

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the official city residence of the Royal Family in London. The palace is a place for grand occasions and royal weddings. It is also a workplace, where all the official administration is done. There are offices and lots of staff. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, it is also a family home.

Buckingham Palace was built as a town house in the early eighteenth century. King George III bought it for his wife and children. Queen Victoria made Buckingham Palace the main royal palace in 1837 and made it bigger for her growing family. Queen Elizabeth II also lived there as a girl.

The Palace has 775 rooms. These include 19 State Rooms, 52 bedrooms for the Royal Family and guests, and 78 bathrooms. There are another 188 bedrooms for the people who work there. There are also 92 offices, a cinema, a police station, a post office and a sports centre!

The State Rooms are not usually open to the public because they are used by the Royal Family to receive guests on important state occasions. For a long time the Ballroom was the largest room in London. It has many famous paintings and is the place used to host wonderful parties. Over 50,000 people arrive each year as guests of the Royal Family.

Although Buckingham Palace is the main working palace for the Royal Family, they also have other residences, such as Balmoral in Scotland. During August and September the Royal Family stay at Balmoral, so when tourists visit Buckingham Palace at this time they can see the State Rooms too.

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2 Buckingham Palace was built by King George III.		
3 There are more bedrooms for palace staff than for the Royal Family.		
4 The Ballroom used to be where the Royal Family had grand parties.		
5 The Royal Family don't live in Buckingham Palace all year round.		
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