



Historic Royal Palaces Banqueting House



“The Banqueting House at Whitehall was so crowded with fair ladies glittering with their rich clothes and richer jewels and with Lords and gentlemen of great quality, that there was scarce room for the King and Queen to enter in.”

23 February 1633. From: B Whitelocke,
Memorials of the English Affairs





Something old...

The sheer magnificence of the Banqueting House – built for entertaining – has dazzled revellers and guests of the monarch since the early 17th century.

Today, this architectural and artistic masterpiece remains as inspiring as ever. Its beauty and grand scale intensify the genius of Sir Peter Paul Rubens' ceiling, and serve as reminders of the venue's long and splendid history.

As you gather among family and friends to celebrate and begin a new life together, the Banqueting House's timeless majesty offers a powerful reminder of precious links to the past.

Whether you'd like a spectacular wedding or an intimate reception, the Banqueting House guarantees first-class service and an unforgettable backdrop for your very special occasion.



Your palace awaits



Our full attention

You're hiring an awe-inspiring setting. But as our clients, you will also enjoy dedicated, personal service from an experienced event manager. We will help you realise your personal vision by meeting with you regularly, and by introducing you to a range of excellent suppliers. With intimate knowledge of this spectacular venue, we know how to create the enchanting atmosphere you and your guests will always remember.

Stunning spaces

Licensed for civil ceremonies, both the magnificent Main Hall (pp 6-7) and the beautiful Undercroft (pp 10-11) are available for afternoon and evening hire. We are happy to show you around both spaces – just call us to arrange a visit.

Picture perfect

A banqueting hall with Rubens's great masterpiece and perfect 'double-cube' proportions – influenced by classical buildings of ancient Rome and 16th-century Italy – offer a glorious backdrop to your celebration, ideal for beautiful and memorable wedding photography.

Unforgettable, by design

When King James I wanted a sumptuous new banqueting house at Whitehall Palace, he turned to his talented Surveyor of the King's Works, Inigo Jones. Drawing on the harmonious principles of classical architecture, Jones created a sensation in 1622 when his designs resulted in one of the earliest classical buildings ever seen in England. The King immediately began hosting elaborate performances called 'masques' here, each more extravagant than the last. In 1636 King Charles I added Peter Paul Rubens's magnificent ceiling paintings.



Main Hall

Capacity

400 for civil ceremony
450 for reception
300 for wedding breakfast
(with dancing)

“Strange how a good dinner and feasting reconciles everybody.”

Samuel Pepys, 9 November 1665

The space

Specially created for entertaining in 1622, the Banqueting House is truly a sight to behold. Your families and guests arrive via the elegant entry hall, and follow in the footsteps of kings and queens, climbing the grand staircase to the majesty of the Main Hall. Here magnificent pillars and glittering chandeliers will draw guests' gazes toward one of the world's great masterpieces: Sir Peter Paul Rubens's glorious painted ceiling.

Features

- Rubens' priceless ceiling paintings are breathtakingly displayed within richly moulded and gilded framework
- Vast windows face onto Whitehall
- Pinspot lighting included in the Main Hall
- Meet and greet staff
- Pre- and post-wedding cleaning
- Space will be arranged just as you request for a ceremony, dinner or reception
- Immaculate facilities include easily accessible toilets and cloakroom



Sir Peter Paul Rubens wrote to James I's agent, "I confess that I am, by natural instinct, better fitted to execute very large works than small curiosities". From the moment Rubens' masterful paintings were installed in the Banqueting House they have inspired revellers, dignitaries and all who gather beneath them.



The Undercroft

“Since Bacchus, thou art father
Of wines, to thee the rather
We dedicate this Cellar
Where now, thou art made Dweller”

Dedication by playwright Ben Jonson at Undercroft's opening, 1623

Capacity

150 for civil ceremony
380 for pre-wedding breakfast
or pre-dinner reception
250 for standing reception/
party
120 for wedding breakfast/
dinner

The space

Wonderfully atmospheric, the Undercroft is where Stuart kings once retreated from public life. Today, this intimacy – once favoured by England's monarchs – makes it a special space for an unforgettable evening of dining, dancing and celebration. This charming, vaulted space will radiate with good cheer and joyous bustle as your family and friends gather to celebrate and offer congratulations.

Features

- Originally enjoyed as a drinking den by King James I and his party-loving courtiers
- A moving civil ceremony here can be followed by a grand reception in the magnificent Main Hall
- Air cooled
- Candelabra evoke a romantic mood
- Immaculate facilities include easily accessible toilets and cloakroom
- Adjacent to kitchen and catering facilities



All our best To the happy couple...



We would like to offer sincere congratulations on your engagement – and our very best wishes as you prepare to celebrate a defining moment in both your lives.

With much to prepare in the coming months, we're sure you know choosing a venue is one of your most important decisions.

If we can help in any way, then please call us. Our event specialists will answer any questions about weddings at the Banqueting House, and discuss how these special spaces could fit into your plans, with absolutely no obligation.

You can also visit the palace and see the venue for yourself. We'd love to show you around.

We look forward to hearing from you, and wish you all the best during this happy time.

Sincerely yours,

The Historic Royal Palaces events team

Call us for more information about hiring these magnificent spaces for your wedding.

T. 020 3166 6152

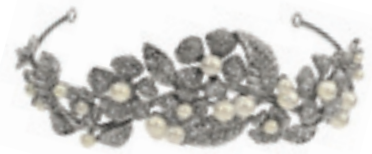
E. banquetinghouseevents@hrp.org.uk

www.hrp.org.uk/hireavenue

Banqueting House

Whitehall, London SW1A 2ER

With its glorious Main Hall and charming Undercroft, the architectural and artistic marvel that is the Banqueting House will enthrall and delight your guests.



Wedding gifts

If you are looking for bridal jewellery, including tiaras, groom and usher accessories, unusual favours, gifts for bridesmaids or gifts to add to your wedding list, may we suggest that you look to Historic Royal Palaces for inspiration.

Please contact us if you would like help in making the right choice. We pride ourselves in offering high quality products, unrivalled customer service and working with all our customers' varied requirements to provide the complete gift service.

Please visit our website www.historicroyalpalaces.com or contact us on 020 3166 6857 or corpgifts@hrp.org.uk

Getting here



By tube or rail

Located on Whitehall in central London, the Banqueting House is a short walk from Westminster, Charing Cross and Embankment Underground and rail stations.

A truly spectacular venue in the centre of a world city.

Car parking

Ample car parking is available in the area.

