

The Royal Residences and Royal Palaces

Throughout the centuries, Britain's Kings and Queens have built or bought palaces to serve as family homes, workplaces and as centres of government. Some of these are still being used today as official Royal residences and many can be visited by the general public.

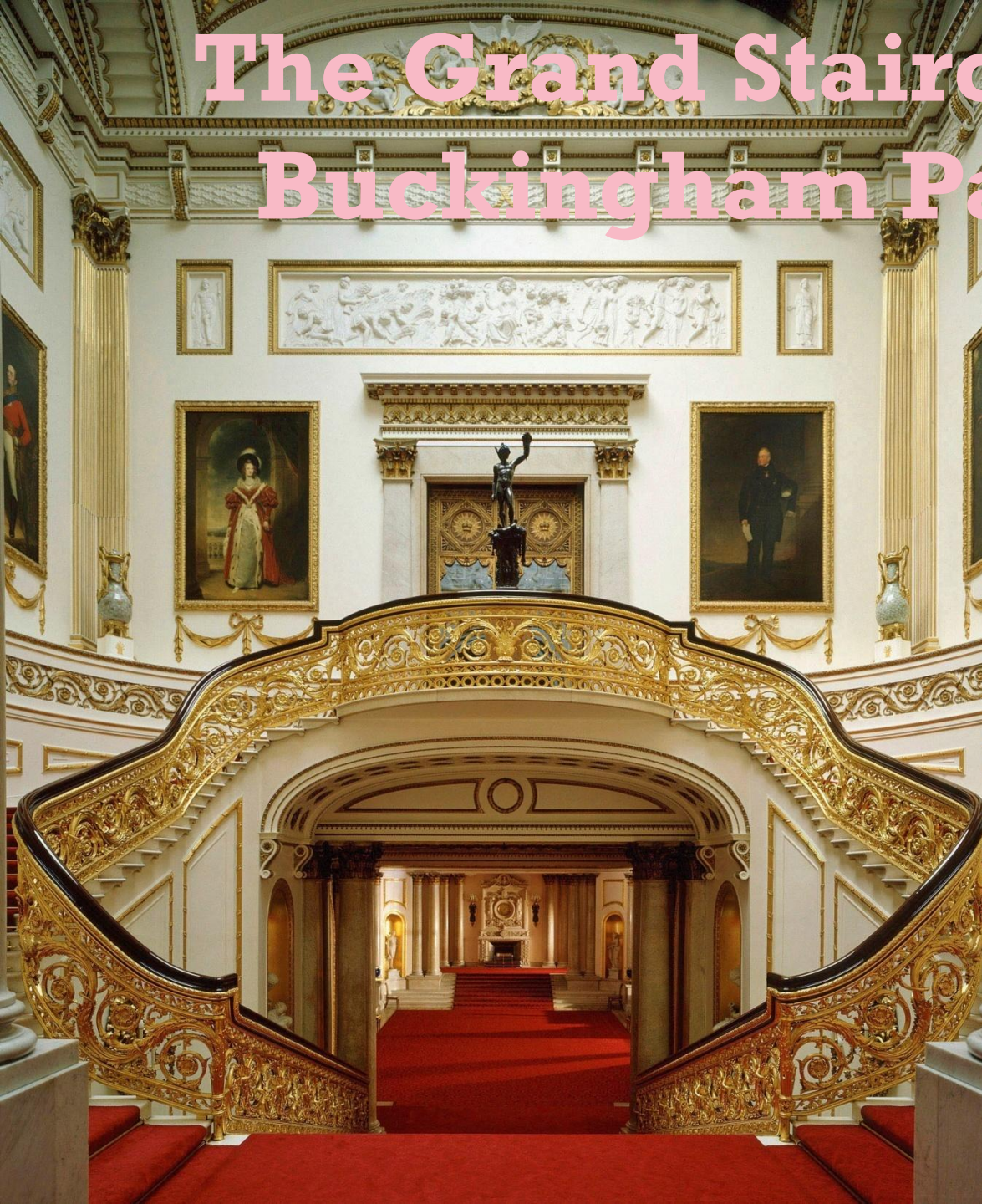


Buckingham Palace



- For much of the year, Buckingham Palace is used by The Queen and members of the Royal Family for official functions and events.
- Today it is the Queen`s official residence.

The Grand Staircase at Buckingham Palace



- Thousands of visitors each year make their way up the Grand Staircase to the State Rooms when attending a Reception or Investiture.
- Designed by the architect John Nash for George IV, the staircase was augmented by Queen Victoria when she added portraits of her immediate family.

THE THRONE ROOM



- The Throne Room is used principally for the reception of formal addresses on important occasions, such as those present to The Queen's Jubilees in 1977 and 2002.

The Blue Drawing Room

The Blue Drawing Room was originally known as the South Drawing Room. Today it is used by guests who gather here before large luncheon parties and grand State and diplomatic occasions.



