



Silver in the Beautiful South Award for 'Large Visitor Attraction of the Year'



BLENHEIM PALACE

A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

2011

INFORMATION FOR THE TRAVEL TRADE & GROUP ORGANISERS

BUY ONE DAY GET 12 MONTHS FREE IN 2011. SEE REVERSE FOR DETAILS...

A Palace For All Seasons...

Blenheim Palace is the magnificent ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough, and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. From the awe-inspiring Palace to its surrounding Park and Gardens, groups will find whatever time of year they visit, there is always something new and delightful to discover. The 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough extend a warm welcome to groups in 2011.



Inside the Palace

Guided tours of the gilded State Rooms, which house one of the finest collections in Europe, run frequently in English throughout the day and are included in the ticket price. They run daily except for Sundays and Bank Holidays when a free flow system operates. Private Tours and language tours are available at an additional charge; these must be pre-booked. LENGTH OF TOUR: 35 MINUTES

Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story

The ghost of a ladies maid leads groups through this interactive visitor experience inside the Palace, offering an intriguing twist on the events of the last 300 years at Blenheim Palace.

LENGTH OF TOUR: 35 MINUTES

The experience is accessed via a set of stairs to the first floor of the Palace and therefore unfortunately is not accessible for wheelchairs. A short film of the experience is available at ground level opposite the Indoor Cinema.

The Churchill Exhibition

This permanent exhibition, situated around the room in which Sir Winston Churchill was born in 1874, displays personal letters, paintings and mementoes from the life of the 'Greatest Briton'. He is buried nearby at St Martin's Church in Bladon.

Private Apartments

Tours of the Private Apartments are available on certain days from April to September at the discretion of the family. Please enquire on arrival. A small additional charge applies.

The Park and Gardens

Described by Sir Winston Churchill's father as 'The Finest View in England' the awe-inspiring views of the Park and Gardens at Blenheim Palace are unrivalled in Britain. Stunning in all seasons, the Park was landscaped by 'Capability' Brown in the 1760s including the great lake. The award-winning Formal Gardens include the ornate Italian Garden, the Secret Garden, the majestic Water Terraces, the Rose Garden, Arboretum and the Cascade.

Furthermore, the Pleasure Gardens, reached by miniature train from the Palace, include the Butterfly House, the Lavender Garden, the Marlborough Maze and the 'Blenheim Bygones' exhibition. Buggy rides around Queen Pool are available on fine weather days for a small extra charge.

Disabled Visitors

Every effort is made to ensure that our visitors with disabilities are able to enjoy their visit to the Palace. The State Rooms are accessible by wheelchair via an electric lift and those with walking difficulties may borrow one of the Palace's wheelchairs for the Palace tour.

Available on a first-come, first-served basis and free of charge. 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story' is not accessible for wheelchairs but a film presentation is available at ground level.



We aim to make your group's visit to Blenheim Palace the very best experience we can by working with you to meet their needs wherever possible. Please discuss any special requirements you might have with our Groups Coordinator – from Private Tours to lunches or refreshments we will be happy to help!

Themed Tours, Talks & Walks

Blenheim Palace offers Themed Tours to organised groups, which provide fresh insight into the rich history of the Palace and its gardens.

New in 2011

- Odd Men and Necessary Women – Servants of a Great Palace
- Creating an Architectural Masterpiece – The People Who Built Blenheim Palace
- Winston Spencer Churchill and Blenheim Palace

The following popular themes will continue to be available in 2011:

- Behind the Scenes at Blenheim Palace
- Evacuees & Espionage – The Second World War at Blenheim Palace
- The Ladies of Blenheim Palace
- The Gentlemen of Blenheim Palace
- An Historical Walk through the Park and Gardens at Blenheim Palace

Themes Tours are led by Karen Wiseman, Head of Education and the Blenheim Palace Guides. For further information and to book call the Groups Coordinator on 01993 811091.

Talks & Walks Led By Jeri Bapasola, Archival Researcher at Blenheim Palace.

