



More than just a day out
Group Visits 2018





A Warm Welcome...

Receive a warm welcome into the home of the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Wonder at this masterpiece of 18th century Baroque architecture and explore our World Heritage Site with over 2000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped Parkland and Formal Gardens.

Highlights for 2018 include new bespoke tours and a Victorian Passions and Pursuits exhibition.

We aim to offer your group an enriching day out and hope that they will take pleasure in exploring this national treasure.

Blenheim Palace is Britain's Greatest Palace and offers visitors a precious time, every time.

The Palace

With over 300 years of history to discover, Blenheim Palace delivers an awe-inspiring experience for groups. The Palace sets the delicate detail of its stunning portraits, tapestries and furniture against the scale and ambition of its interior architecture, characterised by ornate ceilings and striking stonework.





The Park

Admire the beautiful scenery within the spectacular 2000-acre parkland landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, with an unrivalled combination of unspoilt natural beauty, wildlife and historical monuments.

The Gardens

Blenheim Palace boasts a collection of stunning Formal Gardens including the Water Terraces, Rose Garden, Secret Garden, Churchill Memorial Garden and The Duke's Italian Garden.

A short miniature train ride* from the Palace is the Pleasure Gardens, with a Butterfly House, Lavender Garden, Marlborough Hedge Maze and the 'Blenheim Bygones' Exhibition.

Shopping & Dining

Our cafés and restaurants cater for all tastes and serve locally sourced, fresh food every day. Enjoy a light bite, three-course lunches or Afternoon Tea at any of our eateries, or book a private dining room for your group. For more information on private dining and to book please contact our Group Sales Team.

Our shops offer a wide variety of souvenirs, gifts and locally made products, with many ranges exclusive to Blenheim Palace. Find the perfect gift for a loved one or treat yourself to any of our clothing, jewellery, food, drink and home wares.

*Small additional charge applies of 50p per single journey, under 5s ride free. Trains leave every 30 minutes from the Palace.



Exhibitions & Experiences

New for 2018

We have a range of enriching experiences included within the price of a Palace, Park & Gardens ticket that take place year-round.

NEW! Victorian Passions and Pursuits

This new exhibition drawn from the internationally acclaimed Cecil Higgins Art Gallery Collection is a romp through Victorian art. No other period in art history has been so full of stylistic extremes from the older traditional artists to the Aesthetes, the Pre – Raphaelites to the Decadents and the Social Satirists to the Exquisites. The exhibition charts the period chronologically showing how these styles grew and flourished alongside one another. The exhibition features the work of J.M.W. Turner, Frederic, Lord Leighton, Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, James McNeill Whistler, Richard Dadd and Aubrey Beardsley.

State Room Tours

(30 - 40 minutes)

English-speaking guided tours of the State Rooms run daily, except on Sundays and Bank Holiday weekends, when a free-flow system operates.

These tours are included in the price of a ticket but if you would prefer your group to remain together you will need to book a private guide at a cost of £40 for up to 30 people.

The Churchill Exhibition

(30 – 40 minutes)

Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace in November 1874. Our dedicated exhibition, set around the room in which he was born, reveals the personal side of our ‘Greatest Briton’ through photographs, extracts from his diaries, artefacts and a number of other fascinating elements.

Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story

(40 minutes)

A visitor experience bringing to life events of the Marlborough family and the household staff over the past three centuries. The experience is an automated tour with audio and visual narrative throughout. Language translations are available at the entrance.

Please note this experience is not suitable for wheelchair and buggy users. A short film of ‘The Untold Story’ is available in our Indoor Cinema.

‘Churchills’ Destiny –

The story of two great war leaders’

Set in the old stables, this exhibition celebrates the parallels of two successful military leaders, Sir Winston Churchill and his ancestor the 1st Duke of Marlborough, for whom Blenheim Palace was built.



Enhance your visit

Offer your group a truly unforgettable day with any of our additional experiences and tours, which can be added to your itinerary.

Upstairs, Downstairs and Behind Closed Doors

For a limited time each year, we offer three different tours of the Private Side of the Palace, an area historically closed to the public. Discover the rooms in which the Marlborough family have lived for generations with a Private Apartments tour, explore the bedrooms used by the family and their illustrious guests across the Palace's history in the 'Upstairs' Tour, or gain an insight into the lives of the household staff, both past and present, with a 'Downstairs' Tour.

Please note these tours are not accessible for wheelchair or buggy users with the exception of 'Downstairs'. Additional charges apply. These tours must be booked on the day by individuals and are subject to seasonality and availability.

See the Park by Buggy

We have a range of buggy tours available, including a scenic trip round the Queen Pool complete with historical anecdotes and a tour of the Formal Gardens.

These tours are subject to weather conditions, must be booked on the day by individuals and incur additional charges.

