



London Museums.

British Museum.



British Museum.

- **The British Museum** in [London](#) in London is one of the world's greatest [museums](#) in London is one of the world's greatest museums of human [history](#) in London is one of the world's greatest museums of human history and [culture](#). Its collections, which number more than 13 million objects from all continents, illustrate and document the story of human culture from its beginning to the present.
- *The wonders of the museum bought here to Bloomsbury from all around the world's imagined corners are numberless. How can they be named? As well tally each leaf of a tree. They come here out of the living minds of generations of men and women now dead - Greek and Assyrian, Aztec and Inuit, Chinese and Indian - who have conceived and carved and hammered and tempered and cast these objects to represent the worlds around them, visible and invisible.*^[1]
- The British Museum was established in [1753](#)The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir [Hans Sloane](#)The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum first opened to the public on [15 January](#)The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum first opened to the public on 15 January [1759](#)The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum first opened to the public on 15 January 1759 in [Montagu House](#)The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum first



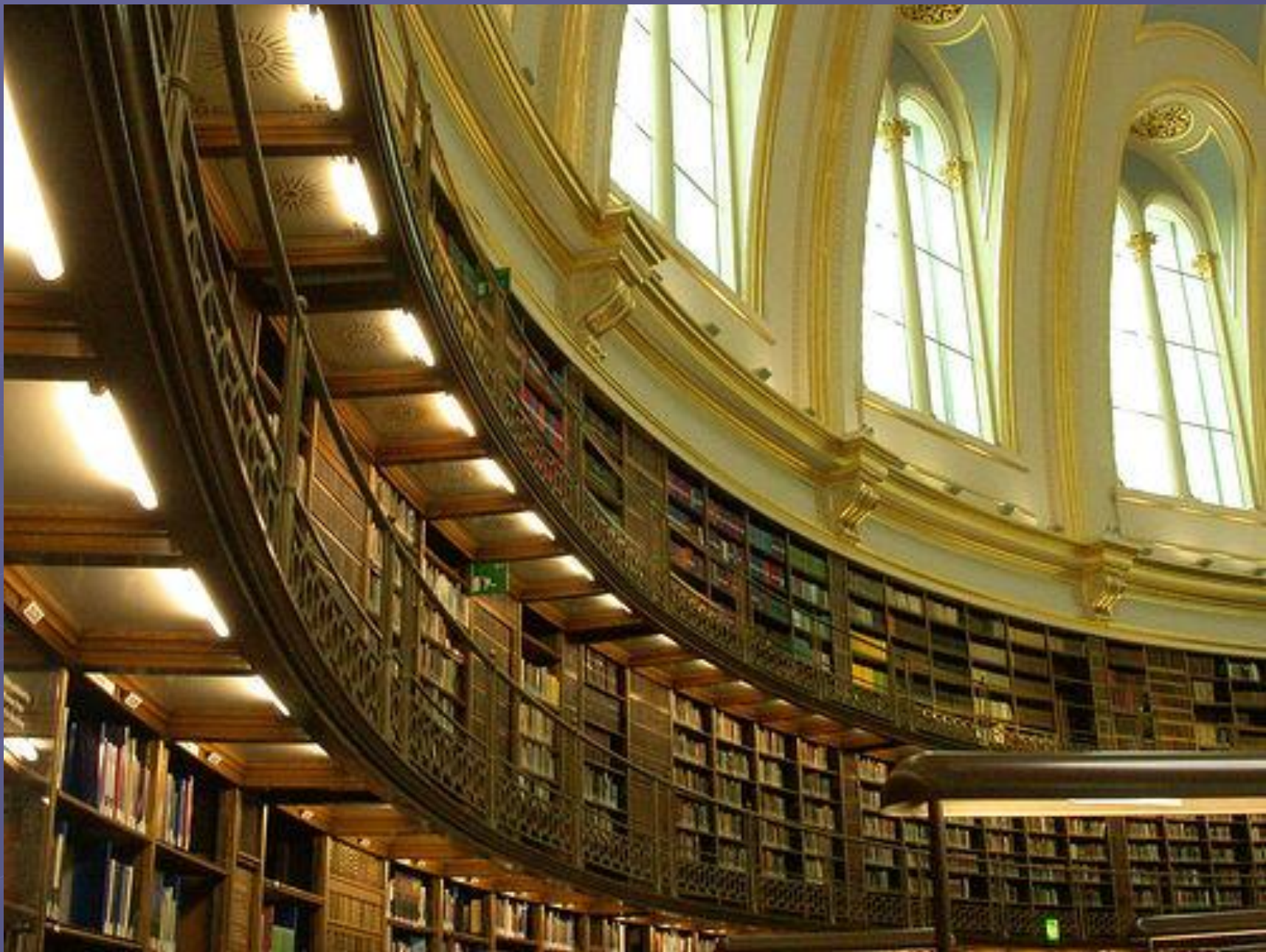
The centre of the museum was redeveloped in [2000](#)The centre of the museum was redeveloped in 2000 to become the [Great Court](#)The centre of the museum was redeveloped in 2000 to become the Great Court, surrounding the original [Reading Room](#).

History.

- Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir [Hans Sloane](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by [Albrecht Dürer](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from [Egypt](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from Egypt, [Greece](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from Egypt, Greece, [Rome](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Rome, the [Middle](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Middle and [Far East](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history specimens, prints by Albrecht Dürer and antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Middle and Far East and the [Americas](#) Though principally a museum of cultural art objects and antiquities today, the British Museum was founded as a "universal museum". This is reflected in the first bequest by Sir Hans Sloane, comprising some 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, extensive natural history

History.

- Roughly contemporary with the construction of the new building was the career of a man sometimes called the "second founder" of the British Museum, the Italian librarian [Antonio Panizzi](#). Under his supervision the British Museum Library quintupled in size and became a well-organised institution worthy of being called a national library. The quadrangle at the centre of Smirke's design proved to be a waste of valuable space and was filled at Panizzi's request by a circular [Reading Room](#) of cast iron, designed by Smirke's brother, [Sydney Smirke](#). This is where [Karl Marx](#) famously carried out much of his research, and wrote some of his most important works.
- The natural history collections were an integral part of the British Museum until their removal to the new British Museum (Natural History), now the [Natural History Museum](#), in [1887](#). The ethnography collections were until recently housed in the short-lived [Museum of Mankind](#) in [Piccadilly](#).



The circular [Reading Room](#).

Panorama of the circular [Reading Room](#).



Panorama of the circular [Reading Room](#).

The Building



The British Museum - Aerial View

- The [Greek Revival](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir [Robert Smirke](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the [Ionic order](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the Ionic order 13.7 metres (45 ft) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the Ionic order 13.7 metres (45 ft) high, closely based on those of the temple of Athena Polias at [Priene](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the Ionic order 13.7 metres (45 ft) high, closely based on those of the temple of Athena Polias at Priene in [Asia Minor](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the Ionic order 13.7 metres (45 ft) high, closely based on those of the temple of Athena Polias at Priene in Asia Minor. The [pediment](#) The Greek Revival façade facing Great Russell Street is a characteristic building of Sir Robert Smirke, with 44 columns in the Ionic order 13.7 metres (45 ft) high, closely based on those of the temple of Athena Polias at Priene in Asia Minor. The pediment over the main entrance is decorated by sculptures by Sir [Richard Westmacott](#) depicting *The Progress of Civilisation*, consisting of fifteen allegorical figures, installed in 1852.
- The construction commenced around the courtyard with the East Wing (The King's Library) in 1823-28, followed by the North Wing in 1833-38, original this housed amongst other galleries a reading room now the Wellcome Gallery, work was also progressing on the northern half of the West Wing (The Egyptian Sculpture Gallery) 1826-31, then Montagu House was demolished from 1842 to make room for the final part of the West Wing completed in 1846 and the South Wing with its great colonnade, this was initiated in 1843, and completed in 1847 when the Front Hall and Great Staircase were opened to the public.^[3]
- In 1846 Robert Smirke was replaced as the Museum's architect by his brother Sydney Smirke, whose major addition was the Round Reading Room 1854-57; at 42.6 metres (140 ft) in diameter it was then the second widest dome in the world, the [Pantheon](#) in Rome being slightly wider.
- The next major addition was the White Wing 1882-84 added behind the eastern end of the South Front, the

The Building.



Proposed British Museum Extension, 1906

- The [Duveen](#) The Duveen Gallery, sited to the west of the Egyptian, Greek & Assyrian sculpture galleries, was designed to house the Elgin Marbles by the American [Beaux-Arts](#) The Duveen Gallery, sited to the west of the Egyptian, Greek & Assyrian sculpture galleries, was designed to house the Elgin Marbles by the American Beaux-Arts architect [John Russell Pope](#) The Duveen Gallery, sited to the west of the Egyptian, Greek & Assyrian sculpture galleries, was designed to house the Elgin Marbles by the American Beaux-Arts architect John Russell Pope. Although completed in 1938 it was hit by a bomb in 1940 and remained semi-derelict for 22 years before reopening in 1962. Other areas damaged during [World War II](#) bombing included: in September 1940 two unexploded bombs hit the Edward VII galleries, the King's Library received a direct hit from a high explosive bomb, incendiaries fell on the dome of the Round Reading Room but did little damage; on the night of 10th to 11th May 1941 several incendiaries fell on the South West corner of the Museum destroying the book stack and 150,000 books in the courtyard and the galleries around the top of the Great Staircase burnt, this damage was not fully repaired until the early 1960's.
- The [Queen Elizabeth II](#) The Queen Elizabeth II Great Court is a covered square at the centre of the British Museum designed by the engineers [Buro Happold](#) The Queen Elizabeth II Great Court is a covered square at the centre of the British Museum designed by the engineers Buro Happold and the architects [Foster and Partners](#) The Queen Elizabeth II Great Court is a covered square at the centre of the British Museum designed by the engineers Buro Happold and the architects Foster and Partners^[4] The Queen Elizabeth II Great Court is a covered square at the centre of the

Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan

- The British Museum houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Egyptian antiquities outside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. An unequalled collection of immense importance for its range and quality, comprising objects of all periods from virtually every site of importance in Egypt and the Sudan. Objects illustrating every aspect of the cultures of the Nile Valley (including Nubia), from the Predynastic Neolithic period (c. 10 000 BC) through to the Coptic (Christian) times (12th century AD), a time-span over 11,000 years.
- Egyptian antiquities have formed part of the British Museum collection ever since its foundation in 1753 after receiving 150 Egyptian objects from Sir Hans Sloane. After the defeat of the French forces under Napoleon at Alexandria in 1801, the Egyptian antiquities collected were confiscated by the British army and presented to the British Museum in 1803. Thus forming the first important acquisition of large sculptures, the most famous being the Rosetta Stone and has remained in the Museum ever since. Thereafter, Britain appointed Henry Salt as consul in Egypt who amassed a huge collection of antiquities. Most of the antiquities Salt collected were purchased by The British Museum and the Musee du Louvre. By 1866 the collection consisted of some 10,000 objects. Antiquities from excavations started to come to the Museum in the later 19th century as a result of the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund under the efforts of E.A. Wallis Budge. The collection stood at 57,000 objects by 1924. Active support by the Museum for excavations in Egypt continued to result in useful acquisitions throughout the 20th Century until changes in antiquities laws in Egypt led to the suspension of policies allowing finds to be exported. The size of the Egyptian collections now stands at over 110,000 objects [5] Egyptian antiquities have formed part of the British Museum collection ever since its foundation in 1753 after receiving 150 Egyptian objects from Sir Hans Sloane. After the defeat of the French forces under Napoleon at Alexandria in 1801, the Egyptian antiquities collected were confiscated by the British army and presented to the British Museum in 1803. Thus forming the first important acquisition of large sculptures, the most famous being the Rosetta Stone and has remained in the Museum ever since. Thereafter, Britain appointed Henry Salt as consul in Egypt who amassed a huge collection of antiquities. Most of the antiquities Salt collected were purchased by The British Museum and the Musee du Louvre. By 1866 the collection consisted of some 10,000 objects. Antiquities from excavations started to come to the Museum in the later 19th century as a result of the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund under the efforts of E.A. Wallis Budge. The collection stood at 57,000 objects by 1924. Active support by the Museum for excavations in Egypt continued to result in useful

Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan

Key highlights of the collections include:

- The Rosetta Stone (196 BC)
- Limestone statue of a husband and wife (1300 BC)
- Colossal bust of Ramesses II, the 'Younger Memnon' (1250 BC)
- Colossal granite head of Amenhotep III (1350 BC)
- Colossal head from a statue of Amenhotep III (1350 BC)
- Colossal limestone bust of Amenhotep III (1350 BC)
- Fragment of the beard of the Great Sphinx (1300 BC)
- List of the kings of Egypt from the Temple of Ramesses II (1250 BC)
- Limestone false door of Ptahshepses (2380 BC)
- Granite statue of Senwosret III (1850 BC)
- Mummy of Cleopatra from Thebes (100 AD)
- Amarna Tablets (Collection of 94 out of 382 tablets found, second greatest in the world after the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin (202 tablets)) (1350 BC)



