demo Kitchen Room on LHS and small slope into room on RHS.
Both rooms have projected images and text. Sound effects for action.

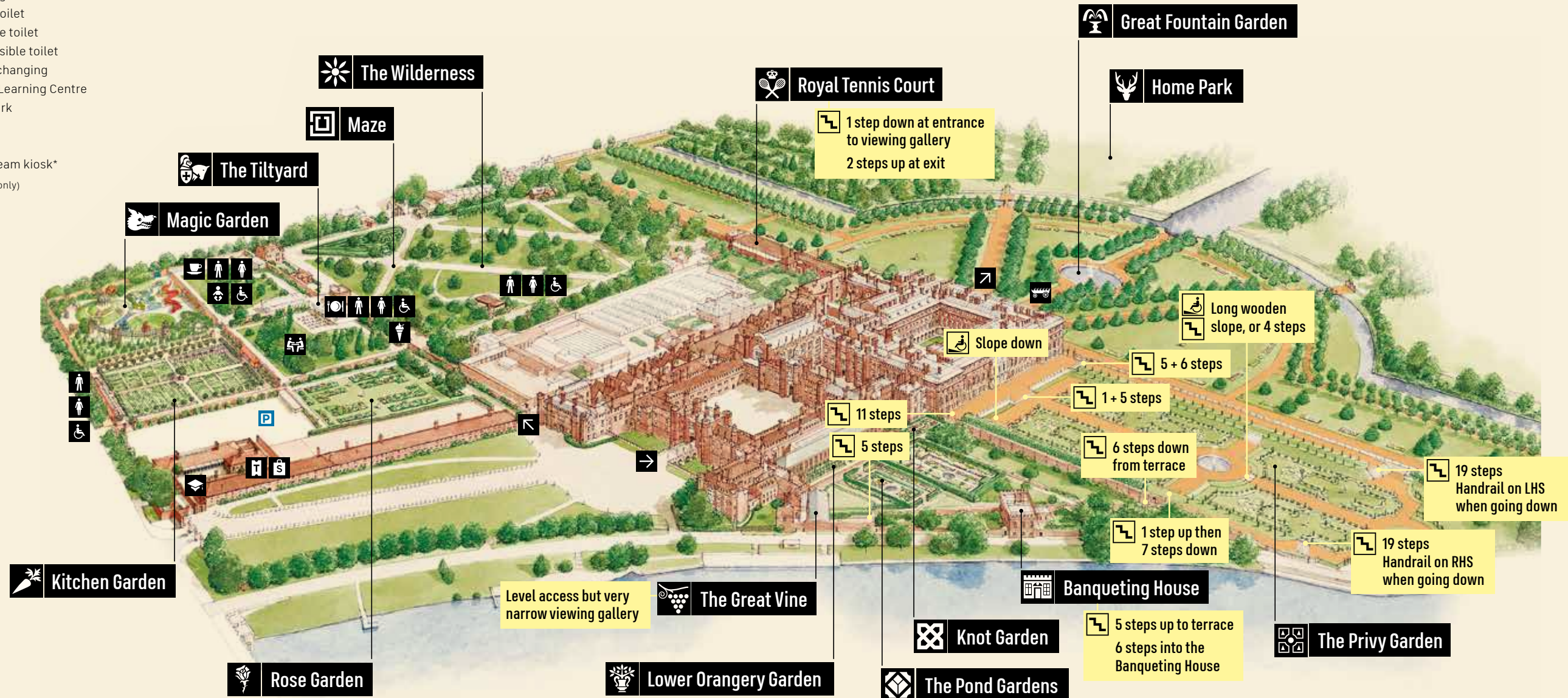
CHOCOLATE KITCHENS

GARDENS MAP

MAP KEY

-  Ticket office
-  Palace entrance
-  Picnic area
-  Carriage rides*
-  Male toilet
-  Female toilet
-  Accessible toilet
-  Baby changing
-  Clore Learning Centre
-  Car park
-  Shop
-  Cafe
-  Ice cream kiosk*

* (seasonal only)



ACCESS INFORMATION

For the full accessibility guide for Hampton Court Palace, please follow this link:
<https://www.accessibilityguides.org/content/hampton-court-palace>.

You can also ask for a printed copy of the guide in the ticket office.

If you have any concerns or would like more information please feel free to contact communities@hrp.org.uk.

GETTING AROUND THE PALACE AND GARDENS

Hampton Court Palace is very large! The palace sits within 6 acres and there are 60 acres of garden. Visitors wishing to see all of the interiors and a bit of the gardens will travel over two miles!

The distances below should be used as a guide only:

Distances from...	Metres
Ticket Office/Palace Shop to the West Gate (main entrance)	140
West Gate to East Gate and the East Front Gardens	160
West Gate to the Tiltyard Café	180
West Gate to the visitor lift to access the first floor	160
Hampton Court train station to the Ticket Office/Palace Shop	240
Hampton Court train station to the West Gate	380

As an historic building, much of the palace has uneven surfaces, either smooth and well-worn or cobbled. There is gravel on some of the paths in the formal gardens which may be difficult for wheelchair users and people with buggies.

Inside the palace there are several staircases, many are shallow. Seating, predominantly window seats, are available in most rooms. Please ask a member of the palace host team if you are unsure or need assistance.

AUDIO GUIDES

Collect your free audio guide tour from the Undercroft shop. For more information on our audio guides please see the What's On section of our web site.

BLIND OR PARTIALLY BLIND VISITORS

Braille guides

Braille guidebooks are available to borrow from the Undercroft Shop. Please ask a palace host if you would like to use them.

Handling points

You are welcome to touch the objects in the Tudor Kitchen as they are replicas. If you are unsure, please ask a member of the Kitchens team.



DEAF, DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING VISITORS

Induction loops

Induction loops can be found in the following locations: Ticket Office, Palace Shops, Cafes. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' setting to activate.

Digital BSL guides

Digital visitor guides include BSL tours for Henry VIII's Kitchens and the Georgian Story.

Audio guide transcripts

Transcripts can be found in the Undercroft Shop.



WHEELCHAIRS AND MOBILITY SCOOTERS

Manual wheelchairs for use within Hampton Court Palace are available from the entrance on a first come, first served basis. Please be aware that there are no staff or volunteers available to help push manual wheelchairs. Single-person mobility scooters for visitors to use in the palace gardens only are also available from the same place on the same basis.

Wheelchairs are loaned at visitors' own risk and are not for use outside the palace and its gardens. Visitors may use their own mobility scooters in both the palace and the gardens although please note that there is limited access for mobility scooters in the Maze and in some areas of the palace.

For evacuation purposes, only six wheelchairs are allowed on the first floor at any one time.

