

Buckingham Palace

Your Name

Educational Institution

London is famous all over the world for a great number of outstanding places. All of them make this city very special: Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, National Gallery, and Hyde Park. These are just some of the better known historical sites, but the list is actually much longer! A special place is Buckingham Palace.

Buckingham Palace is famous all over the world. It is the main monarch's residence in London. It was first built in 1703 in the very heart of London. The Duke of Buckingham ordered it as a red brick country house. Later, in 1761, King George bought it for his wife, Charlotte. He aimed to use it as a comfortable and cozy family home. That is why the house is also known as the Queen's house (Duffy, 2008-2009). Sometime later, the king decided to transform it into a palace. The British architect John Nash redesigned it for George IV in 1825. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live in the palace, just after she came to the throne in 1837. John Nash retained the main block but made its size twice as large by adding a new suite of rooms on the garden side facing the western part of London. Also, the palace was faced with mellow Bath stone. The external style reflects the French neo-classical influence favored by George IV. Today, the Queen Victoria Memorial stands in front of the palace in honor of the first seated monarch of England (Duffy, 2008-2009).

The palace is divided into two parts. It is a house and at the same time, the official residence of the Queen. The Royal family occupies the north wing of the palace. Tourists may view the interior of the palace during the two-month period from August through September (Robinson, 2000). The State Rooms are used as a residence for official meetings and other ceremonies. The former private chapel was bombed in 1940, but it was rebuilt in 1960 and turned into the Queen's Gallery. There, some of the art treasures of the royal collection can be viewed by the public.

The interior of Buckingham Palace remains a small town. Two post offices, two night clubs, some sports clubs, as well as a hospital, a cinema, a disco and a police station are situated within the building. This may seem unbelievable, but it includes 600 rooms! The floor of the palace is covered

by three miles of red carpet. Approximately 700 people work in the Palace to keep it clean and looking like a model (Duffy, 2008-2009).

Changing of the Guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace is especially colorful and impressive. The guards stand in sentry boxes outside the palace. They are dressed in uniforms of red jackets and black hats. The hats are tall and furry. This ceremony usually attracts crowds of people who enjoy watching the honorable and musical ceremony. The ceremony involves the guards marching down the street as they start from St. James Palace. They parade for half an hour, while the old guards hand the keys to the new ones. The royal guards seem to embody true British nobleness and dignity.

References

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