

Reserve your place in history..

Host your event with
Historic Royal Palaces



Over hundreds of years, the six royal palaces have provided the backdrop to glittering banquets, ground-breaking conferences, fabulous celebrations and splendid royal weddings.

Today, the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle can provide unique venues for your prestigious events.



Receptions and Dinners

Built to entertain and impress, there are no venues to improve upon the splendor and grandeur of holding your event in a royal palace.

Meetings & conferences

An impressive conference that demonstrates flair and imagination, or a dynamic, team-building session that inspires people in a new and exciting environment, can be hugely motivating. Many meetings held in our Historic Royal Palaces have changed the course of history, and continue to do so today.

Corporate Gifts

If you are looking for an unusual and unique gift for your guests we have an array of beautifully created gifts available to view at www.historicroyalpalaces.com

Exclusive visits and private tours

Something to suit all budgets, these special opportunities offer a wow factor to an event or itinerary.



Whatever experience you are looking to offer your clients, Historic Royal Palaces can provide the perfect solution. Below is just a selection of the huge variety of spaces we have available.

Daytime

For a prestigious meeting or lunch, look no further than the spacious New Armouries suites at the Tower of London or even the modern and versatile Garden Room at Hampton Court Palace.

Evening

Our palaces are amazing venues for that sophisticated soirée, whether it be the White Tower at the Tower of London, the Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace or the classic elegance of the Main Hall at Banqueting House.

Outdoors

For a more open feeling to your reception or dinner, why not try the Orangery or the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace? Hampton Court Palace and Hillsborough Castle also offer space for marquee hire for that special occasion.

Large Scale

For a truly impressive event, the spectacular Moat at the Tower of London or the stunning gardens at Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace can all cater for groups of up to 2,000 people.

Intimate

Lastly, for a cosier atmosphere, Kew Palace has the perfect spaces for you. Not to forget the hidden gems such as Martin Tower and St Thomas's Tower at the Tower of London and Little Banqueting House at Hampton Court Palace.

Our exclusive visits and private tours

All of the following tours are available by contacting the events staff at the specific palaces or by visiting our website at hrp.org.uk/hireavenue

Tower of London

Evening Tours

This popular tour casts a new light on the Tower of London and gives groups the chance to enjoy the tranquil atmosphere after the hustle and bustle of the daytime. Tours commence at 8.30pm with a Yeoman Warder guiding your group through the ancient fortress for an hour, finishing with the Ceremony of the Keys, the world's longest running military ceremony. The evening finishes at 10.05pm

Private viewing of the Crown Jewels

This is a unique opportunity to view the fabulous finery and regalia of the Crown Jewels outside normal visitor hours. Explore their importance to the British monarchy, the role of the Tower

in protecting these treasures and the long and fascinating tradition of coronations in England. Both early morning and evening viewings are available.

Secrets of the Tower

This highly exclusive opportunity offers small groups access to hidden places not usually open to the public. Parties of a maximum of 8 people will be met by a Yeoman Warder at the Sally Port - where Henry VIII greeted Anne Boleyn as his new bride to be in 1532. Visitors will also be shown the extraordinary Upper Byward Tower painting, believed to have been painted in the late 1390s. The Council Chamber in Queen's House, St Thomas More's cell and the Crypt below the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula are also included.



Hampton Court Palace

Grace and Favour tours

Discover who lived at the palace once the royal court had departed. Get behind the scenes of Hampton Court and explore a side of the palace that is often forgotten. The abandoned Grace and Favour apartments are not accessible to the public but brought back to life on this hour and a half guided tour.

Anyone for Tennis?

The Royal Tennis court is one of less than fifty real tennis courts in the world and one of the few courts where the public can watch this intriguing sport. Enjoy an hour learning about the game that the young Henry VIII was passionate about. The tour includes a talk on the history of the game, the court, an introduction to the rules and an exhibition from professional players. There is also an opportunity for guests to have a go themselves!

Roof top tours

Take a different look at Hampton Court Palace from amongst the famous chimneys. The tour is best taken in the summer months as it is reliant on good weather but is available year round.