STAFF-OPERATED LIFT

There is a lift to the first floor. The lift is in Fountain Court. Please speak to a palace host if you need to use the lift. There is usually a host at the Fountain Court entrance to the gardens.



SUNFLOWER LANYARD SCHEME

Our palace staff are trained to recognise and understand the sunflower symbol. If you or a member of your group have an invisible disability and would like palace staff to be aware they can wear their own or collect a sunflower lanyard, badge or wristband from our Ticket Office.

QUIET SPACES

Hampton Court Palace is large and can contain a lot of visitors without feeling too crowded. It is normally busier during the summer months and school holidays.

Areas further away from the entrance will be quieter. There are over 60 acres of beautiful gardens, admiring the sparkling fountains, glorious displays of over 200,000 seasonal flowering bulbs, herbaceous plants and kitchen garden produce. Behind the palace gardens is 750 acres of tranquil deer park with ponds and other waterways (please note, this is not accessible from the Palace Gardens).

There are a number of places within the gardens and park that afford peace and quiet, even on busy days.

TOILETS

There are accessible toilets in the following areas: the palace, the gardens, the Tiltyard Café and the Magic Garden. There is a gender-neutral toilet in Base Court.

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

Hampton Court Palace does not have a Changing Places Toilet at this moment in time.

The nearest are located at:

- Second floor of the Bentall Centre, Kingston, KT1 1TY
- HFT Kingston Resource Centre, New Malden, KT3 3LJ
- Chessington World of Adventures Resort, Chessington, KT9 2NE
- Kew Gardens, TW9 3A

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

- Guidelines for group visits
- Pre-visit checklist
- Making the most of your time
- Digital visitor guide
- What to see
- The Magic Garden





GUIDELINES FOR GROUP VISITS

Hampton Court Palace's interiors and collections are very precious and unique. Below are some ways you and your group can help us preserve our palaces for years to come.

General:

- Remember that you are fully responsible for your group and their behaviour.
- Please be considerate of other visitors and staff, it can be a busy place.
- Group members should keep their ticket handy throughout their visit.
- Please ensure that your group members stay with your group and do not wander into restricted areas of the palace. Please speak to a palace host if anyone gets lost.
- Palace hosts will provide instructions if there is an emergency. Do take notice!

Health and safety:

- CAS leaders must create their own risk assessment for their group visit and activity.
- CAS leaders and group members must not plug in any electronic equipment without receiving permission from palace staff (this includes mobile phones).
- CAS leaders and group members must take care when moving around the palaces as these historic buildings have uneven floors, awkward doorways and low lighting levels.

Conservation:

- To ensure the palace is maintained for future generations to enjoy please make sure that your group does not touch or lean on objects or walls.
- Ensure your group only eat and drink in designated areas.
- Ask your group to leave bulky items in the lockers available.
- Be aware that flash photography is not permitted in the palace and there are signs where no photography is permitted such as the chapel.
- Tripods, selfie sticks, and other prohibited materials are not allowed in the palace.
- Always ask the Community team or palace staff if you are unsure.

PRE-VISIT CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you prepare and plan your group visit to Hampton Court Palace.

- ☐ Fill in your group booking form online
- ☐ Have your risk assessment ready
- ☐ Bring photographic ID along with your CAS card
- ☐ Go to the Ticket Office and collect up to 30 tickets per visit (this number includes CAS leaders and staff. Please contact communities@hrp.org.uk if you require more than 30)
- ☐ Let communities@hrp.org.uk know how your visit went, what were the highlights for your group? What did you enjoy the most? Were there any challenges or issues that we can support you with?

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

1 HOUR	
THE TUDOR EXPERIENCE Henry VIII’s Apartments and his Crown (20 mins) Sit on a throne in England’s last great medieval hall before walking through the infamous Haunted Gallery. — Tudor Kitchens (20 mins) Transport yourself back to the heyday of royal cooking and entertainment.	THE BAROQUE EXPERIENCE William III’s Apartments (35 mins) Explore both the state and private apartments of William III. — The Baroque story (15 mins) Watch the baroque story film. — Chocolate Kitchens (10 mins) Visit the only surviving royal chocolate kitchen, re-opened in 2014 after almost 300 years.

2 HOURS	
Henry VIII’s Apartments and his Crown (30 mins) — Tudor Kitchens (20 mins) — The Chapel Royal (10 mins) Visit the spot where kings and queens have worshipped for almost 500 years.	William III’s Apartments (15 mins) — The Georgian Story (25 mins) Experience the stage upon which George I and his son played out their bitter rivalry.

3 HOURS	
Henry VIII’s Apartments and his Crown (35 mins) — Tudor Kitchens (20 mins) — The Chapel Royal (10 mins) — The Baroque story (15 mins)	William III’s Apartments (35 mins) — Chocolate Kitchens (10 mins) — The Georgian Story (30 mins)

IF YOU ARE STAYING LONGER, DON’T MISS:

The Cumberland Art Gallery

The Formal Gardens and the Great Vine
(limited mobility scooter access in viewing area)

The Hampton Court Maze
(limited mobility scooter access)

The Kitchen Garden



DIGITAL VISITOR GUIDE

Hold the stories of Hampton Court Palace in your hand and experience history where it happened with an audio guide tour.

Join curators, historians, and conservators as they share fascinating stories and hidden secrets of Hampton Court Palace. Explore the Tudor beginnings of the palace with a tour of Henry VIII's Apartments and Kitchens. Discover William III's state apartments and the Georgian history of the palace.

Staying safe

We're paying extra attention to hygiene during your visit to the palace and our audio guides are no different. Our audio guides are not held directly against the ear, you select your tour by touching the screen and the audio plays through headphones. These are the extra measures that we are taking to keep you safe:

- Our staff will thoroughly clean the back and front of each audio guide after each use with anti-bacterial surface cleanser.
- We've replaced fabric lanyards with silicone lanyards that will be cleaned after each use using anti-bacterial surface cleanser.
- If you choose to use our headphones, they will be cleaned after each use using anti-bacterial surface cleanser.
- You are welcome to bring your own headphones, they just need to be the type which plug into the handset, rather than using Bluetooth. Our audio guide handsets will accommodate most common types of headphones.
- Staff will follow social distancing guidelines, wear disposable gloves and frequently sanitise their hands.



Family-friendly tours

Two tours on our audio guide are designed specifically for families. Take a fun family tour of Henry VIII's kitchens or even a dramatised tour of Henry VIII's Apartments.

Plan your day

Audio tours with step-free routes are clearly marked on the device. You can also plan your day with information about cafés, shops and special events on during your visit.

Collect your free audio guide in the Undercroft shop.

Languages

Audio guide tours are available in English, Dutch (Nederlands), French (Français), German (Deutsch), Italian (Italiano), Japanese (日本語), Korean (한국어), Chinese Mandarin (中文), Russian (Русский), Spanish (Español) and British Sign Language (BSL).

