Palace of Holyroodhouse: Photo journey through the site.

If you have any questions or require any assistance during your visit, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff who would be delighted to help.

As the Palace of Holyroodhouse is a working royal palace, visitor routes may be subject to change.
The Queen’s Gallery Ticket Desk

Visitors may purchase tickets for visiting the Palace of Holyroodhouse at The Queen’s Gallery ticket desk or our Welcome Centre.

Please note that the Queen’s Gallery itself is closed for essential maintenance until 2024.
The Café at the Palace offers a range of soup, sandwiches, hot meals, home-made cakes and refreshments.

A takeaway service is available and the Café is also dog friendly.
Hand dryers are positioned underneath the mirrors of the toilets.

These can be noisy and so paper towels are also available as an alternative option as well.
Café accessible toilet facility
A member of our Admissions Team will welcome you at the Palace entrance and direct you to where you can purchase tickets and collect your multimedia guide for your visit.

The displays within the Welcome Centre may change throughout the year.
To make the most of your visit, pick up one of the free multimedia guides from a member of our Warden Team at the start of your visit. You are welcome to use your own standard wired headphones if you prefer.

Our multimedia guides are available in: English, Gaelic, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Chinese, Brazilian, Portuguese and British Sign Language. There is also a Descriptive Audio Guide available for Blind and partially sighted visitors.
Visitor route to the Mews toilets:

Toilets, accessible toilet and separate baby-care facilities are located in the Mews. We encourage you to use these facilities before starting your visit as there are no public toilet facilities available within the Palace itself.

The nearest Changing Places toilet facility is located at the Scottish Parliament building directly opposite the Palace of Holyroodhouse.
Palace forecourt and entrance via Quadrangle:

When you are ready to enter the Palace of Holyroodhouse, head across the Forecourt to the front door of the Palace where you will enter into a Quadrangle - turn left as you enter the door.

Please note that photography is not permitted inside the Palace of Holyroodhouse but is welcomed outside in the Palace Forecourt (image left) and the Palace Gardens.
Visitor route to the Great Stair

Walk around the square route of the Quadrangle until you reach the door to the Great Stair.
To access inside the Palace of Holyroodhouse, there are 27 steps in the Great Stair. If you require lift access to the first floor, please speak to a member of our Warden Team (positioned in the Palace entrance) who would be delighted to help.
Visitors using the lift will be accompanied by a member of staff. Our lift measures 130cm in width x 125cm in depth, the door width is 89cm and the is a weight limit of 800kg.
The Royal Dining Room

Please note the entrance and exit to the Royal Dining Room is through the same door. As you exit the Royal Dining Room, turn left into the Throne Room.
The Throne Room

Please note that the lighting in the Throne Room is slightly darker than other rooms to protect the historic paintings.

Please ask a member of our Warden Team if you need any assistance.
The Presence Chamber and Privy Chamber
The King’s Bedchamber and the King’s Closet:
The Great Gallery and the Lobby:
The Ante-Chamber and Darnley’s Bedchamber
Visitor route to Mary, Queen of Scots’ Chambers

Due to the historic nature of the building, there is no wheelchair access to Mary, Queen of Scots’ Chambers, which are accessed via a steep spiral staircase consisting of 25 steps.

Film and audio content on Mary Queen of Scots can be found on the multi-media guide.
Mary, Queen of Scots’ Bedchamber and Outer Chamber
Exit from Mary, Queen of Scots’ Chambers

To exit Mary, Queen of Scots’ Chambers, there is a spiral staircase of 43 steps followed by a short landing with a second staircase with 13 straight steps down.

Please use handrail at all times and take your time when descending the stairs.
Route to Holyrood Abbey and Palace Gardens

At the bottom of the stairs, please turn right and follow corridor out into the Abbey Courtyard. The flooring in this area is slabbed. Please note some of the historic slabs may be slightly uneven underfoot.
Holyrood Abbey is accessed by a cobbled courtyard and there is step/ramp access into the Abbey itself. The flooring in the Abbey includes slabbed and gravel areas.

Please note Holyrood Abbey is currently undergoing conservation work so some areas inside the Abbey may not be accessible on your visit.
Option to exit or continue to enjoy Palace Gardens

After visiting Holyrood Abbey, you have the option to exit back to the Forecourt where your visit began or you may continue to walk around the beautiful Royal Gardens. The Royal Gardens are accessed across the cobbled courtyard on to a gravel path.
The Palace Gardens:

The path round the beautiful gardens is gravel. It is a circular route, returning to the Forecourt and takes approximately 15 minutes.

Please note there is a temporary accessible ramp and walkway in place behind Holyrood Abbey whilst essential conservation works takes place.
Exit from the Palace Gardens and Multimedia Guide drop off
Multi-media guide drop off and exit from the Palace of Holyroodhouse

Once you have finished your visit, the exit is via the Archway where you can hand in your multimedia tour, if you have taken one.

Please note that you can get your ticket stamped here for a 1 Year Pass – this allows you to visit as many times as you like, in a year, for free.
Entrance to the Palace Shop

The Palace Shop is on one level with wooden flooring.

Please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff if you require any assistance during your visit.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

For further information: www.rct.uk