The British Museum - Throne Relief Cast from the Hall of the Hundred Columns, Persepolis



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The British Museum, Room 4 - Colossal
Granite head of Amenhotep III (1350 BC)



The British Museum, Room 4 - Egyptian Sculpture

Department of the Ancient Near East

- With approximately 280,000 objects in the collection, the British Museum has the greatest collection of Mesopotamian antiquities outside Iraq. The holdings of Assyrian, Babylonian and Sumerian antiquities are among the most comprehensive in the world. The collections represent the civilisations of the ancient Near East and its adjacent areas. These include Mesopotamia, Iran (13,000 objects)[\[16\]](#), the Arabian Peninsula, Anatolia, the Caucasus, parts of Central Asia, Syria, Palestine and Phoenician settlements in the western Mediterranean from the prehistoric period until the coming of Islam in the 7th century AD. The collection includes six iconic winged human-headed statues from Nimrud and Khorsabad. Stone bas-reliefs, including the famous Royal Lion Hunt relief's (Room 10), that were found in the palaces of the Assyrian kings at Nimrud and Nineveh. The famous Royal Library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh and Sumerian treasures found in Royal Cemetery's at Ur of the Chaldees.
- A representative selection, including the most important pieces, are on display in 13 galleries and total some 4500 objects. The remainder form the study collection which ranges in size from beads to large sculptures. They include approximately 130,000 cuneiform tablets from Mesopotamia.
- *Contemporary collections can be found in the Musée du Louvre, Paris (90,000 objects), The Oriental Institute of Art, Chicago (20,000 objects)*[\[17\]](#)*Contemporary collections can be found in the Musée du Louvre, Paris (90,000 objects), The Oriental Institute of Art, Chicago (20,000 objects)*[\[17\]](#), *Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (7,000 objects)*[\[18\]](#)

Department of the Ancient Near East

- *Sculptures*
- Pair of Human Headed Winged 'Lamassu' Lions (883-859 BC)
- Human Headed Winged 'Lamassu' Bull (883-859 BC), sister piece in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- Human Headed Winged 'Lamassu' Lion (883-859 BC), sister piece in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- Colossal Statue of a Lion (883-859 BC)
- Rare Head of Human Headed Winged 'Lamassu', recovered from the remains of the South-West Palace of Esarhaddon
- The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (858-824 BC)
- The White Obelisk (1050-1031 BC)
- Nineveh (City in Northern Iraq)
- *Alabaster bas-reliefs from:*
- North-Palace of Ashurbanipal
- Famous Royal Lion Hunt Scenes
- The 'Dying Lion', long been acclaimed as a masterpiece
- The 'Garden Party' Relief
- The White Obelisk, Some of the earliest scenes of Assyrian narrative art
- South-West Palace of Sennacherib
- *Royal Library of Ashurbanipal*
- A large collection of cuneiform tablets of enormous importance approximately 22,000 inscribed clay tablets, now located in the British Museum
- The Flood Tablet, relating part of the Epic of Gilgamesh
- Khorsabad (City in Northern Iraq)
- Alabaster bas-reliefs from the Palace of Sargon II
- Pair of Human Headed Winged 'Lamassu' Bulls
- *Wider Museum Collection*
- Cyrus Cylinder from Babylon
- Bronze gates of Shalmaneser III and Ashurnasirpal II from Balawat
- A fine collection of Urartian bronzes, which now form the core of the Anatolian collection
- Oxus Treasure
- The Standard of Ur
- The 'Ram in a Thicket'
- The Royal Game of Ur
- Queen's Lyre

Department of Coins and Medals

- The British Museum is home to one of the world's finest numismatic collections, comprising about one million objects. The collection spans the entire history of coinage from its origins in the 7th century BC to the present day.
- There are approximately 9,000 coins, medals and banknotes on display around the British Museum. More than half of these can be found in the HSBC Money Gallery (Gallery 68), while the remainder form part of the permanent displays throughout the Museum.

Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities

- The Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the British Museum has one of the world's most comprehensive collections of antiquities from the Classical world, with over 100,000 objects. These mostly range in date from the beginning of the Greek Bronze Age (about 3200BC) to the reign of the Roman emperor Constantine in the 4th century AD, with some pagan survivals.
- The Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean cultures are represented, and the Greek collection includes important sculpture from the Parthenon in Athens, as well as elements of two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Mausoleum at Halikarnassos and the Temple of Artemis at Ephesos.
- The Department also houses one of the widest-ranging collections of Italic and Etruscan antiquities and extensive groups of material from Cyprus. The collections of ancient jewellery and bronzes, Greek vases and Roman glass and silver are particularly important.



The British Museum, Room 17 -
The Nereid Monument

- *Key highlights of the collections include:*
- *Athenian Akropolis*
- *The Parthenon Gallery ("Elgin Marbles")*
- *The Parthenon Marbles are one of the finest manifestations of human creation. The Magnificent Relief Frieze showing the Panathenaic procession is considered as the most famous surviving example of art from Ancient Greece, often praised as the finest achievement of Greek architecture, Its decorative sculptures are considered one of the high points of Greek art*
- *Erechtheion*
- *The Finest of 6 remaining Caryatids*
- *Surviving Column*
- *Athena Nike*
- *Surviving Frieze Slabs*
- *Bassae Sculptures*
- *Sculptures from the temple of Apollo Epikourios ('Helper') at Bassae in Arcadia.*
- *Twenty three surviving blocks of the frieze from the interior of the temple are exhibited on an upper level.*
- *Two colossal free-standing figures identified as Mausollos and his wife Artemisia.*
- *Part of an impressive horse from the chariot group adorning the summit of the Mausoleum*
- *The Amazonomachy frieze - A long section of relief frieze showing the battle between Greeks and Amazons*
- *Temple of Artemis at Ephesos*
- *One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*
- *Architectural fragments from the Archaic and fourth century temples of Artemis*
- *Marble column drum from the later Temple of Artemis*
- *Asia Minor ('Turkey')*
- *Nereid Monument*
- *Partial reconstruction of the Monument, a large and elaborate Lykian tomb from the site of Xanthos in south-west Turkey*
- *Payava Tomb from Xanthos in south west Turkey*
- *Wider Museum Collection*
- *Material from the Palace of Knossos*
- *Portland Vase*
- *The Warren Cup*
- *Discus-thrower (discobolos)*
- *Townley Sculptures*



The British Museum,
Room 21 -
Mausoleum of
Halikarnassos.JPG
Mausoleum of
Halikarnassos
*One of the Seven
Wonders of the
Ancient World*



- The British Museum,
Room 22 - The
Hellenistic World
- Asia Minor ('Turkey')
- *Nereid Monument*

Department of Prints and Drawings

- The Department of Prints and Drawings holds the national collection of Western Prints and Drawings. It ranks as one of the largest collections in existence alongside the Musée du Louvre and the Hermitage as one of the top three collections of its kind.
- Since its foundation in 1808 the Prints and Drawings collection has grown to international renown as one of the richest and most representative collections in the world. There are approximately 50,000 Drawings and over 2 million Prints. The collection of Drawings covers the period 14th century to the present, and includes many works of the highest quality by the leading artists of the European school. The collection of Prints covers the tradition of fine printmaking from its beginnings in the 15th century up to the present, with near complete holdings of most of the great names before the 19th century.
- There are magnificent groups of drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo (including his only surviving full-scale cartoon), Dürer (a collection of 138 drawings is one of the finest in existence), Rubens, Rembrandt, Claude and Watteau, and virtually complete collections of the works of all the great printmakers including unsurpassed holdings of prints by Dürer (99 engravings, 6 etchings and a substantial number of his 346 woodcuts), Rembrandt and Goya. More than 30,000 British drawings and watercolours include important examples work by Hogarth, Sandby, Turner, Girtin, Constable, Cotman, Cox, Gillray, Rowlandson and Cruikshank, as well as all the great Victorians. There are about a million British prints including more than 20,000 satires and outstanding collections of works by William Blake and Thomas Bewick.
- *Comparably, other great collections include: Musée du Louvre, Paris (133,000 Drawings, 46,000 Prints)^[19] Comparably, other great collections include: Musée du Louvre, Paris (133,000 Drawings, 46,000 Prints)^[19], State Hermitage, St. Petersburg (39,000 Drawings, 486,000 Prints)^[20] Comparably, other great collections include: Musée du Louvre, Paris (133,000 Drawings, 46,000 Prints)^[19], State Hermitage, St. Petersburg (39,000 Drawings, 486,000 Prints)^[20], The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (11,000 Drawings, 1.5 million Prints)^[21] Comparably, other great collections include: Musée du Louvre, Paris (133,000 Drawings, 46,000 Prints)^[19], State Hermitage, St. Petersburg (39,000 Drawings, 486,000 Prints)^[20], The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (11,000 Drawings, 1.5 million Prints)^[21], Kupferstichkabinett, Museum of Prints and Drawings, Berlin (110,000 Drawings, 500,000 Prints)^[22] Comparably, other great collections include: Musée du Louvre, Paris (133,000 Drawings, 46,000 Prints)^[19], State Hermitage, St. Petersburg (39,000 Drawings, 486,000 Prints)^[20], The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (11,000 Drawings, 1.5 million Prints)^[21], Kupferstichkabinett, Museum of Prints and Drawings, Berlin (110,000 Drawings, 500,000*

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The British Museum, Room 90
- Durer, The Triumphal Arch -
One of the largest prints ever
produced



- The British Museum,
Room 90 - Michelangelo,
Epifania - Last surviving
large scale cartoon by
the artist

Department of Asia

- The scope of the Department of Asia is extremely broad, its collections of over 70,000 objects covers the material culture of the whole Asian continent (from East Asia, South and Central Asia, South-East Asia and the Islamic world) and from the Neolithic up to the present day.
- *Key highlights of the collections include:*
- The most comprehensive collection of sculpture from the Indian subcontinent in the world, including the celebrated Buddhist limestone reliefs from Amaravati
- An outstanding collection of Chinese antiquities, paintings, and porcelain, lacquer, bronze, jade, and other applied arts
- A fine collection of Buddhist paintings from Dunhuang in Central Asia and the Admonitions Scroll by Gu Kaizhi
- A broad range of Islamic pottery, paintings, tiles, metalwork, glass, seals, and inscriptions.
- The most comprehensive collection of Japanese pre-20th century decorative arts in the western world

Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas

- The British Museum houses one of the world's greatest and most comprehensive collections of Ethnographic material from Africa, Oceania and the Americas, representing the cultures of indigenous peoples throughout the world. Over 550,000 objects spanning two million years tells the story of the history of man, from three major continents and many rich and diverse cultures. The Sainsbury African Galleries display 600 objects from the greatest permanent collection of African arts and culture in the world. The three permanent galleries provide a substantial and permanent exhibition space for the Museum's African collection comprising over 200,000 objects. A curatorial scope that encompasses both archaeological and contemporary material, including both unique masterpieces of artistry and objects of everyday life.
- Highlights of the collection include a magnificent brass head of a Yoruba ruler from Ife, Nigeria; Asante goldwork from Ghana and the Torday collection of Central African sculpture, textiles and weaponry.
- The collection mainly consists of 19th- and 20th-century items although the [Inca](#) collection mainly consists of 19th- and 20th-century items although the Inca, [Aztec](#) collection mainly consists of 19th- and 20th-century items although the Inca, Aztec, [Maya](#) and other early cultures are well represented; collecting of modern artifacts is ongoing.
- *Other comparable collections can be found at The Horniman Museum, London (80,000 objects), Pitt Rivers Museum, Cambridge, Musée du quai Branly, Paris (300,000 objects), Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (100,000 Japanese Pieces), Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (11,000 objects), Brooklyn Museum, New York (11,000 objects) and the Ethnographic Museum, Berlin (500,000 objects).*

- **Department of Prehistory and Europe**
- The prehistoric collections cover Europe, Africa and Asia, the earliest African artefacts being around 2,000,000 years old. Coverage of Europe extends to the present day.
- **Department of Conservation, Documentation and Science**
- This department was founded in 1924. Conservation has six specialist areas: ceramics & glass; metals; organic material (including textiles); stone, wall paintings and mosaics; Eastern pictorial art and Western pictorial art. The science department has and continues to develop techniques to date artefacts, analyse and identify the materials used in their manufacture, to identify the place an artifact originated and the techniques used in their creation. The department also publishes its findings and discoveries.
- **Libraries and Archives**
- This department covers all levels of education, from casual visitors, schools, degree level and beyond. The Museum's various libraries hold in excess of 350,000 books, journals & pamphlets covering all areas of the museum's collection. Also the general Museum archives which date from its foundation in 1753 are overseen by this department; the individual departments have their own separate archives covering their various areas of responsibility.

