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BLENHEIM PALACE

◆ A WORLD HERITAGE SITE ◆



2011

◆ BRITAIN'S GREATEST PALACE ◆





Inspirational



Welcome to Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough. The Palace was a gift from Queen Anne and a grateful nation to the 1st Duke following his famous victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704.



Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace in 1874. Visit the permanent Churchill Exhibition including the room where he was born, and gain a fascinating insight into our 'Greatest Briton'.

Guided tours of the State Rooms reveal the rich history of the Palace and its collection including a magnificent series of tapestries charting the glorious victories of the 1st Duke of Marlborough during the Wars of the Spanish Succession.

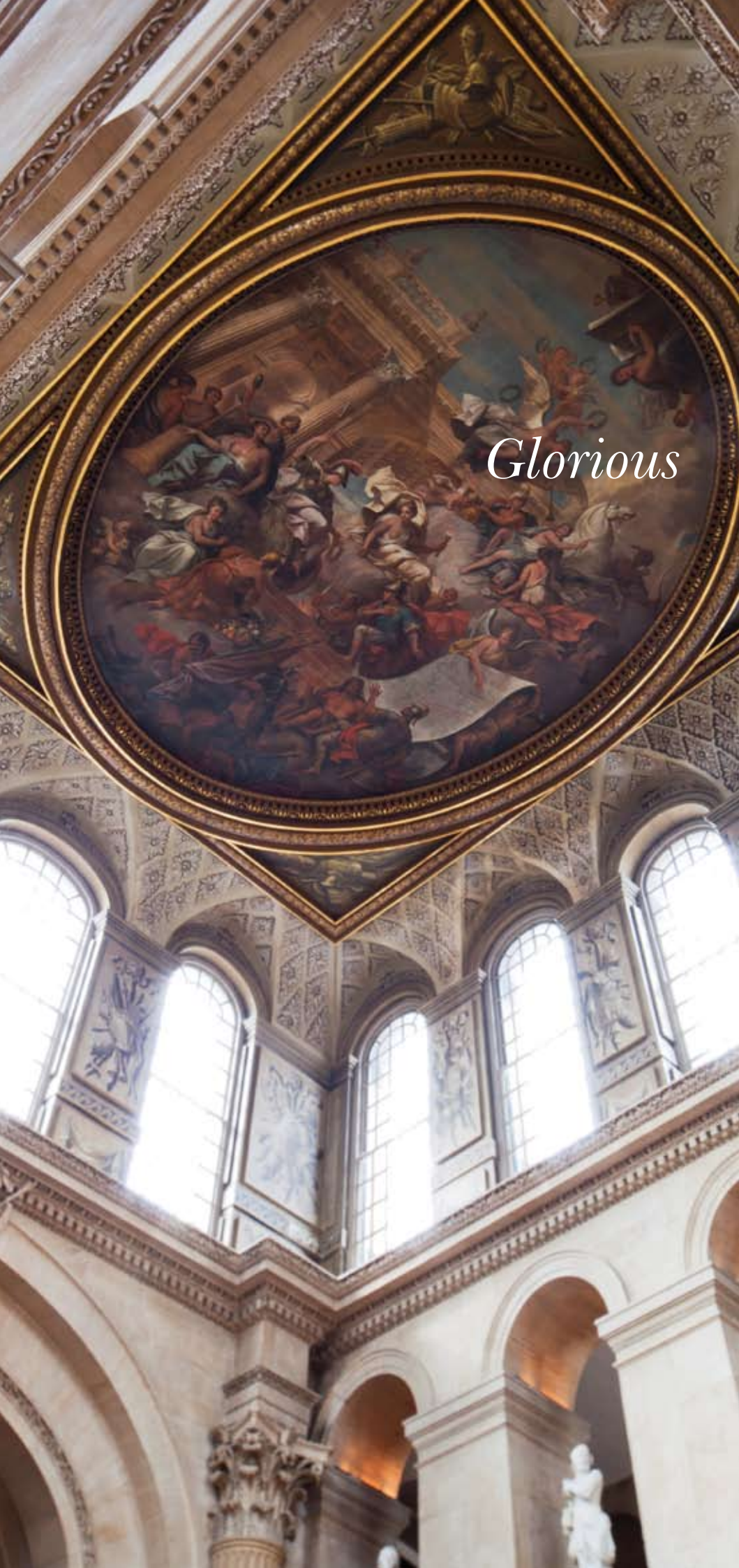
Left
Lake and Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge

Above
South Front of the Palace

'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story' is a permanent visitor experience open inside the Palace bringing an intriguing twist on dramatic events of the last 300 years, as told by household staff.

