

# Buckingham Palace



Is the [London](#) residence and principal workplace of the reigning [monarch of the United Kingdom](#).<sup>[3]</sup> Located in the [City of Westminster](#), the palace is often at the centre of state occasions and royal hospitality. It has been a focus for the [British people](#) at times of national rejoicing.

Originally known as **Buckingham House**, the building at the core of today's palace was a large [townhouse](#) built for the [Duke of Buckingham](#) in 1703 on a site that had been in private ownership for at least 150 years. It was acquired by [King George III](#) in 1761<sup>[4]</sup> as a private residence for [Queen Charlotte](#) and became known as "The Queen's House". During the 19th century it was enlarged, principally by architects [John Nash](#)

and Edward Blore, who constructed three wings around a central courtyard. Buckingham Palace became the London residence of the British monarch on the accession of [Queen Victoria](#) in 1837.

The last major structural additions were made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the East front, which contains the well-known balcony on which the royal family traditionally congregates to greet crowds. The palace chapel was destroyed by a German bomb during World War II; the [Queen's Gallery](#) was built on the site and opened to the public in 1962 to exhibit works of art from the [Royal Collection](#).

The original early 19th-century interior designs, many of which survive, include widespread use of brightly coloured [scagliola](#) and blue and pink [lapis](#), on the advice of Sir Charles Long. [King Edward VII](#) oversaw a partial redecoration in a [Belle Époque](#) cream and gold colour scheme. Many smaller reception rooms are furnished in the Chinese [regency](#) style with furniture and fittings brought from the [Royal Pavilion](#) at [Brighton](#) and from [Carlton House](#). The palace has 775 rooms, and [the garden](#) is the



largest private garden in London. The state rooms, used for official and state entertaining, are open to the public each year for most of August, September, December and January.

**THE END!!!**

