



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

HENRY VIII ON TOUR

TUDOR FESTIVAL

Setting the scene for your visit.
Suitable for Schools, Community groups and Home educators

PART ONE

Introduction

PART TWO

It is the year 1522
King Henry's royal progress

PART THREE

What is a progress?
Why did King Henry go on progress?
How do we know about progresses?

PART FOUR

The Tudor festival

INTRODUCTION

Hampton Court Palace is one of six palaces loved and looked after by Historic Royal Palaces, an independent charity. The others are Tower of London, Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens.



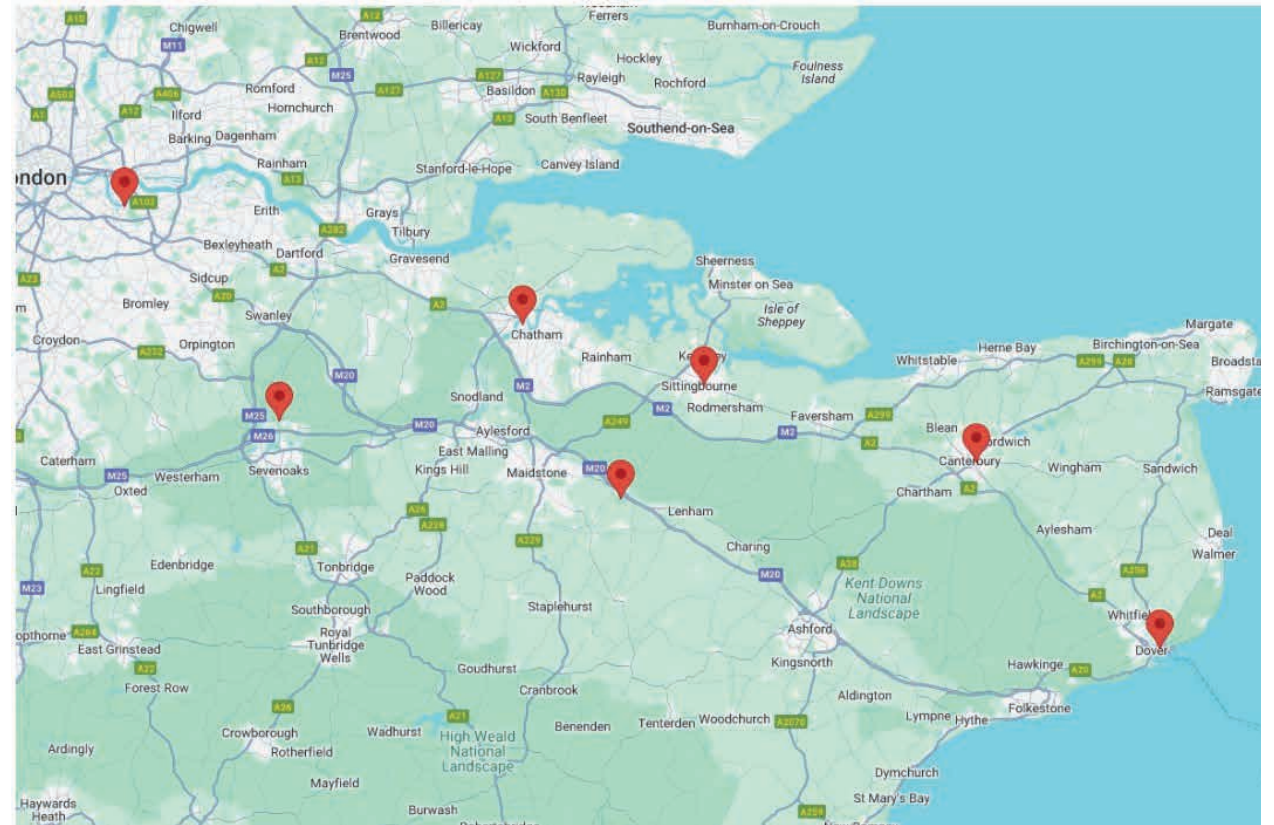
IT IS THE YEAR 1522

- King Henry VIII is 31 years old.
- His wife is Queen Catherine of Aragon.
- They have been married for 13 years.
- Their daughter, Princess Mary, is 6 years old.
- Henry is intelligent, handsome and athletic.
- He is a Roman Catholic.
- Henry's main advisor is Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Lord Chancellor.



KING HENRY'S ROYAL PROGRESS

- In 1522 Henry went on a royal tour called a 'progress'.
- He visited the following places: Dover, Canterbury, Sittingbourne, Rochester, Greenwich, Bridewell, Westminster, Richmond, Hampton Court, Windsor, Farnham, Alresford, Winchester, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton and Windsor.
- He met Emperor Charles V at Dover on 28 May and the two travelled to several places before stopping at Windsor Castle from 12 June to 20 June to sign the Treaty of Windsor, a treaty of friendship.
- The two monarchs did not stay together. Henry and his courtiers had separate accommodation from Emperor Charles and his entourage.
- Henry is seeking an alliance with Emperor Charles V who is also King of Spain and very powerful.





WHAT IS A PROGRESS?

- King Henry VIII regularly went on large-scale tours of the country. They were known as ‘royal progresses’.
- They were huge undertakings, involving at least 500 people, and sometimes several thousand.
- The king spent the nights in royal residences, monasteries, hunting lodges and private homes.
- Many of his courtiers and servants camped in tents when ‘regular’ accommodation was limited or unavailable.
- Along the route, ordinary people would gather for sight of their awe-inspiring King.
- At key points along the way, there would have been feasts, pageantry, music and performances to welcome and entertain the King and his courtiers.

