

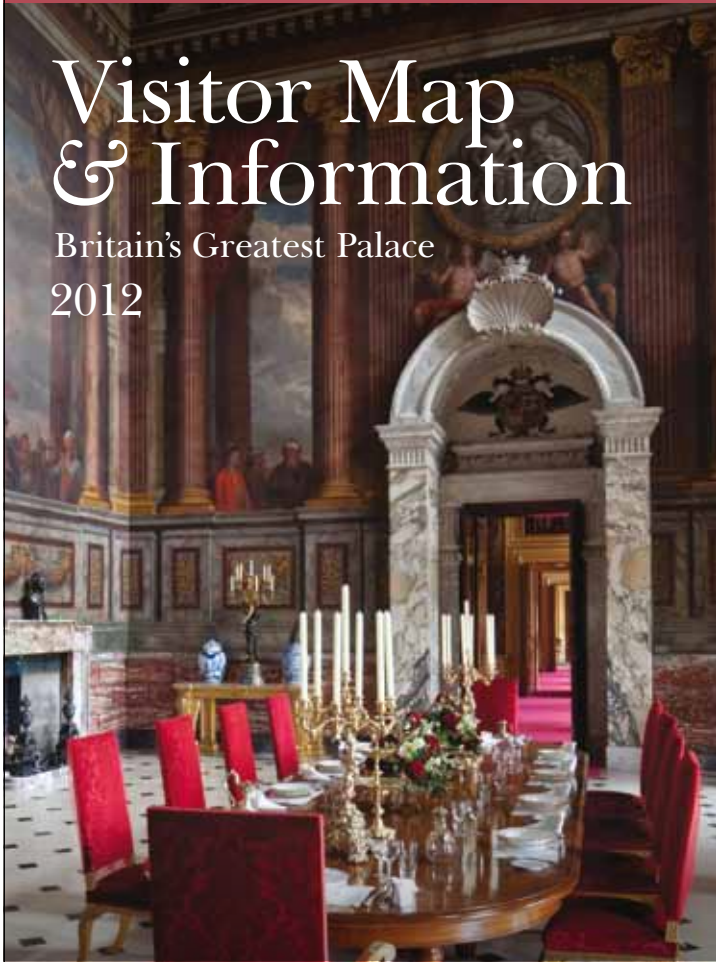


BLENHEIM PALACE

BUY ONE DAY, GET 12 MONTHS FREE!

# Visitor Map & Information

Britain's Greatest Palace  
2012



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[www.facebook.com/blenheimpalace](http://www.facebook.com/blenheimpalace)



## Welcome

My wife and I are delighted that you have visited Blenheim Palace and we look forward to sharing with you the treasures of our historic home and its glorious surroundings.

The Palace and its Formal Gardens and Park were created a World Heritage Site in 1987 and a great deal of restoration and conservation work has been undertaken in recent years, despite the fact that we do not currently receive any external funding support.

In 2012 we are delighted to be able to put into place major repairs to the stonework around The Great Court as well as bringing forward a major re-development within the East Courtyard to provide new catering and shopping facilities for the enjoyment of our visitors.

Your visit makes an important contribution to these ongoing restoration, conservation and development programmes, which are necessary to ensure the Palace, and its wonderful grounds are preserved for future generations.



We are very proud to be a member of the Treasure Houses of England – a collection of the finest heritage properties in the country. We hope that your time here at Blenheim Palace will inspire you to visit these magnificent houses and you will find details of the Treasure Houses group below.

Please enjoy your visit today and if you have any questions please feel free to ask any of our staff for assistance.

*Thank you for joining us today, thank you for your continued support and we hope that you will return again very soon.*

*Marlborough.*

### The Treasure Houses of England

Blenheim Palace is a member of the Treasure Houses of England group. The Treasure Houses of England are ten of the most magnificent palaces, houses and castles in England today including Beaulieu, Burghley House, Castle Howard, Chatsworth, Harewood House, Hatfield House, Holkham Hall, Leeds Castle and Woburn Abbey. Pick up a Treasure Houses voucher leaflet at the Palace entrance that provides 2 for 1 entry to the other Treasure Houses.

For more information and special offers visit [www.treasurehouses.co.uk](http://www.treasurehouses.co.uk)



## VISITING THE PALACE

For locations, please use the reference numbers marked on the map overleaf.

The main entrance to the Palace is located within the Great Court. ① The stone steps up to the main front doors take you into the Great Hall.

### ① *The State Rooms* (Allow between 30 – 40 minutes)

Tours begin in the Great Hall. Guided tours of the State Rooms and the priceless collection of family portraits, furniture and tapestries, are available throughout the season, except on Sundays, Bank Holidays and very busy days when a free flow system is in place. Tours end in the Long Library exiting via the Chapel. Music is played in the Long Library or Chapel on most Sunday afternoons. Please return to the Great Hall entrance to visit “*Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story*”.

### ① *The Churchill Exhibition*

This exhibition provides fascinating insight into the life of Sir Winston Churchill including the room where he was born in 1874. Situated west of the Great Hall, please enter the exhibition before beginning a State Room tour.