Themed Talks & Tours

Themed talks and tours are a perfect way to offer your group a more specialised experience, packaged to include refreshments on arrival, a talk on your chosen subject and a private tour of the Palace.

Themed talks and tours look at some of the personalities, periods and significant developments at Blenheim Palace in more detail.

2018 Talks & Tours

- NEW! Victorian passions and pursuits
- Hatches, Matches & Dispatches
- Restoration and Conservation
- 300 years of the Palace's History
- A Closer Look at the Baroque
- Paintings & Portraits
- A Walk in the Past - a historical view of the Park & Gardens
- 'Capability' Brown: Visionary or Vandal?
- Consuelo Vanderbilt and Blenheim Palace
- Lights, Camera, Action! Filming at Blenheim Palace
- Running a Great Estate

For further information and a full list of themed talks and tours please contact the Group Sales Team. For prices, see overleaf.



Events

There is something for everyone to enjoy in our busy year-round calendar. Highlights for groups include:

NEW! Chinese New Year Celebration

17th February

Victorian Passions and Pursuits Exhibition

10th February – 16th April

Easter Carnival & Family Entertainment

30th March – 2nd April

Jousting Tournament 'The Knights of Royal England' Plus falconry and other activities

5th – 7th May

The Blenheim Palace Food Festival

26th – 28th May

Blenheim Palace Flower Show

22nd – 24th June

*BBC Countryfile Live**

2nd – 5th August

Blenheim Palace Festival of Transport

26th – 27th August

Blenheim Palace Classic and Supercar

2nd September

Contemporary Art Exhibition

20th September – 2nd January 2019

Festive Entertainment Programme

10th November – 2nd January 2019

Living Crafts for Christmas

15th – 18th November

*Christmas at Blenheim Light Trail**

23rd November – 1st January 2019

For more information and a full list of events please visit www.blenheimpalace.com

*Please note all events are provisional and subject to change. * Separate admission charges apply.*



Helpful Information

Booking

To ensure that your visit to Blenheim Palace is as enjoyable and efficient as possible and to benefit from the group discount rate you must pre book your visit. Please contact our Group Sales Team to do this: Call: 01993 815600
Email: groups@blenheimpalace.com

Payment methods

Upon arrival, tour leaders should go to the Flagstaff Visitor 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 Heritage Foundation'. Major credit cards and debit cards are accepted. Tour and Coach Operators wishing to set up an account with us should contact the Groups Sales Team in advance.

- Groups constitute a minimum of 15 paying visitors
- Children under five years enter free of charge
- Blue Badge Guides, carers and commercial coach drivers are offered complimentary admission to the Palace, Park and Gardens. In addition, commercial coach drivers will be given a £5 voucher for use in any of our on-site cafés.

Accessibility

Every effort is made to ensure that our visitors 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 State Rooms tour.

Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are available free of charge on a first come, first-served basis (a small refundable deposit is required for mobility scooters). To see our full access statement please visit blenheimpalace.com.

Opening Times and Ticket Prices

Blenheim Palace is open daily year-round except for Christmas Day*

Venue	Opening Hours
Park	9:00 – 18:00 or dusk if earlier
Formal Gardens	10:00 – 17:30
Palace High Season	10:00 – 17:30 (last admission 16:45)
Palace Low Season	10.30 – 16:30 (last admission 15:45)

Seasonal Dates for Groups	
Low Season	1st January - 31st March
Main Season	1st April - 31st December

Palace, Park & Gardens Ticket	Low Season	Main Season
Adult	£13.20	£15.80
Concession	£11.90	£13.80
Child	£7.40	£8.20
Park & Gardens Tickets	Low Season	Main Season
Adult	£7.20	£9.00
Concession	£6.00	£7.50
Child	£3.00	£4.10

*Prices and opening times are subject to change. *Blenheim Palace reserves the right to change any of its opening times and events or to restrict or refuse access at any time without notice. You are strongly advised to check the relevant details before visiting.*

Themed Talk and Tour Prices 2018	Low Season	Main Season
Adult	£23.20	£25.80
Concession	£21.90	£23.80
Child	£17.40	£18.20

(Price includes Palace entry and refreshments)

The Visitor Business at Blenheim has now become part of a charity which has been set up to restore, conserve and share Blenheim Palace - this ensures that every penny you spend with us will be spent on enhancing the Palace, Park and Gardens. HMRC rules say that we can only offer an annual pass to visitors who donate the cost of their admission to Blenheim Palace Heritage Foundation instead of buying a standard ticket. They also state that we can only accept donations from individuals and not via a third party, such as a tour operator or group organiser - meaning that we cannot any longer offer the annual pass to our group visitors. Though launching the gift aid scheme has put some limits on our previous annual pass scheme it does mean we can raise extra funds for essential conservation work on our world Heritage Site.