The Collections

- Highlights of the collections include:
- The [Elgin Marbles](#) The Elgin Marbles, carvings from the Athenian [Parthenon](#)
- The [Portland Vase](#)
- The [Rosetta Stone](#)
- The [Stein collection](#) The Stein collection from [Central Asia](#)
- Works by [Albrecht Dürer](#)
- The [Benin Bronzes](#)
- The [Cyrus Cylinder](#) The Cyrus Cylinder and many other [Persian](#) artifacts
- [Anglo-Saxon](#) Anglo-Saxon artifacts from the [Sutton Hoo](#) burial
- The [Lewis Chessmen](#)
- The [Mold](#) The Mold cape (a [Bronze age](#) The Mold cape (a Bronze age [gold](#) ceremonial cape)
- The [basalt moai](#) (statue) Hoa Hakananai'a from [Easter Island](#)
- The [Mildenhall Treasure](#)



The British Museum, Room 20 - The Tomb of Payava, Lykian, about 375-360 BC

Controversy



[Parthenon Marbles](#)A few of the Parthenon Marbles (popularly known as the [Elgin Marbles](#)A few of the Parthenon Marbles (popularly known as the Elgin Marbles) from the East [Pediment](#)A few of the Parthenon Marbles

- It is a point of controversy whether museums should be allowed to possess artefacts taken from other countries, and the British Museum is a notable target for criticism. The [Parthenon Marbles](#) and the [Benin Bronzes](#) are among the most disputed objects in its collections, and organisations have been formed demanding the return of both sets of artefacts to their native countries of [Greece](#) and [Nigeria](#) respectively.
- The British Museum has refused to return either set, or any of its other disputed items, stating that the "restitutionist premise, that whatever was made in a country must return to an original geographical site, would empty both the British Museum and the other great museums of the world".^[31] The Museum has also argued that the British Museum Act of 1963 legally prevents it from selling any of its valuable artefacts, even the ones not on display. Critics have particularly argued against the

Trivia

- Pornographic and erotic items from many cultures - some of them Victorian fakes - were formerly kept in 'Cupboard 55' in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities (now part of the Department of Prehistory and Europe). This collection, not accessible to the public, was known as "[the Secretum](#)"; much of it had been collected by George Witt, a banker and former Mayor of Bedford, but was largely deemed unfit for public display on grounds of quality, rather than because of supposed obscenity.
- The Museum is faced with Portland stone, but the perimeter walls and other parts of the building were built using [Hay Tor](#). The Museum is faced with Portland stone, but the perimeter walls and other parts of the building were built using Hay Tor granite from Dartmoor in South Devon, transported via the unique [Haytor Granite Tramway](#).

Buckingham Palace



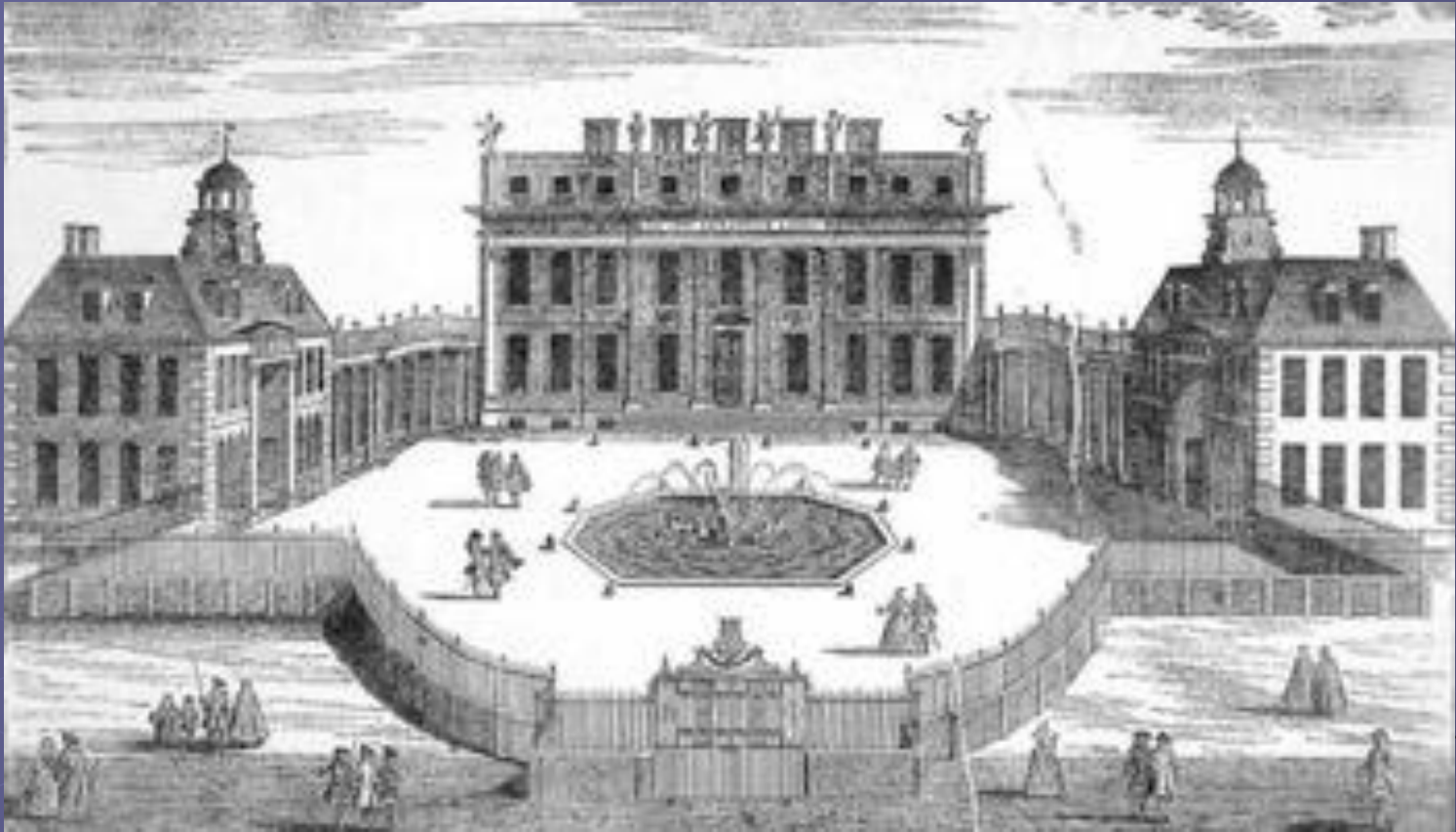
Buckingham Palace is the official [London](#) residence of the [British monarch](#) is the official London residence of the British monarch. The Palace is a setting for state occasions and royal entertaining, a base for many officially visiting [Heads of State](#) is the official London residence of the British monarch. The Palace is a setting for state occasions and royal entertaining, a base for many officially visiting Heads of State, and a major tourist attraction. It has been a rallying point for the British people at times of national rejoicing, crisis or grief. "Buckingham Palace", "Buck House" or simply "The Palace" commonly refers to the source of press statements issued by the offices of the [Royal Household](#).

In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury. It had several royal owners from [Edward the Confessor](#) In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury. It had several royal owners from Edward the Confessor onwards and was also the object of much property speculation. (A loophole in the lease of [Charles I](#) allowed the area to revert back to royal hands in the 18th century.) Precursors of Buckingham Palace were Blake House, Goring House, and Arlington House.

Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large [townhouse](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the [Duke of Buckingham](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by [King George III](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by King George III in 1762 as a private [residence](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by King George III in 1762 as a private residence. It was enlarged over the next 75 years, principally by [architects](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by King George III in 1762 as a private residence. It was enlarged over the next 75 years, principally by architects [John Nash](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by King George III in 1762 as a private residence. It was enlarged over the next 75 years, principally by architects John Nash and [Edward Blore](#) Originally known as Buckingham House, the building forming the core of today's palace was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and acquired by King George III in 1762 as a private residence. It was enlarged over the next 75 years, principally by architects John Nash and Edward Blore, forming three wings around a central courtyard. Buckingham Palace finally became the official royal palace of the British monarch on the accession of [Queen Victoria](#) Originally



[Queen Victoria](#), the first monarch to reside at Buckingham Palace, moved into the newly completed palace upon her accession in 1837



Buckingham House c.1710 as designed by William Winde for the first Duke of Buckingham and Normandy. This facade evolved into today's Grand Entrance on the west (inner) side of the quadrangle, with the Green Drawing Room above.

The site

- In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river [Tyburn](#). In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford - a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times, including [Edward the Confessor](#). In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford - a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times, including Edward the Confessor and his wife [Queen Edith](#). In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford - a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times, including Edward the Confessor and his wife Queen Edith, and, after the Norman Conquest, [William the Conqueror](#). In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford - a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times, including Edward the Confessor and his wife Queen Edith, and, after the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror, who gave it to [Geoffrey de Mandeville](#). In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford - a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times, including Edward the Confessor and his wife

First houses on the site

- Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624.^[4] Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624.^[4] The next owner was [Lord Goring](#) Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624.^[4] The next owner was Lord Goring, who from 1633 extended Blake's house and developed much of today's garden, then known as Goring Great Garden. He did not, however, manage to obtain freehold interest in the mulberry garden. Unbeknown to Goring, in 1640 the document "failed to pass the great seal before [King Charles I](#) Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624.^[4] The next owner was Lord Goring, who from 1633 extended Blake's house and developed much of today's garden, then known as Goring Great Garden. He did not, however, manage to obtain freehold interest in the mulberry garden. Unbeknown to Goring, in 1640 the document "failed to pass the great seal before King Charles I fled London, which it needed to do for legal execution".^[5] Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624.^[4] The next owner was Lord Goring, who from 1633 extended Blake's house and developed much of today's garden, then known as Goring Great Garden. He did not, however, manage to obtain freehold interest in the mulberry garden. Unbeknown to Goring, in 1640 the document "failed to pass the great seal before King Charles I fled London, which it needed to do for legal execution".^[5] (It was this critical omission that helped the British royal family regain the freehold under [King George III](#).)
- The improvident Goring defaulted on his rents; [Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington](#) obtained and was occupying the mansion, now known as Goring House, when it burnt down in 1674. Arlington House rose on the site — the southern wing of today's palace — the next year, and its freehold was sold on in 1702.
- The house which forms the architectural core of the present palace was built for the first [Duke of Buckingham and Normanby](#) The house which forms the architectural core

House to palace

Queen Charlotte died in 1818 and [George III](#) in 1820. The spendthrift King [George IV](#) decided to enlarge Buckingham House to use in conjunction with St James's Palace as had his father, but by 1826 he had decided to convert the house to a fully equipped royal palace. He commissioned [John Nash](#) to realise his vision. The palace that arose formed three sides of an open [cour d'honneur](#), with the former Buckingham House as the [corps de logis](#). The new work was faced in [Bath](#) stone, with exquisite detailing in the [French neoclassical](#) style. This is the palace much as it is today, but without the great east front (facing [The Mall](#)).

George IV transformed Buc



George IV transformed Buckingham House into a palace

The Garden, the Royal Mews and the Mall

- At the back of the Palace, large and park-like, is [the Garden](#) At the back of the Palace, large and park-like, is the Garden. The Garden Front of the Palace, by Nash, is of pale golden Bath stone. The Garden, which includes a lake, is the largest private garden in London. (Details of its architecture and artworks are in [Buckingham Palace Gardens](#).)
- Here the Queen hosts her annual garden parties each summer, but since June 2002, she has invited the public into the Garden on numerous occasions. See [Buckingham Palace Garden](#) for accounts for the historical spectacles which marked the Queen's Golden Jubilee (2002) and her 80th birthday (2006).
- Adjacent to the Palace is the [Royal Mews](#) Adjacent to the Palace is the Royal Mews, also designed by Nash, where the royal carriages, including the [Gold State Coach](#) Adjacent to the Palace is the Royal Mews, also designed by Nash, where the royal carriages, including the Gold State Coach, are housed. This [rococo](#) Adjacent to the Palace is the Royal Mews, also designed by Nash, where the royal carriages, including the Gold State Coach, are housed. This rococo gilt coach, designed by Sir [William Chambers](#) Adjacent to the Palace is the Royal Mews, also designed by Nash, where the royal carriages, including the Gold State Coach, are housed. This rococo gilt coach, designed by Sir William Chambers in 1760, has painted panels by [G. B. Cipriani](#) Adjacent to the Palace is the Royal Mews, also designed by Nash, where the royal carriages, including the Gold State Coach, are housed. This rococo gilt coach, designed by Sir William Chambers in 1760, has painted panels by G. B. Cipriani. It was first used for the State Opening of Parliament by George III in 1762 and is used by the monarch only for [coronations](#) or jubilee celebrations. Also housed in the Mews are the



- A garden party at Buckingham Palace in 1868.



