

April 2019

## Wedding outfits of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Sussex to go on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse



The Palace of Holyroodhouse

Royal Collection Trust is at VisitScotland Expo to present the 2019 programme of group visits and exhibitions at The Queen's Gallery, Edinburgh and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of Her Majesty The Queen in Scotland.

The highlight of the year will be the special exhibition ***A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex***, on display for the first time in Scotland.

Between 14 June and 6 October 2019, visitors to the Palace of Holyroodhouse will be able to see **The Duchess of Sussex's wedding dress**, created by the British designer Clare Waight Keller, Artistic Director at the historic French fashion house Givenchy; the five-metre-long silk tulle veil, embroidered with the flora of the 53 countries of the Commonwealth; the **diamond and platinum bandeau tiara**, lent to The Duchess by Her Majesty The Queen; and The Duke of Sussex's frockcoat uniform of the Household cavalry (the 'Blues and Royals'); as well as the bridesmaid and pageboy outfits worn by Their Royal Highnesses Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

A visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse also includes the Historic Apartments of **Mary, Queen of Scots**, which were the setting for many dramatic episodes in her short and turbulent reign, and the rooms that became the focus of the Jacobite cause in Edinburgh when **Bonnie Prince Charlie** set up court at the Palace in September 1745. These historic spaces have recently been redisplayed as part of Future Programme, a major investment by Royal Collection Trust to enhance the visitor experience at the Palace and tell the stories of its famous inhabitants.

A **new Welcome Centre** for visitors opened at the Palace in January 2019 as part of the Future Programme investment. The space includes a dedicated ticket desk for groups, complimentary WiFi, clearer ticketing information and an improved digital welcome for visitors. A **new multimedia tour**, available in ten languages, is included in the price of a ticket and offers newly recorded interviews with members of the Royal Family, film footage, digital recreations and interactive features, giving visitors a richer understanding of the Palace and the Royal Collection. Other projects currently underway as part of Future Programme include the creation of a public physic garden and a Learning Centre for schools, families and adults within the restored Abbey Strand buildings.

Throughout 2019 groups can enjoy exclusive **Private Guided Tours**, allowing them to experience the charm of the Palace when it is closed to the public and offering a chance to find out more about the Palace's dramatic history. 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.

Groups visiting the Palace will benefit from competitive rates and flexible on-the-day entry, as well as free, limited **coach parking on site**. At the **Café at the Palace**, groups can enjoy 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 multimedia guide, available in ten languages.

For the Christmas season, the Palace will be lit up with 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.

From June, visitors to The Queen's Gallery can explore the unique relationship between Russia and Britain and their royal families in the exhibition ***Russia: Royalty & the Romanovs***. The exhibition tells the story of the familial, political, diplomatic and artistic associations between the two countries through more than 170 works of art in the Royal Collection, including portraits, sculpture, photographs and archival documents. Many of the works on display were exchanged as diplomatic gifts or intimate personal mementos, including miniature masterpieces by Fabergé.

From November, the exhibition ***Leonardo Da Vinci: A Life in Drawing*** will mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci by bringing together 80 of the Renaissance master's greatest drawings in the Royal Collection, forming the largest group of Leonardo's works ever shown in Scotland.

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.

**Ends**

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Details of group, special and private visits are included in the **Group Visits & Private Tours 2019 brochure**. To download a digital edition, receive a copy or to make a booking, please visit [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk), telephone +44 (0)303 123 7321, or e-mail [groupbookings@rct.uk](mailto:groupbookings@rct.uk).

To find out more about Future Programme, the series of projects to transform the experience of visiting the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Windsor Castle, visit [www.rct.uk/futureprogramme](http://www.rct.uk/futureprogramme).

Subscribe to Royal Collection Trust's e-Newsletter for group travel organisers by sending your details to [webmaster@rct.uk](mailto:webmaster@rct.uk).

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

**Come and meet the Royal Collection Trust team at VisitScotland Expo, SEC, Glasgow, 10–11 April 2019, Stand D29.**

### **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.

**The Royal Collection** is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.

Admission to the Palace of Holyroodhouse is managed by The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1016972) and in Scotland (SCO39772).