- The Art of Warfare
- Baroque Blenheim
- The Faces on the Walls
- The Building of Blenheim Palace
- The House that John Built
- Understanding the Landscape and Gardens at Blenheim Palace
- Brown at Blenheim: Transforming the Landscape
- An 18th Century 'Garden Circuit Walk'
- Blenheim's 20th Century Gardens Revealed
- Significant Relations – How the Churchills of Blenheim influenced the Spencers of Althorp.

For further information and to arrange a convenient date for Talks & Walks, please contact: jbapasola@blenheimpalace.com





SPECIAL EVENTS 2011

12th Feb – 27th March

Special Exhibition: Gladys Deacon – An Eccentric Duchess 1921-1934 PPG

22nd – 25th April

Easter Events and Activities P&G

30th April – 2nd May (Bank Holiday)

Jousting Tournament P&G

28th – 30th May

Art, Design and a Taste of Summer

Visit www.livingcrafts.co.uk P&G

4th – 5th June

Blenheim Triathlon

Please note that activity takes place within the Great Court and therefore admission procedures could be affected.

Visit www.theblenheimtriathlon.com

8th - 11th & 13th - 18th June

Outdoor summer Theatre by The Oxford School of Drama Visit www.blenheimpalace.com

16th July

Battle Proms Evening Picnic Concert

Visit www.battleproms.com

Separate admission prices apply.

22nd – 24th July

CLA Game Fair Visit www.gamefair.co.uk

Separate admission prices apply.

5th – 7th August

Jousting Tournament P&G

21st August

Breast Cancer Care's Bike Blenheim Palace P&G

28th – 29th August (Bank Holiday)

Classic Car Show P&G

8th – 11th September

Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials

Visit www.blenheim-horse.co.uk

Separate admission for the Horse Trials

15th – 18th September

The Independent Woodstock Literary Festival

Visit www.woodstockliteraryfestival.com

22nd - 30th October

October Half Term - Halloween Entertainment PPG + PG

12th Nov – 16th Dec

Christmas at Blenheim Palace PPG + P&G

18th – 20th November Living Crafts for Christmas

Visit www.livingcrafts.co.uk P&G

17th December

Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens closed for the winter. Park remains open daily (except Christmas Day).

All events listed are provisional bookings. The details of these events may change. Please check prior to your visit.

PPG: Palace, Park and Gardens ticket required to access event

P&G: Park & Gardens ticket required to access event

PPG + P&G: Denotes activity inside the Palace as well as the Park & Gardens.

GROUP CATERING

There are some excellent options for your group to enhance their day at Blenheim Palace. Please contact Blenheim Palace Hospitality to discuss the various facilities available.

The Indian Room (max 50) and the Courtyard Restaurant (max 150) are available for exclusive hire. You can enjoy a variety of menus from a three course seasonal lunch at £21.95pp to a Traditional Cream Tea at £4.95pp.

The Water Terrace Café is located within the heart of the Palace overlooking the beautiful Water Terraces. It is a licensed self-service café which offers seasonal hot dishes, soup, salads and sandwiches, and a range of delicious pastries and home baked cakes, as well as speciality Fair Trade, Organic tea and coffee. All food is prepared and cooked on the premises using the finest ingredients.

Contact Blenheim Palace Hospitality on Tel. +44 (0)1993 813874 or email sales@blenheimhospitality.com

BOOKING PROCEDURE

In order to help us to ensure that your visit to Blenheim Palace goes as smoothly as possible, we would like to request that you pre-book your visit. Simply contact Cathy Penry, Groups Coordinator, in the Operations Department. Tel: +44 (0)1993 811091 Fax: +44 (0)1993 810570 Email: operations@blenheimpalace.com

PAYMENT METHODS

Upon arrival, tour leaders should go to the Flagstaff information point to arrange payment and collect tickets. A single payment is necessary for an entire group to qualify for group rates. Cheques should be made out to 'Blenheim Visitors'. Major credit cards and debit cards are accepted. Tour and Coach Operators wishing to set up a voucher system with us should contact the Groups Coordinator in advance.

