



BLENHEIM PALACE

Britain's Greatest Palace

Birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

GROUP VISITS 2019



The perfect day out for group visits

We warmly welcome group visits, and have a dedicated team working closely with tour leaders in providing truly memorable visits to our unique World Heritage Site.

Blenheim Palace

Explore over 300 years of the history, stories and treasures of this magnificent Palace. Share the splendours of Baroque architecture and wonder at the Collection, which includes art, tapestries and fine furniture.

The Palace was a gift from Queen Anne to the 1st Duke of Marlborough after he defeated the French at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. It is now home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family.

Discover the life of Sir Winston Churchill, including the room in which he was born at Blenheim Palace.

Park

Enjoy 2000 acres of beautiful 'Capability' Brown landscaped Parkland, with inspiring views, monuments and a rich variety of wildlife.

Gardens

Relax in the beautiful Formal Gardens, including the Water Terraces, Rose Garden and Churchill Memorial Garden. Visit the Temple of Diana – the romantic spot where Churchill proposed to his beloved Clementine Hozier.

Family Pleasure Gardens

A miniature train* takes visitors to enjoy a Butterfly House, Lavender Garden, Marlborough Hedge Maze and the 'Blenheim Bygones' Exhibition.

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



Dining and Shopping

Restaurants and Cafés

Our cafés and restaurants cater for all tastes serving locally sourced, fresh food every day. Enjoy a light bite, a hot lunch or afternoon tea, or choose fine dining on an individual basis in our Orangery Restaurant. For groups who wish to dine together, we offer a specialised groups menu served in a private room. Options include two or three course lunches, buffets, morning coffees or afternoon teas. Booking and pre-payment are essential.

East Courtyard Shop

Choose from a variety of exclusive gifts, souvenirs and locally made products, with many ranges exclusive to Blenheim Palace.

Event Highlights for 2019 include:

- Complimentary audio guides (available in nine languages)
- ‘Young Turner’ and ‘Churchill as an Artist’ Exhibitions
- International Garden Photographer of the Year Exhibition
- Shakespeare’s Rose Theatre - Summer performances of Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Richard III

Contact 01993 815600 or email groups@blenheimpalace.com

Exhibitions & Experiences



The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective

16th February – 22nd April 2019

This exhibition presents some of Turner's first commissions and some of his most celebrated topographical works. It focuses on his drawings, paintings and engravings from the 1780s to the 1810s, which exemplify his interest in architecture, his increasing expertise in depicting this subject matter, his growing knowledge of perspective, and some of the sources of his inspiration. Among the collection are Turner's first sketchbook and some of his diagrams for the lectures in perspective he gave at the Royal Academy, which have rarely been exhibited.

'Churchill as an Artist' Exhibition

10th February - 22nd April 2019

Visitors have a unique opportunity to view a collection of Churchill's paintings that will be on display in the Palace State Rooms and Long Library. The main works are oil on canvas impressionist landscapes, painted whilst Churchill was on holiday in the South of France and Morocco. Works include: 'Marrakech', 'Coast Scene on the Riviera' and 'Boat in Cannes Harbour'.

Audio Guide Tours

Our new audio guides are included within the group entrance rates. They give visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in over 300 years of fascinating history at their own pace. At the touch of a button visitors can delve deeper into the history, stories and treasures of the Palace's past. The guides are available in nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Mandarin, Japanese and Russian.

State Room Tours

Between 9.30am – 10.15am daily
plus 4pm – 4.45pm in Main Season (45 minutes)

For those groups who prefer to experience a more personal touch, we can offer a private guided tour of the State Rooms with our expert Palace Guides (language tours are available on request). The tour is only available at limited times of the day and pre booking with the Group Sales Team is essential. All private tours are subject to availability.

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)

An automated tour with audio and visual narrative brings to life events of the Marlborough family and the household staff over the past three centuries. Language translations are available.

This experience is not suitable for wheelchair and buggy users, but a short film of 'The Untold Story' is available in our Indoor Cinema.

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 summer, 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 are not bookable for groups as the numbers per tour are limited, however they may be booked on the day or via our website 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 around 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

Themed talks are a perfect way to offer your group a bespoke experience. Our specialist speakers will give an insight into areas of particular interest and significant developments at Blenheim Palace, in an enjoyable and informative way:

- 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

Themed Talks cost £40 for up to 50 people and catering may be added at an additional charge. All talks are subject to availability.

For further information and a full list of talks please contact the Group Sales Team.



Events

Offer your group a truly unforgettable day by arranging your visit alongside one of our fantastic events.

Many events are included within the group entry rates* offering a great value day out.



