# All Family Audio Tours

# Hampton Court Palace

## Overview

A family friendly tour that takes you all over Hampton Court palace.

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## Tour 1: Introduction

#### Zac:

Hey, welcome to Hampton Court Palace!

I’m Zac and I’m gonna be taking you back in time to explore the amazing history here - diving into the Royal Courts and kitchens, unlocking hidden rooms, discovering ghostly secrets… and generally just throwing ourselves into the sights, sounds and SMELLS of the Palace. And trust me, it could get smelly!

If you’re all about Henry VIII - grab the VIP Access all Areas tour of his grand apartments and meet the ghostly queens. Or tuck into a tour around the Tudor Kitchens as they prepare to feed 600 servants and courtiers.

If you love celebrities, parties and scandals, get ready for a selfie or two in the court of the gossiping Georgians as we explore the Georgian Story.

Or see how close you can get to William and Mary by levelling up through the William III’s Apartments with the help of the Groom of the Stool - that’s the person who got to wipe the royal bum – well, you don’t expect a King to wipe his own do you?

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO! And if you want a quick bird’s eye view on some of the other places at the palace - join me, the Palace Pigeon, for the lowdown on things like the astronomical clock, the Chapel Royal or the Chocolate Kitchen.

#### Zac:

Remember, there’s quite a lot of people around Hampton Court Palace – and so many rooms to explore. So keep with your group – and don’t let the grown-ups wander off and get lost!

The rooms and all the things in them are really old and fragile, so take care as you go! And here’s a great tip - select the next track to see an image of where your next stop begins.

Right – are you ready? Choose your first audio tour and let’s go!

## Tour 2: Base Court

#### Zac:

Welcome to Base Court - the place where visitors to Henry VIII’s court would arrive and be shown to their quarters. Let’s find out more from the bird with the word – Palace Pigeon. Over to you!

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! Well, us pigeons see it all and this would have been quite the sight in Tudor times - the bustling entrance to Hampton Court. By coming through the Great Gatehouse into Base Court, you’re following in the footsteps of many VIPs and I don’t mean Very Important Pigeons! Nobles, Lords, Ladies and Masters – all would have come through here, invited to Henry VIII’s Court to be entertained.

They’d know they were in for a good time seeing so many chimneys - that meant heated rooms and a massive kitchen producing fine foods. And don’t forget the toilets - enough for everyone! The Great House of Easement here at the palace was a huge communal toilet with 28 seats - how would you feel about spending a penny there?

In Tudor times, a fountain here provided clean running water for all. The fountain you might see here today is different – it’s a replica of one designed to run with wine at a famous pageant in France called the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Ask the grownups what they think about that! COO!

#### Zac:

Thanks Palace Pigeon! Base Court is certainly a pretty impressive entrance to the Palace. You’d need to be on your best behaviour, meeting and greeting the great and good. Come on, let’s practise our bows and curtsies before we go.

## Tour 3: Henry VIII’s Kitchens

### Stop 1 Introduction in Base Court

#### Zac:

Did you hear about the time Henry VIII felt like a carrot? His doctor told him not to get in a stew! [BADOOM TISH!] Now, I hope you’ve had something to eat ‘cos this tour might make you seriously hungry. [STOMACH RUMBLES]

We’re going back in time to the court of Henry VIII. He was the second Tudor monarch and one of the most powerful kings in history. He was also especially famous for parties and big feasts! He lived here at Hampton Court nearly 500 years ago and we’re going to check out a place that fuelled those feasts - as well as feeding hundreds of people who lived and worked at the palace. It’s the Tudor Kitchens. Just remember the pies you might see on display aren’t for eating - no sneaky nibbling!

Now, Hampton Court Palace is like a massive maze, so make sure you stick together and don’t leave anyone behind. And here’s a great tip - select the next track to see an image of where your next stop begins.

To start our tour, we need to head to Master Carpenters Court where the kitchen story starts. With your back to the Undercroft Shop, where you collected your audio guide from, head straight across to an archway on the other side where you’ll find an alley way. There’s also a sign that says Henry VIII’s Kitchens. We need to turn right into the alley and go all the way to the end. When you pop out in the courtyard, play the next track. See you in a minute!

### Stop 2 Master Carpenter’s Court

#### Zac:

Welcome to Master Carpenter’s Court!

Now you might know that Henry VIII LOVED a good feast but the Tudor kitchens here at Hampton Court didn’t just cook for big parties like that. There could be up to 450 people here at court at any time and most of them might need two meals a day, so work in the kitchens would never really stop. And that would mean a LOT of raw ingredients – from meat to vegetables, not forgetting fine wine and beer! [CLINK OF GLASSES - BURPS!]

All those raw ingredients would come into the kitchens here at Master Carpenters Court – and leave as fine meals in the Servery at the other end – like… well, a massive meal machine!

And would you like to know a really cool fact? The food cooked in these kitchens wasn’t actually for the King. [WHISPERS] He had his OWN private kitchen! After all, if you’re the king, you don’t want to eat the same as everyone else, do you?

Everything arrived here through the archway on the left. Can you imagine all the noise and bustle?

[SWOOSHING SOUND - CLATTER OF CARTS]

Woah! Looks like we don’t have to imagine it – we’ve gone back in time to 1530 and it’s massively busy! There’s carts carrying meat, sacks of flour, vegetables… and that one looks like fruit. Excuse me, where does all this food come from? There’s LOADS of it!

#### Cockney Boy:

Comes from all over mate! I’ve dropped off milk and eggs. Our biggest order ever I’ll have you know! All fresh, seasonal and local! But I can’t hang about talking – they’re expecting eggs not chickens!

#### Strict Man:

You there! Don’t stand there holding up the carts. The Clerks need to check everyone. Take this basket of eggs to Fish Court at once.

#### Zac:

Oops! Looks like he thinks I’m a worker in the kitchen. After all, a lot of the kitchen workers were kids like me. I better do what he says.

Right – oof, this basket’s a lot heavier than it looks! Come on, let’s get moving.

We’ve got to go through the open doorway to the right of the three green doors. Inside on your right, you’ll see the Board of the Green Cloth meeting, and checking all the deliveries. Take your headphones off for a sec to listen in on their conversation if you like, and then carry on to the Boiling House. But don’t forget to put your headphones back on!

### Stop 3 The Boiling House

[CHOPPING NOISES / BUBBLING / STEAM]

#### Zac:

We’re in the Boiling House, one of the many rooms used to prepare food. Something smells AMAZING! [SNIFF] It’s like a lovely herby stew!

Phew, it’s REALLY HOT in here! In the corner - up those steps, is an enormous cauldron. And that fireplace is certainly generating a lot of heat.

It’s also VERY busy – what with all these people chopping and grating - and stirring the pot.

#### Butcher:

Well! [CHUCKLES] We can’t be idle when there are folk to be fed!

#### Zac:

It looks like folk REALLY liked a pie or two!

#### Butcher:

Nothing wrong with your eyesight, is there! But let’s see how sharp your brain is! How many animals do you reckon we get through every day? Go on! Take a guess!

#### Zac:

Hmmm - I’m not sure. What do you think? Ten? Twenty? FIFTY?