Crowds walk down the Mall towards the Palace and the [Victoria Memorial](#) Crowds walk down the Mall towards the Palace and the Victoria Memorial. The flags interspersed with the [Union Flag](#) indicate a Norwegian State Visit in progress.

Home of the monarch



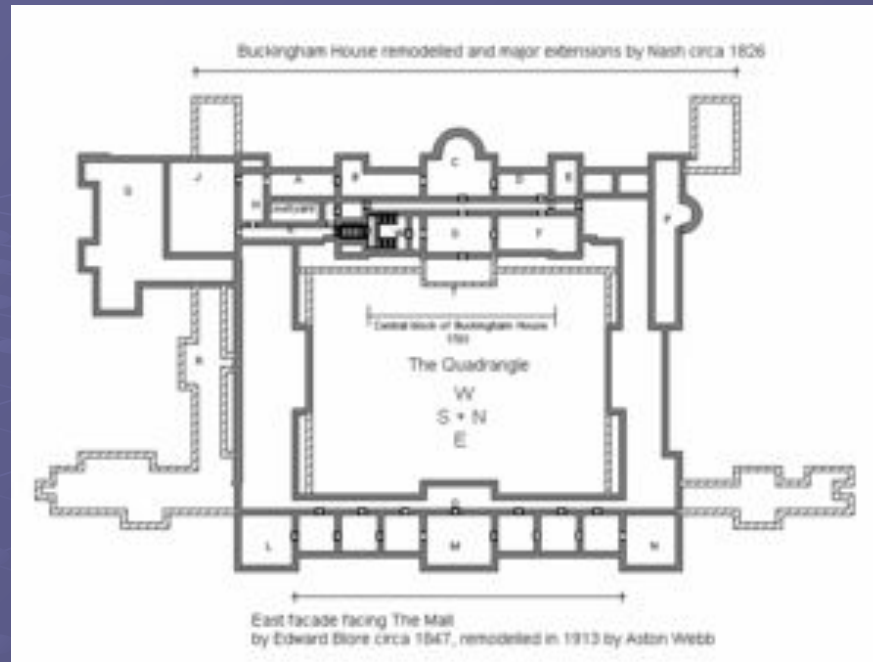
The Palace c.1837, depicting the [Marble Arch](#) The Palace c.1837, depicting the Marble Arch, which served as the ceremonial entrance to the palace [precincts](#). It was moved to make way for the east wing, built in 1847, which enclosed the [quadrangle](#).

Buckingham Palace finally became the principal Royal residence in 1837 on the accession of [Queen Victoria](#). While the State Rooms were a riot of gilt and colour, the necessities of the new palace were somewhat less luxurious. It was reported the chimneys smoked so much that the fires had to be allowed to die, and consequently the court shivered in icy magnificence. Ventilation was so bad that the interior smelled, and when a decision was taken to install gas lamps there was a serious worry about the build up of gas on the lower floors. It was also said that the staff were lax and lazy and the palace was dirty. Following the Queen's marriage in 1840, her husband, [Prince Albert](#), concerned himself with a reorganization of the household offices and staff, and with the design faults of the palace. The problems were rectified, the builders finally leaving the palace in 1840.

By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by [Edward Blore](#). By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by Edward Blore, was built, enclosing the central quadrangle. This large east wing, facing [The Mall](#) By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by Edward Blore, was built, enclosing the central quadrangle. This large east wing, facing The Mall is today the 'public face' of Buckingham Palace and contains the balcony from which the [Royal Family](#) By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by Edward Blore, was built, enclosing the central quadrangle. This large east wing, facing The Mall is today the 'public face' of Buckingham Palace and contains the balcony from which the Royal Family acknowledge the crowds on momentous occasions and annually following [Trooping the Colour](#) By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by Edward Blore, was built, enclosing the central quadrangle. This large east wing, facing The Mall is today the 'public face' of Buckingham Palace and contains the balcony from which the Royal Family acknowledge the crowds on momentous occasions and annually following Trooping the Colour. The [ballroom](#) By 1847, the couple had found the palace too small for Court life and their growing family, and consequently the new wing, designed by Edward Blore, was built, enclosing the central quadrangle. This large east wing, facing The Mall is today the 'public face' of Buckingham Palace and contains the

Interior

- The principal rooms of the Palace are contained on the [*piano nobile*](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White [Drawing rooms](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by [Rembrandt](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by Rembrandt, [van Dyck](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by Rembrandt, [van Dyck](#), [Rubens](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by Rembrandt, van Dyck, Rubens, and [Vermeer](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by Rembrandt, van Dyck, Rubens, and Vermeer, among many others. Other rooms leading from the Picture Gallery are the [Throne Room](#) behind the west-facing garden facade at the rear of the Palace. The centre of this ornate suite of State Rooms is the Music Room, its large bow the dominant feature of the facade. Flanking the Music Room are the Blue and the White Drawing rooms. At the centre of the suite, serving as a corridor to link the state rooms, is the Picture Gallery, which is top lit and 55 yards (50 m) long. The Gallery is hung with works by Rembrandt, van Dyck, Rubens, and Vermeer, among many others. Other rooms leading from the Picture Gallery are the Throne Room and the Green Drawing Room. The Green Drawing room serves as a huge anteroom to the Throne Room, and is part of the ceremonial route to the Throne from the Guard Room at the top of the Grand Staircase. The Guard Room contains a white marble statue of Prince Albert, in Roman costume set in a [tribune](#) lined with tapestries. These very formal rooms are used only for ceremonial and official entertaining.



- Piano nobile* of Buckingham Palace. A: State Dining Room; B:Blue Drawing Room; C:Music Room; D:White Drawing Room; E:Royal Closet; F:Throne Room; G:Green drawing Room; H:Cross Gallery; J:Ball Room; K:East Gallery; L:Yellow Drawing Room; M:Centre/Balcony Room; N:Chinese Luncheon Room; O:Principal Corridor; P:Private Apartments; Q:Service Areas; W:The Grand staircase. *On the ground floor*: R:Ambassador's Entrance; T: Grand Entrance. The areas defined by shaded walls represent lower minor wings. **Note:** This is an unscaled sketch plan for reference only. Proportions of some rooms may slightly differ in reality.



- The throne room.



Prince Albert's music room, one of the smaller less formal rooms at the palace, in 1887.

Court ceremonies



The State Ballroom is the largest room at Buckingham Palace. It was added by Queen Victoria and is used for ceremonies such as investitures and state banquets. This picture dates from 1856. The polychrome colour scheme has been replaced by mainly white decoration with gold details and red upholstery.

During the current reign court [ceremony](#) has undergone a radical change, and entry to the palace is no longer the prerogative of just the upper class.

There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal [court uniform and dress](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military [uniform](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military uniform wore knee [breeches](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military uniform wore knee breeches of an 18th-century design. Women's evening dress included obligatory trains and [tiaras](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military uniform wore knee breeches of an 18th-century design. Women's evening dress included obligatory trains and tiaras and/or feathers in their hair. After [World War I](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military uniform wore knee breeches of an 18th-century design. Women's evening dress included obligatory trains and tiaras and/or feathers in their hair. After World War I, when Queen Mary wished to follow [fashion](#). There has been a progressive relaxation of the dress code governing formal court uniform and dress. In previous reigns, men not wearing military uniform wore knee breeches of an 18th-century design. Women's evening dress included obligatory trains and tiaras and/or feathers in their hair. After World War I, when Queen Mary wished to follow fashion by raising her skirts a few inches from the ground, she requested a Lady-in-Waiting to shorten her own skirt first to gauge the King's reaction. King George V was horrified and Queen Mary's hemline remained unfashionably low. Subsequently, [King George VI](#) and Queen Elizabeth allowed daytime skirts to rise.

In 1924 [Labour](#) In 1924 Labour [Prime Minister](#) In 1924 Labour Prime Minister [Ramsay MacDonald](#) was the first man to be received by a monarch inside the palace wearing a lounge suit; however, this was a one-off concession. Prescribed evening court dress remained obligatory until World War II.

Today there is no official dress code. Most men invited to Buckingham Palace in the daytime choose to wear service uniform or morning coats, and in the evening, depending on the formality of the occasion, [black tie](#). Today there is no official dress code. Most men invited to Buckingham Palace in the daytime choose to wear service uniform or morning coats, and in the evening, depending on the formality of the occasion, black tie or [white tie](#). If the occasion is 'white tie' then women, if they possess one, wear a tiara.

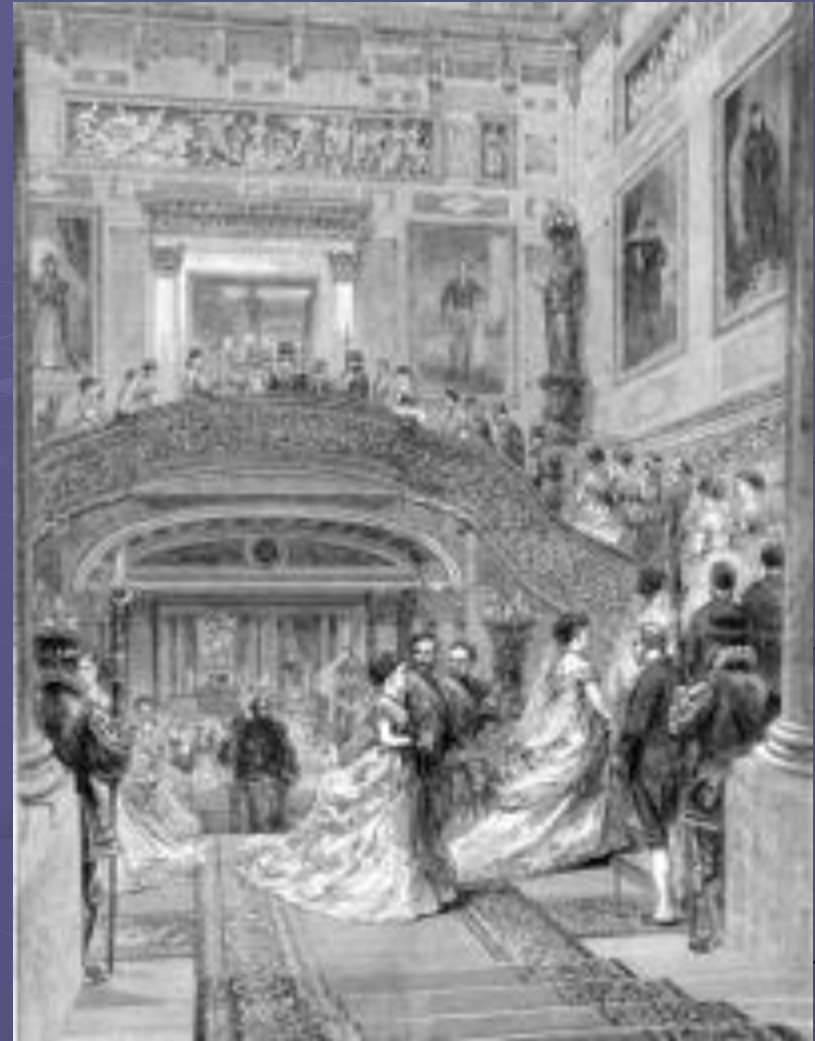
One of the first major changes was in 1958 when the Queen abolished the presentation parties for [debutantes](#). One of the first major changes was in 1958 when the Queen abolished the presentation parties for debutantes. These court presentations of [aristocratic](#). One of the first major changes was in 1958 when the Queen abolished the presentation parties for debutantes. These

State [banquets](#) also take place in the Ballroom. These formal dinners take place on the first evening of a state visit by a visiting Head of State. On these occasions, often over 150 guests in formal "white tie and decorations" including tiaras for women, dine off gold plate. The largest and most formal reception at Buckingham Palace takes place every November, when the Queen entertains members of the foreign diplomatic corps resident in London. On this occasion all the state rooms are in use, as the entire Royal Family proceed through them, beginning their procession through the great north doors of the Picture Gallery. As Nash had envisaged, all the large, double-mirrored doors stand open, reflecting the numerous crystal chandeliers and sconces, causing a deliberate optical illusion of space and light.