### *Souvenir Guide Books*

Attractive guidebooks make a wonderful keepsake of your visit. They are available to purchase at entrance gates, in the Great Hall, or any of the shops.

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

### ① “*Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story*” – 300 Years of Enticing Tales (Allow up to 40 minutes)

This permanent visitor experience brings to life dramatic events of the Marlborough family and the household staff, over the past three centuries.

Turn left as you enter the Great Hall to reach the stairs to the entrance. The experience is self-guided, with audio and visual narrative throughout. Language translations are available at the entrance. The exit is via a staircase down to the Water Terraces Café ④. Please return to the Great Hall entrance to join a State Rooms tour if required.

We regret that this route is unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Information on an alternative facility is available at the Flagstaff Information Point. ①

### ⑥ *Private Apartments* (Allow approximately 30 minutes)

The apartments in the East Wing where the family live are open for tours during the summer months (at the discretion of the family). Please ask at the nearest ticket point for availability. A small extra charge applies. The tour is not suitable for children under five or wheelchair users.

## AROUND THE GARDENS & PARK

For locations, please use the reference numbers marked on the map overleaf.

There are over 2,000 acres of ‘Capability’ Brown landscaped parkland and 100 acres of Formal Gardens to explore. An enlightening **Audio Garden Tour** is available at £3 from the Churchill Shop ② up to the summer and the Flagstaff shop from the summer. Walking shoes are recommended for the paths around the Lake.

### *The Formal Gardens* (Allow at least an hour)

- ⑦ Water Terraces
- ⑰ Secret Garden
- ⑮ Italian Garden
- ⑳ The Rose Garden

### *The Park Highlights* (Allow at least an hour)

- ⑳ Temple of Diana
- ㉗ Arboretum
- ㉘ Grand Cascade
- ㉙ Lake & Vanbrugh’s Grand Bridge
- ㉚ Column of Victory

### ⑰ – ㉚ *The Pleasure Gardens*

This area is perfect for families and can be reached by miniature train ⑭ every 30 minutes from the Palace (daily during the main season and at weekends at other times), or a 15minute walk. Parking is available.

### ⑤ *Indoor Cinema* (Allow up to an hour)

Located in the Stables, the Indoor Cinema shows a variety of documentaries and films shot at Blenheim Palace.

### ⑤ *Churchill’s Destiny*

Set in the Stables, this exhibition celebrates the parallels of two military leaders, Winston Churchill and his ancestor the 1st Duke of Marlborough.

### ⑪ *Blenheim Palace Buggies*

Take in the awe-inspiring views of the Lake and parkland from a seven-seat buggy. 20minute tours start from Flagstaff Information Point.

Tours are subject to weather conditions and include a small additional charge.

### *Dog walking*

Dogs are welcome in the Park on leads but are not allowed in the Courtyards or the Gardens. Please clean up after your dog.

## SHOPPING AND DINING

### *Cafés*

- The Water Terrace Café ④  
Open daily from 10am – 5.30pm
- The Champagne Bar ④  
Open daily inside the Water Terraces Café
- The Indian Room ④  
Afternoon Teas and exclusive use.  
Reservations: 01993 813874 or  
sales@blenheimhospitality.com
- The Oxfordshire Pantry ⑫  
Opening in Summer 2012
- The Pleasure Gardens Deli ㉔  
Open 10.30am daily, except  
Christmas Day

### *Shops*

- Shopping Marquee ⑩  
Open daily until Summer  
10am – 5.30pm
- The Flagstaff Shop ⑫  
Open in Summer, daily 10am – 5.30pm  
(11am – 4pm in closed season)
- The Palace Shop ①  
Open daily 11am – 5.30pm
- The Churchill Shop ②  
Open daily 11am – 5pm
- The Pleasure Gardens Shop ㉓  
Open during main season and school  
holidays 11am – 5pm

## SPECIAL EVENTS

For more information visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)  
To purchase advance tickets visit [www.blenheimpalace.com/tickets](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/tickets)

11th Feb – 9th April

**John Piper at Blenheim Palace**  
A special exhibition of 20th century British artist John Piper (1903 – 1992) *PPG*

6th – 7th April

**The Great Blenheim Palace Easter Egg Challenge** (Easter Weekend) *P&G*

8th – 9th April

**Peppa Pig and George characters** as well as **The Piplings** from TV show **Waybuloo** *P&G*

5th – 7th May

**Blenheim Palace Jousting Tournament** (Bank Holiday) *P&G*

2nd – 5th June

**Diamond Jubilee celebrations** including **Children's Characters** on 3rd, **Bunbury's Celebrity Cricket Match** and **'Afternoon Tea'** on 4th, **Massed Brass Bands** on 5th

4th June – 17th Sept

**Paul Cummins' Ceramic Flowers** – a Gardens Installation *P&G*

9th – 10th June

**GE Blenheim Triathlon**  
[www.theblenheimtriathlon.com](http://www.theblenheimtriathlon.com)

13th – 23rd June (inclusive)