Kensington Palace

Exclusive breakfast tour

Start your morning at 8.00am with a beautiful array of pastries, fresh fruit, a glass of champagne and a choice of teas and coffee in the delightful Orangery. Afterwards, join your palace expert to uncover Victoria Revealed, an exhibition dedicated to the public and private passions of this famous queen. The tour concludes at 10.00am, at which time visitors are then free to continue exploring the palace at their own pace.

Kew Palace

Private summer evening tours

Cast a new light on Kew Palace! This special opportunity to tour King George III's intimate family home is available on request from April - September. Lead by one of our costumed palace experts, your group will discover the good times and sad times encountered by the royal family between 1800 and 1818.

The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066-7, is one of the world's most famous fortresses. We have a range of rooms suited to every requirement. The infamous White Tower, symbol of the Norman Conquest, makes an impressive location for entertaining and the many stories to be told about the Tower will amaze and intrigue your guests.

Tower of London



A legendary reputation

Its larger-than-life characters, enduring traditions and amazing tales have made the Tower something of a stronghold for powerful symbols of London.



The ravens occupy the South Lawn as symbols of the Tower and enduring royal power. Legend says the kingdom and Tower will fall should the ravens ever leave the fortress.

A Tower story

Security for the Crown Jewels has not always been as tight as today. In the 17th century, the shadowy 'Colonel' Thomas Blood's attempt to steal them nearly succeeded. The alarm was sounded by the son of the elderly Jewel House Keeper who'd been knocked unconscious by Blood's thugs.



Yeoman Warders (nicknamed 'Beefeaters') have guarded the Tower since the 15th century. For hundreds of years they have performed the ancient 'Ceremony of the Keys', the official locking up of the Tower each night – a tradition your guests can witness by arrangement.



Tower turf



Jewel House
150 Reception



White Tower
250 Reception
90 Dinner



Martin Tower
12 Dinner



**Royal Regiment
of Fusiliers**
80 Reception
70 Dinner



**St Thomas's
Tower**
40 Reception
20 Dinner



Wakefield Tower
80 Reception
40 Dinner



**New Armouries:
Banqueting suite**
300 Reception
240 Dinner
150 Lunch



**New Armouries:
Meeting suite**
100 meeting suite
16 Boardroom
6 Syndicate room



Powerful, iconic, dramatic,
versatile venues to suit
any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk

For centuries, Hampton Court Palace has boldly and magnificently played host to gala celebrations, festive banquets and historic meetings.

England's most famous kings and queens, from Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to William III and Mary II, dazzled audiences of ambassadors, courtiers, cardinals, artists and dignitaries with the grandeur and majesty of Hampton Court.

Hampton Court Palace



A captivating spirit

The compelling character of Hampton Court is woven invisibly throughout its myriad stories and tangibly into its historic fabric.

A palace story

William Shakespeare and his company of actors 'The King's Men' performed here more than once for James I. The King used the Great Hall to host some of the most expensive and elaborate theatricals ever staged at an English royal court.

William Shakespeare



The Space

It is simply one of the most spectacular spaces in Britain. England's last and greatest medieval hall, this magnificent venue is where royal residents dined with courtiers, entertained dignitaries and danced, laughed and celebrated until the early hours underneath its awesome hammer beam ceiling.



A palace story

King Henry VIII established Hampton Court as his own 'pleasure palace' in the 1530s. Facilities were created for all sorts of activities including hunting, jousting and playing tennis. There was even a bowling alley.