Named a World Heritage Site in 1987, the Palace is surrounded by award-winning Formal Gardens and 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped Park and the great lake.

We look forward to welcoming you to Blenheim Palace in 2011.



Glorious



Marvel at the sheer scale and grandeur of the Great Hall and the opulence of the State Rooms which house an exquisite collection of portraits, furniture, tapestries and porcelain, leading on to the magnificence of the Long Library.



The State Rooms are adorned with an impressive collection of family portraits including a painting by Closterman of the 1st Duke and his family in the Great Hall, and Sargent's painting of the 9th Duke in the Red Drawing Room.

The Saloon boasts remarkable murals painted by Louis Laguerre. Taking pride of place in the Green Writing Room is the famous Blenheim Tapestry showing the 1st Duke in his hour of triumph after the Battle of Blenheim.



Originally planned by Vanbrugh as a "*noble room for Parade*", the Long Library is considered to be Nicholas Hawksmoor's finest room at Blenheim Palace. It measures 56 metres long.

Top
The Saloon

Far Left
The Great Hall

Left
The Long Library

Awe-Inspiring



The tranquil beauty of ‘Capability’ Brown’s landscaped parkland and great lake provide an awe-inspiring setting for the Palace. This is the view which Turner painted and which made George III exclaim: *“We have nothing to equal this!”*



The award-winning Formal Gardens are a highlight of a visit to Blenheim Palace including the majestic Water Terraces, the secluded Secret Garden, the colourful Rose Garden and the ornate Italian Garden.

The parkland transforms with the seasons with banks of daffodils in the spring, fragrant blooms in the summer months, golden beech and oak trees in autumn, and the twinkling frost on the sweeping lawns is stunning in winter.

Walks in the Park provide stunning views taking in the newly restored Dam and Cascade, Vanbrugh’s Grand Bridge and the Column of Victory where the engraved account of the 1st Duke’s military campaign can be read. An audio garden tour is available offering further insight about the Park and Formal Gardens.

Left
Newly restored Cascade

Right
Lake view



The Pleasure Gardens are perfect for families and lie within the original Walled Garden. A ride on the miniature train from the Palace will take you to the Adventure Play Area, the Butterfly House, the giant Marlborough Hedge Maze and the ‘Blenheim Bygones’ Exhibition.

In the Courtyards, a special exhibition ‘Churchills’ Destiny – The Story of Two Great War Leaders’ runs all year. Just opposite, an Indoor Cinema features films and documentaries about the Palace and its Gardens.



Restaurants, Shopping & Hospitality

Eating at the Palace

We pride ourselves on using the best in local produce and the freshest and highest quality ingredients. All of our dishes are produced in the Blenheim Palace kitchens. Most dietary requirements are catered for.

Water Terrace Café

A self-service café in the Palace, *open from 10am–5.30pm*, serving a range of hot and cold dishes, afternoon teas, cakes and refreshments. Speciality coffees are available from the coffee bar. Seating is available, either inside or outside, overlooking the Water Terraces.

The Garden Café

This self-service café is located at the entrance to the Pleasure Gardens, near the Adventure Playground and Butterfly House. It provides hot and cold snacks as well as dishes for children. *Open all year except Christmas Day.*

The Indian Room

A more exclusive area where afternoon teas are served and traditional roast lunches are available on Sundays.

With beautiful Indian themed murals and views over the Water Terraces, it is available for exclusive use.

For further information and reservations please call *01993 813874* or email *sales@blenheimhospitality.com*

The Pantry

Open all year except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Easily accessible for visitors to the Park, it offers a great selection of award-winning produce, wine and Champagne as well as hot and cold beverages, cakes and luxury dairy ice cream.

Shopping

Each of the five unique shops offers an array of beautiful gifts, including toiletries, stationery, books and gifts for the home and garden. Find award-winning food such as honey, preserves and specially selected wines and Champagne. The exclusive ranges are inspired by the magnificent Palace, Park and Formal Gardens. A visit to The Churchill Shop is a must for all Churchill enthusiasts, and special gifts and a magnificent view over the Great Court can be found in the Palace Shop inspired by *'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story'*.

Shop online at *www.blenheimpalace.com*
A mail order service is available.
Please email *shop@blenheimpalace.com*
or call *01993 810553*.

Hospitality

Blenheim Palace offers a wide range of hospitality services from weddings, conferences and seminars, to large marquee events, receptions, gala dinners and outdoor activities.