Smaller ceremonies such as the reception of new ambassadors take place in the '1844 Room'. Here too the Queen holds small lunch parties, and often meetings of the [Privy Council](#). Smaller ceremonies such as the reception of new ambassadors take place in the '1844 Room'. Here too the Queen holds small lunch parties, and often meetings of the Privy Council. Larger lunch parties often take place in the curved and domed Music Room, or the State Dining Room. On all formal occasions the ceremonies are attended by the [Yeomen of the Guard](#). Smaller ceremonies such as the reception of new ambassadors take place in the '1844 Room'. Here too the Queen holds small lunch parties, and often meetings of the Privy Council. Larger lunch parties often take place in the curved and domed Music Room, or the State Dining Room. On all formal occasions the ceremonies are attended by the Yeomen of the Guard in their anachronistic uniforms, and other officers of the court such as the [Lord Chamberlain](#).

Since the bombing of the palace chapel in World War II, royal christenings have sometimes taken place in the Music Room. The Queen's first three children were all baptised here, in a special gold font. [Prince William](#). Since the bombing of the palace chapel in World War II, royal christenings have sometimes taken place in the Music Room. The Queen's first three children were all baptised here, in a special gold font. Prince William was christened in the Music Room; however, his brother, Prince Harry, was christened at [St George's Chapel, Windsor](#).

The largest functions of the year are the Queen's Garden Parties for up to 8,000 invitees, taking tea and sandwiches in



This 1870 drawing shows guests ascending the Grand Staircase.

- The last major extension to the palace was in 1850. In 1999 it was stated [9] that the palace contained 19 state rooms, 52 principal bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices, and 78 bathrooms. While this may seem large, it is small compared with the Tsar's palaces in St. Petersburg and at Tsarskoe Selo, the Papal Palace in Rome, the Royal Palace of Madrid, or indeed the former Palace of Whitehall



- On September 15, 1940 an air raid on the Royal Palace of Whitehall, London, England, during the Second World War. The photograph shows King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II on the balcony of the palace on VE Day, May 8, 1945. The King and Queen have endured the ordeal which has come to their relative subsides of the palace time, a German bomber has tried to bring it down over the inner quadrangle of the palace, in 1938, in which the north-west wing was designed by the Nashman during World War I. The Palace, then the home of King George V and Queen Mary, escaped unscathed. Its more valuable contents were evacuated to Windsor but the Royal family remained in situ. The largest change to court life at this time was that the Government persuaded the King to ostentatiously and publicly for the war and cease the quick and direct alcohol. Both the nation and the war, these are to be remembered in the purpose of the war. The classes, the lower classes continued to imbibe and the King was left reputedly furious at his enforced abstinence. Edward VIII later told a biographer that his father had a furtive glass of port each evening, while the Queen secretly laced her fruit cup with champagne. The King's children were photographed at this time serving tea to the public on VE Day (May 8, 1945). On VE Day (May 8, 1945), the Palace was the centre of British celebrations, with the King, Queen and the Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen, and Princess Margaret. On VE Day (May 8, 1945), the Palace was the centre of British World War II celebrations. The King, Queen and Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen, and Princess Margaret, appearing on the balcony with the palace's blacked-out windows behind them, to the cheers from a vast crowd in the Mall. Buckingham Palace would demoralise the nation. One bomb fell in the palace quadrangle while King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were in residence in 1940, while many windows were shattered. Serious damage was reported

Security



[Guards](#) Guards march out of Buckingham Palace at the end of the daily [Changing of the Guard](#) ceremony.

The famous armed [sentries](#) The famous armed sentries on [guard](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own [police station](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The [Foot Guards](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards [battalion](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards battalion at [Wellington Barracks](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards battalion at Wellington Barracks is only 300 yards (275 m) away. The units at [Chelsea Barracks](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards battalion at Wellington Barracks is only 300 yards (275 m) away. The units at Chelsea Barracks ([Foot Guards](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards battalion at Wellington Barracks is only 300 yards (275 m) away. The units at Chelsea Barracks (Foot Guards) and [Hyde Park Barracks](#) The famous armed sentries on guard on the Palace forecourt are commonly thought to be ceremonial, but they have always had a security role. The Palace also contains its own police station, and the Royal Family have their own protection officers at all times. The Foot Guards battalion at Wellington Barracks is only 300 yards (275 m) away. The units at Chelsea Barracks (Foot Guards) and Hyde Park Barracks ([Household Cavalry](#)) are both three-quarters of a mile away (1.2 km).

A notorious incident occurred in 1982, when [Michael Fagan](#) gained access to the Queen's bedroom while she was asleep. In 2003 a reporter for the [Daily Mirror](#), [Ryan Parry](#), Ryan Parry, spent two months working as a [footman](#), Ryan Parry, spent two months working as a footman inside Buckingham Palace. One of the references he supplied was fake, and it appears this was not checked properly. The incident coincided with a visit to the UK by [George W. Bush](#), who stayed at the Palace, and the *Mirror* published clandestine photographs of Bush's bedroom, along with the Queen's breakfast table and the [Duke of York's](#) published clandestine photographs of Bush's bedroom, along with the Queen's breakfast table and the Duke of York's room. ^[10] The Palace took the *Mirror* to court for invasion of privacy, and the newspaper handed over its materials, and paid some of the Queen's costs in an [out-of-court settlement](#) in November 2003.

[The Beatles](#) The Beatles were granted M.B.E.'s in the sixties. Before their ceremony the Fab Four infamously smoked [marijuana](#) in the Palace bathroom

The Palace in the 21st century: Royal Use and Public Access

- Today, Buckingham Palace is not only the weekday home of the Queen and Prince Philip but also the London residence of the [Duke of York](#) Today, Buckingham Palace is not only the weekday home of the Queen and Prince Philip but also the London residence of the Duke of York and the [Earl and Countess of Wessex](#) Today, Buckingham Palace is not only the weekday home of the Queen and Prince Philip but also the London residence of the Duke of York and the Earl and Countess of Wessex. The Palace also houses the offices of the [Royal Household](#) and is the workplace of 450 people.
- Every year some 50,000 invited guests are entertained at Garden Parties in [the Garden](#) Every year some 50,000 invited guests are entertained at Garden Parties in the Garden, receptions, audiences, and banquets. The Forecourt of Buckingham Palace is used for [Changing of the Guard](#), a major ceremony and tourist attraction (daily during the summer months; every other day during the winter).
- The Palace is not the monarch's private property; both [Windsor Castle](#) The Palace is not the monarch's private property; both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace and their art collections belong to the nation. The furnishings, paintings, fittings and other artefacts, many by [Fabergé](#) The Palace is not the monarch's private property; both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace and their art collections belong to the nation. The furnishings, paintings, fittings and other artefacts, many by Fabergé, from Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle are known collectively as the [Royal Collection](#) The Palace is not the monarch's private property; both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace and their art collections belong to the nation. The furnishings, paintings, fittings and other artefacts, many by



The Royal Family on the balcony



Buckingham Palace with the [Union Flag](#) projected onto it for [Christmas Eve 2003](#)

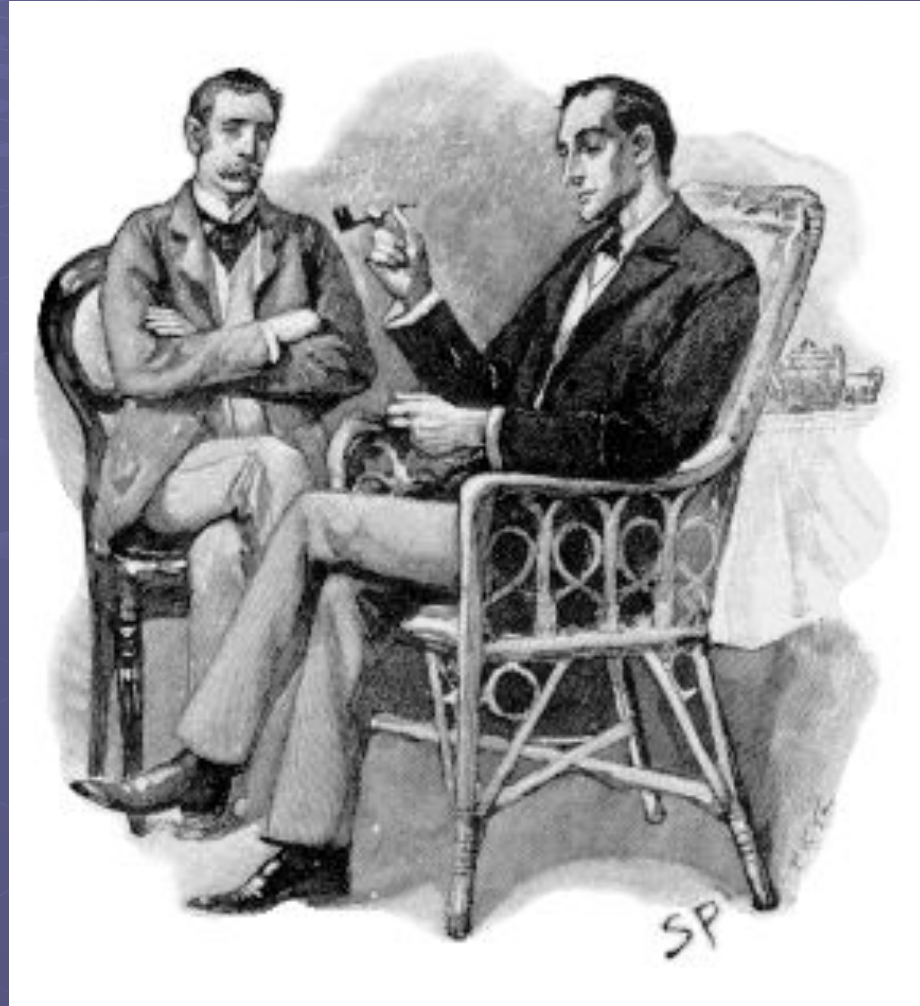
Graphic reconstructions of Buckingham Palace history



Buckingham Palace and the [Victoria Memorial](#).

- As part of the Queen's 80th birthday celebrations, the Big Royal Dig carried out by the [Time Team](#) As part of the Queen's 80th birthday celebrations, the Big Royal Dig carried out by the Time Team of archaeologists (see [Buckingham Palace Gardens](#) for full findings) from 25th-28th August 2006 produced some spectacular graphic reconstructions of Buckingham Palace history.
- [Graphic Reconstruction 1](#) Graphic Reconstruction 1 shows the familiar East Front of Buckingham Palace removed (in the background of the picture). The processional arch designed by architect [John Nash](#) Graphic Reconstruction 1 shows the familiar East Front of Buckingham Palace removed (in the background of the picture). The processional arch designed by architect John Nash, which was resited at [Marble Arch](#) Graphic Reconstruction 1 shows the familiar East Front of Buckingham Palace removed (in the background of the picture). The processional arch designed by architect John Nash, which was resited at Marble Arch in London, has been digitally replaced in its [original site](#). (There is no truth in the frequently heard claim that it was removed as being too small for Queen Victoria's carriage: the Gold State Coach can pass through the arch, as was seen in the coronation procession of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.)
- [Graphic Reconstruction 2](#) combines architect John Nash's Palace building with the

221B Baker Street



- **221B Baker Street** is the fictional [London](#) is the fictional London residence of the detective [Sherlock Holmes](#) is the fictional London residence of the detective Sherlock Holmes, created by author [Arthur Conan Doyle](#) is the fictional London residence of the detective Sherlock Holmes, created by author Arthur Conan Doyle. The address could indicate an upstairs apartment of a residential house on what was originally a [Georgian](#) terrace. The B of the address might, however, refer to the whole house. The street is considerably wider than is portrayed in some film versions of Holmes's adventures and is a substantial and busy north-south thoroughfare, which is at least as congested now as it would have been in Holmes's day.
- The site of the house — had it ever existed (see below) — would have been at the north end of [Baker Street](#)The site of the house — had it ever existed (see below) — would have been at the north end of Baker Street on the west side, near [Regent's Park](#)The site of the house — had it ever existed (see below) — would have been at the north end of Baker Street on the west side, near Regent's Park and [Baker Street tube station](#). This justifies the claim of the Sherlock Holmes Museum that they occupy the real location of 221B Baker Street.
- *We met next day as he had arranged, and inspected the rooms at No. 221B, Baker Street, of which he had spoken at our meeting. They consisted of a couple of comfortable bed-rooms and a single large airy sitting-room, cheerfully furnished, and illuminated by two broad windows.*
(Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*, 1887)

The 'real' 221B Baker Street

- The street number 221B has never been assigned to any property in Baker Street. In Sherlock Holmes's time, street numbers in Baker Street only went up to No 100, which was presumably why Conan Doyle chose the fictional number.
- The part now encompassing 221 Baker Street was known in Doyle's lifetime as Upper Baker Street, and in the first manuscript, Doyle put Holmes's home in "Upper Baker Street", indicating that if he had a house in mind it would have been in the section north of Marylebone Road, near Regent's Park. When street numbers were re-allocated in the 1930s, the block of odd numbers from 219 to 229 was assigned to an [Art Deco](#) building known as Abbey House, constructed in 1932 for the Abbey Road Building Society (subsequently the [Abbey National](#)), which the company occupied until 2002.
- Almost immediately, the building society started receiving correspondence to Sherlock Holmes from all over the world, in such volumes that it appointed a permanent "secretary to Sherlock Holmes" to deal with it. A bronze plaque on the front of Abbey House carries a picture of Holmes and Conan Doyle's narrative detailing Holmes and Watson moving in at 221B. In 1999, Abbey National sponsored the creation of a bronze statue of Sherlock Holmes that now stands at the entrance to Baker Street tube station.
- Holmes scholars have had a number of theories as to the "real" address. With much of Baker Street devastated during the [blitz](#), little trace is left of the original buildings, and most of them are post-war, except those in what was known as Upper Baker

The Sherlock Holmes Museum

The [Sherlock Holmes Museum](#) is housed in an 1815 house similar to the fictional 221B. Its official address is 239 Baker Street. Opened in 1990, it displays exhibits in period rooms, wax figures and Holmes memorabilia. Both Abbey House and the Sherlock Holmes Museum declared themselves to be the "real" 221B: the outcome of a dispute between the two in 1994, when the museum applied unsuccessfully for permission to renumber itself 221. Today both have a claim: Abbey House is where 221B "could have been" and the museum is where Sherlock Holmes's post is delivered.