WHAT TO SEE

To help you make the most of your visit, below are suggested routes with themes you can explore. For each route, you can spend up to 1-2 hours (approx.) on site. You do not need to explore all routes on one visit; the Community Access Scheme will allow you to re-visit and focus upon different areas of Hampton Court Palace.

We have included information around accessibility and the sensory elements of the routes, if you would like further information or to arrange a visit to explore the route before your visit please contact communities@hrp.org.uk.



ROUTE 1: HENRY VIII'S APARTMENTS



ROUTE 2: HENRY VIII'S KITCHENS



ROUTE 3: WILLIAM III'S APARTMENTS



ROUTE 1: THE GEORGIAN STORY



ROUTE 1: PALACE GARDENS



HENRY VIII'S APARTMENTS

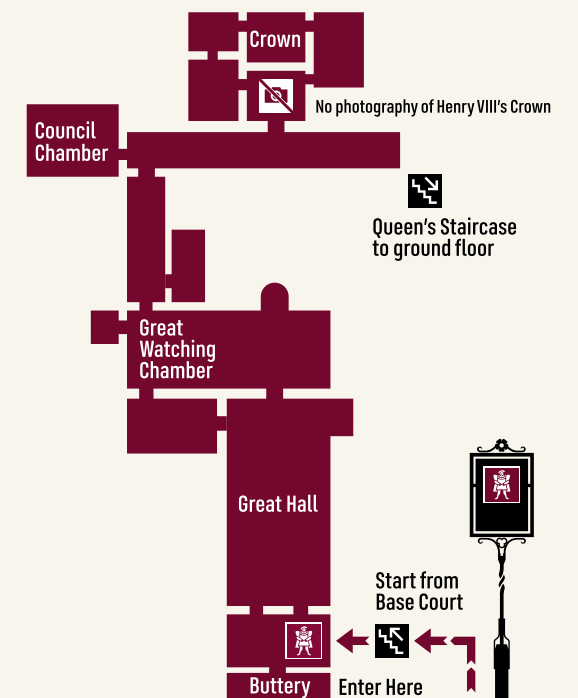


Access information

- Route distance: 200m
- This route is on the first floor of the palace
- There are 22 stone steps, please speak to a Palace Host if you need the lift and they will support you and take you where you need to go
- There are benches in the Great Hall and on the route to rest or reflect

Sensory elements

- There are sounds and a video in the small room off the Great Hall
- There are sounds in Great Hall and in the Privy Council Chamber of people speaking/music
- This route can be quite busy with school groups and during the holidays you might see costumed interpreters giving performances
- There are sounds in Privy Council Chamber and in the Great Hall of people speaking/music





MAIN ENTRANCE, WEST FRONT

- Welcome to Hampton Court Palace! This impressive building was one of 60 homes owned by Henry VIII. The palace is about 15 miles from central London. 500 years ago the journey took half a day by river and one day by road!



Look: Before you enter the palace you'll see rows of statues guarding the drawbridge. See which houses are represented and think about what qualities these carved stone beasts might symbolise. What creature would you have to symbolise you and your group?



CLOCK COURT

- Henry VIII loved technology, new discoveries and he had this very special astronomical clock built in 1540.
- It has many functions and as well as telling the time it tells you the date, the position of the sun in the zodiac and the phases of the moon. It also reflects the medieval belief that the sun orbits around the earth.
- Importantly, it shows the time of high tide at London Bridge. Crucial when so many people travelled by river and many people arrive at the palace by boat.



Look: Look around you. Here you can see where the red-bricked Tudor building meets the elegant Baroque palace. Can you spot all of the different dials on the clock?

Listen: This clock makes the same sound Henry VIII would have heard hundreds of years ago, listen out for the chimes if you are here close to the hour.

Discuss: Why do you think astrology was so important to people in the 1500s?





THE GREAT HALL

- The rooms at Hampton Court were arranged in a strict order with firm rules as to where people could and couldn't go. Only very important people went through the Great Hall to the State Apartments where they MIGHT be allowed to see the king.
- The Great Hall sits at the very heart of the Tudor palace and was designed to impress. It was a dining-hall, a theatre as well as a venue for banquets and masques.
- The beautiful hammerbeam ceiling was quite old fashioned when Henry VIII had it built in 1532. He wanted to copy the great halls of his medieval predecessors and what they symbolised; royalty, antiquity and chivalry.
- Hundreds of craftsmen - labourers, carpenters, masons and bricklayers – were involved in the construction of the roof. Originally it would have been brightly painted in blue, red and gold.

Look: See if you can find evidence of Henry's second wife Anne. To celebrate Henry and Anne's marriage, the carpenters added Anne's coat-of-arms to the roof and carved the entwined letters H and A. If you can't see them ask a Palace Host to help you.

Discuss: Why would Henry chose to decorate his Great Hall in a medieval style? What might it say about him as a king?

- On a day-to-day basis, this Great Hall acted as a large canteen for the lower-ranking members of the royal household and servants. Courtiers of higher status ate in the Great Watching Chamber. A more exclusive room with better food!
- There were strict behaviour rules in the hall, including no head-scratching or nose-picking.
- In 1603 William Shakespeare's 'King's Men' first performed Hamlet and Macbeth here for James I.

Look: Watch out for the 'Eavesdroppers' the carved and painted heads that decorate the Great Hall roof. Imagine all the things they have seen!

Discuss: If you were eating here, how would you feel about the people allowed through to the Great Watching Chamber?

GREAT WATCHING CHAMBER

- The Great Watching Chamber was the first of Henry VIII's State Apartments beyond the Great Hall and only visitors of high rank were allowed to enter. The rooms of the palace acted as a filter, restricting access to the monarch.
- The room gets its name from the members of the Yeoman of the Guard who stood 'watch' and controlled who entered.
- The gilded ceiling is decorated with Henry VIII's royal coat of arms and the personal badge of his third queen, Jane Seymour: a phoenix rising from a flaming tower. These symbols were used to remind visitors of the Tudor's power.

Do: Take a seat and play some Tudor games!

Look: Some of these tapestries were owned by Cardinal Wolsey, he had 600 when he died but this is nothing compared to Henry who had over 2000! These colourful tapestries were sometimes woven with gold thread and could take years to make



THE PROCESSIONAL ROUTE, HAUNTED GALLERY AND COUNCIL CHAMBER

- On Sundays and special holy days, Henry would walk down these corridors from his private apartments to the Chapel. It was an important chance for the members of the court to see their king. Courtiers would line up here to try and catch his eye.
- Spooky sightings! Catherine Howard had good reason to scream. In 1541 she discovered that she was to be charged with adultery and may be executed. The legend has it that she ran to find Henry in the Chapel, to plead her innocence. She was caught by guards who took her screaming back to her rooms. Some say that her ghost still haunts these corridors

Look: This is a family portrait shows Henry with Jane Seymour and their son Prince Edward (his successor). Henry's other children from previous marriages, Mary and Elizabeth (future queens), are shown at the sides. This scene wasn't real. Can you work out why?

