

DAY TRIPS FROM LONDON

The Hampton Court day guide

One page for Hampton Court Palace: what it is, what to see, what fits in the time you have, how to get there by train, and where to find toilets and food.

How to use this guide

1. Check how long your tour gives you at each stop. Your tour's page lists the stops and the time at each one.
2. On the stop's page, tap how long your tour stops there: the route shows what fits.

3. Set a phone alarm 10 minutes before you need to be back at the bus.

Inside

Hampton Court Palace
Henry VIII's palace →

Times are typical visit lengths, not a timetable. Opening hours and prices change: check the full guide online before you go.

Hampton Court Palace

Henry VIII's palace

Your route ↓ | Toilets and food ↓



WHY STOP HERE

A red-brick Tudor palace on the Thames, built by Cardinal Wolsey and taken by Henry VIII. Inside are the Great Hall, the royal kitchens and the Chapel Royal. Outside are gardens

and a famous maze. Go by train from London Waterloo and plan at least three hours.



DON'T MISS

Anne Boleyn's badge in the Great Hall

Her badge and initials in the Great Hall. Look up at the carved and painted details; ask a member of staff where to find them.

Your route

Walk it in this order. The orange number is your time so far: stop when it reaches your tour's time here.

25 min

The Great Hall and the Haunted Gallery

25 min here · in the entry ticket

DON'T MISS



The Great Hall has a magnificent ceiling and holds Anne Boleyn's badge and initials. The Great Watching Chamber, where the King's bodyguards stood, and the Haunted Gallery lead on from it.

45 min

Henry VIII's private rooms

20 min here · in the entry ticket



The King's Presence Chamber, his official throne room, then the Privy Chambers, the bedroom and the Secret Lodgings, where Henry VIII lived away from the public court.

65 min

The Tudor World in the Wolsey Rooms

20 min here · in the entry ticket



The oldest rooms in the palace, with two floors of paintings and objects about life at the Tudor court and the early years of Henry's reign.

85 min

Henry VIII's Kitchens

20 min here · in the entry ticket



The busiest kitchens in Tudor England, where royal meals and feasts were cooked.

95 min

The Chapel Royal

10 min here · in the entry ticket



A working chapel with the vaulted ceiling Henry VIII prayed under, seen from the Royal Pew above.

125 min

The gardens

30 min here · in the entry ticket

The Privy Garden, the Wilderness, the Rose Garden and the Great Fountain Garden, with a view down the Long Water.



155 min

William III's Apartments

30 min here · in the entry ticket

The grand Baroque rooms of William III and Mary II, up the King's Staircase.



Getting there

Hampton Court is an easy train ride from London Waterloo, and the palace is a short walk from the station. You do not need a tour to go. Take a train from London Waterloo to Hampton Court station. Trains run about every 30 minutes. Tap in with Oyster. Hampton Court is in zone 6, and Oyster is accepted. Walk from the station to the palace. It takes about five minutes. Our pick: Aim to arrive before 11:00, when the palace is quietest.

Ticket

Yes. The palace, the maze and the Magic Garden need a ticket, and the gardens are free on a few dates. A free audio guide comes with entry. Book a timed ticket in advance in busy months.

Toilets and food

The toilets are inside the ticketed site and all are step-free. The nearest public toilets are at Hampton Court station, under five minutes' walk away. The Tiltyard Café has hot food from 11:30 to 15:00, the Privy Kitchen Café sells pies and sandwiches, and you may bring a picnic to the gardens.

Quieter time

Before 11:00. The cafés are quieter before 11:00 and after 15:00.

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Full guide:
seebeyondthecity.com/london/places/hampton-court-palace/
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Spotted a change?
Opening times and prices change. Reply to the email this guide came in and tell us what you found.

Travelling with someone?
Forward the email, so they have the guide on their phone too.

Sources

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Historic Royal Palaces: Henry VIII's wives, six queens, six women

Historic Royal Palaces: suggested itineraries

Historic Royal Palaces: opening and closing times

Historic Royal Palaces: eating at Hampton Court

Historic Royal Palaces: accessibility

Historic Royal Palaces: getting here

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