TOUR ENHANCEMENTS

Groups may book their dedicated guide (English or foreign language speakers) in advance through the Groups Co-ordinator. Max 30 people per guide. Additional charges apply

PRIVATE TOURS

Exclusive private guided tours of either the State Rooms or 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story', are available before 10.30am or after 4.45pm. Prices on application. Minimum numbers apply

- Groups constitute a minimum of 15 paying visitors
- Children under 5 years are admitted free of charge
- Tour Leaders, Blue Badge Guides and coach drivers have complimentary admission to the Palace, Park and Gardens.

Season	Description
Overall Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 12 February to Friday 16 December 2011 • Saturday 12 February to Sunday 30 October 2011 open daily • Wednesday 2 Nov to Friday 16 Dec 2011 open Wednesday to Sunday
Opening Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palace & Gardens open daily from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm (last admission 4.45pm) with areas to be vacated by 6:00 pm • Park open daily from 9:00 am to 4:45 pm (last admission) except Christmas Day – all areas to be vacated by 6.30pm latest
Low Season	21 February to 31 March and 2 November – 16 December *Excludes Living Crafts Show 18 – 20 November when main season prices apply.
Main Season	12 - 20 February and 1 April – 30 October

Park & Gardens	Low Season Group	Main Season Group	Individual tickets	Palace Park & Gardens	Low Season Group	Main Season Group	Individual tickets
Adult	£5.65	£7.10	£11.00	Adult	£10.75	£12.70	£19.00
Concs	£4.50	£5.80	£8.00	Concs	£9.60	£11.00	£15.00
Child	£2.10	£3.40	£5.50	Child	£6.20	£6.90	£10.50

WOODSTOCK

Blenheim Palace is situated in Woodstock, a picturesque Oxfordshire market town, which boasts famous hotels and restaurants in an historic setting. For more information contact the Woodstock VIC Tel: +44 (0) 1993 813276 or email Woodstock@westoxon.gov.uk or visit www.wakeuptowoodstock.com

Group bookings and enquiries:

Tel: +44 (0) 1993 811091

Fax: +44 (0) 1993 810570

or email operations@blenheimpalace.com

Tickets for groups of 15-25 can also be booked online by visiting www.blenheimpalace.com

Catering enquiries:

Blenheim Palace Hospitality

Tel: +44 (0) 1993 813874

Buy One Day Get 12 Months Free!

Every visitor who buys a full price ticket to the Palace, Park and Gardens can convert the ticket into an Annual Pass – for free! An upgrade is payable on the Group discount tickets to receive the Annual Pass. For full details and terms visit www.blenheimpalace.com

HOW TO GET HERE:

By bus:

The S3 to Woodstock runs from Oxford Train Station and Gloucester Green (coach station) at 30 minute intervals and stops at the Palace gates. The Palace is a 10 minute walk from the gates.

By rail:

Trains run regularly from London Paddington and Marylebone and from Birmingham to Oxford. Call 08457 48 49 50. Taxi and bus connections available.

By road:

Blenheim Palace is 8 miles North West of Oxford on the A44 Evesham Road, Easily accessible from London and Birmingham via the M40 (junction 9) Signposted from all directions.

Journey durations:

From Oxford – 20 minutes; from central London 1½ hours; Stratford upon Avon 45 minutes; Bath 1½ hours.

Parking:

Free car and coach parking is available in the grounds



BLenheim PALACE

www.blenheimpalace.com

Free phone : 0800 849 6500 (24 hr recorded message)

Blenheim Palace • Woodstock • Oxfordshire • OX20 1PX

The right to close the Palace, the Park and the Gardens or to change prices at any time without prior notice is reserved. Please check prior to your visit. The right to withdraw the facilities or to cancel or change any of the dates and nature of the events without notice is reserved.