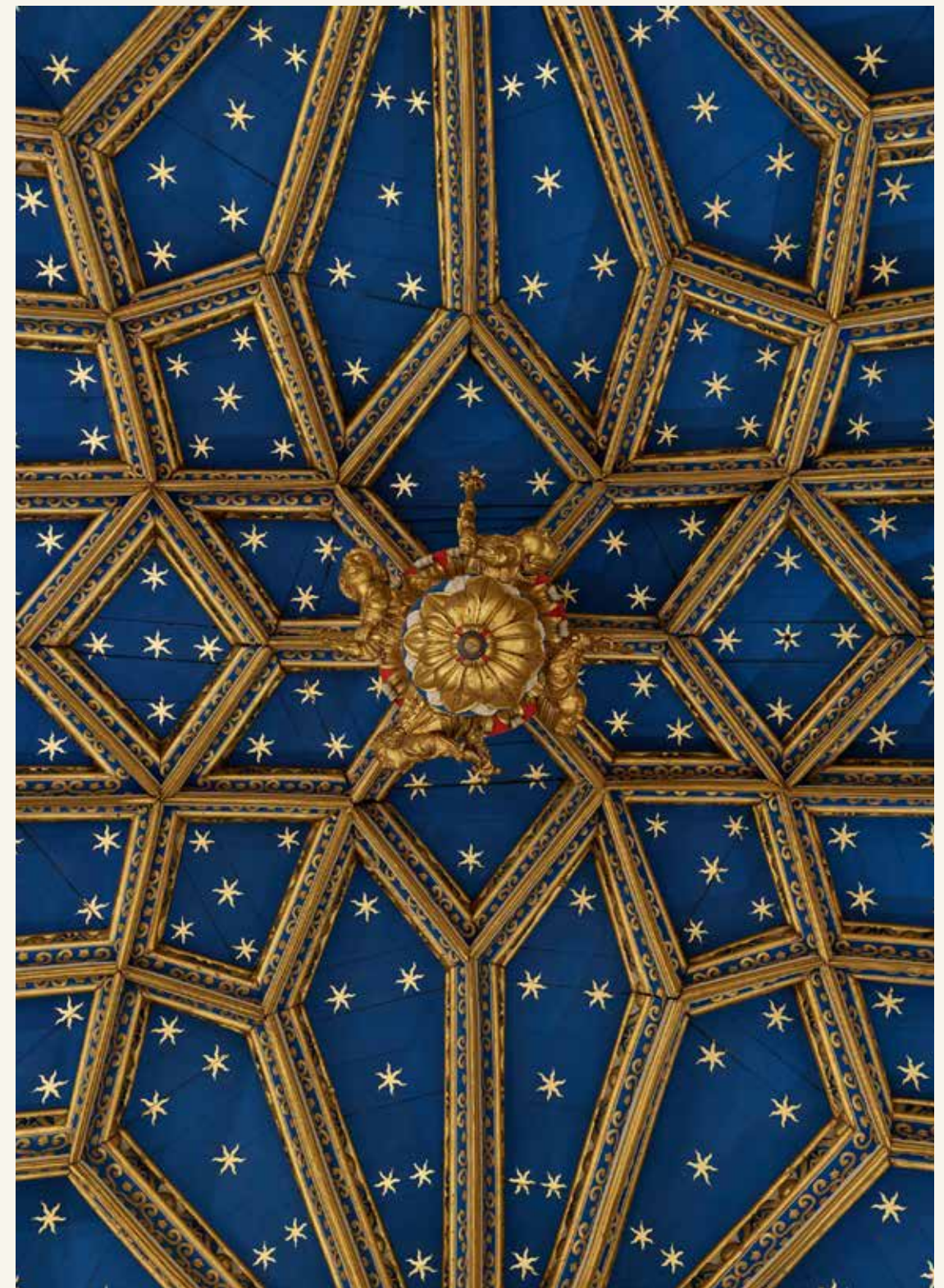
Do: What other portraits can you see here? Can you find an earlier portrait of Henry, how did his image change throughout his reign?



THE CHAPEL ROYAL

- This has been a working chapel since it was first built over 500 years ago and still holds regular services.
- The Chapel's vaulted ceiling was installed by Henry VIII in the 1530s and Queen Anne refurnished the interior in the early 1700s.
- The royal family would never sit in the main body of the church. Kings and queens used a private pew looking down on the chapel. You can see a replica of Henry's Crown of State on display in the Royal Pew.

The chapel is a place of worship, no photography is allowed.





HENRY VIII'S KITCHENS

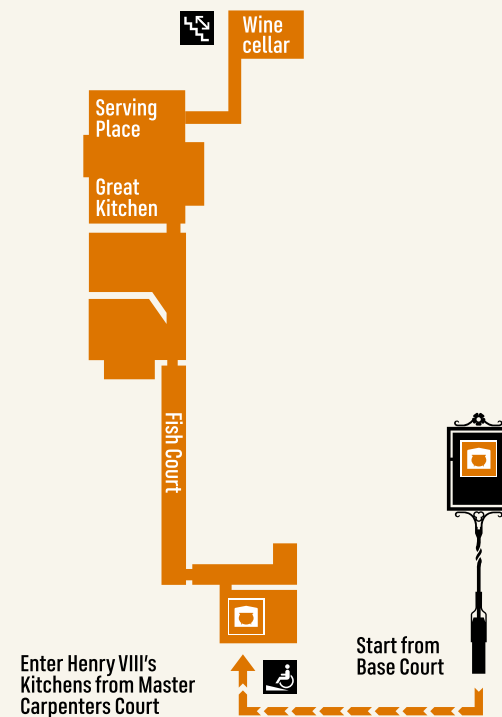


Access information

- Route distance: 130m
- The route is wheelchair accessible with slopes
- There are benches in the Great Kitchen to rest and reflect

Sensory elements

- This is perhaps the most sensory part of the palace, there are lots of sounds, smells and objects to touch
- There is a real fire in the Great Kitchen
- The Historic Kitchens team can sometimes be found in the Great Kitchen roasting meat on the fire and preparing dishes. They are usually in historical dress and very happy to answer any questions
- This route can be quite busy with school groups and during the holidays



In 1529 Henry VIII turned the Hampton Court Palace kitchens into a giant food factory. There were 55 rooms covering 3350 square metres staffed by 200 people providing 600 meals twice a day!