The Young Turner Exhibition

16th February - 22nd April

'Churchill as an Artist' Exhibition

10th February - 22nd April

Cotswold Antiques Dealers Association

Antiques Fair* 21st – 24th February

Jousting Tournament

4th - 6th May

Blenheim Palace Food Festival

25th – 27th May

International Garden Photographer of the Year Exhibition

7th June - 20th August

Blenheim Palace Flower Show

21st – 23rd June

Contemporary Art Exhibition

(Details and dates to be confirmed)

Battle Proms Picnic Concert*

6th July

Shakespeare's Rose Theatre*

8th July - 7th September

Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet,

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard III

BBC Countryfile Live*

1st – 4th August

Blenheim Palace Classic and Supercar Show

8th September

Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music*

10th – 13th October

Living Crafts for Christmas

14th – 17th November

Christmas at Blenheim*

22nd November – 1st January

Christmas Market, Evening Lights Trail
and Festive Palace Experience

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

* Separate admission charges apply to those events marked by an asterisk.

Please note all events are provisional and subject to change.

You are strongly advised to check blenheimpalace.com for finalised dates closer to the event/s.

Helpful Information

Booking

To ensure that your visit to Blenheim Palace is as enjoyable and efficient as possible, and to secure the lowest entry prices, we would like to request that you book your visit at least 24 hours in advance.

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 Palace 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 coach drivers are offered complimentary admission to the Palace, Park and Gardens. In addition, 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 our website.

Opening Times and Pre-Booked Ticket Prices

Blenheim Palace is open throughout the year. 'Christmas at Blenheim' is operated by a separate event company therefore different prices and procedures will apply.*

Venue	Opening Hours
Park	9:00 – 18:00 or dusk if earlier
Formal Gardens	10:00 – 18:00
Palace Low Season	10.30 - 16.30 (last admission 15.45)
Palace Main Season	10:30 – 17:30 (last admission 16:45)

Seasonal Dates for Groups (15 or more)	
Low Season	1st January - 31st March 2019
Main Season	1st April - 21st November 2019
Christmas at Blenheim	22nd November 2019 - 5th January 2020

Palace, Park & Gardens Ticket Inc Audio Guide	Low Season	Main Season
Adult	£17.30	£18.50
Concession	£15.30	£16.50
Child	£9.70	£10.00
Park & Gardens Tickets	Low Season	Main Season
Adult	£9.00	£10.00
Concession	£7.50	£8.50
Child	£4.10	£4.30

Christmas - Separate prices apply for the Christmas period

*All prices and opening times are subject to change. Blenheim Palace reserves the right to close at short notice or change any of its opening times and events or to restrict or refuse access at any time without notice. All changes will be posted on our website and you are strongly advised to check the relevant details before visiting.

Getting here

By Road

Eight miles north-west of Oxford, on the A44 Evesham Road, Blenheim Palace is easily accessible from London and Birmingham. For sat nav directions, please use OX20 1UL.

Journey Durations

Blenheim Palace is 20 minutes from Oxford, one hour 30 minutes from central London, 45 minutes from Stratford-upon-Avon and one hour 30 minutes from Bath. We are conveniently located 15 miles from Bicester Village.

Parking

Free car and coach parking is available in the grounds with the exception of certain event days, when parking may be charged (please check with the Groups Sales Team).

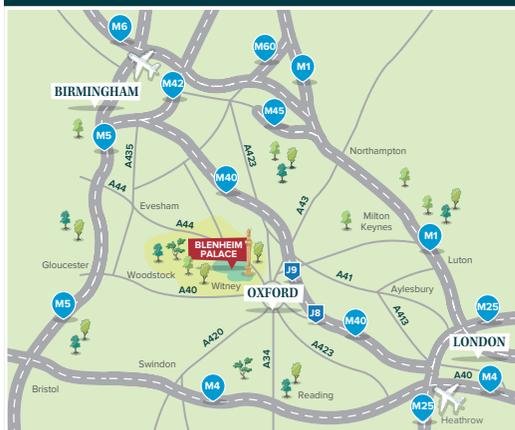
By Train

Trains run regularly from London Paddington, Marylebone and Birmingham to Hanborough, Oxford Parkway and the city of Oxford. For all rail enquiries visit nationalrail.co.uk or call **08457 484950**

By Bus

500 Bus Service from Oxford Parkway. The S3 bus service to Woodstock runs every 30 minutes from Oxford Train Station and Gloucester Green bus station and stops at the Palace gates.

For bus/coach enquiries visit stagecoachbus.com or call **01865 772250**



Explore the local area...

The historic market town of Woodstock is a perfect place to visit, stay, eat and shop. Visit wakeuptowoodstock.com or experienceoxfordshire.com

To find out more and to book, visit blenheimpalace.com, call **01993 815600** or email groups@blenheimpalace.com