

April 2018

Renewed displays of works of art from the Royal Collection to highlight the fascinating history of the Palace of Holyroodhouse



Palace of Holyroodhouse

Royal Collection Trust is at VisitScotland Expo to present the 2018 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.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse has been a royal residence for over 500 years and is closely associated with Scotland's rich history. A visit to the Palace 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.

In 2018 these **historic spaces are being re-presented** with new displays of works of art from the Royal Collection, as part of a £10 million investment by Royal Collection Trust to enhance the visitor experience at the Palace. In March 2018 the first stage of works saw the Historic Apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots refreshed with a series of portraits depicting the Queen and her court, while the Queen's Lobby, next to the Great Gallery where Bonnie Prince Charlie held lavish balls, was rehung with paintings telling the story of the Jacobite rising. Other projects that will form part of the investment over the next few years include the creation of a new public garden, inspired by the 17th-century physic garden; a Learning Centre; and new ticketing and welcome spaces.

Throughout 2018 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 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.

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 May, visitors to The Queen's Gallery can explore the many delights of 18th-century Venice, from the splendours of the Grand Canal and St Mark's Square to its festivals, theatre and masked carnivals, in the exhibition **Canaletto & the Art of Venice**. Presenting the largest ever showing of Canaletto's paintings in Scotland alongside works by his contemporaries, the exhibition will bring the irresistible allure of one of the most beautiful cities in the world to The Queen's Gallery.

From November, the exhibition **Charles II: Art & Power** will explore how the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 led to a resurgence of the arts in England after over a decade of austere Cromwellian rule. Including Old Master paintings, drawings, prints and silver-covered furniture, the exhibition presents the rich material world of Charles II's court and shows the role of the arts in the re-establishment of the Stuart monarchy.

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

Details of group, special and private visits are included in the Group Visits & Private Tours 2018 brochure. To download a digital edition, receive a copy or to make a booking, please visit www.royalcollection.org.uk, telephone +44 (0)303 123 7321, or e-mail groupbookings@royalcollection.org.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.royalcollection.org.uk/futureprogramme.

Subscribe to Royal Collection Trust's e-Newsletter for group travel organisers by sending your details to 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.

<p>Come and meet the Royal Collection Trust team at VisitScotland Expo, SEC, Glasgow, 11–12 April 2018, Stand C15.</p>

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