#### Butcher:

Bit more than that! 90 sheep, 12 cows, 18 calves and I don't know how many chickens. Then there’s ducks, deer and rabbits. Oh and pigs - can’t MOVE for pig meat some days! Here in the boiling house, we boil them all up with herbs and spices ready for pies and to make them quicker to roast. You’ll find we’re fond of a pie and roast here at court. The King certainly is. He’s a fine figure of a man, but if he gives up all that sport he loves, he could be piling on the pounds later.

#### Strict Man:

[DISTANT] BOY! Those eggs aren’t going to get to Fish Court on their own.

#### Butcher:

You better get a move on. Chop chop! Did you see what I did there - just a little butcher’s joke!

#### Zac:

I think you BUTCHERED that pun! Come on, when your ready head through the right-hand doorway and out into Fish Court.

### Stop 4 Fish Court

#### Zac:

We’re in Fish Court. Finally, I can put this basket of eggs down.

It’s so much cooler out here, which is a good thing as most of the food supplies for the palace were stored here. And it wasn’t just fish - it was everything from Apples to well, I’m not quite sure they ate Zebra… but you can’t be too sure. It was built to be in the shade to stay cool and keep food fresh. The doors along the alley were for different storerooms – and one of them would have been for these eggs. Let’s have a peek in this storeroom on the right. [CREAK]

There’s loads of barrels in here. In Tudor times, things would have been stored right up to the ceiling. More food than our local shop! Looks like this room was for fish. That could have been a bit whiffy!

#### Yeoman of the Larder:

Boy! Mind your manners! That’s the latest fine fish delivery from Thomas Hewitt. I’ll have you know he once procured a porpoise for the King’s table!

#### Zac:

That must be the Yeoman of the Larder - it’s his job to get all the supplies to the different kitchens. Not sure I’d want to eat a porpoise – well, not on porpoise! [GIGGLES]

#### Yeoman of the Larder:

And don’t dally. The Clerk of the Greencloth is at large. We might have great stores full but we don’t waste a grain here at court – everything is carefully sourced and accounted for, so they’ll know if you’ve even THOUGHT about purloining any pilchards!

#### Zac:

It’s OK - I’m fine for pilchards, thanks! I suppose with so many people around here and so much stuff, they have to have strict rules. I think we should move on!

#### Yeoman of the Larder:

Not so fast, young fellow me lad.

#### Zac:

Uh oh? What have I done now?

#### Yeoman of the Larder:

They need these herbs in the kitchen. Off you go.

#### Zac:

Come on. The Great Kitchens are just ahead of us – through that door at the end.

### Stop 5 Great Kitchens – Herbs

[CRASHES / BANGS / SHOUTS OF A BUSY KITCHEN – ROARING FIRES]

#### Zac:

The Great Kitchens today are split into three rooms. In Tudor times, they would have looked very different – this would have been one MASSIVE room. And if it was hot in the Boiling House - it’s even hotter in here. I feel like I’m the one in the cauldron!

I’ve heard that a Spanish visitor to the Tudor court once said the kitchens were “veritable hells, such is the stir and bustle in them...”.

But you know, it looks really pretty organised to me. It’s like an army of men, all working at their different sections and all knowing exactly what they’re doing! It’s a giant food factory! Let’s move on to the next room - it has a row of pots on the hearth. As you walk around the kitchens, why don’t you see if you can spot any equipment you might have in your kitchen at home? You can pause the audio to have a look around. Check out the chopping boards and the pottery - you can touch them if you like before you move into the next part of the kitchen.

#### Kitchen Boy:

Watch your back, young sir! Is that bag for in ‘eere? Fine Herbs?

#### Zac:

Oh sorry, yes. Look at all the bags of herbs and spices. Dried lemons, mint and look at the thyme? No, not the time of day - the herb Thyme! [LAUGHS] The Tudors loved herbs and spices, exotic fruits and veg - some were even grown here at the Palace. It helped the King show off to visitors from all over the world - the fancier the food, the more magnificent the court would seem to be, and Henry LOVED showing off. Getting an invite to court must have been like winning the lottery! [FANFARE – CHEERS]

#### Zac:

Have a look around and smell the different herbs and spices if they are on display. Do you know what each one is called? Check out the sacks of supplies too - some might be in a different language. See if you can guess what they are. When you’re ready, let’s walk through to the third part of the kitchen – the one with a roaring fire!

### Stop 6 Great Kitchens – Fire

[SIZZLING ROAST - SQUEAKY SPIT TURNING]

#### Zac:

There’s an enormous fireplace in here. And look at the soot up the walls. Your cooker at home might have an extractor fan but there’s nothing like that in Henry’s time - it’s hot, sweaty and very sooty! In Tudor times, there would have been spits by the fire, loaded with meats slowly roasting and being turned by teams of men to make sure the meat’s cooked all the way through. The men would be hot and smelly, and the meat juicy and sizzling. Can you imagine being in the middle of all that!

#### Kitchen Boy:

Excuse me mate, no dallying here! There’s a feast today you know and loads to do. There’s going to be roast beef, venison pie, baked carp in wine with prunes, beef with vinegar sauce, stuffed roast boar and creamed almonds. And for the centrepiece – a fine roast peacock re-dressed in its feathers. Oh, and don’t forget all them vegetables and fruit. There’s even pastries covered in real gold!

#### Zac:

No wonder everyone is so busy!

#### Kitchen Boy:

Certainly are. But it’s just as busy on any day you choose what with hundreds of folk to feed twice a day. You can’t stand still when the Court’s stomachs are rumbling!

#### Zac:

Is it always this fancy?

#### Kitchen Boy:

Depends who you are! The grandest at court have dozens of dishes to choose from. Those lower down have fewer - and us at the bottom often just get offcuts and left-overs – well, those that aren’t given to the deserving poor at the gate.

#### Zac:

Those men turning the spits - that looks hard work. Do they do it all day long?

#### Kitchen Boy:

Yeah. They’re the turn broaches. It’s hot and heavy work – you should see the size of their biceps!

#### Zac:

How strong do you think you’d need to be to turn the spit for hours on end? Anyone in your group you think would be strong enough to do it? I mean ALL day long?

[CREAKING OF A TURNING SPIT – GRUNTS OF MEN]

#### Zac:

All this food looks and smells amazing.

#### Kitchen Boy:

I tell you what IS amazing, once a REALLY special cook made a cockentrice!

#### Zac:

You WHAT?

#### Kitchen Boy:

Half a pig stitched to a bird - roasted to perfection!

#### Zac:

A WHAT stitched to a WHAT? Never mind all the executions you Tudors like – even the food sounds like something from a horror movie! It must take ages to get through all those courses. And what about when all the supplies in the stores runs out?

#### Kitchen Boy:

That can happen. Most of our supplies are local. Sometimes we use up everything that’s going round these parts, so when it’s gone, the Court up sticks and just moves to another Palace. I tell you what – by then these kitchens need a good clean too! Anyway, I better get going before Cook tenderises MY hide.

#### Zac:

When you’re ready, let’s check out what happens when the food’s ready to be served. Continue into the Servery – it’s the corridor on the other side of those serving hatches.

### Stop 7 Cloisters

#### Zac:

We’re now out of the kitchen. Through these serving hatches, servants collect the food and take it up to the Great Hall and Watching Chamber above. It would be a bit like being waited on with your school dinners. Well, if there was peacock and quail pie on the menu!

#### Servant:

You’re holding up the line!

#### Zac:

Looks like I’m in the way. There’s dozens of Yeomen running around. In the rooms next to the serving hatches, you can see the pewter stores and an office for the Sergeant, who’s the boss of the Yeoman in his department. It was also around here where the laundry was stored.