All events at Blenheim Palace are tailored to suit our clients' individual requirements and our experienced team of Event Planners will work closely with you from the initial enquiry through to the event and beyond.

Please contact our Hospitality Team on *01993 813874* or via email *sales@blenheimhospitality.com*

Helpful Information

There is so much to enjoy at Blenheim Palace, whether you have an hour or the whole day.

Opening Times

The Palace, Park and Gardens will be open daily from 12th February until 30th October and Wednesdays to Sundays from 2nd November to 16th December.

The Park opens from 9am, the Formal Gardens from 10am and the first Palace tour is at 10.30am. Last entry to the Palace and Park is at 4.45pm. The Palace and Gardens close at 5.30pm and the Park closes at 6pm.

During the Palace closed season, the Park remains open except for Christmas Day, from 9am until 4.45pm or dusk.

Tickets

Two types of tickets are available:

Palace, Park and Gardens
Access to all areas including the Palace State Rooms and 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story', the Park and Formal Gardens, shops and restaurants, the train and all attractions within the Pleasure Gardens.

Park and Gardens
Access to all areas as above except entry to the Palace State Rooms and 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story'.

Free Annual Pass

When you purchase a day ticket to the Palace (or upgrade a Park and Gardens ticket) you can convert it into an Annual Pass – for free! This allows unlimited entry for a 12 month rolling period from the time of purchase. Terms & conditions apply. Visit www.blenheimpalace.com

Friends of the Blenheim Palace Foundation Charity

This premium membership spends 100% of its income on the restoration of Blenheim Palace. It provides unlimited entry for a 12 month rolling period from the time of purchase, invitations to exclusive events, access to the Friends Hospitality Lounge, as well as 10% discount in the shops and cafés. For information visit www.blenheimpalace.com or call 0800 849 6500.

Themed Tours & Garden Tours

A series of fascinating tours offer more insight into the Palace and its Park and Gardens. Led by the Palace's experts the subjects include:

- Odd Men and Necessary Women – Servants of a Great Palace
- Winston Spencer Churchill and Blenheim Palace
- World War II – Evacuees & Espionage
- Understanding the Landscape & Gardens at Blenheim Palace

For full details, prices and booking information please visit www.blenheimpalace.com or call 01993 811091.

Education

Blenheim Palace has a variety of areas available for school use and an established programme of educational activities. The Education Service is available to lead or support any type of visit.

For more information please call 01993 810535 or visit www.blenheimpalace.com



Woodstock

Woodstock is a picturesque Oxfordshire market town, which boasts famous hotels, award-winning restaurants, pubs and stunning shops. A visit to this unique market town is a must for any visitor to this part of the country. www.wakeuptowoodstock.com

For information on Accessibility, download our statement from www.blenheimpalace.com or contact 01993 811091.

Special Events

Blenheim Palace opens on 12th February for a year of exciting special events and activities.

For more information:
www.blenheimpalace.com

To purchase advance tickets:
www.blenheimpalace.com/tickets

12th Feb – 27th March
Gladys Deacon – ‘An Eccentric Duchess’ 1921 – 1934 Special Exhibition in the Long Library. PPG

10th April
The Orvis Fly Fishing Fair
Separate admission applies.

11th – 15th April
Oxford Active Spring Kids Camp
Separate admission applies.
www.oxfordactive.co.uk

22nd – 23rd April
The Great Blenheim Palace Easter Egg Challenge Easter Weekend P&G

24th – 25th April
Peppa Pig, George, Ben & Holly at Blenheim Palace
www.peppapig.com P&G

29th April
A ‘Royal’ Joust!
P&G

30th April – 2nd May Blenheim Palace Jousting Tournament (May Bank Holiday) P&G

6th – 8th May
Picnic Film Event
Evening outdoor cinema.
Separate admission applies.

28th – 30th May
Art, Design & a Taste of Summer (Whitsun Holiday)
Advance tickets available.
www.livingcrafts.co.uk P&G

4th – 5th June
Blenheim Triathlon
www.theblenheimtriathlon.com

8th – 19th June inclusive 12
nights of the ‘Twelfth Night’ by The Oxford School of Drama
Separate admission applies.

11th June
Junior Sculling Regatta
Separate admission applies.