**The Oxford School of Drama presents: Summer Shakespeare**  
Separate admission applies

9th July

**'London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route'** at Blenheim Palace

14th July

**Battle Proms Evening Picnic Concert**  
Separate admission applies  
[www.battleproms.com](http://www.battleproms.com)

15th July

**Mini & VW Show** *P&G*

21st July – 31st August

**Summer Holiday Entertainment**  
Including celebrations in conjunction with **London 2012 Olympics** *P&G*

3rd – 5th August

**Blenheim Palace Jousting Tournament** *P&G*

18th – 19th August

**Bike Blenheim Palace**  
– A Festival of Cycling  
[www.bikeblenheimpalace.com](http://www.bikeblenheimpalace.com) *P&G*

26th – 27th August

**The 7th Oxfordshire Classic Vehicle Show** (Bank Holiday)  
Includes **Supercar Picnic & Bike Display** on 27th *P&G*

6th – 9th September

**Fidelity Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials**  
Separate admission applies  
[www.blenheim-horse.co.uk](http://www.blenheim-horse.co.uk)

12th – 16th September

**The Independent Woodstock Literary Festival**  
Separate admission applies  
[www.woodstockliteraryfestival.com](http://www.woodstockliteraryfestival.com)

23rd September

**MG Car Club 50th Anniversary Rally** *P&G*  
[www.mgb50.com](http://www.mgb50.com)

7th October

**BHF Blenheim Palace Half Marathon**  
Separate admission applies  
[www.bhf.org.uk/blenheim](http://www.bhf.org.uk/blenheim) *P&G*

27th Oct – 4th November

**Halloween Entertainment**  
*PPG + P&G*

10th Nov – 14th December

**Christmas at Blenheim Palace**  
*PPG + P&G*

16th – 18th November

**Living Crafts for Christmas**  
Advance tickets available  
[www.livingcrafts.co.uk](http://www.livingcrafts.co.uk) *P&G*

15th December

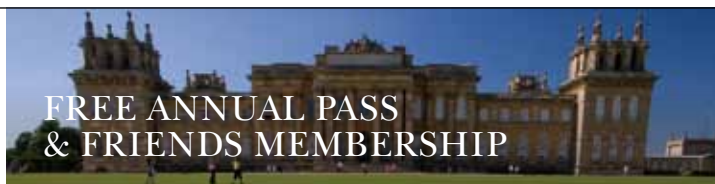
**Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens closed for the winter**  
Park remains open daily (except Christmas Day)

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

*PPG: Palace, Park & 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.*



## FREE ANNUAL PASS & FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Visit again with the Annual Pass offer, or engage further with the premium membership – Friends of the Blenheim Palace Foundation Charity.

### Annual Pass – Buy One Day, Get 12 Months Free

When you buy a ticket to the Palace you can get an Annual Pass – free. Simply convert your ticket today at the Annual Pass kiosk ⑩ in the East Courtyard or online (within 7 days of your visit) at [www.freeannualpass.com](http://www.freeannualpass.com)

The free Annual Pass is not available with a Park and Gardens ticket; an upgrade is payable. For full details, terms and conditions visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com) or ask a member of staff.

### Friends of the Blenheim Palace Foundation Charity

This premium membership is perfect for frequent visitors who wish to support us in our work to maintain and improve Blenheim Palace for the future, by contributing to ongoing restoration and conservation.

Friends receive special benefits and invitations to exclusive events as well as great value entry for 12 months from the date of purchase, including unlimited access to all public areas within the Palace, Park and Gardens, special events and exhibitions. Most daytime events are included free within the Friends membership.

Benefits include:

- 10% discount at any Café
- 10% discount at any Shop (not valid for purchase of Friends membership)
- Quarterly newsletter and e-news
- Access to exclusive Friends Hospitality lounge
- Monthly exclusive Friends events including a Summer Garden Party and Christmas Reception

Membership can be purchased at Flagstaff Shop ⑫, please ask for the application leaflet. For information please call 01993 811091 or visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Opening Times

The Palace and Formal Gardens open daily until 4th November, then Wednesday to Sunday inclusive from 7th November to 14th December 2012.

The park is open daily from 9am to 6pm (last entry 4.45pm) except Christmas Day.

The Park opens at 9am, the Formal Gardens at 10am, the Palace at 10.30am.

Last admission to the Palace, Park and Pleasure Gardens is at 4.45pm. The Palace and Pleasure Gardens close at 5.30pm, the Gardens and Park at 6pm. We request that all cars have left the premises by 6.30pm.

### Disabled Access

The majority of the Palace and Gardens is accessible for wheelchair users. Toilet facilities in the Palace and at the Pleasure Gardens have been specially adapted. The Gardens are accessible via the Fisherman's Gate.

Specific information and gate code are available from Flagstaff Information Point ⑪. Facilities are available for disabled visitors to view a short film of "Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story" next to the Indoor Cinema. ⑤

General Enquiries:

Email: [operations@blenheimpalace.com](mailto:operations@blenheimpalace.com)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1993 811091