#### Laundry Man:

[RUMBLING OF A CART] ‘Ere, watch yourself young man!

#### Zac:

Looks like it’s laundry day. There’s a man pulling a great cart of linen. He looks as strong as the men on the spits. I wouldn’t challenge him to an arm wrestle. Pardon me, sir!

#### Laundry Man:

Well, bless my soul! Who do we have here in such odd clothes? Unusual hose and no doublet! [CHUCKLES] Are you a new jester perhaps?

#### Zac:

Um, I’m the jester’s… new apprentice?

#### Laundry Man:

A companion for Will Somer, King Henry’s favourite jester. How jolly!

#### Zac:

So you do the laundry, right?

#### Laundry Man:

Nah! I’m the minstrel! Only joking! I’ve to get the clean stuff to where it’s needed. It’s hard work - collecting the linen shifts and taking them out of the palace to the laundresses who scrub away the dirt and dry them on the grass.

#### Strict Man:

“BERT! WHERE’S THE LINEN?”

#### Laundry Man:

Better go. The Lord Steward will make my coffin out of this cart if I don’t hurry up - he’s in charge of us servants. Good luck youngster! And keep your nose clean! Get ‘it? Clean - like my laundry!

#### Zac:

Thanks! I better throw in the towel myself! [GIGGLES] Let’s go through the archway, turn left and walk along the long, dark corridor - it’s called the cloister. The third door on the right, that’s the Wine Cellar and our next port of call.

### Stop 8 Wine Cellar

#### Zac:

There’s some steps down into the cellar, so if you prefer just poke your head in to take a look! There’s no mistaking what this room is for! It’s filled with enormous barrels - which would have contained wine and beer which were drunk at every meal. How many barrels can you count? If you have a sniff, you might just still smell the wine and oak of the barrels.

[SOUND OF ROLLING BARREL - IT COMES TO A HALT]

#### Zac:

Looks like another big barrel arriving - looks heavy! Moving them around must be quite a job!

#### Servant:

That it is! A delivery of the finest gascon wine from France. The King has his cup filled with wine from all over Europe - chosen by the Sergeant of the Cellar. The beer’s local, thank goodness!

#### Zac:

Thirsty work!!

#### Servant:

Not half. Here, have a swig of beer. [THUNK OF CORK] We all do down here – helps oil the cogs, cook says. [POP OF CORK - GLUG OF GROG]

#### Zac:

Um… no thanks. Kids don’t drink beer where I come from!

#### Servant:

Well, you stick to water then! It comes from a local spring near the Palace. You know, they even have water that’s hot running in the King’s apartments. Imagine that! I tell you what though, I’d rather have a dip in that cool spring than a hot bath right now! Better go, these barrels ain’t gonna roll themselves!

### Stop 9 End of Tour

#### Zac:

That’s the end of the Tudor Kitchen tour. They’re pretty amazing. I think my top three favourite things have been listening to the kitchen cauldrons bubbling away [BUBBLE], sorting out the herbs [CHOPPING] and the smell of the wood in the open fireplace [ROAR OF FIRE].

And think how hot and sweaty it must have been - which part do you think would have been the smelliest? And what do you think you’ll remember most?

[SWOOSHING SOUND / BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY]

If you fancy another tour, head along the cloisters back to Base Court and then choose another from the menu.

You might want to check out Henry VIII’s amazing Great Hall and state rooms where all the yummy roasts and pies ended up - and meet Henry’s wives.

Or if the Tudor kitchens have left you feeling peckish, why not continue down to the privy kitchen cafe.

Thanks for joining me and I hope to see you on another tour soon!

#### Strict Man:

[DISTANT] Boy! There’s more supplies to be moved. Get back here…

#### Zac:

Uh oh! I better go! Bye for now!

## Tour 4: Henry VIII’s State Apartments

### Stop 1 Introduction in Base Court

#### Zac:

Did you hear about Henry VIII putting a fan in his chamber? He wanted AIR to the throne! [BADOOM TISH]. OK, not much of a joke – but having a male heir - a boy who would eventually become king - was definitely no joke for Henry or his wives – and many ended up paying the price.

Now while we all know Henry liked to chop and change his wives - LITERALLY! He also wanted people to know he was the real deal, had loads of money and was powerful. He showed this with a whole load of lavish feasts and entertainment, sport and hunting here at Hampton Court Palace. And we’ve got VIP Access All Areas to find out more about one of the most famous power palaces of all time.

On this tour, we’re going back in time to the court of Henry VIII, checking out some of his apartments and chambers, and meeting some of the players at the palace.

We’ll be moving through quite a few rooms, so make sure you stick together so the grown-ups don’t get lost. And here’s a great tip - select the next track to see an image of where your next stop begins. We need to make our way to the staircase that leads up to the Great Hall. It’s just inside the archway that leads into Clock Court. When you get to the bottom of the stairs, play the next track. Ready? Let’s go!

### Stop 2 Staircase to Great Hall

#### Zac:

We’re at the bottom of the staircase that leads up to the Great Hall. In Henry’s day, just being here would get you in with some seriously rich and powerful people. If you were POOR, well you’d be shown the DOOR!

[SWOOSHING SOUND / LUTE MUSIC / BUSTLE OF CHATTER]

Looks like we’ve gone back to Tudor Times. There are two VERY BIG Yeomen of the Guard blocking our way! They protected the monarch and were here to make sure NO ONE got further without permission. They’re holding long spears called halberds - and DON’T look very friendly.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Stop right there young fellow, me lad!

#### Zac:

Uh oh, we’ve been spotted.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

No one gets to go further into court unless they’re Lords, Ladies, Clerics, Knights or from the right families. And YOU sunshine, ain’t any of them. Furthermore, your clothes are all wrong. There’s strict rules about that sort of thing and I would hazard a guess that you’ve broken every single one with those ridiculous shoes alone. Go on - scoot!

#### Zac:

Ahem… [IN A POSH VOICE] On the contrary my good man, I come from the realm of… um... Adidas.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Adidas? Is that on… the Spanish peninsula?

#### Zac:

Oh, the very same!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

[PAUSE] Oh go on then, you may proceed. And a word to the wise – watch out for ghosts. This place is HEAVING with them.

#### Zac:

Ghosts, bring it on! Come on, let's go up the staircase and through the big wooden doors into a curtained hallway and then play the next track.

### Stop 3 Screens Passage

#### Zac:

We're standing in Screens Passage which is the entrance to the Great Hall… but don’t go anywhere just yet.

On the left-hand side there’s a stone doorway into a small Tudor room where you can pause the tour and watch a short film about Henry and his wives. Have a look above the doorway for some carved pomegranates – they’re the symbol of Catherine of Aragon, Henry’s first wife. There’s a picture of them on your screen.

#### Ghost of Catherine of Aragon:

[GHOSTLY] Well, this might be a palace, but it was also my home you know! Henry and I were married for longer than any of his other wives! Over twenty years in fact - many of them happy.

#### Zac:

It’s the ghost of Catherine of Aragon! Sorry your majesty! If you were happy, I don’t get why the King ended your marriage?

#### Ghost of Catherine of Aragon:

Well, it was a really important part of my job as queen to give the King a male heir, but none of my baby boys survived... Henry sadly decided he needed a new wife. But, to the end of my days, I considered myself still to be Queen, even if the King did not! [SWOOSHES OFF]

#### Zac:

Time for us to move on. Ready to check out the Great Hall? It’s just through the curtains. Come on, let’s go!