The Tudor kitchens were divided into a number of departments, each controlled by a Sergeant and a team of yeoman and grooms. The Kitchen department where meat was roasted was under the control of three Master Cooks, one for the King, the Queen and the rest of the Court. These staff toiled under a complex set of rules determining which of the 1,200-odd members of Henry's court qualified for meals as part of their pay.

MASTER CARPENTERS COURT

- Henry VIII's Kitchens at Hampton Court Palace were the largest of Tudor England. 200 cooks, sergeants, grooms and pages worked to produce over 800 meals a day for the hungry household of Henry VIII.
- This is where provisions would have entered the kitchen complex, ready to be put into stores, or carried to any of the smaller kitchens by some of the two hundred kitchen staff working here for Henry VIII.
- This courtyard is large enough to turn a cart around!

Do: Look around, what do you think this space was used for? Are there any clues?



BOILING HOUSE

- This is one of several smaller kitchens used for simple preparatory work such as boiling pie fillings or part cooking joints of meat. Up a small flight of stairs, meat is boiling in the great pot to part cook it and reduce the time needed to roast it later.

Discuss: What might you like to have in your pie? Can you find out how Beefeaters got their name?



FISH COURT

- Ever wanted to stand in a Tudor fridge? This narrow courtyard provided a central set of cool, dry storerooms in the middle of the kitchen complex that allowed for the short-term storage of ingredients such as fresh fish, which is probably how it gained its name in later centuries.
- Freshwater fish would have been stored live in the fishponds within the gardens!

Look: Can you find any evidence of other later residents of the palace in this corridor?





THE GREAT KITCHENS

- This huge room, now divided into three spaces, is the most impressive of the kitchens. Originally, it was used for roasting fresh meat, mostly beef, on the spits in front of the six great fires in this set of rooms.
- Food was an important way of demonstrating wealth and largess and variety available at court was staggering.
- Royal diners enjoyed citrus, almonds and olive oil from the Mediterranean, sugar from Iraq, spices from African and India and ginger from China.
- Working in the kitchens could be a sweaty and dirty job. Henry VIII had to order the scullions to stop going about 'naked, or in garments of such vileness as they do now, nor lie in the nights and days in the kitchen or ground by the fireside'. A Spanish visitor to the Tudor court in 1554 said the kitchens were 'veritable hells, such is the stir and bustle in them... there is plenty of beer here, and they drink more than would fill the Valladolid river.'
- Later additions to the space give us clues to the continued use of the kitchens in later periods. A range of charcoal stores and newer dividing walls had been added, as has a small wood fired oven and fireplace attached to use coal rather than wood as a fuel.



Touch: All of the items in the Great Kitchen are replicas that you are welcome to touch and explore. If you are unsure, please ask a member of the Kitchens team who will be happy to help.

Smell: Touch the fresh herbs on the display table. Can you name them? What do they make you think of? How do you use herbs?

Discuss: What do you think it would have been like to work in this kitchen at the time of Henry VIII?

SERVING PLACE

- Once cooked, the food was arranged on the finest pewter dishes and taken up to the hungry masses upstairs.
- The Tudors ate with a spoon and knife, but not with a fork as they were not used for eating until much later.
- The Clerks in the office nearby kept a close watch, counting the dishes that passed out and ensuring that the valuable pewter serving dishes, chargers, cups and bowls returned!

Look: Can you find a menu for a feast? Is there anything on the menu that surprises you? Why do you think the Tudor differs from modern day?



Discuss: What job might you have liked to do in the Kitchens? Can you explain your choice?



WILLIAM III'S APARTMENTS

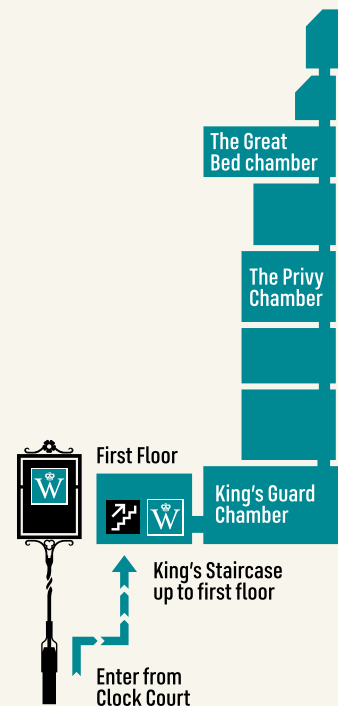


Access information

- Route distance: 110m first floor and 130 ground floor
- This route may have some closures during off-peak times
- This route is on the first floor of the palace
- The Kings Staircase has 33 stone steps, please speak to a Palace Host if you need the lift and they will support you and take you where you need to go
- There are window seats on the route to rest or reflect

Sensory elements

- This route is generally quieter than other areas of the palace.
- There are low light levels in some areas to protect textiles and paintings



William III and Mary II became king and queen in 1689. William suffered with asthma and chose Hampton Court as his main palace because the air was cleaner here. They did more than any other monarch to reshape the palace as you see it today. They asked Christopher Wren to give the palace a makeover to make it grander even than the French kings' luxurious palace at Versailles. Building works were carried out so quickly that some of it fell, killing two workmen. Luckily time and money ran out and only the King and Queens' main rooms were built.

Mary started a craze for pugs, knotting and blue and white porcelain. In 1694 she suddenly died of smallpox at Kensington Palace and work stopped. Four years later, Whitehall Palace burnt down so William decided to carry on the rebuilding. Eight years after Mary's death William died of pneumonia shortly following a fall from his horse that stumbled over a molehill while riding at Hampton Court Palace

CLOCK COURT

Take a moment here to see where the two palaces meet before heading through the colonnade and the large door through to the magnificent Kings Staircase.



KING'S STAIRCASE AND GUARD CHAMBER

- King William wanted to inspire awe in his visitors. He commissioned Italian painter, Antonio Verrio, to decorate the staircase with scenes of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar competing under the gaze of the banqueting gods.
- In the Guard Chamber 2,850 pieces of arms and armour decorate the walls, serving as a reminder of the real threat of war and rebellion in 1700.

Do: Climb to the top the stairs and look at the painting from the balcony. Can you find the Greek god Hercules with his lion skin and club?

Look: Look down the corridor from the Guards Chamber, as you move from room to room notice how they get smaller, richer and more intimate. Access to each room was granted according to status and always under the watchful eyes of the guards.



THE KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER

- This first reception room was where the wider members of court met the King. William took a keen interest in the art shown at the palace and had the large equestrian portrait especially commissioned by Sir Godfrey Kneller for this room.
- Even when the throne was empty people still had to bow to it!

Discuss: How do you think visitors would have felt arriving at William's Apartments?