WHY DID KING HENRY GO ON PROGRESS?

To show off
his power

To perform
important
duties

To listen
to people's
worries

To play
sports and
have fun

To frighten
people

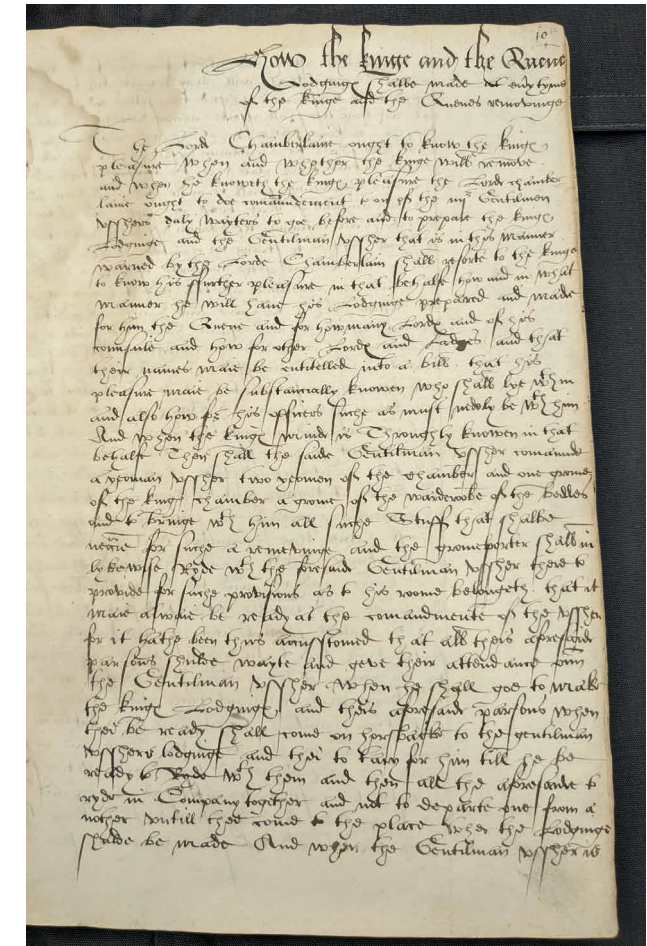
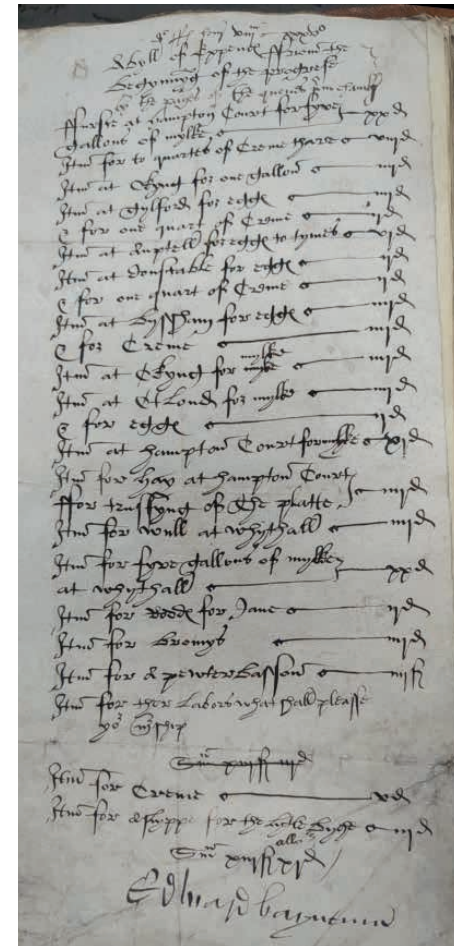
To show off
his queen



HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT PROGRESSES?

There are lots of different primary sources that historians use to learn about Henry's progresses such as:

- Giests – a Tudor itinerary for a progress
- The Manuscript State Papers
- Exchequer, Wardrobe and Household accounts
- Comptrollers' and Cofferers' accounts
- Manuscript collections in the Society of Antiquaries, the College of Arms, the British Library, and the Bodleian Library
- Civic records
- Bishops' registers
- Family archives



THE TUDOR FESTIVAL

GET READY TO WELCOME THE KING!

“Imagine it is 1522. King Henry is on a progress and has stopped off to stay in a grand manor house in the countryside. His courtiers and servants are encamped in a nearby field. Local nobles have gathered to welcome the king with a celebratory festival. Villagers are clamouring to catch a glimpse of his majesty.

Henry has travelled with 500 people. They need to be fed and entertained. Their horses need to rest. A blacksmith and a barber-surgeon are on hand to replace horseshoes and tend to courtiers with tooth ache or something more serious. The Exchequer is keeping an eye on expenses, adding up the bill for this part of the royal progress. There are cooks preparing for a feast and dancers and musicians warming up to entertain King Henry and Queen Catherine.

The king is expected to visit the encampment soon. Are you ready to welcome him?”

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?



**PEOPLE DRESSED IN
TUDOR COSTUMES**

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?



**PREPARATIONS FOR A
TUDOR FEAST**

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?



**A CHANCE TO PLAY
TUDOR GAMES**

**MUSICIANS PLAYING
TUDOR MUSIC**

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?



**EXPLORE HENRY VIII'S
APARTMENTS**



Henry VIII on Tour



**VISIT HENRY VIII'S
KITCHENS**

07 MAY 2025

13

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?



**ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL
GARDENS**



**VISIT OTHER PARTS OF THE PALACE LIKE THE
'TUDOR WORLDS' EXHIBITION**

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU

— TO THE —

**HENRY VIII
ON TOUR**

TUDOR FESTIVAL