### Stop 4 Great Hall

#### Zac:

We're in the Great Hall and it’s more than Great - it’s AMAZING! Seems like royalty in the olden days liked to decorate their houses to show off, just like we do I suppose – except their houses were a little bit… [ECHOEY] MORE ENORMOUS!

The tapestries show the story of Abraham. They’re made from wool, silk, and gold and silver thread. Here in Tudor times, they’re really bright and colourful like the ceiling - and the gold in them sparkles!

#### Ghost of Anne Boleyn:

[GHOSTLY] I always loved this Great Hall – it brings back memories of so many fun parties with Henry.

#### Zac:

That’s the ghost of Anne Boleyn - Henry’s second wife. She lost her head because Henry thought she was cheating on him.

#### Ghost of Anne Boleyn:

Well, the impertinence. There’s more to me than THAT! I was an accomplished and educated lady and, I’ll have you know, gave birth to Elizabeth I who would become one of the greatest monarchs of all time! [SWOOSHES OFF]

#### Master of Revels:

Here boy! Come away from that tapestry. You DO know they‘re worth more than the crown jewels?

#### Zac:

Wow – that’s a lot! Umm, who are you?

#### Master of Revels:

I’m the Master of Revels. It’s my job to arrange the feasts and events for the King.

#### Zac:

Kind of like a party planner?

#### Master of Revels:

Exactly! And the feasts are as lavish as the furnishings. You can’t have the Spanish Ambassador telling his court that the food was plain and the walls bare!

#### Zac:

Yeah – we don’t want other Kings and Queens laughing at us!

#### Master of Revels:

Pray, are you new here at court? If so, I would be pleased to show you around. 300 members of the household are tucking into their dinner. All you need know is that them closest to Screens Passage are the least important and those at the high table are the most.

You have to wear the right clothing, observe the right etiquette and watch your manners - especially here! There is to be absolutely NO farting at the table!

#### Zac:

[LAUGHS] They had to make THAT a rule?

#### Master of Revels:

And look up in the eaves. Can you see the carved faces - them’s the Eavesdroppers! They might remind you that there’s always someone watching and listening!

#### Zac:

So do the King and Queen sit - at the very top table of all?

#### Master of Revels:

Nah! They eat privately, but Henry might make an occasional appearance. Now I better disappear – he’s arranged a tennis tournament and there’s to be dancing afterwards. These royal parties don’t plan themselves!

#### Zac:

Sounds fun! We’d also better move on, through the door to the left into the room with lots of antlers.

### Stop 5 Hall Place

[CALLS OF “MIND YOUR BACK PLEASE!” / “HURRY UP WITH THEM PIES BOY” - BUSTLE OF SERVANTS]

#### Zac:

We’re in Hall Place. The staircase goes down to the kitchen, which is why the servants in their red uniforms are hurrying back and forth with food for the Great Hall.

They wait here with their dishes, leaning against the walls and bannisters. Well, it’s hard work by the look of it. You’d want to take a rest whenever you could!

Something to check out here is a portrait called the Giant Porter. He was a porter to Queen Elizabeth, and it’s said that he was really tall! Who’s the tallest in your group? Are they as tall as the Giant Porter? A funny thing is, he ended up marrying the shortest woman at court!

When you’re ready, go through the doorway on the right and into the Great Watching Chamber. But watch out for those servants and their dishes - you don’t want a pie in the face! [TRUMPET FANFARE] Sounds like they’re lining up for a grand entrance into the Great Hall.

### Stop 6 Great Watching Chamber

#### Zac:

So, this is the Great Watching Chamber. It’s a bit more luxurious than the Great Hall. And here in Tudor times, there’s 80 Yeomen of the Guard standing around the walls - ready with their weapons. Excuse me, what ARE you watching?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Well for starters, I have got my eye on YOU, young sir, and them other courtiers and nobles and such like in here. They’re all watching for those big double doors to swing open and the King to come out of his private apartments. They might be waiting a long time though because the King… well, likes to keep himself to himself. And only the most highly favoured can pass through.

#### Zac:

So, we’ve got VIP access to be here - but you’re saying we need VVV- VIP access to get through those doors!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Indeed, no one goes through those doors without permission.

#### Zac:

There’s loads to see in here. Ask one of the room guides about the badges on the ceiling. And find the portrait of Jane Seymour. She was Henry’s third wife, and the only one to provide a male heir - Edward VI.

#### Ghost of Jane Seymour:

[GHOSTLY] It was sad that I should die so soon after my Edward’s birth. I like to think that the fact the king waited three years to marry again meant that he was sad too. His other wives were replaced within a year - sometimes a matter of months!

Zac: It’s Jane Seymour! Henry certainly did get through his wives - I know that when he married Anne of Cleves, THAT marriage was over in months.

#### Ghost of Anne of Cleves:

[GHOSTLY] Well, you can blame that silly painter Holbein for that!

#### Zac:

Looks like the ghost of Anne of Cleves has something to say too! She was wife number four!

#### Ghost of Anne of Cleves:

The King fell in love with my portrait - but you can’t marry a picture, can you?

#### Zac:

Yeah. It’s a bit like when people use filters to alter the look of their pictures. The real thing can look very different!

#### Ghost of Anne of Cleves:

Well, the KING certainly didn’t have a filter. On my arrival he shouted “I like her not! I like her not!” and then stormed out and that was the end of that! Henry was no oil painting either, I’ll have you know! [SWOOSHES AWAY]

#### Zac:

Poor Anne. At least she kept her head and it’s said she ended up being besties with the King. It doesn’t look as if the King is going to come through any time soon, so let’s move on to the Processional Gallery.

But before we leave, have you noticed the little door in the corner? It was a garderobe - or toilet to you and me! If you want to find out more, pop in and tap the Discover More button.

### Stop 6a Guarderobe

#### Zac:

Welcome to the Garderobe - that’s a Tudor toilet to you and me! King Henry VIII made sure there were plenty of toilets at Hampton Court Palace, including a mega communal one known as the House of Easement. [FLUSHING TOILET]

Ah look, there’s someone with a bucket - and it really REALLY stinks!

#### Scourer:

Garold the Gong Scourer at your service! No pit too pongy, no toilet too troublesome.

#### Zac:

Uh… is that what I think it is? A bucket of… poo?

#### Scourer:

Nah! It’s roses, ain’t it? Of course, it’s poo! All the folk in here waiting for the King are going to need the garderobe at some point - especially after those big meals they serve up ‘ere. You should see the state of them gongs – head high they are.

#### Zac:

That’s a pretty big musical instrument. [GONG]

#### Scourer:

Don’t know what you talking about, mate. Gongs are pits lined with bricks - they’re where all the you know what goes.

#### Zac:

So, massive pits of poo?

#### Scourer:

And wee! We scoop out what we can using buckets on rope. [BUCKET DROPPING INTO WATER] Then we climb in to get the really hard stuff and give the bricks a really good scrub clean. [SCRUBBING BRUSHES]

#### Zac:

But… isn’t this like the worst job EVER!

#### Scourer:

There’s plenty of jobs when you’re talking about… well - jobbies! Take the Groom of the Stool - it’s his job to wipe the royal bum. Highest honour in the court! No one is closer to the King. Or his bum! They get rewarded with honours and fine clothing and pots of money.