According to the published stories, "221b Baker Street" was a suite of rooms on the first floor of a lodging house above a flight of 17 steps. The main study overlooked Baker Street, and Holmes's bedroom was adjacent to this room at the rear of the house, with Dr Watson's bedroom being on the 2nd floor, overlooking a rear yard that had a plane tree in it. The Museum adopted the street number '221b' from the time it opened to the public, but it faced significant bureaucratic hurdles in getting official acceptance of its claims to being the real '221b Baker Street', as described in the stories.

In order to physically display the number "221b" on its front door without falling foul of planning regulations, it had to register a company called "221b Ltd", because companies do not require planning permission to display a company name on the entrance to a building.

This ruse did not go down well with local planning officers, particularly Westminster City Council's Street Naming and Numbering Officer.

The Museum also discovered that the local council's street naming and numbering powers did not extend to interior apartments, only to the external parts of buildings, and therefore "221b Baker Street" was de facto firmly established in Baker Street after 100 years, despite the numerous bureaucratic hurdles to its creation.

After the closure of Abbey House, the museum took on the duties of answering all of Holmes's post and reports that it still receives letters – up to 50 a week – inquiring after Holmes or his services. The *US News & World Report* of 19 January 1987 quoted one reply as saying: "Mr Holmes thanks you for your letter. At the moment he is in retirement in [Sussex](#), keeping bees." In [The Adventure of the Second Stain](#) and [The Adventure of the Lion's Mane](#) Holmes' retirement is described as such.



Baker
Street
221 B,
London



At an input in Sherlock
Holmes's museum on
Baker Street.

The Sherlock Holmes pub



The Sherlock Holmes pub

- Another version of Sherlock Holmes's apartment is at the Sherlock Holmes pub in [Northumberland Avenue](#) Another version of Sherlock Holmes's apartment is at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Avenue near [Charing Cross railway station](#) Another version of Sherlock Holmes's apartment is at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Avenue near Charing Cross railway station. This was originally a small hotel, the Northumberland Arms, but was refurbished and reopened under its present name in December 1957. Its owners, Whitbread & Co, were fortunate to own the entire Sherlock Holmes exhibit put together by Marylebone Borough Library and the Abbey National for the 1951 [Festival of Britain](#) Another version of Sherlock Holmes's apartment is at the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Avenue near Charing Cross railway station.

Royal Armouries



Looking up the main stairwell of the armouries

The **Royal Armouries** houses the [British](#) houses the British national collection of arms and armour. It is the oldest museum in the [United Kingdom](#) and one of the oldest museums in the world. The collection is split across three sites:

[The Royal Armouries Museum \(Leeds\)](#)The Royal Armouries Museum (Leeds) in [Leeds](#)
[HM Tower of London](#)HM Tower of London ([London](#))
[Fort Nelson](#)Fort Nelson ([Portsmouth](#)).

A limited selection of items is also on display in [Louisville, Kentucky](#)A limited selection of items is also on display in Louisville, Kentucky, in the U.S., in cooperation with the [Frazier International History Museum](#).

The collection is as old as the [Tower of London](#)The collection is as old as the Tower of London, but was not regularly opened to the public until the reign of [Charles II](#)The collection is as old as the Tower of London, but was not regularly opened to the public until the reign of Charles II in [1660](#)The collection is as old as the Tower of London, but was not regularly opened to the public until the reign of Charles II in 1660. From the 15th century (and possibly earlier) distinguished visitors were allowed access to the Royal Armouries in the Tower. From the reign of [Elizabeth I](#)The collection is as old as the Tower of London, but was not regularly opened to the public until the reign of Charles II in 1660. From the 15th century (and possibly earlier) distinguished visitors were allowed access to the Royal Armouries in the Tower. From the reign of Elizabeth I, a greater range of visitors was permitted to view a collection made up almost entirely of items from the reign of [Henry VIII](#).

Collections now include the [Spanish](#)Collections now include the Spanish [Armoury](#)Collections now include the Spanish Armoury, which contains instruments of [torture](#)Collections now include the Spanish Armoury, which contains instruments of torture and punishment; and the Line of Kings, mounted figures representing English

Natural History Museum

The **Natural History Museum** is one of three large [museums](#) is one of three large museums on [Exhibition Road](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, [South Kensington](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, [London](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the [Science Museum](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on [Cromwell Road](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on Cromwell Road. The museum is home to life and earth science collections comprising some 70 million items. There are five main collections: [Botany](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on Cromwell Road. The museum is home to life and earth science collections comprising some 70 million items. There are five main collections: Botany, [Entomology](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on Cromwell Road. The museum is home to life and earth science collections comprising some 70 million items. There are five main collections: Botany, Entomology, [Mineralogy](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on Cromwell Road. The museum is home to life and earth science collections comprising some 70 million items. There are five main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, [Palaeontology](#) is one of three large museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London (the others are the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum). Its main frontage is on Cromwell Road. The museum is home to life and earth science collections comprising some 70 million items. There are five main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Palaeontology and [Zoology](#). There is also a wildlife garden containing native fauna and flora.

The museum is renowned for its exhibition of [dinosaur](#) skeletons, particularly the large [Diplodocus](#) cast which dominates the entrance.

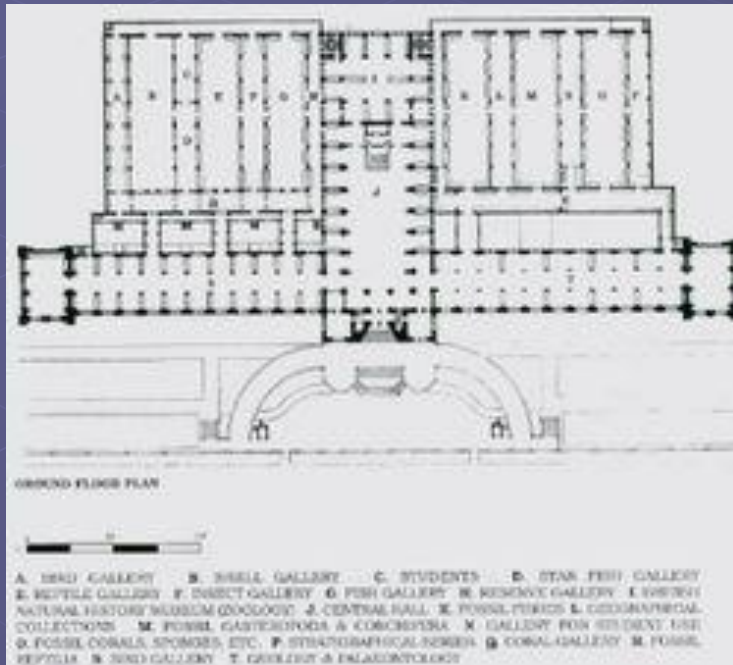
The foundation of the collection was that of the Ulster doctor Sir [Hans Sloane](#) The foundation of the collection was that of the Ulster doctor Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), which allowed his significant collections to be purchased by the British Government at a price well below their market value at the time. This purchase was funded by a lottery. Sloane's collection, which included dried plants, and animal and human skeletons, was initially housed in [Montague House](#) The foundation of the collection was that of the Ulster doctor Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), which allowed his significant collections to be purchased by the British Government at a price well below their market value at the time. This purchase was funded by a lottery. Sloane's collection, which included dried plants, and animal and human skeletons, was initially housed in Montague House in [Bloomsbury](#) The foundation of the collection was that of the Ulster doctor Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), which allowed his significant collections to be purchased by the British Government at a price well below their market value at the time. This purchase was funded by a lottery. Sloane's collection, which included dried plants, and animal and human skeletons, was initially housed in Montague House in Bloomsbury in 1756, which was the home of the [British Museum](#) The foundation of the collection was that of the Ulster doctor Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), which allowed his significant collections to be purchased by the British Government at a price well below their market value at the time. This purchase was funded by a lottery. Sloane's collection, which included dried plants, and animal and human skeletons, was initially housed in Montague House in Bloomsbury in 1756, which was the home of the British Museum. In the late 1850s, Professor [Richard Owen](#), Superintendent of the natural history departments of the British Museum saw that the natural history departments needed a bigger, separate building.

Land in South Kensington was purchased, and in 1864 a competition was held to design the new museum. The winning entry was submitted by Captain [Francis Fowke](#) Land in South Kensington was purchased, and in 1864 a competition was held to design the new museum. The winning entry was submitted by Captain Francis Fowke who died shortly afterwards. The scheme was taken over by [Alfred Waterhouse](#) Land in South Kensington was purchased, and in 1864 a competition was held to design the new museum. The winning entry was submitted by Captain Francis Fowke who died shortly afterwards. The scheme was taken over by Alfred Waterhouse who substantially revised the agreed plans, and designed the façades in his own idiosyncratic [Romanesque](#) style. Work began in 1873 and was completed in 1880. The new museum opened in 1881, although the move from the old museum was not fully completed until 1883.

Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of [terracotta](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of [Victorian](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of Victorian London. The terracotta for the interior and exterior was made by the famous [Gibbs And Canning Limited](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of Victorian London. The terracotta for the interior and exterior was made by the famous Gibbs And Canning Limited of [Tamworth](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of Victorian London. The terracotta for the interior and exterior was made by the famous Gibbs And Canning Limited of Tamworth. The bricks include images of plants, animals and fossils. The central axis of the museum is aligned with the tower of [Imperial College London](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of Victorian London. The terracotta for the interior and exterior was made by the famous Gibbs And Canning Limited of Tamworth. The bricks include images of plants, animals and fossils. The central axis of the museum is aligned with the tower of Imperial College London (formerly the Imperial Institute) and the [Royal Albert Hall](#) Both the interiors and exteriors made extensive use of terracotta bricks to resist the sooty climate of Victorian London. The terracotta for the interior and exterior was made by the famous Gibbs And Canning Limited of Tamworth. The bricks include images of plants, animals and fossils. The central axis of the museum is aligned with the tower of Imperial College London (formerly the Imperial Institute) and the Royal Albert Hall and [Albert Memorial](#) Both the



The Natural History Museum has an ornate [terracotta](#) facade typical of high [Victorian architecture](#). The carvings represent the contents of the Museum.



An 1881 plan showing the original arrangement of the Museum.



The entrance to the Earth Galleries



A lifesize model of the [blue whale](#) from the Museum



The Museum from the south east



The Main Hall of the Museum

Madame Tussauds



- Madame Tussauds and the [London Planetarium](#)

Madame Tussauds is a famous [wax museum](#) is a famous wax museum in [London](#) is a famous wax museum in London with branches in a number of major cities. It was set up by [wax](#) is a famous wax museum in London with branches in a number of major cities. It was set up by wax [sculptor](#) is a famous wax museum in London with branches in a number of major cities. It was set up by wax sculptor [Marie Tussaud](#).