THE KING'S EATING ROOM

- William disliked the traditional, stuffy ceremony of dining in front of a crowd so this room may not have been used often.

Look: Don't forget to see the famous naturalistic limewood carvings from Grinling Gibbons. What features can you see? How do the carvings reflect the use of this room?





THE KING'S PRIVY CHAMBER

- The outer rooms are quite plain but no expense was spared in the inner rooms. Walls were covered in silk and trimmed with gold and silver braid. Expensive paintings and tapestries were hung on top alongside magnificent carvings.
- In Tudor times the Privy Chamber was fairly private, but by 1700 everyone wanted to be there.

Look: This room is very grand, notice the gilded candle stands and large mirrors, this room would have shimmered and dazzled by candlelight. Imagine all the faces these mirrors have seen!

Do: Take time to look at the fantastic views out to the Privy Garden





THE WITHDRAWING ROOM, GREAT BEDCHAMBER AND LITTLE BEDCHAMBER

- Notice how the rooms are getting smaller, here marks the boundary between the more public rooms and the separate realm of the bed chambers and access was controlled by the Groom of the Stool.
- Senior courtiers may have been invited to watch the King dressing, a French royal custom, known as the levee.
- The Kings Bedchamber is sumptuously decorated with a painting by Antonio Verrio of the goddess Diana and her love for Endymion.
- The Kings Little Bedchamber bedroom is cosier, less draughty than the larger state bedchamber. Here the King chose a yellow damask show here in replica and could have some privacy.
- By 1701 William was a widower, his wife Mary II tragically dying of smallpox aged 32. William was devastated and here we can see how he surrounded himself with items from his late wife's beloved porcelain collection.

THE KING'S CLOSET AND BACK STAIRS, THE KING'S PRIVATE APARTMENTS

- Here William could conduct his private matters and entertain his friends.
- Take a peek through the job doors to his original close stool (portable lavatory) and the back stairs.
- Take the stairs down to see the smaller spaces used by the King to relax, gamble, dine and entertain as well as paintings from the palace art collection and the famed Hampton Court Palace 'Beauties'

Did you know?

The Groom of Stool not only ran the Bedchamber department but also had to personally attend the king on his 'stool'!





THE GEORGIAN STORY



Access information

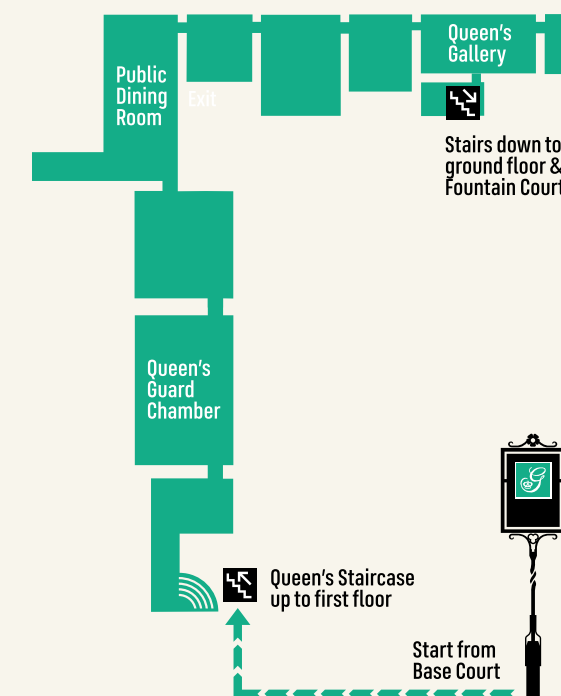
- Route distance: 220m
- This route is on the first floor of the palace
- The Queens Staircase has 31 stone steps, please speak to a Palace Host if you need the lift and they will support you and take you where you need to go
- This route may have some closures during off-peak times
- There are window seats and benches on the route to rest or reflect

Sensory elements

- This route is generally quieter than other areas of the palace
- There are low light levels in some areas to protect textiles and paintings
- Light levels can vary as rooms may be darkened to protect tapestries, paintings and keep the rooms cool in summer
- There are sounds along this route:
 - Fanfare with trumpets on the Queens Staircase
 - Fire crackling in the Queen's Guard Chamber
 - Music, applause, voices talking, sounds of gambling in later rooms

George I came to the throne in 1714 and his main contribution to the palace was to build an impressive suite of rooms for his brave but boorish son George, Prince of Wales, and his cultivated and sociable wife Princess Caroline. They held wonderful parties here at Hampton Court which caused huge family rows which got so bad that they were banned from court for several years and cruelly separated from their children.

When the Prince of Wales became George II in 1727 he too fell out with his son, Prince Frederick. Loathed by both of his parents he swore that none of his children would be born under the same roof as his parents and true enough when his wife, Princess Augusta was about to give birth at Hampton Court she was whisked away to St James int the middle of the night.



THE QUEEN'S STAIRCASE

- In 1734, Queen Caroline invited her favourite architect and designer, William Kent, to redecorate the stairs. His Roman-inspired scene compares the queen to the ancient goddess Britannia.

Look: Take some time at the top of the stairs to take in the beautiful paintings and the trompe d'oeil on the ceiling.

Discuss: How would you have felt arriving? Why is the entrance so grand? Which designer or artist would you like to redecorate your home?



THE QUEEN'S GUARD CHAMBER AND PRESENCE CHAMBER

- This room commemorates the Yeoman of the Guard, who kept watch in the guard room with these monumental figures supporting a massive fireplace.
- The Presence Chamber was where the Prince and Princess would receive visitors but now it is hung with historic portraits.

Do: Sit down and gaze at the high fashion of the Georgian court, what can you notice about the dress and hair styles of these people? Imagine waiting in here in all your finery for a royal audience.



THE PUBLIC DINING ROOM

- The royal family needed to be seen and although he disliked formality George I was persuaded to take up dining in public to show off the magnificence of his court.
- So many people came that barriers were used to hold them back!
- In this room we also meet some other Georgian characters through our mannequins .
- The King had divorced his German wife Sophia Dorothea for adultery in 1694, so he had no queen to rule alongside him. Instead he brought to England two women.
- His half-sister Sophia Charlotte was nicknamed 'The Elephant'; while his mistress Melusine was tagged 'The Maypole'.

Look: The paintings on the walls continue the theme of dining and entertaining. What can you see?

Discuss: George I preferred German home cooking and French dishes and so he had a new 'German kitchen' to replace the old Tudor kitchens. Do you have a favourite type of dish?

THE QUEEN'S PRIVY CHAMBER

- George and Caroline would have represented George I whilst he was away in Hanover 1716. Envoys flocked here to pay their respects, their fine court clothes glittering with the mirrors and chandeliers.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM

- This grand room was created by Queen Anne for her fashionable afternoon receptions.
- Anne, her husband and the rise of British naval power are symbolised in the painted walls

Do: Take a seat and play a game or two, and don't forget to look out at the spectacular view of the 1200m Long Water outside.