#### Zac:

Hmm… So would you rather wipe the kings bum or climb into a pit of poo?

### Stop 7 Processional Gallery

#### Zac:

We’re in the Processional Gallery. It’s how Henry would have got from his private rooms to the Chapel Royal. There’s some very interesting portraits to check out. You can read more about each one on the silk labels. Or have fun recreating the poses!

#### Ghost of Catherine Howard:

[GHOSTLY – FAINT - HYSTERICAL] Is that you Henry! I beseech you! Have mercy! Have mercy on this vile wretch! I implore you!

#### Zac:

Who was that talking?

#### Master of Revels:

Hello again, young Sir. They say it’s the ghost of Catherine Howard – Henry’s fifth wife.

[SOMBRE MUSIC]

#### Zac:

She ended up on the block too, right?

#### Master of Revels:

Indeed. It’s a sorry tale if you ask me. She was only young when she married the King. He was much older but absolutely adored her. One day, he found out that she had been unfaithful - he was FURIOUS and sentenced her to death.

[DRUM BEAT]

It’s said she ran screaming along this gallery - trying to get to the King to beg for forgiveness. It didn’t work of course. She was taken down the Thames to the Tower of London, travelling under bridges where the heads of her lovers were tarred and stuck on stakes - and was beheaded herself. [CHOP]

#### Zac:

EW! That’s gross! You don’t wanna mess with the King!

#### Master of Revels:

They say her ghost still haunts these corridors.

#### Ghost of Catherine Howard:

[GHOSTLY – HYSTERICAL] Henry! I implore you! Henry - Henry! HENRY!!!

#### Zac:

Come on, let’s follow her around the corner and into the next corridor - maybe we’ll catch sight of her. It can be busy there though, so let’s find a space to stand near Henry’s family portrait.

### Stop 7a Page’s Chamber

#### Zac:

In the Processional Gallery there’s a small doorway on the right-hand side. If you look inside, you’ll see quite a plain room – well, plain compared to the fancy chambers we’ve seen. This is the Page’s Chamber and was where pages hung around until they were needed by their Lords and Masters. Pages were young male servants. When their masters were summoned to see the King, they would help them into their ceremonial robes, give them some wine to calm their nerves and make sure that not a stitch was out of place or any flies were undone! They kept an eye on their Masters in the Watching Chamber by peeping through the tapestries from this room.

### Stop 8 Haunted Gallery

#### Zac:

This haunted gallery sends a shiver down my spine! Catherine must have been so scared!

#### Ghost of Katherine Parr:

[GHOSTLY] And Henry went into a great depression - only to be lifted by marriage to me! The end of his days were sweeter - with my care and companionship.

#### Zac:

It’s Katherine Parr - Henry’s sixth and final wife. He married her here at Hampton Court. But Katherine - weren’t you scared to marry such a moody, and probably quite SMELLY, old man like Henry?

#### Ghost of Katherine Parr:

I believed it was the will of God - even though I had planned to marry another. And it was God’s will that in time I would survive the King and be free to marry my true love, Thomas Seymour. [CHURCH BELLS]

#### Zac:

I was right, this gallery is busy – with lots of courtiers hoping to ask the King for favours. Hang on… and a funny looking man with a monkey on his shoulder! That must be…

#### Will Somer:

Will Somer at your service! It’s my job to tickle the royal funny bones and entertain the court.

#### Zac:

Go on then. Tell us a joke!

#### Will Somer:

Ahem “After double doors had to be installed in the palace to allow for Henry VIII's enormous frame, he became sad and no longer enjoyed teaching his trumpet-playing skills to the court. He was a two-door too dour Tudor tooter Tutor!” [GIGGLES] You try saying that after a flagon of beer!

#### Zac:

I thought making fun of the King would get your head chopped off!

#### Will Somer:

Us jesters, or fools, have special - in fact, legal permission to do so. The King is so fond of me, I’m in his family portrait.

#### Zac:

I see you! But Edward looks like a grown boy, and Jane Seymour died soon after his birth, so this picture doesn’t make sense.

#### Will Somer:

Ah well-spotted! You are clearly an attentive subject of his Majesty, despite your disregard for court dress rules.

#### Zac:

Uh oh, I think my trainers might get me in trouble again!

### Stop 9 End of Tour

[SWOOSHING SOUND / BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY]

#### Zac:

And we’re back in the present! That’s the end of our VIP – nearly Access all Areas tour around Henry VIII’s apartments. Henry died in 1547, but the Tudor dynasty lasted another 56 years, mainly through his daughter Elizabeth I.

You can see how powerful Henry was, and how scared people must have been of him – if you did something that he didn’t like [CHOP!] off came your head.

But Henry wanted to impress everyone, so court could be fun - with amazing decorations and food. And YOU could become powerful too - as long as you didn’t forget the rules - no farting at the dinner table! I wonder what rules and decoration I’d choose if I was the King!

Thank you for joining me on this tour. Head through the doors at the end of the corridor and you’ll be in the Baroque Palace of William, Mary and the Georgians, at the top of a grand staircase. You might like to start the Georgian Story tour or choose another from your guide.

I hope to see you again soon!

## Tour 5: Chapel Royal

#### Zac:

Welcome to The Chapel Royal. If there’s a service going on or the chapel is closed, check out the decorated angels while you find out more from trusty friend, Palace Pigeon!

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! Now you might not think it, what with all the executions, changing the religion of the country and closing down monasteries, but Henry VIII was actually very religious.

Henry would pray daily in the Royal Pew on the first floor where it was private - and, they thought, closer to God, being higher up. I wonder if that means pigeons are even closer when we are perched on the roof?

If you’re inside the chapel, look up at the painted vaulted ceiling, carved with angels playing heavenly musical instruments and holding religious scrolls. Different monarchs put their own stamp on the decoration but the ceiling’s well and truly Tudor.

The Chapel Royal has been the place of many historic events - including the christening of Henry’s son Prince Edward in 1537. And it’s still used today, with regular services. COO!

#### Zac:

Thanks Palace Pigeon!

## Tour 6: Chapel Court Garden

#### Zac:

Welcome to Chapel Court Garden. A little bird tells me that this garden isn’t as old as other parts of the Palace. Let’s find out more with our feathery expert - over to you Palace Pigeon!

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! Less of the little! I’m very impressive when all puffed up, I’ll have you know! This garden was created in 2009 for the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII coming to the throne. Well, what do you get a dead king for his 500th anniversary? A garden, I suppose!

The idea came from a famous painting called the Family of Henry VIII which shows a garden decorated with ‘Kyngs beestes’ – they’re a kind of creature you might see on coats of arms.

The 8 funny looking beasts perched high on brightly painted posts are based on drawings made in the early 16th century. Each beast is carved in English oak and their decorations have special meanings for Henry and his family.

Look out for the red and white roses. That’s a nod to Henry’s mum and dad - they came from two warring families who’d fought for the crown for MANY years, so he was showing not just his right to rule but that his family united people. You might have noticed that Henry put beasts all over the palace. Look out for them, especially in the Tudor bits!

And even the plants have been specially chosen to reflect plants that would have been popular in Henry’s times - sometimes there’s strawberries. Yum! I could just fancy a strawberry! COO!