Madame Tussauds in [New York City](#)

Some of Tussauds Wax Figures

[Adolf Hitler](#)
[Winston Churchill](#)
[Dolla Laurent](#)
[Amitabh Bachchan](#)
[Alexis Thomas](#)
[Asha Broughton](#)
[An Turtle](#)
[Andreas Papandreou](#)
[Renee Haywood](#)
[Sir George Seymour](#)
[Ben Hana](#)
[Atatürk](#)
[Richard III of England](#)
[Benazir Bhutto](#)
[Beyoncé Knowles](#)
[Britney Spears](#)
[Christina Aguilera](#)
[Colin Farrell](#)
[Constantine Karamanlis](#)
[Diana, Princess of Wales](#)
[Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen](#)
[Davina McCall](#)
[Eleftherios Venizelos](#)
[Elle Macpherson](#)
[George Clooney](#)
[George W. Bush](#)
[The Hulk](#)
[Jenna Jameson](#) - First Pornstar to be immortalized with a wax figurine
[Jennifer Lopez](#)
[Jessica Simpson](#)
[Julia Roberts](#)
[Kylie Minoque](#)
[Madonna](#)
[Marilyn Monroe](#)
[Mahatma Gandhi](#)
[Nelson Mandela](#)
[Oprah Winfrey](#)
[Ozzy Osbourne](#) Ozzy Osbourne and [Sharon Osbourne](#)
[Paris Hilton](#)



Sculpture of Adolf Hitler,
London



Sculpture of
Winston
Churchill,
London

[Pierce Brosnan](#)
[Pope John Paul II](#)
[Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson](#)
[Tony Blair](#)
[Salma Hayek](#)
[Samuel L. Jackson](#)
[Spice Girls](#)
[Usher](#)
[Van Helsing](#)
[Victoria Beckham](#)
[William Shakespeare](#)
[Woody Allen](#)

Sports Stars

[Tobias Müller \(Leutkirch\)](#)
[Jonah Lomu](#)
[David Beckham](#)
[Jonny Wilkinson](#)
[Andre Agassi](#)
[Arnold Palmer](#)
[Babe Ruth](#)
[Dale Earnhardt](#)
[Derek Jeter](#)
[Evander Holyfield](#)
[Gary Lineker](#)
[Jeff Gordon](#)
[Joe Montana](#)
[Lance Armstrong](#)
[Michael Jordan](#)
[Michael Owen](#)
[Michelle Kwan](#)
[Muhammad Ali](#)
[Shaquille O'Neal](#)
[Tiger Woods](#)
[Björn Borg](#)
[Brian Lara](#)
[Viv Richards](#)
[Martina Hingis](#)
[José Mourinho](#)
[Sven-Göran Eriksson](#)
[Michael Schumacher](#)
[Wayne Rooney](#)



Sculpture of Shakespeare, London



Sculptures of the Beatles, London

Musicians

[Aaron Kwok](#) (Hong Kong)
[Anita Mui](#) (Hong Kong)
[Ayumi Hamasaki](#) (Hong Kong)
[The Beatles](#) (New York, Hong Kong, London)
[Bette Midler](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
[Beyoncé](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)
[Billy Idol](#) (Las Vegas)
[Bono](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
[Britney Spears](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)
[Bruce Springsteen](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
[Christina Aguilera](#) (London)
[David Bowie](#) (New York, London)
[Dean Martin](#) (Las Vegas)
[Debbie Reynolds](#) (Las Vegas)
[* DJ Ötzi](#) (London)
[Diana Ross](#) (New York, Las Vegas)
[Elton John](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)
[Elvis Presley](#) (Las Vegas, Hong Kong)
[Engelbert Humperdinck](#) (Las Vegas)
[Frank Sinatra](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
[Freddie Mercury](#) (New York, London)
[Gloria Estefan](#) (Las Vegas)
[Jay Chou](#) (Hong Kong)
[James Brown](#) (Las Vegas)
[Jennifer Lopez](#) (Las Vegas, London)
[Jimi Hendrix](#) (New York, Las Vegas, London)
[Joey Yung](#) (Hong Kong)
[Johnny Mathis](#) (Las Vegas)
[Jon Bon Jovi](#) (Las Vegas)
[Justin Hawkins](#) Justin Hawkins (Lead singer with '[The Darkness](#)') (London)
[Kylie Minogue](#) (Hong Kong, London)
[Lenny Kravitz](#) (Las Vegas)
[Leslie Cheung](#) (Hong Kong)
[Liberace](#) (Las Vegas)
[Lindsay Lohan](#) (New York)
[Little Richard](#) (Las Vegas)
[Liza Minnelli](#) (Las Vegas)
[Louis Armstrong](#) (Las Vegas)
[Luciano Pavarotti](#) (Hong Kong, Las Vegas, London)
[Madonna](#) (Las Vegas, Hong Kong, New York, London)
[Michael Jackson](#) (Hong Kong, Las Vegas, London)
[Miriam Yeung](#) (Hong Kong)
[Mick Jagger](#) (Las Vegas)
[Neil Sedaka](#) (Las Vegas)
[Prince](#) (Las Vegas)
[Sammy Davis Jr](#) (Las Vegas)
[Shakira](#) (New York, Las Vegas)
[Shayne Ward](#) (London)
[Stevie Wonder](#) (Las Vegas)
[Tina Turner](#) (New York, Las Vegas)
[Tom Jones](#) (Las Vegas, London)
[Tony Bennett](#) (Las Vegas)
[Tupac Shakur](#) (Las Vegas, London)
[Twins](#) (Hong Kong)
[Wayne Newton](#) (Las Vegas)



Sculpture of Charlie Chaplin, London

Actors/Actresses

[Aishwarya Rai](#) (London)

[Michael Caine](#) (London)

[Robin Williams](#) (London)

[Tom Baker](#) (London)

[Kieran Wright](#) (London)

[Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) (Las Vegas, London)

[Ben Affleck](#) (Las Vegas)

[Bob Hope](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Brad Pitt](#) (Las Vegas, Hong Kong, London)

[Brandon Routh](#) (New York City)

[Charlie Chaplin](#) (London)

[Cybill Shepherd](#) (Las Vegas)

[David Jason](#) (London)

[Elizabeth Taylor](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)

[George Burns](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[George Clooney](#) (Las Vegas)

[Gerard Depardieu](#) (Las Vegas)

[Julia Roberts](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Nicolas Cage](#) (Las Vegas, London).

[Patrick Stewart](#) (Las Vegas, London)

[The Rock](#) (Las Vegas, London)

[Joanne Woodward](#) (Las Vegas)

[Jodie Foster](#) (Las Vegas, Hong Kong)

[Judy Garland](#) (Las Vegas, New York))

[Lance Burton](#) (Las Vegas)

[Mel Gibson](#) (Las Vegas)

[Meryl Streep](#) (Las Vegas)

[Paul Newman](#) (Las Vegas)

[Sean Connery](#) (Las Vegas, London)

[Shirley MacLaine](#) (Las Vegas)

[Marilyn Monroe](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)

[Sylvester Stallone](#) (Las Vegas)

[Whoopi Goldberg](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)

[Will Smith](#) (London)

[John Wayne](#) (Las Vegas)

[Lucille Ball](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Sarah Michelle Gellar](#) (Las Vegas, London)

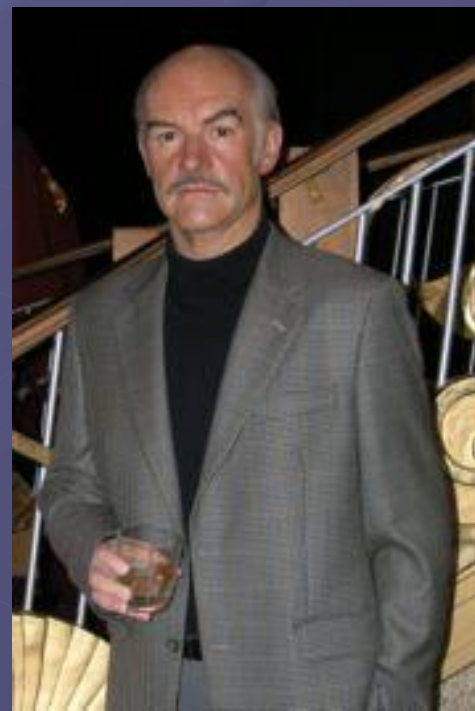
[Bae Yong Joon](#) (Hong Kong)

[Amitabh Bachchan](#) (London)

[Jennifer Lopez](#) (Las Vegas)



Sculpture of Julia Roberts, London



Sculpture of Sean Connery, London

Others

[Al Roker](#) (New York)

[Bugsy Siegel](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Blue Man Group](#) (Las Vegas)

[Buzz Aldrin](#) (Las Vegas)

[Don King](#) (Las Vegas)

[Elle MacPherson](#) (Las Vegas)

[Hugh Hefner](#) (Las Vegas)

[Ivana Trump](#) (Las Vegas)

[Jerry Springer](#) (Las Vegas)

[Joan Rivers](#) (Las Vegas)

[Josephine Baker](#) (New York)

[Larry King](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Monsters](#) (Las Vegas)

[Rembrandt van Rijn](#) (Amsterdam)

[Neil Armstrong](#) (Las Vegas)

[Oprah Winfrey](#) (Las Vegas, New York)

[Robert Schuller](#) (Las Vegas)

[Ryan Seacrest](#) (Las Vegas)

[Siegfried & Roy](#) (Las Vegas)

[Simon Cowell](#) (Las Vegas, London, New York)

[Wolfgang Puck](#) (Las Vegas)

[Adrian Wägele](#) (Leutkirch)

[Singapore Girl](#) (London)

[Jenna Jameson](#) (Las Vegas)

[Jamie Oliver](#) (London)

[Matt Lucas](#) and [David Walliams](#) (London)

[Lou and Andy](#)

(London)

[Yoko Ono](#) (New York)

Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt (New York) daughter of [Angelina Jolie](#)

and [Brad Pitt](#), first baby in Madame Tussauds



Sculpture of Will Smith, London

Sculpture of The Queen Mother, London



World Leaders

- [Benjamin Franklin](#) (Las Vegas)
- [14th Dalai Lama](#) (New York, London)
- [Yitzhak Rabin](#) (London)
- [Queen Beatrix I of The Netherlands](#) (Amsterdam)
- [President George W. Bush](#) (Las Vegas, London)
- [Princess Diana](#) (Las Vegas, New York, London)
- [President Abraham Lincoln](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
- [President George Washington](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
- [President John F. Kennedy](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
- [Queen Mother](#) (London)
- [First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis](#) (Las Vegas, New York)
- [Napoleon I of France](#) (London)
- [Saddam Hussain](#) (London)



Sculpture of Chef
Jamie Oliver, London



Sculpture of [Yoko Ono](#) Sculpture of
Yoko Ono, [New York](#).

Trivia

- Madame Tussauds is the focus of [Steve Taylor](#)'s song 'Meltdown ((at Madame Tussaud's))' in which the song talks about someone turning up the thermostat (and claims it never did work) and causes the wax figures to melt.

Tower of London



- **Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress The Tower of London**, more commonly known as the **Tower of London**, is a historic monument in central [London](#), is a historic monument in central London on the north bank of the [River Thames](#), is a historic monument in central London on the north bank of the River Thames. It is located within the [London Borough of Tower Hamlets](#), is a historic monument in central London on the north bank of the River Thames. It is located within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is separated from the eastern edge of the [City of London](#), is a historic monument in central London on the north bank of the River Thames. It is located within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is separated from the eastern edge of the City of London by the open space known as [Tower Hill](#).
- The Tower of London is often identified with the **White Tower**, the original stark, square fortress built by [William the Conqueror](#), the original stark, square fortress built by [William the Conqueror](#) in [1078](#), the original stark, square fortress built by William the Conqueror in 1078. However, the Tower as a whole is a complex of several buildings set within two parallel rings of defensive walls and a [moat](#).
- The Tower's primary function was as a fortress, a royal palace and a prison (particularly for high status and royal prisoners (such as the

History

The Tower of London was founded in [1078](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when [William the Conqueror](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1]The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1] This was as much to protect the [Normans](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1] This was as much to protect the Normans from the people of the [City of London](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1] This was as much to protect the Normans from the people of the City of London as to protect London from outside invaders. William ordered the Tower to be built of [Caen stone](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1] This was as much to protect the Normans from the people of the City of London as to protect London from outside invaders. William ordered the Tower to be built of Caen stone, which he had specially imported from [France](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to the Thames. [1] This was as much to protect the Normans from the people of the City of London as to protect London from outside invaders. William ordered the Tower to be built of Caen stone, which he had specially imported from France, and appointed [Gundulf](#)The Tower of London was founded in 1078, when William the Conqueror ordered the White Tower to be built inside the SE angle of the City walls, adjacent to



The 15th century Tower in a manuscript of poems by Charles, Duke of Orléans ([1391](#)The 15th century Tower in a manuscript of poems by Charles, Duke of Orléans (1391-[1465](#)) commemorating his imprisonment there (British Library).