Space specifications



Great Hall
400 Reception
270 Dinner



The Undercroft
250 Reception
180 Dinner
220 Dancing



Great Watching Chamber
150 Reception
100 Dinner



Tudor Kitchens
150 Reception
100 Dinner



Cartoon Gallery
300 Reception
200 Dinner



Queen's Drawing Room
150 Reception
80 Dinner



Mantegna Gallery
200 Reception



King's Guard Chamber
200 Reception
150 Dinner



Orangery and Privy Garden
250 Reception
150 Dinner



The Kings Eating Room
60 Reception
40 Dinner
24 Reception and dinner



Garden Room
300 Reception
220 Lunch, Dinner, Dancing
250 Theatre style



Little Banqueting House
80 Reception
50 Lunch, Dinner



Marquees: Palace courtyards
1,200 Reception
600 Dinner
360 Dinner and dancing



Marquees: Palace grounds
3,000 Reception
1,500 Dinner
1,000 Dinner and dancing



Majestic, flamboyant, tranquil, versatile venues to suit any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk



When asked to design King James I a new banqueting house, the talented Inigo Jones turned to the harmonious principles of classical architecture.

Jones envisioned an elegantly proportioned double cube, calculated to meet the ancient Roman idea of perfection. Literally - the perfect space.

Banqueting House



Unforgettable, by design

Staged in a space purpose-built for entertainment, ceremony and spectacle, Banqueting House events have been leaving an impression for nearly 400 years.

The palace story

After the previous banqueting house burned down, King James I was looking for a sumptuous and elegant replacement. He turned to the talented Inigo Jones, a highly regarded architectural advisor. Jones drew on the geometry of ancient Roman, or classical, architecture to design a building that created a sensation.

“Strange how a good dinner and feasting reconciles everybody.”

Samuel Pepys, 9 November 1665



A palace story

The Stuart kings occasionally used the Undercroft to escape public life. It was often used for gambling during the reign of Charles II. Diarist John Evelyn described one unlucky evening in 1664 where he, as well as ‘the King, Queen-Consort and Queen Mother’, won ‘only a trifle’.



Space specifications



Main Hall
500 Reception
380 Dinner



The Undercroft
380 Reception
120 Dinner

Revolutionary, theatrical,
dazzling, versatile venues
to suit any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk



Surrounded by parkland, Kensington Palace offers a welcome retreat from the nearby hustle and bustle of London. Its understated elegance makes the palace an ideal companion to the Royal Parks' tranquil gardens and ponds.

Kensington Palace



A certain flair

Once a magnet for political ambition and royal intrigue, the palace may surprise your guests with an aura of artistry, fashion and style.

The palace story

Russian Tsar Peter the Great came to London in 1698 to learn about shipbuilding, but spent much of his time shopping and drinking with his friends. He accepted an invitation to dinner at Kensington Palace during his stay. King William persuaded the Tsar to sit for a painting, which still hangs in the Queen's Gallery.



A palace story

In the summer of 1704, Queen Anne conceived a new 'greenhouse' with a terrace where she could grow citrus trees and exotic plants in ceramic pots. The design of the beautiful building involved not one, but three famous architects of the day - Christopher Wren, Nicolas Hawksmoor and John Vanbrugh.

King William III and Queen Mary II were the first and only couple to rule jointly. The Queen's influence on the palace's design and furnishings is still felt today.

Kensington Palace's most famous resident, Diana was the embodiment of a modern princess. Her sense of style influenced a generation.



Space specifications



Entrance Hall
300 Reception
140 Dinner



Queen's Gallery
170 Reception
70 Dinner



Kings Presence Chamber
20 Reception
14 Dinner



King's Drawing Room
90 Reception
90 Dinner



Cupola Room
100 Reception
80 Dinner



King's Gallery
170 Reception
110 Dinner
170 Recitals (200 without stage)



