



Blenheim Palace

Woodstock

Oxfordshire

OX20 1PX

www.blenheimpalace.com

November 2011

• Blenheim Palace - Britain's Greatest Palace

On passing through the triumphal arch at the Woodstock entrance to Blenheim Palace, it is understandable to see why Sir Winston Churchill's father Lord Randolph Churchill proclaimed 'This is the finest view in England'.

The towers of the Palace appear some way off to the left, while far away to the right the Column of Victory, topped with its statue of the 1st Duke of Marlborough, rises nobly above the trees.

But what takes the eye and holds it is the great lake and its island of poplars, with Sir John Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge and 'Capability' Brown's hanging beech woods beyond.

This awesome view appears so effortless and natural, but in reality was designed to take the breath away.

The Palace was built on Queen Anne's orders for John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, in recognition of his victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704; a victory that saved Europe from French domination.

It is clear to see why Blenheim Palace deserves its World Heritage status. The splendour and tranquillity of the 2,100 acres of landscaped parkland and the formal gardens are unrivalled anywhere in Britain and the Palace interiors beautifully balance the delicate with the awe-inspiring, from the imposing vastness of the Great Hall, to the intricate detailing of the Red Drawing room.

Through its timeless sophistication, beauty and overwhelming scale, and through its inspirational history, the allure of Blenheim Palace will make a return visit irresistible.

The Palace is still home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and his family, and is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

The Park and Gardens

Blenheim Palace is winner of the 25th Historic Houses Association/Christies Garden of the Year Award. The splendour and tranquillity of the 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland and the Formal Gardens are unrivalled in Britain. From the Water Terraces, the Rose Garden and the Grand Cascade to the magnificent lake, fringed by majestic oaks and maples, there is beauty to be found in all seasons. Visit the Secret Garden with its winding paths, streams and water features, or cross Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge to walk up to the Column of Victory.

In addition to the unique Palace and stunning gardens, a full programme of special events, the incredible visitor experience 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story', and live entertainers mean there are even more reasons to visit in 2011.

Blenheim Palace is set in 2,100 acres of spectacular parkland in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds and is only eight miles from Oxford.

Notes to Editors

- Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens open from 11th February 2012 to 14th December 2012.
- The Palace and Formal Gardens are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays in November and December. The Park is open daily except Christmas Day
- The Park opens at 9am, the Formal Gardens at 10am and the Palace and Pleasure Gardens from 10.30am.
- Last admission to the Palace and Gardens is at 4.45pm. The Palace and Pleasure Gardens* close at 5.30pm and the Park at 6pm.
- Child age 5-16 inclusive. Under 5's free. Full details of ticket prices are available on request.
- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Treasure Houses of England, 10 of the most magnificent palaces, stately homes and castles in England www.treasurehouses.co.uk
- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

For further information about Blenheim Palace please call the 24 hour information line on 0800 849 6500 or visit the website at www.blenheimpalace.com

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