16th July
Battle Proms Evening Picnic Concert
Separate admission applies.
www.battleproms.com

22nd – 24th July

CLA Game Fair
Separate admission applies.
www.gamefair.co.uk

5th – 7th August
Blenheim Palace Jousting Tournament P&G

21st August
Breast Cancer Care’s Bike Blenheim Palace – A Festival of Cycling
www.bikeblenheimpalace.com
P&G

28th – 29th August
Classic Car Show
(August Bank Holiday) P&G

8th – 11th September
Fidelity Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials
Separate admission applies.
www.blenheim-horse.co.uk

15th – 18th September
The Independent Woodstock Literary Festival
Separate admission applies.
www.woodstockliteraryfestival.com

25th September
Mini & VW Show P&G

2nd October
BHF Blenheim Palace Half Marathon
Separate admission applies.

22nd – 30th October
October Half Term
Halloween Entertainment
PPG + P&G

12th Nov – 16th Dec
Christmas at Blenheim Palace
PPG + P&G

18th – 20th November Living Crafts for Christmas
Advance tickets available.
www.livingcrafts.co.uk P&G

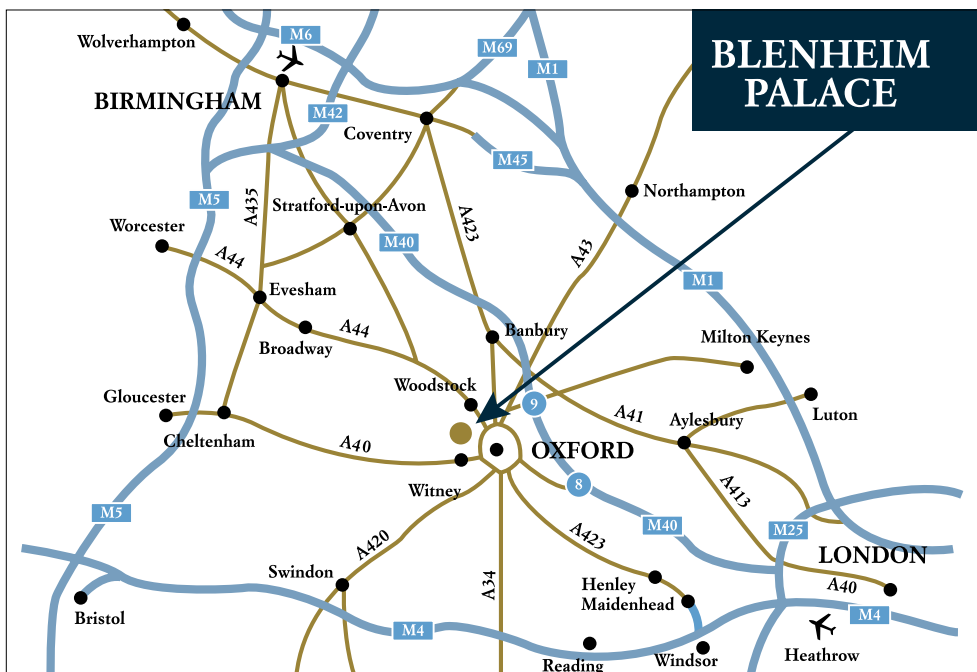
16th December
Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens closed for the winter. *Park remains open daily (except Christmas Day).*

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.



Planning Your Journey

Blenheim Palace is signposted from Junction 9 of the M40 and from the A34.

By Train

Trains to Oxford run regularly from London Paddington and Birmingham New Street. Trains to Bicester run from London Marylebone and Birmingham Moor Street.

Taxi connections to the Palace are available from both Oxford and Bicester. The S3 bus runs from Oxford station to the Palace.

British Rail: 08457 48 49 50

By Coach

Services run directly to Oxford from London and Birmingham throughout the day.

By Bus

The S3 bus to Woodstock runs from Oxford train station and Gloucester Green coach station at 30-minute intervals and stops at the Palace gates. It is a 10-minute walk to the Palace from the gates.

Visit www.stagecoachbus.com

All-inclusive Coach Tours

Evan Evans: 020 7950 1777

Visit www.evanevans.co.uk

Golden Tours: 020 7233 7030

Visit www.goldentours.co.uk



For more information and special offers visit

blenheimpalace.com

or call 0800 849 6500

(Free 24-hour recorded information)

Blenheim Palace | Woodstock | Oxfordshire | OX20 1PP

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 facilities or to cancel or change any of the dates and nature of the events without notice is reserved.

BUY ONE DAY, GET 12 MONTHS FREE!

The BLENHEIM PALACE Annual Pass

Visit in 2011 for the
ultimate ticket deal



Buy a ticket to the Palace in 2011
and you will get an Annual Pass
– **for free!**

Terms and conditions apply.

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BLENHEIM PALACE
Britain's Greatest Palace