Look: Can you find a hidden door?

Discuss: How do you like to relax friends and family? Do you think the courtiers were able to relax in here?



THE QUEEN'S BEDCHAMBER

- The ceiling painted by Sir James Thornhill gives a snapshot of the Hanoverian royal family in 1715.
- There was a portable rail here to separate the royal couple from their audience and the bed has 6 mattresses!



THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

- This gallery marks the beginning of the private royal apartments. Here the family could relax and exercise when the weather prevented them from using gardens
- The tapestries show the History of Alexander the Great and the Delftware flowerpots belonged to Mary II and were enjoyed by Queen Caroline.

THE QUEEN'S CLOSET

- Before she died Queen Mary II had planned to use this little room as a study. After her death William III turned it into a memorial to display her embroideries.



THE LADIES OF BEDCHAMBER'S ROOM

- Queen Caroline's Bedchamber women included her husband's mistress, Henrietta Howards. The Queen gave her the worst jobs to do.
- There was a bell pull for Queen Caroline and her servants had to wait from dawn to bedtime, they even slept here on a tiny mezzanine floor room so that they were always on hand.



THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE APARTMENT

- These intimate rooms were where Princess, later Queen, Caroline did her everyday living.

THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE DRAWING ROOM

- This room is laid out with a German tea service, we can imagine Caroline playing card with her friends and gossiping about the people at court.





THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER, DRESSING ROOM AND CLOSET

- Here is where the Queen slept. The doors could be locked from the inside to ensure privacy from servants.
- The queen would spend hours at her toilette, preparing her face and hair for the day.

Discuss: What are your morning routines? How do you like to get ready to start the day?



THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE DINING ROOM AND SIDEBOARD ROOM

- These rooms are where the queen could enjoy a private supper.
- Prince Frederick was probably rarely invited. They fell out for the last time shortly before her death in 1737.



THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE ORATORY

- Caroline was a very devout woman and very interested in theology.

Listen: Handel was a composer who was very popular with the Georgians. What sort of music do you think King Charles III and the royal family listen to?

Look: Glance up to see the carved cherub heads in the lantern. How does this space make you feel?





THE PALACE GARDENS



Access information

- Many of the garden pathways are gravel and can be difficult for wheelchairs users and people with buggies
- There are benches for resting and admiring the views

Sensory elements

- The gardens can be very hot in summer but there are trees for some shade
- The gardens are a very sensory space. There is lot to see and smell and you may hear the noise of gardening equipment or animals
- There may be shire horses giving rides around the gardens in the warmer months
- There is a lot of wildlife to be seen in the gardens, as well as wild poo!

Hampton Court Palace gardens

- These world-famous gardens include 60 acres of spectacular formal gardens and 750 acres (304 hectares) of parkland, all set within a loop of the River Thames.
- Our gardens are home to the world's oldest puzzle maze, a record-breaking grape vine, three National Plant Collections and a huge variety of wildlife, including the descendants of Henry VIII's deer herd!
- Look out for our garden history tours, which cover over 500 years of history.
- There are videos, pictures and gardening tips available on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel.





THE TILTYARD

- The Tiltyard tower, - where the café is now- is the survivor of five such tower created for viewing Henry VIII's jousting tournaments.
- Eventually the site was turned into 6 walled kitchen gardens providing vegetables and fruit growing up the walls such as peaches, plums, pears, apples, figs, cherries and quince.

Look: See if you can spot some jousting knights amongst the flowers!

THE MAZE

- One part of the garden had four mazes, great places to meet up in secret, gossip, or get lost! One of the mazes still survives.

Do: Why not see if your group can find their way through our famous maze.



THE KITCHEN GARDEN

- The history of food and eating is very popular at Hampton Court Palace and many people are interested to see how food was produced for the palace.
- This garden was restored in 2014 and recreates an 18th century garden.
- We sometimes think of people in the past as meat eaters but we know that many vegetable and salad species were grown for royal consumption. Henry VII's gardeners even grew melons!

Do: The micro-climate of a walled garden produces all sorts of fruit and vegetables. Why not see how many you and your group can spot?

THE WILDERNESS

- In spring the Wilderness is a wild sea of daffodils and flowering bulbs.
- Originally it was a much more formal garden for courtiers to wander.

Do: Take a seat in a quiet spot amongst the trees and flowers. Close your eyes and breathe deeply, what can you smell here, what can you hear, how does this garden make you feel?



THE ROYAL TENNIS COURT

- These are Stuart courts built in the site of Henry VIII's tennis courts.
- Real tennis is still played here, have a peek in the viewing gallery and see if you can spot some players!



THE GREAT FOUNTAIN GARDEN

- This area to the east of the Tudor palace was originally part of the hunting park.
- On his return to England in 1660 Charles II began to make changes inspired by French gardens he had seen in exile and created the Long Water.
- Later William and Mary added 13 fountains given the garden its name.
- Queen Anne inherited the gardening bills from the brother-in-law she detested and simplified the gardens, removing 12 of the fountains.
- Under the Georgian's gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown the careful topiary was allowed to grow into the trees you see today.

Do: Relax in the shade of the historic yew trees, marvel at the glistening fountain or take a stroll along the Broad Walk. At 580 metres it is the longest herbaceous mixed flower border in Britain.

HOME PARK

- Home and Bushy Park are all that remain of the huge area Henry VII enclosed around Hampton Court Palace to make his hunting ground.
- Now the park is a refuge for wildlife.

Look: The gardens are a great place for bird watching. Keep an eye out for coots, swans, moorhens, cormorants and herons by the waterside. You might even be lucky enough to see a green woodpecker, skylark, tawny owl or kingfisher!



THE PRIVY GARDEN

- A privy, or private, garden has existed on the south side of Hampton Court Palace since the reign of Henry VIII.
- Henry VIII's garden included a small orchard of apple, pear and damson trees.
- The garden was laid out in heraldic fashion with low white and green painted rails and painted heraldic beasts on poles holding metal vanes. You can see a recreation of Henry's Garden in Chapel Court.
- Beside the river was a large brick building named the Water Gallery built to house the royal barge.
- The garden today is a restoration of William III's Privy Garden in 1702.
- William III died before the garden was completely finished, which meant all the gardeners and workmen were frightened of not being paid. They therefore submitted the fullest possible accounts of their work.
- The wrought iron screens, designed and built by Jean Tijou for William III, stand at the river end.

Do: Walk under the cool shade of the bower created for Mary II and her ladies to take a rest out of the sun.



THE BANQUETING HOUSE

- This was built and used by King William III as an after-dinner retreat.