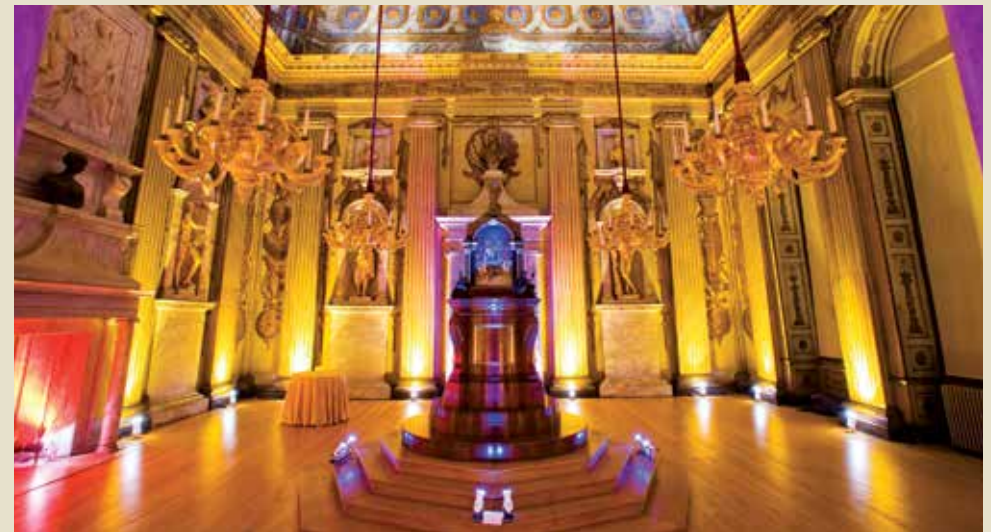
The Orangery
300 Reception
(570 with terrace marquee)
200 Dinner and lunch
120 Dinner with dancing
200 Theatre style
120 Cabaret style



Privy Chamber
70 Reception
40 Dinner



Sunken Garden
80 Reception



Stylish, glamorous, fashionable, versatile venues to suit any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk

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

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

Kew Palace



A Georgian spirit

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



A palace story

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



The palace story

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



A royal wedding story

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

Space specifications



King's Dining Room
40 Reception
30 Dinner



King's Breakfast Room
24 Reception



Queen's Garden
40 Reception



Royal Kitchens
60 Reception
24 Dinner



Intimate, regal, secret,
versatile venues to suit
any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk

Walk in the footsteps of Presidents and Princesses... an oasis of calm on the edge of the city of Belfast, Hillsborough Castle nestles within 96 acres of landscaped gardens. Over three centuries, the castle has welcomed many people from all corners of the globe and continues to do so.

Hillsborough Castle



A Gracious Welcome

Having hosted political talks and esteemed royal residents in equal measure, the effortless elegance of Hillsborough Castle will leave a lasting impression.



A palace story

Experience the fascinating history of Hillsborough Castle and chart its journey from family home to political stage and now the only Royal residence in Ireland.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret holidayed at Hillsborough in the 1940s during the Governorship of Lord and Lady Granville, the Queen Mother's sister and brother-in-law. A keen gardener Lady Granville's legacy lives on in her garden that contains arguably the largest rhododendron bush in Europe.



© National Portrait Gallery, London

The palace story

Hillsborough Castle was built in the 1770s by Wills Hill, first Marquis of Downshire and later remodelled in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today it is the official residence of the Royal Family in Ireland and retains a significant role in cultural and political life in the country.



Space specifications



State Entrance / Candlestick Hall
40 Reception
20 Dinner



State Dining Room
70 Reception
50 Dinner



Red Room
30 Reception
10 Dinner



State Drawing Room
110 Reception
40 Theatre style



Throne Room
150 Reception
130 Theatre style
90 Dinner



Privy Council Chamber
25 Theatre Style
12 Boardroom

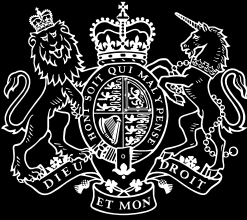


Marquee
400 Theatre
350 Dinner
350 Reception



Intimate, regal, secret,
versatile venues to suit
any occasion.

Visit: www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue
Email: events@hrp.org.uk



Historic Royal Palaces

Historic Royal Palaces is
the charity that looks after:

Tower of London

Hampton Court Palace

Banqueting House

Kensington Palace

Kew Palace

Hillsborough Castle

We help everyone explore
the story of how monarchs
and people have shaped
society, in some of the
greatest palaces ever built

We raise all our own funds
and depend on the
support of our visitors,
members, donors,
sponsors and volunteers.