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## THE PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE



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## Planning Your Visit

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Before you arrive, please read this information to help you make the most of your time here.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is my booking confirmed?**

The e-mail you have received is your confirmation. Please read it carefully and if the details are not correct please telephone us on **0303 123 7323**

If there are any fees due on your booking, the e-mail will confirm the date by which full payment must be received. All bookings are made subject to our terms and conditions, which are available on request.

- **Can I make changes to the size of my group?**

You can request any increase in the number of your group until 12:00 on the last working day before your visit. Any additional tickets requested after 12:00 on the last working day will need to be purchased on the day at the standard admission rate. Please note, if you would like to book additional accompanying adults, above the stated ratios, the standard adult admission rate applies.

- **How do I arrange a complimentary planning visit?**

If you and a colleague would like to make a planning trip before your group visit, please contact the Learning Bookings Team to arrange this. Two complimentary tickets will be booked for you, for collection on the day. If you would like to meet a member of the Learning Team or see the Learning Rooms during your planning visit, please advise us during booking.

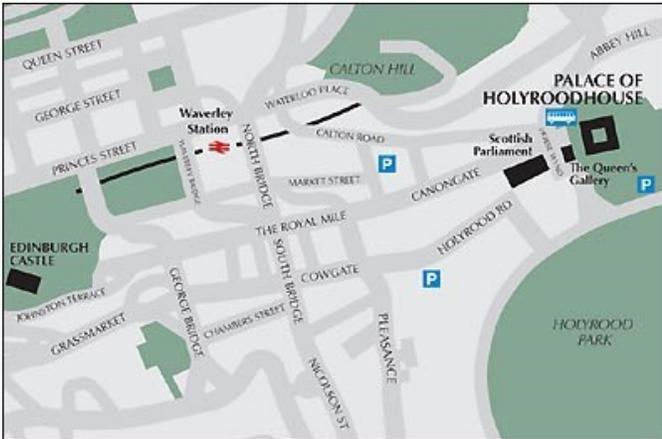
- **Is there a lunch room at the Palace?**

Unfortunately we do not currently have a lunch space available for self-guided groups. There is space for picnics outside the Scottish Parliament, opposite the Palace..

- **Is there somewhere to leave coats and bags?**

Unfortunately we do not currently have cloakroom availability for self-guided groups.

## Arriving at the Palace



Your arrival time can be found on your letter. Please keep this letter safe as it acts as your ticket on the day.

If you are running more than fifteen minutes late please call the Learning Bookings Team on 0303 123 7323.

Free Coach Parking is available on the North Approach (marked on the map).

On arrival, please make your way to the Palace Mews (the courtyard between the Palace shop and cafe). A member of our Visitor Services team will greet you at the Archway entrance to the Palace and arrange audio guides for your group..

Toilets are situated in the Palace Mews. Please allow extra time beforehand if your group requires use of the toilets before your booked time for visiting the Palace.

### Guidelines for schools

*(Please discuss these with all accompanying adults)*

- During your visit teachers and adult helpers are responsible for their pupils at all times and must stay with their group.
- Please follow instructions given to you by the wardens on site.
- Please ensure pupils do not touch or get too close to any of the objects on display.
- Cameras and audio/video equipment are not allowed in the Palace but you are very welcome to take photographs in the Learning Rooms and outside the Palace.
- Please switch mobile phones off in the Palace.

# The Palace of Holyroodhouse: a brief overview

The Palace is The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Spanning 10 centuries of history, from its foundation as an Augustinian monastery to its role today, the Palace is an ideal focus for a wide range of studies. This guide may be useful in preparing for your visit.

Key points in the history of the Palace of Holyroodhouse:



## 1: King David (r. 1124 – 53)

The foundation of the Palace of Holyroodhouse as an Abbey in 1128. Holyrood got its name after King David founded the Abbey following a vision he had had. Out on a hunting trip, the King was attacked by a stag. He suddenly had vision of a glowing cross between its antlers and when he reached out to touch it, the stag turned and ran. The King was safe and in gratitude named the site after the Scottish word for cross (rood). Holyrood – the site of the holy cross.



## 2: King James V (r. 1513 – 42)

The building of the great Tower, between 1528-1532. This was built to withstand attack, and has very thick walls. At the base, you can see the marks left by gunfire, as well as space for a cannon. This tower may have been built to celebrate James' marriage to the French King's daughter, Madeleine de Valois. After her death, James married another woman from a powerful French family, Mary of Guise

## 3: Mary, Queen of Scots (r. 1542 – 67)

Many of the famous events of Mary's life happened while she stayed at the Palace of Holyroodhouse: Marriage to Henry Stuart (Lord Damley) in 1565, her secretary David Riccio (Rizzio) was murdered in 1566, Darnley was killed at Kirk o' Field in 1567, and she was married to James Hepburn (the Earl of Bothwell) in 1567.



## 4: King Charles II (r. 1649 –85)

After the Palace had been damaged by Oliver Cromwell's troops, Charles II embarked on a huge building campaign. He was convinced of the importance of having an impressive residence in Scotland. A large part of what we now see is due to the work commissioned by Charles II.



## 5: Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie)

In 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie held court at the Palace and is said to have held a ball in the Great Gallery. After his defeat at Culloden in 1746, the victorious Government soldiers were quartered at the Palace, and they slashed the portraits of the monarchs of Scotland in the Great Gallery with their sabres. Marks from their swords can still be seen on the repaired pictures today.

## 6: King George IV (r. 1820 – 30)

In 1822, George IV made a state visit to Scotland – the first by a Hanoverian monarch. George received guests at the Palace, and it is said that he refused to see anyone unless they wore tartan.

## 7: Queen Victoria (r. 1837 – 1901)

When Victoria began visiting Balmoral Castle, she stopped off at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. At this time, the Palace was badly in need of repair, having been split into a series of 'grace and favour' apartments.

Victoria and her husband Prince Albert, spent time refurbishing the interior of the Palace and landscaping the gardens and because they used it so often, it once again became established as a Royal Residence.



## 8: Queen Elizabeth (r. 1952 - )

The Palace remains a Royal Residence to this day, and our present Queen stays here for a week every year in the summer. Alongside state events and other official functions, she holds a garden party, to which 8,000 people from all walks of life are invited.

Other members of the Royal Family also use the Palace throughout the year. During his visits to Scotland, The Queen's son, Prince Charles, uses his official Scottish title – The Duke of Rothesay.