

April 2017

## Bonnie Prince Charlie to take centre stage at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in 2017



Palace of Holyroodhouse

Royal Collection Trust is at VisitScotland Expo to present the 2017 programme of exhibitions and group visits at The Queen's Gallery, Edinburgh and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of Her Majesty The Queen in Scotland.

This year, the **Palace of Holyroodhouse** will mark Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology with a special focus on Bonnie Prince Charlie, who set up court at the Palace in September 1745. Visitors will see the rooms that became the focus of the Jacobite cause in Edinburgh, experience the Great Gallery

where Bonnie Prince Charlie held lavish balls, and see the very bed in which he slept. For 2017 only, groups can enjoy exclusive **Private Guided Tours** that provide a deeper insight into the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's time at the Palace, offering a chance to find out more about this tumultuous and fascinating period in Scottish history.

Groups visiting the Palace will benefit from competitive rates and flexible on-the-day entry, as well as dedicated **coach parking on site**. At the **Café at the Palace**, groups can enjoy home-made dishes made from locally sourced produce, from light refreshments and lunch to afternoon tea. Located in the historic setting of the Mews Courtyard, the Café provides an ideal place for visitors to relax before picking up a free audio guide, available in nine languages.

Between May and the end of September, the **Palace of Holyroodhouse and Garden History Tour** offers an opportunity to explore the Palace's unique gardens, which span four hectares and are set against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. Led by an expert guide, visitors will discover the fascinating history of the Palace grounds from the 14th century to the present day, seeing the site of the ancient menagerie, the rare Wentworth elm trees, the 17th-century sundial, and the Jubilee Border that was originally planted with silver flowers and plants to mark The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

For the Christmas season, the Palace will be lit up with thousands of twinkling lights and decorated with Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands, while the Royal Dining Room will be laid with pieces from a silver service. On selected dates in December, **Private Evening Tours** of the Palace will offer groups a special behind-the-ropes experience complete with a glass of champagne.

At The Queen's Gallery, visitors can enjoy some of the finest images of the natural world ever made in the dazzling exhibition **Maria Merian's Butterflies**. Marking the 300th

anniversary of the death of the intrepid German artist and scientist Maria Sibylla Merian, the exhibition showcases the colourful illustrations that brought the wonders of South America to Europe in the early 18th century, with more than 50 works on display in Scotland for the first time.

From August, the exhibition ***Shadows of War: Roger Fenton's Photographs of the Crimea, 1855*** will focus exclusively on the Victorian photographer Roger Fenton's pioneering photographs of the Crimean war. Published in contemporary newspaper reports, Fenton's moving images of the troops and battlefields on which so many lost their lives showed the terrible impact of war to the general public for the first time. Through his often subtle and poetic interpretations, Fenton created the genre of war photography, showing his extraordinary genius in capturing the futility of conflict.

Groups can enjoy an exhibition talk without the crowds with a Private Evening Talk and View, or combine a visit to The Queen's Gallery with a self-guided tour of the Palace's Historic and State Apartments at a discounted price.

### **Future Programme**

Work on Future Programme, the series of projects that will transform the experience of visitors to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, will begin in 2017. The projects will deliver significant improvements to the way visitors are welcomed to the Palace, interpret the building in new ways, create a dedicated Learning Centre and open up new spaces to the public. Find out more about Future Programme – [www.royalcollection.org.uk/futureprogramme](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/futureprogramme)

### **Ends**

Details of group, special and private visits are included in the **Group Visits & Private Tours 2017 brochure**. To download a digital edition, receive a copy or to make a booking, please visit [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk), telephone +44 (0)303 123 7321, or e-mail [groupbookings@royalcollection.org.uk](mailto:groupbookings@royalcollection.org.uk).

Subscribe to Royal Collection Trust's e-Newsletter for members of the travel trade or group travel organisers by sending your details to [webmaster@royalcollection.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@royalcollection.org.uk).

For further information and images, please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, +44 (0)20 7839 1377, [press@royalcollection.org.uk](mailto:press@royalcollection.org.uk).

Come and meet the Royal Collection Trust team at VisitScotland Expo, SECC, Glasgow, 26–27 April 2017, Stand C9.

### **Notes to Editors**

Royal Collection Trust, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)