#### Zac:

Thanks Palace Pigeon! What kind of beast do you reckon would show off your personality or the history of your family? Maybe a daring dragon or a brave bear? What about the grownups - do they agree with you?

## Tour 7: William III’s Apartments

### Stop 1 Introduction in Clock Court

#### Zac:

Hey! Welcome to Clock Court and a tour around the apartments of King William and Queen Mary. They were a proper power couple who were on the throne over three hundred years ago. Mary II and her husband, William III, who was sometimes called William of Orange, took to the throne in 1689 and lived here at Hampton Court.

No fighting though! It was called a Glorious Revolution but the funny thing - it wasn’t much of a revolution. The British government invited them to come over from the Netherlands and they ruled together instead of Mary’s dad, King James II.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[GHOSTLY SWOOSH!] Indeed they did! Oh sorry - pleased to meet you. I’m the Ghostly Groom of the Stool. I attend to the King’s toilet. NO ONE gets closer to the King than I.

#### Zac:

Toilet? Does that mean you… you know…

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Attend to the royal bottom. Indeed. It’s one of the highest honours there is! I challenge ANYONE to get as close to the King as I.

#### Zac:

Well, I’m open to a challenge. I’m pretty good at computer adventure games, especially where you have to keep levelling up! [LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL]

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Alright then! Let’s see how far you can get into the King’s chambers. But remember, 300 years ago, ‘levelling up’, as you say, needed a whole different set of skills! Don’t worry - I’ll check up on you along the way.

#### Zac:

Game on! Are you ready for a bit of time travelling? BRILLIANT! Let’s start. To the left-hand side of the columns, there’s a tall doorway. Through the door, you’ll be at the bottom of a rather grand staircase. Play the next track when you’re there.

There’s lots of rooms to get through, so stick together. The rooms and all the things in them are really old and fragile, so take care as you go! And here’s a great tip, select the next track to see an image of where your next stop begins.

### Stop 2 King’s Staircase

#### Zac:

Welcome to the King’s Staircase - bit different to the one at home, right? The massive painting around the walls shows Roman gods deciding that Alexander the Great did a better job than the Caesars - they were all powerful leaders from history. William chose the design. I guess he thought he was better than James II and wanted something BIG to show how powerful he was.

[SWOOSHING SOUND / BABBLE OF PEOPLE]

#### Zac:

WOW! We’re back in time. The staircase is HEAVING with people in their finest dress. They must be desperate to see the King. Everyone’s crowding in, all dressed in their finest. Look out… there’s a Yeoman of the Guard coming our way!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Look here lad – if you want to come up here, you need to be important and finely dressed. And you look neither to me.

#### Zac:

Ahem! [IN A POSH VOICE] But I am page to Lord Stormzy.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Well… alright then. On you go.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

It seems you may proceed - but make sure your shoes are neatly tied and your shirt’s tucked in. No place for sloppiness at the palace!

#### Zac:

I’m on it! We better make sure everyone in our group is tidy.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP!

#### Zac:

Alright!! Come on… let’s go up the stairs and through the massive doors at the top!

### Stop 3 King’s Guard Chamber

#### Zac:

If you are interested in swords and old weapons, the King’s Guard Chamber is the room for you! In the present day, you’ll see there’s hundreds of swords, daggers and muskets on the walls - how many do you think there are? I’ll tell you the answer in a minute. Here in King William’s time there’s loads of guards holding halberds – that’s like a long sharp stick with a big axe on it. They look pre-tty scary!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

You boy! Stand up straight! No slouching at court! Etiquette dictates best behaviour, the finest clothing and absolutely no one is to leave the room if the King appears!

#### Zac:

But what if you need to [WHISPERS] you know, go to the loo?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

If you’re lucky, a servant will bring you a pot to use discretely, otherwise you’ll just have to cross your legs and pretend it’s a curtsey!

#### Zac:

[GIGGLES] So there’s porta potties at the palace! And what’s with all the weapons?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Being King isn’t all waving at crowds and opening alms houses you know! The King is constantly picking battles - usually with King Louis of France who’s the most powerful man in Europe and is constantly trying to take over other people’s land – including our own! You wouldn’t want the King to just let him get away with it? Us Yeomen of the Guard, we protect the King. There’s plenty of folk who’d like to see him dead - assassinated!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

You’ll have to convince the guard you’re loyal to the King to move on, you know.

#### Zac:

[GRANDLY] Ahem! I proclaim loyalty to King William - the best King in the whole of Europe - I mean the World!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

[COMIC PAUSE] Alright son, that’ll do - you may proceed.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP!

#### Zac:

We did it! Let’s move on. Oh, in case you were wondering, there’s 3,000 weapons on display today. Who had the closest guess? We’re going to head through the open door by the windows into the Presence Chamber. And remember… if you have a question or can’t see something, just ask one of the room guides.

### Stop 4 Presence Chamber

#### Zac:

So we’re in the Presence Chamber. There should be a portrait of William here on his horse looking ready to go into battle. William looks powerful, but I’m not sure about the horse. Its head looks a bit strange! [GIGGLES] The room looks pretty fancy. I mean… look at the silver chandelier.

#### Usher:

Quiet there. You think this room is fancy? There’s more to come! This is of course the official throne room.

#### Zac:

It’s really crowded - but no sign of the King!

#### Usher:

Oh, you’ll generally have to try a bit harder to have an actual audience with old Rotten Orange!

#### Zac:

Rotten Orange? You mean the King?

#### Usher:

Well, that’s what some call him. William of Orange, right! Because his family come from the Orange region in France.

#### Zac:

But… what’s rotten?

#### Usher:

Well, folk like Queen Mary more than they like the King. She’s one of us after all, from the Stuart line - her father was James II. Can’t say she was a very obedient daughter though. I mean, she did steal her father’s throne! But SHE isn’t the one pulling us into a load of wars - half of them not even ours to fight! Come on, I’ll sneak you through to the next room.

#### Zac:

Brilliant!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

You’ll have to bow to the throne before you do - even if the King isn’t there. Them’s the rules!

#### Zac:

We better get bowing then - make it a good deep bow now!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP!

#### Zac:

Phew! Let’s walk straight ahead through the next door and into the Eating Room.

### Stop 5 Eating Room

#### Zac:

We’re in the Eating Room. The decorations are definitely getting fancier. Look at the chandelier – it’s certainly levelled up! The last room had silver, now we’re GOLD! The room might be empty for you today but here in the time of William III, there’s a table set out for lunch and everyone is gathered around in their finest outfits, ready to watch the King eat. Excuse me, what’s going on.

#### Usher:

Well as you will see, only the very smartest and fashionable may proceed through the rooms here at court - and none more so than here, where only a select few may actually watch the King eat!

#### Zac:

But WHY would you want to do that?

#### Usher:

It’s a custom from Europe. European monarchs expect to be watched by their courtiers. I believe it’s considered a privilege to attend.

#### Zac:

Like getting a golden ticket!

Usher:

Well, just between you, me and the mantlepiece, I should say William HATES it - and certainly doesn’t put on much of a show on the rare occasion he does eat here. Old King Charles would pull out the best crystal and china to show off, but William doesn’t believe in fanciness and ceremony. Ceremony pleases the crowd, and a King needs the support of his people. And it’s a bit of fun for folk - right?

#### Zac:

Definitely! Sounds like he should lighten up a bit!

#### Usher:

Great minds think alike. Go on - I’ll let you pass.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP!

