## Hampton Court: A Great Day Out At A Wonderful Palace With Magnificent Gardens

By: Karen Dabrowska

Hampton Court has grown from humble beginnings in the 11th century to one of the finest palaces in the world. Over 800 years of history can be explored through this magnificent palace whose previous owners include Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.



The palace is located 11.7 miles London on the River Thames (18.8 km) south west of Charing Cross and upstream of Central

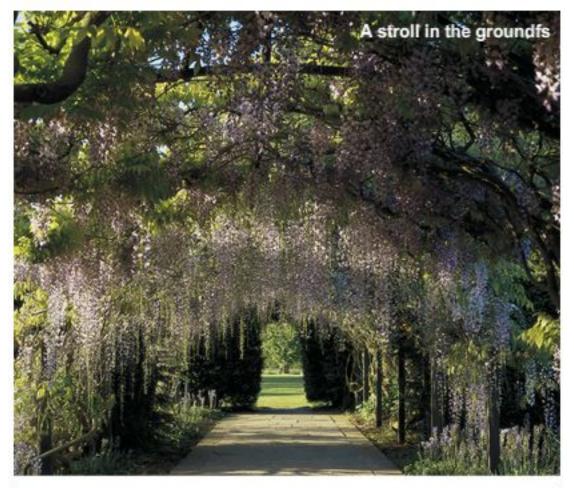
and is only a half an hour train ride from Waterloo Station.

opportunity to see the Queen's taking your own picnic. state apartments, the King's apartments and the Wolsey and The palace has not been lived medieval greatest garden restored to its 1702

Visitors are offered an glory. Refreshments can be introductory exhibition, a guide found in either the coffee shop. through Tudor kitchens, a café, with delicious traditional costume guide tour, and the home cooked British food, or by

Georgian rooms. One of the in by the British royal family most impressive sights is the since the 18th century. It was Great Hall, England's last and originally built for Cardinal hall, Wolsey, a favourite of King decorated with sumptuous Henry VIII, circa 1514; in 1529, tapestries. Outside is the as Wolsey fell from favour, the famous maze and the Privy palace was passed to the King, who enlarged it.





massive rebuilding and successive low wings. expansion project intended to halted in 1694, leaving the palace in two distinct contrasting architectural styles, domestic use of pink bricks and an, albeit

The following century, William vague, symmetrical balancing of

rival Versailles was begun. Work The palace's Home Park is the site of the annual Hampton Court Palace Festival and Hampton Court Palace Flower Tudor and Baroque. While the Show. Along with St. James's palace's styles are an accident Palace, it is one of only two of fate, a unity exists due to the surviving palaces out of the many owned by Henry VIII.

from the two principal periods of the palace's construction, the early Tudor (Renaissance) and late Stuart to Early Georgian period. The single most important works are Mantegna's the Lower Orangery. The palace housed the Raphael once Cartoons now Victoria and Albert Museum

The palace houses many works Their former home, the Cartoon of art and furnishings from the Galley on the south side of the Royal Collection, mainly dating Fountain Court, was designed by Christopher Wren: copies painted in the 1690s by a minor artist, Henry Cooke, are now displayed in their place. Also on display are important collections of ceramics, including numerous Triumphs of Caesar housed in pieces of blue and white porcelain collected by Queen Mary II, both Chinese imports kept at the and Delftware.



## Ornate gate



from the late 17th and early 18th such in the country. centuries, including tables by The King's Guard Chamber Jean Pelletier. walnut chairs Roberts and clocks and a barometer by Thomas Tompion. Privy Chamber. This contains a crystal chandelier of still be seen today.

Much of the original furniture circa 1700, possibly the first

"India back" contains a large quantity of by Thomas arms: muskets, pistols, swords, daggers, and pieces of armour on the walls arranged Several state beds are still in decorative patterns. Bills exist for their original positions, as is the payment to a John Harris dated Throne Canopy in the King's 1699 for the arrangement, which room is believed to be that which can

new palace. From a water- Louis XIV's landscape gardener. bounded semicircular parterre,

The grounds as they appear the length of the east front, three today were laid out in grand style avenues radiate in crow's foot in the late 17th century. There pattern. The central avenue are no authentic remains of containing not a walk or a drive. Henry VIII's gardens, merely a but the great canal, known as small knot garden, planted in the Long Water, excavated 1924 which hints at the gardens' during the reign of Charles II, in 16th century appearance. Today, 1662. The design, radical at the the dominating feature of the time, is another immediately grounds is the great landscaping recognizable influence from scheme constructed for Sir Versailles, and was indeed laid Christopher Wren's intended out by pupils of André Le Nôtre.

## Tudor kitchen



## Ice skating at Hampton Court



along a geometric system of repaired latterly using paths.[41]

A well known curiosity of the The palace, one of Britain's palace's grounds is Hampton leading tourist attractions, is Court Maze; planted sometime cared for by an independent during the 1690s by George charity, Historic Royal Palaces London and Henry Wise for which receives no funding from William III of Orange. [43] The

On the south side of the palace maze covers a third of an acre is the Privy Garden bounded by and contains half a mile of paths. semi-circular wrought iron gates It is possible that the current by Jean Tijou. [42] This garden, design replaced an earlier maze originally William III's private planted for Thomas Cardinal garden, was replanted in 1992 Wolsey. It was originally planted with manicured hollies and yews with hornbeam; it has been many different types of hedge.

the Government or the Crown