The White Drawing Room

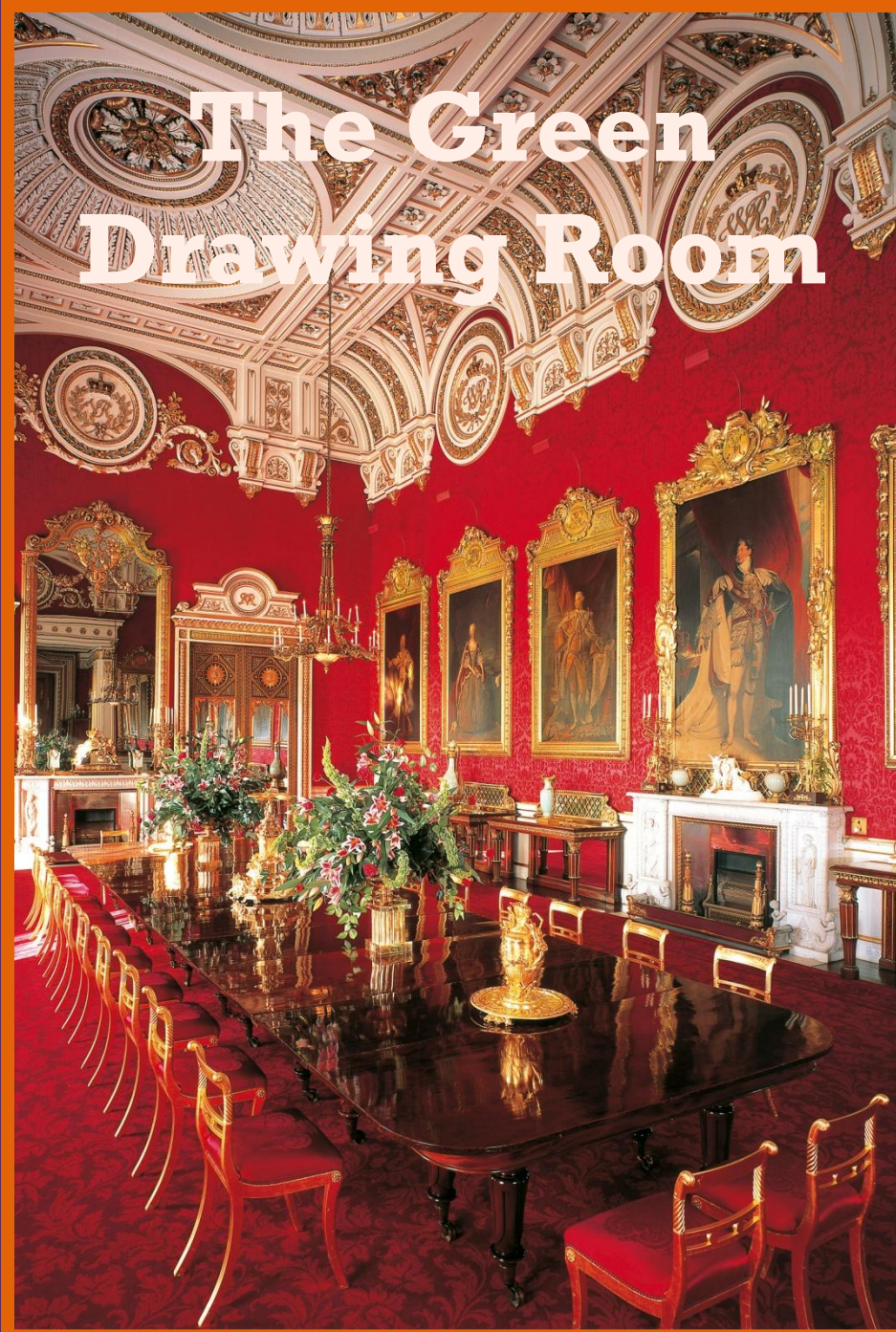


- The White Drawing Room is used for receptions and audiences and has been used as the backdrop for a number of formal photographic portraits of members of the Royal Family.

The State Dining Room



The Green Drawing Room





The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace





Windsor Castle



- Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace today.
- The Queen uses the Castle both as a private home, where she usually spends the weekend, and as a Royal residence at which she undertakes certain formal duties.



• The original castle was built after the Norman invasion by William the Conqueror. Since the time of Henry I it has been used by a succession of monarchs and is the longest-occupied palace in Europe.

• There are 1600 rooms in Windsor Castle.

• Windsor Castle was used as a refuge for the royal family during the bombing campaigns of the Second World War and survived a fire in 1992. It is a popular tourist attraction, a venue for hosting state visits, and the Queen's preferred weekend home.





Palace of Holyroodhouse



- Founded as a monastery in 1128.
- The Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh is The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Situated at the end of the Royal Mile, the Palace of Holyroodhouse is closely associated with Scotland's turbulent past, including Mary, Queen of Scots, who lived here between 1561 and 1567. Successive kings and queens have made the Palace of Holyroodhouse the premier royal residence in Scotland.
- Today, the Palace is the setting for State ceremonies and official entertaining.

Balmoral Castle



Balmoral Castle on the Balmoral Estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland is the private residence of The Queen. Beloved by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Balmoral Castle has remained a favourite residence for The Queen and her family during the summer holiday period in August and September. The Castle is located on the large Balmoral Estate, a working estate which aims to protect the environment while contributing to the local economy.

The Estate grounds, gardens and the Castle Ballroom are open to visitors from the beginning of April to the end of July each year, under the management of the Balmoral Estate Office.



Sandringham House



Sandringham House in Norfolk has been the private home of four generations of Sovereigns since 1862. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family regularly spend Christmas at Sandringham and make it their official base until February each year.

Like Balmoral, the Sandringham Estate is a commercial estate managed privately on The Queen's behalf. Sandringham House, the museum and the grounds are open to visitors.

Frogmore House



- Frogmore House lies in the tranquil setting of the private Home Park of Windsor Castle. A country residence of various monarchs since the seventeenth century, the house is especially linked to Queen Victoria. The house and attractive gardens were one of Queen Victoria's favourite retreats. In the gardens stands the Mausoleum where Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert are buried.
- Today, Frogmore House is no longer a Royal residence, but the house and gardens are sometimes used by the Royal Family for official purposes such as receptions.

The End