#### Zac:

Before we move on, have you noticed the portrait of a gentleman looking very important and with his chest puffed out. If you want a bit of fun, see if you can recreate the pose. Then let’s carry on through the next door into the Privy Chamber.

### Stop 6 Privy Chamber

#### Zac:

So, we’ve levelled up into the Privy Chamber – William’s most important State room. And I have to say, the throne in here looks pretty comfy to me. But then again, nothing but the best for the King’s bum! And check out the scarlet canopies and the chandelier - now that’s PREMIER LEAGUE lighting - never mind silver and gold - it’s made of crystal!

[TWINKLE TWINKLE - CRASH!]

#### Servant:

Look! You’ve made me drop my platter, standing there staring with your mouth open.

#### Zac:

Sorry, let me help. So, this is the room where they hold ceremonies on special occasions, right? Where the lucky few could meet the King? Super special VIP access all areas stuff.

#### Servant:

Well, depends who you are. If you’re posh enough, the King would come to greet you at the staircase - but for most, they’d have to come to him. He’d sit there and listen to them go on and on.

#### Zac:

Do you think he enjoys it?

#### Servant:

I very much doubt it. Still, at least we have Queen Mary. She’s livened things up - building new rooms [BUILDING EFFECTS] and bringing over a menagerie of animals, [WOOFING] not to mention her enormous collection of delft china [CHINK] – that’s the blue and white pottery you’ll see everywhere. Filled the palace with colour she has, whilst HE’D take pleasure in draining it out! Anyway, we mustn’t linger - I shall help you to the next room

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Don’t forget to bow to the throne first!

#### Zac:

Everybody bow! Then we’ve done it!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP!

#### Zac:

Brilliant! Before we head on through the next door, check out the view from the window. You can see the garden’s full of straight lines. That was a fashion from the Netherlands, and it really caught on here when William and Mary built this garden.

### Stop 7 Withdrawing Room

#### Zac:

This room looks a bit more cosy than the privy chamber - although it’s still super fancy. It’s the Withdrawing Room. It’s where people might have a chat with the King - away from the crowds. Have you noticed how the throne here looks like a comfy armchair – he could definitely have a good snooze on that. And check out the guy with the pointy beard opposite - I wonder who it is?

#### Ghost of Charles I:

Tis I, Charles I. I had my head cut off by a rebellious parliament you know - because I answer to God, not to them. [CHOP!]

#### Zac:

EW! Why would William want to be reminded of that! I mean he could have any portrait he wanted. Why choose such a serious one?

#### Ghost of Charles I:

It’s possible he keeps my portrait here as a solemn reminder not to lose his OWN head, and to accept that monarchs must share power with their governments. King William IS a serious man. He is renowned for his hard work and known to hate a fuss.

#### Zac:

Yeah, he doesn’t sound like a laugh a minute.

#### Ghost of Charles I:

And my parties were better. Just saying. Ahh, those were the days! Anyway, your tour is about William not me. Go on, hurry along. I shall let you proceed.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

[LEVELLING UP COMPUTER TRILL] Well done - LEVELLED UP! Your journey through the public areas of his majesty’s apartments will soon be at an end.

#### Zac:

Eeek! I hope that doesn’t mean I’m going to lose my head like King Charles. Come on, let’s head through the next door.

### Stop 8 Great Bedchamber

#### Zac:

We’ve levelled up into the Great Bedchamber. Check out the painted ceiling. I mean, THIS has GOT to be where you’d get closest to the King, right?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Wrong! Although well done on getting this far. Didn’t think you had it in you, truth be told.

#### Zac:

Come on! Maybe in the toilet where… you know… you’d get close but look - there’s the Kings bed! You’d be able to see him in his jimjams!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

This bedroom is only for ceremonial dressing. Nobles come here to gawp at the King getting ready in the morning. He wouldn’t actually sleep in here - he’s got other rooms - PRIVATE rooms for that! There’s a clue in the painting on the ceiling - it’s facing the right way round for those standing at the foot of the bed, but it would be upside down if you were tucked under the covers.

#### Zac:

So the court liked to see him eating… and getting dressed. I bet William hated all that - he didn’t like being the centre of attention, did he?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

No he did not! But it was the fashionable way, certainly for the French, and William was determined that the English court would be even better! As you’ve found, the queen is much more fun and with a fabulous fancy for fine things. If you look above the fireplace, you can see some blue and white porcelain she collected. Some is from China, but much is from the Netherlands. You can barely move around the palace because of it!

#### Zac:

My aunt’s always decorating - she says it makes a house a home, although if you ask me, it’s to show off a bit. I suppose it’s the same for Mary - this was her home, and she wanted to make it nice for herself and William.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Indeed - and for all their differences, they loved each other. It was sad that they didn’t get to enjoy these grand rooms for long. Mary died of smallpox in 1694 and the King ten years later after falling from his horse - thanks they say to a molehill, would you believe. William’s enemies celebrated the “little gentlemen in velvet” but the reign ended, leaving rooms and building work unfinished. Some say was a good thing, otherwise all of the Tudor Palace would have been destroyed and rebuilt if Mary had had her way.

#### Zac:

Kind of a sad end to the tale!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

But your adventure needn’t end just yet - What follows are the King’s private rooms. And as you’ve successfully levelled up, I can permit you to pass - if you would like?

#### Zac:

Are you asking if I want to unlock some secret rooms - absolutely yes!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Let us proceed! Carry on into the next room. [SOUND OF UNLOCKING ROOMS]

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

And talking of ends, I’m sorry to say that the tour must end here. The private rooms which follow are currently out of bounds to visitors. And I do believe I can hear the King calling out for toilet paper - I must away! [SWOOSH!]

#### Zac:

Time for us to go. Let’s head back the way we came and leave by the King’s Staircase.

### Stop 9 Little Bedchamber

#### Zac:

We’re in the LITTLE BEDCHAMBER and it’s definitely more cosy than the last room. I wonder if the King ACTUALLY slept here?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

On occasion he does, although he’s often to be found on a camp bed in his study, but yes, it is a more private place.

#### Zac:

The painted ceiling is pretty cool. It's really colourful. And look at all the birds. My favourite’s that parrot! How many birds do you think there are?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

The painting shows Mars the God of War in the arms of Venus the God of Love.

#### Zac:

Like William relaxing after coming back from war? He doesn’t really like public spaces and big ceremonies, does he? I guess these rooms were really important for him – a bit like the privacy of my own bedroom.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

It’s where the King can spend time with those closest of friends - like William Bentinck who nursed him through smallpox and Arnold Van Keppel who the King liked so much he was showered with gifts and titles - he even has his own suite of rooms at court!

#### Zac:

The only presents I usually get are Pokemon cards! Think I’ve missed out. Let’s move on through the next door. [UNLOCKING SOUND]

### Stop 10 Closet

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

So this is the King’s study where he spends many hours working hard, writing letters to all and sundry.

#### Zac:

What would he write about?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

War and money, money and war - “Come on and give me more money to start another war.” Grumbling to other European Kings - “Why aren’t you sending more troops to fight the French?” Badgering parliament “anyone up for another war?” That sort of thing.