Menagerie

- A Royal [Menagerie](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as [1204](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of [King John](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in [1125](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in 1125 by [Henry I](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in 1125 by Henry I at his palace in [Woodstock](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in 1125 by Henry I at his palace in Woodstock, near [Oxford](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in 1125 by Henry I at his palace in Woodstock, near Oxford. Its year of origin is often stated as [1235](#) A Royal Menagerie was established at the Tower in the 13th century, possibly as early as 1204 during the reign of King John, and probably stocked with animals from an earlier menagerie started in 1125 by Henry I at his palace in Woodstock, near Oxford. Its year of origin is often stated as 1235. when [Henry III](#) A Royal

Ravens

It is commonly held that there have been at least six ravens in residence at the Tower for centuries. It was said that Charles II ordered their removal following complaints from John Flamsteed, the Royal Astronomer. However, they were not removed because Charles was then told of the legend that if the ravens ever leave the Tower of London, the White Tower, the Monarchy, and the entire Kingdom would fall. Charles, following the time of the English Civil War, superstition or not, was not prepared to take the chance, and instead had his observatory moved to Greenwich.



Raven.

Prisoners in the Tower

- The Tower of London was used as a prison for those of high rank and for religious dissidents. Those of high rank, including prisoners of royal status, were housed in relative comfort. Religious dissidents were however much more severely treated and were often tortured.
- The first prisoner was [Ranulf Flambard](#) The first prisoner was Ranulf Flambard in [1100](#) The first prisoner was Ranulf Flambard in 1100 who, as Bishop of Durham, was found guilty of [extortion](#). Ironically he had himself been responsible for various improvements to the design of the Tower after the first architect Gundulf moved back to Rochester. He escaped from the White Tower by shinning down a rope, which had been smuggled into his cell in a wine casket.
- Other prisoners include:
 - [John Baliol King of Scotland](#)
 - [David II King of Scotland](#)
 - [John II King of France](#)
 - [Henry VI of England](#) Henry VI of England was imprisoned in the Tower, where he was murdered on the 21 of May 1471. Popular legend has accused [Richard, Duke of Gloucester](#) of his murder. Each year on the anniversary of Henry VI's death, the Provosts of Eton and King's College, Cambridge, lay roses and lilies on the altar which now stands where he died.
 - [Margaret of Anjou](#), wife of the above
 - [Sir William de la Pole](#). A distant relative of King Henry VIII, he was incarcerated at the Tower for 37 years (1502-1539) for allegedly plotting against Henry VII thus becoming the longest serving prisoner here.
 - [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) spent thirteen years (1603-1616) imprisoned at the Tower but was able to live in relative comfort in the Bloody Tower with his wife and two children. For some of the time he even grew tobacco on Tower Green, just outside his apartment. Here he wrote *The History of the World*.
 - [Niall Garve O'Donnell](#) Niall Garve O'Donnell Irish nobleman, ironically a one-time ally of the English against his cousin, [Red Hugh O'Donnell](#).
 - [Guy Fawkes](#), famous for his part in the Gunpowder Plot, was brought to the Tower to be interrogated by a council of the King's Ministers. However, he was not executed here. When he confessed he was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered in the Old Palace Yard at Westminster, however he escaped his fate by jumping off the scaffold at the gallows which in turn broke his neck - killing him.
 - [Johan Anders Jägerhorn](#) Johan Anders Jägerhorn, a Swedish officer from [Finland](#) Johan Anders Jägerhorn, a Swedish officer from Finland, [Lord Edward FitzGerald's](#) friend, participating in the Irish independence movement. Spent two years in the Tower 1799-1801, but was released because of Russian interests.
 - [Lord George Gordon](#) Lord George Gordon, instigator of the [Gordon Riots](#) in 1780, spent 6 months in the Tower while awaiting trial on the charge of High Treason.

Executions

Lower-class criminals were usually executed by hanging at one of the public execution sites outside the Tower. Several high-profile convicts, such as [Thomas More](#) Lower-class criminals were usually executed by hanging at one of the public execution sites outside the Tower. Several high-profile convicts, such as Thomas More, were publicly executed on [Tower Hill](#) Lower-class criminals were usually executed by hanging at one of the public execution sites outside the Tower. Several high-profile convicts, such as Thomas More, were publicly executed on Tower Hill. Seven nobles (five of them ladies) were beheaded privately on Tower Green, inside the complex, and then buried in the "[Chapel Royal](#) Lower-class criminals were usually executed by hanging at one of the public execution sites outside the Tower. Several high-profile convicts, such as Thomas More, were publicly executed on Tower Hill. Seven nobles (five of them ladies) were beheaded privately on Tower Green, inside the complex, and then buried in the "Chapel Royal of [St. Peter ad Vincula](#) Lower-class criminals were usually executed by hanging at one of the public execution sites outside the Tower. Several high-profile convicts, such as Thomas More, were publicly executed on Tower Hill. Seven nobles (five of them ladies) were beheaded privately on Tower Green, inside the complex, and then buried in the "Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula" (Latin for "in chains," making him an appropriate patron saint for prisoners) next to the Green. Some of the nobles who were executed outside the Tower are also buried in that chapel. ([External link to Chapel webpage](#)) The names of the seven beheaded on Tower Green for treason are:

[William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings](#) William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings (1483)

[Anne Boleyn](#) Anne Boleyn (1536)

[Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury](#) Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury (1541)

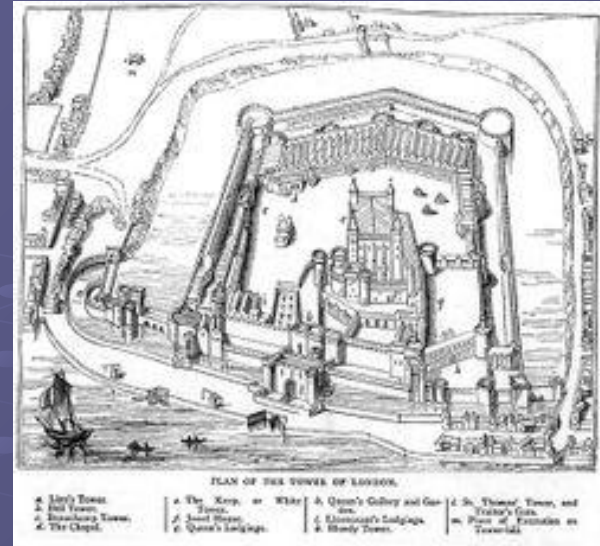
[Catherine Howard](#) Catherine Howard (1542)

[Jane Boleyn, Viscountess Rochford](#) Jane Boleyn, Viscountess Rochford (1542)

[Lady Jane Grey](#) Lady Jane Grey (1554)

[Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex](#) Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex (1601)

The Queen Anne Boleyn, beheaded in 1536 for treason against [King Henry VIII](#), is said to be occasionally seen walking around



The Tower in 1597.



The Traitors' Gate

Torture

- Implements of torture used in the Tower include the [Scavenger's daughter](#) Implements of torture used in the Tower include the Scavenger's daughter, a kind of compression device, and the [Rack](#) Implements of torture used in the Tower include the Scavenger's daughter, a kind of compression device, and the Rack, also known as the [Duke of Exeter's Daughter](#).
- [Anne Askew](#) Anne Askew is the only woman on record to have been tortured in the tower, after being taken there in [1546](#) Anne Askew is the only woman on record to have been tortured in the tower, after being taken there in 1546 on a charge of heresy. Sir Anthony Kingston, the Constable of the Tower of London, was ordered to torture Anne in an attempt to force her to name other Protestants. Anne was put on the [Rack](#). Kingston was so impressed with the way Anne behaved that he refused to

Recent history

The military use of the Tower as a fortification, like that of other such castles, became obsolete with the introduction of artillery. The military use of the Tower as a fortification, like that of other such castles, became obsolete with the introduction of artillery, and the moat was drained in 1830. However the Tower did serve as the headquarters of the Board of Ordnance until 1855. The military use of the Tower as a fortification, like that of other such castles, became obsolete with the introduction of artillery, and the moat was drained in 1830. However the Tower did serve as the headquarters of the Board of Ordnance until 1855, and the Tower was still occasionally used as a prison, even through both World Wars. In 1780, the Tower held its only American prisoner, former President of the Continental Congress, John André. The military use of the Tower as a fortification, like that of other such castles, became obsolete with the introduction of artillery, and the moat was drained in 1830. However the Tower did serve as the headquarters of the Board of Ordnance until 1855, and the Tower was still occasionally used as a prison, even through both World Wars. In 1780, the Tower held its only American prisoner, former President of the Continental Congress, John André.



Reconstruction of the interior of the Bloody Tower



Sentries being posted at the Tower of London

Administration

- The Tower of London and its surrounding area has always had a separate administration from the adjacent City of London. It was, anciently, under the jurisdiction of Constable of the Tower The Tower of London and its surrounding area has always had a separate administration from the adjacent City of London. It was, anciently, under the jurisdiction of Constable of the Tower who also held authority over the Tower liberties The Tower of London and its surrounding area

Description

- The Tower can be described as a [palimpsest](#). The oldest visible structure is the White Tower (which is [11th century](#)); other elements added over the centuries are evident, right up to modern additions, most of which cater for the tourist or security needs.
- The Tower today is principally a tourist attraction. Besides the buildings themselves, the British [Crown Jewels](#), a fine armour collection from the [Royal Armouries](#), and a remnant of the wall of the [Roman](#) fortress are on display.
- The tower is manned by the [Yeomen Warders](#) (known as *Beefeaters*), who act as tour guides, provide discreet security, and are something of a tourist attraction in their own right. Every evening, the warders participate in the [Ceremony of the Keys](#), as the Tower is secured for the night.
- The Tower includes the following towers, listed in alphabetic order:
 - Beauchamp Tower (pronounced 'Beecham')
 - Bell Tower
 - Bloody Tower (or the Garden Tower), so named because several of the Tower were murdered here. Allegedly also the site of the execution of Anne Boleyn
 - Bowyer Tower
 - Brick Tower
 - Broad Arrow Tower
 - Byward Tower
 - Constable Tower
 - Cradle Tower
 - Develin Tower
 - Deveraux Tower
 - Flint Tower
 - Lanthorn Tower
 - Martin Tower
 - Middle Tower
 - St. Thomas's Tower
 - [Salt Tower](#)
 - Wakefield Tower
 - Wardrobe Tower
 - Well Tower
 - [White Tower](#)



The Middle Tower (centre) guards the outer perimeter entrance across the (now) dry moat



The White Tower and courtyard



The Battlements, as seen from [Tower Bridge](#) approach

Crown Jewels

- The Crown Jewels have been kept at the Tower of London since [1303](#). The Crown Jewels have been kept at the Tower of London since 1303, after they were stolen from [Westminster Abbey](#). The Crown Jewels have been kept at the Tower of London since 1303, after they were stolen from Westminster Abbey. It is thought that most, if not all, were recovered shortly afterwards. After the coronation of Charles II, they were locked away and shown for a viewing fee paid to a custodian. However, this arrangement ended when Colonel [Thomas Blood](#). The Crown Jewels have been kept at the Tower of London since 1303, after they were stolen from Westminster Abbey. It is thought that most, if not all, were recovered shortly afterwards. After the coronation of Charles II, they were locked away and shown for a viewing fee paid to a custodian. However, this arrangement ended when Colonel Thomas Blood stole the Crown Jewels after having bound and gagged the custodian. Thereafter, the Crown Jewels were kept in a part of the Tower known as Jewel House, where armed guards defended them. They were temporarily taken out of the Tower during [World War II](#). The Crown Jewels have been kept at the Tower of London since 1303, after they were stolen from Westminster Abbey. It is thought that most, if not all, were recovered shortly afterwards. After the coronation of Charles II, they were locked away and shown for a

Location

The Tower is located at the eastern boundary of the [City of London](#). The Tower is located at the eastern boundary of the City of London financial district, adjacent to the [River Thames](#). The Tower is located at the eastern boundary of the City of London financial district, adjacent to the River Thames and [Tower Bridge](#). The Tower is located at the eastern boundary of the City of London financial district, adjacent to the River Thames and Tower Bridge. Between the river and the Tower is Tower Wharf, a freely accessible walkway with excellent views of the river, tower and bridge, together with [HMS Belfast](#). The Tower is located at the eastern boundary of the City of London financial district, adjacent to the River Thames and Tower Bridge. Between the river and the Tower is Tower Wharf, a freely accessible walkway with excellent views of the river, tower and bridge, together with HMS Belfast and [London City Hall](#) on the opposite bank.

The nearest public transport locations are:

[Tower Hill tube station](#) Tower Hill tube station ([London Underground](#) District and Circle lines);

[Tower Gateway DLR station](#) Tower Gateway DLR station ([Docklands Light Railway](#));

[Fenchurch Street railway station](#) Fenchurch Street railway station ([National Rail](#));

[Tower Millennium Pier](#) (river cruise boats);

[St Katherine's Dock](#) St Katherine's Dock ([Thames Clipper](#) commuter boats).

In fiction

The Tower of London, as a place of death, darkness and treachery, is most famously evoked in [William](#)



The Tower of London viewed from the [Swiss Re Tower](#)



The End.