Discuss: If you could pick anywhere to build a little retreat where would it be and why?

THE POND GARDENS

- In Henry VIII's day this part of the garden had sunken ponds filled with live fish for the place kitchens!
- By 1690 they had been drained and Queen Mary II used this sunny spot to house her collection of exotic plants

Discuss: What sort of fish might do you think they have kept here ready for the kitchens; can your group find any clues?



LOWER ORANGERY GARDEN

- Once the home of Queen Mary II's Exotick plant collection, this garden has been restored to its former glory.
- The tender plants would have been brought in to the Orangery behind to keep warm.

Discuss: Does anyone in the group have house plants at home? What are they, where do they keep them and how do they care for them?



THE GREAT VINE

- The Great Vine, a 'Black Hamburg', is the largest grape vine in the world. It was planted in 1768 while Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was in charge of the gardens at Hampton Court.
- The average crop of black dessert grapes is about 272 kilograms (600lbs), however in the autumn of 2001 it was 383 kilograms (845 lbs) - the best crop ever. The grapes are ripe after August Bank Holiday and are sold during the first three weeks of September in the palace shop.
- Queen Victoria had grapes from the Great Vine sent to the Royal Household at Windsor or to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.
- In the Second World War German P-O-Ws were given the task of thinning out the bunches of grapes.

Do: Can you work out how old the Great Vine is today?



THE MAGIC GARDEN



At the end of the Kitchen Garden through a secret door is the palaces' newest garden, The Magic Garden. Here little ones can come face to face with mysterious mythical beasts, storm the battlements, besiege the towers and explore the secret grotto in this magical children's playground.

The Magic Garden provides a unique way for your family to explore the history of Hampton Court Palace.

- The Magic Garden entry is included in your admission ticket.
- Please note we cannot guarantee entry to the Magic Garden, it is operated on a strictly first come, first served basis and queueing at busy times is highly likely. This includes members.
- During the winter, we may need to close the Magic Garden at short notice due to inclement weather.

Rise and Roar: A quiet session in the Magic Garden

We offer a quiet session in The Magic Garden, aimed at those living with or caring for someone with Autism, or those who have any other sensory needs, and their families and carers. Visit our [Rise and Roar page](#) for the next date and more information and please contact sarah.fairbairn@hrp.org.uk if you would like to organise a visit for your group or group members.

You can also download our [Rise and Roar autism friendly guide \(PDF\)](#) to the sessions.



REFLECTING ON YOUR VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

- Activities
- Group Leader support
- Encouraging independent visits
- Contact information

ACTIVITIES

Before, during and after your visit to Hampton Court Palace there are lots of different activities you can do with your group to introduce the theme and stories of the palace, connect with each other while on your visit and share and reflect on your experience afterwards.

Below we have some suggestions for activities. We would love to know what you do for your visits and if you make your own activities to do together. Please get in touch with the communities team and we can add them to this section to share with other groups.

There are lots of books, films and tv shows depicting the lives of the royals taking place at Hampton Court Palace. Some hit series are even filmed here, see if you can spot some of the **Bridgerton filming locations** when you visit!

THE TUDORS:

Henry loved music and dancing, why not see if you can play some Tudor music and perform your own dance steps together in chairs or outside.

He also loved sports and built a bowling alley at the palace. Why not play some Tudor-style games such as skittles, cup and ball or jacks. All of these are great for coordination and fine motor skills.

The Tudor Kitchens at Hampton court would have been full of herbs and spices used for cooking. Why not see if you can gather some spices and fresh herbs to smell together. Tell each other how you use spices and herbs in the kitchen and at home or even plant your own

You may spot some pies in the kitchens, why not make some salt dough and experiment with crating our own elaborate royal pie topper! You could even colour the salt dough with food colouring for added effect.

THE GEORGIANS:

Why not learn a new language used at the Georgian court, the language of the fan! Our curator, Lucy Worsley, will show you how to introduce yourself, flirt a bit of just get that annoying courtier to leave you alone in her video on our YouTube channel.

You might have seen some elaborately folded napkins in the Public Dining Room, why not time your group and have your own Napkin Folding Challenge! See who can make the best napkin creature the quickest.

MAKE A POST CARD!

Why not write a postcard to send to your friend, family member of the community team at the palace! Tell them about your visit to Hampton Court Palace. You could include tips on:

- What you can see
- What you can do
- What your favourite thing at Hampton Court Palace was
- How to get there

Take it one step further and encourage your group member to use their free CAS return cards to bring along others on an independent visit.

DESCRIBE THE SCENE!

The royals at Hampton Court loved to be surrounded by artworks. Why not use watercolours, collage, printing, or crafting to create a scene from the palace from your visit You could use different materials and colours to add in texture to your group's pictures. To take it one step further group members could describe their favourite part of the Palace to other members of the group.

WHY NOT TRY SOME EDIBLE TREATS WITH AN HISTORIC TWIST!

You can cook-a-long with our Historic Kitchens team online on our YouTube channel. There are recipes for a Tudor cheese tart, pork and onion gravy and Georgian recipes for Hot Chocolates and Chocolate Tarts!

HENRY VIII'S FAVOURITE JELLIED MILK

You will need:

- a packet of jelly
- ½ cup of hot water
- 1 point of milk
- A jelly mould

To make:

1. Cut the jelly in to squares and put in a bowl.
2. Pour on hot water and stir until the jelly has melted.
3. Add the milk to the jelly and stir together.
4. Pour into the mould and leave to set.
5. Turn out on to a plate and enjoy!

GROUP LEADER SUPPORT

The Community Access Scheme also offers on-going support for group leaders. Before you visit with a group, please contact the Community Partnerships team for a 1:1 meeting either onsite or online. In this meeting you will be able to go through practical aspects of your visit and ensure that your visit is safe, comfortable and enjoyable.

Newsletters will also be sent out on a monthly basis, providing you with updates of what is happening across our sites, upcoming special events and important information. Please ensure that you take the time to read our newsletters as this is how we share key updates.

Once a year, we host a networking event. This is an opportunity for you to meet other group leaders who are part of the Community Access Scheme programme, share ideas and showcase what you do on visits with your group.

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENT VISITS

You do not need to explore all routes on one visit; this programme will allow your group members to re-visit and focus upon different areas of Hampton Court Palace at a pace that suits you.

The Community Access Scheme offers groups that have visited Hampton Court Palace free entry cards. The cards enable group members to visit four of our sites independently with a friend or family member for free or at a discounted rate. Please use our online form to request return cards for your group members. Terms and conditions apply.

Group members can use their cards to gain free or discounted access to;

- Hampton Court Palace
- Kensington Palace
- Tower of London
- Kew Palace (located in Kew Gardens)

CONTACT DETAILS

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