#### Zac:

I reckon if he lived in my time, he’d never be off his mobile, checking the news and sending texts all the time. He really liked war, right?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

On the contrary. He was determined to stop France from taking over Europe. Many countries were scared because King Louis was so powerful. And one of the reasons why William agreed to be King was to get his hands on more troops to do the job! It’s a small space, so let’s move on… [UNLOCKING SOUND]

As we move on, we’ll find ourselves at the top of the stairs – the all-important backstairs. Take a peek into the alcove on the left into the King's necessary office, as it's called, to spy a nice, comfortable toilet with a red padded velvet seat.

#### Zac:

So I guess that was YOUR office - as Groom of the Stool! [GIGGLES] Let’s then head downstairs.

### Stop 11 Chatsworth Room

#### Zac:

We’re in the Chatsworth room. Have you noticed how the ceilings are much lower down here than upstairs? There’s a reason… William wasn’t very healthy – he had asthma and stayed here at Hampton Court out of the smoke of the city. You might have asthma and if you do, you probably have a puffer to help. But William had nothing like that. And because he’d get out of breath climbing stairs, they built this floor with lower ceilings so there weren’t as many steps. Let’s head into the next room.

### Stop 12 East Closet

#### Zac:

So, we’re in the East Closet. This private room seems to be a music room - check out the decorations and the paintings. And looks like someone’s here waiting for the King.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Uh - that’s Bentinck. He’s one of the King’s two favourite men and is in a right mood.

#### Bentinck:

I am not just ANY favourite - I am the very closest favourite!

#### Zac:

Um, Isn’t there someone else called Van Keppel?

#### Bentinck:

How dare you mention his name! I’ll have you know that I am the oldest friend. Van Keppel may be younger and glamourous, but he’s a mere fly by night. And who could be closer than I? Did I not share a bed with the King to help nurse him through smallpox when we were boys and did I not catch it myself? What diseases has Van Keppel willingly contracted for the King? None that I know of! He has not suffered even a sneeze in service!

#### Zac:

You sound… a bit jealous to be honest!

#### Bentinck:

Well, you’d be jealous if the person you thought really cared about you started getting really close to someone else, then packed you off to France as an ambassador while their new crush gets an enormous suite of rooms adjoining the King’s private apartments, you know… that sort of thing.

#### Zac:

Well, yeah, but no - that’s never happened to me. Guessing it’s pretty unlikely to!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Let’s leave Bentinck to sulk - we’ve still got a couple more rooms left to unlock.

#### Zac:

Good idea! WHAT a moaner! We’re going to walk through the next two rooms, which are the Middle Closet – which they say might have been William’s bedroom, and West Closet, and then onto the Orangery. [UNLOCKING SOUND]

### Stop 13 Orangery

#### Zac:

Wow, so this is a much bigger space after all the small private rooms. Seems like William liked the Greeks – we’ve seen them in lots of paintings … and now statues.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Indeed. This is the Orangery.

#### Zac:

And here in William and Mary’s time, I can see the gardeners have brought in some orange trees in pots. So let’s clear up one thing - what’s with all the oranges? I mean he’s called William of Orange and this is called an Orangery.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Well the King has family who come from a region in France called Orange. The orange trees may be a nod to that - but the Queen likes to cultivate exotic fruits too and has them brought in here to thrive over the winter.

#### Zac:

Before we move to our final room, can you do a pose like one of the other statues? When you’re ready, we’re going to head through the door at the far end, through a Drawing Room and into the Private Dining Room. [UNLOCKING SOUND]

### Stop 14 Dining Room

#### Zac:

Our last room is a Dining Room, ready for the King to dine. You can see it’s an important room with the gold plates in the alcove at the far end. And check out the portraits around the walls.

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Ah! The Hampton Court Beauties! The most beautiful ladies at court. Aren’t they stunning!

#### Zac:

I guess… but they all look quite similar? Were they all related?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Well not always – It’s just because there was a certain style of painting at that time – I wonder if the ladies recognised themselves at all!

Oh! Watch your manners. Anne is coming to dine – and she looks as miserable as Bentinck!

#### Zac:

What’s going on?

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

Anne is sister to the Queen, but she and the King cannot STAND each other. The older the King gets, the fatter and more ill he has become, and the worse his temper. Anne calls him the Dutch Monster and HE refuses to share the food so they just sit in silence and glare at each other whilst the courtiers try not to laugh. Still, she will be Queen when the King dies so I suppose she just puts up with it.

#### Zac:

What a pair! Let’s leave them to it!

#### Ghostly Groom of the Stool:

And I must leave you too! Well done for completing the challenge and unlocking the rooms of William III. I think I hear the King calling for some toilet paper - I must away! [SWOOSH!]

#### Zac:

Come on, let’s leave through the next door, walk across the corridor and you'll find yourself back at the grand staircase where we came in.

### Stop 15 Tour End

#### Zac:

And that’s the end of our adventure. I hope you enjoyed the tour around the William III’s Apartments. I thought it was funny to think of all those courtiers having to use porta potties instead of being able to leave the King - and that crystal chandelier was seriously blingy!

It’s strange to think that a bunch of the decoration and buildings we see today - like the painting over the staircase - weren’t finished when William and Mary’s were alive.

After William died, Queen Anne finished the work they’d started, and paid amazing artists and craftsmen to make it the palace even more grand. But she only stayed in these apartments sometimes - she usually lived at Kensington Palace. So that was that, until the glamorous Georgians moved in, but that’s another story.

Thanks’ for joining me - choose another tour if you like, or if you’re just after some short and snappy snippets, you could check out the astronomical clock in Clock Court or head to Fountain Court for a different view of William and Mary’s palace.

Have a great day and see you later!

## Tour 8: Clock Court

#### Zac:

Welcome to Clock Court - and it’s pretty obvious how it got its name, right? You can’t miss the incredible astronomical clock. Let’s ask our friend the Palace Pigeon to cast her eagle eye and tell us all about it!

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! Eagle Eye? Pigeony Peer more like! Ahem. So Hampton Court Palace has three courtyards. Base Court, Fountain Court AND Clock Court. And out of all of ‘em, this one’s right at the heart of the palace. Henry himself would’ve looked out onto this clock from the windows of his private apartments opposite!

[FANFARE / CLOCK SOUNDS]

The astronomical clock is well - quite astronomical! Henry was totally barmy about science and astronomy - it was a time when old superstitions were mixing with new discoveries. The clock, which is a whopping 3 metres wide, was designed by a German mathematician and astronomer called Nicholas Kratzer and built in 1540.

The biggest dial, the one with the signs of the zodiac, rotates once a year. The middle dial rotates every 24 hours and the smallest dial rotates once a month with the moon. The clock could tell Henry the time, day, month, position of the sun and phase of the moon.

It also shows the time of high tide at London Bridge - very handy for those members of the court travelling along the river. The river was like a Tudor M25 motorway - a busy route for people travelling to and from the City of London, and much more comfortable than travelling by road. If only they had wings! COO!

#### Zac:

Thanks Palace Pigeon! I bet your kitchen clock doesn’t show all that!

## Tour 9: Georgian Story

### Stop 1 Introduction in the Queen’s Stairs

[PAPARAZZI CLICKING OF CAMERAS]

#### Zac:

These days, we’re used to people following celebrities - online and at posh events - with all the gossip being served up online. Well, you could say the Georgians started all that - their palace was full of scandal and secrets.

On this tour, we’re going to go back in time to check out the Georgian Apartments. They were built when an EXPLOSIVE family called the Hanoverians were on the throne, over three hundred years ago. The first four Hanoverian kings were all called... Bob. [PAUSE] Nah, just kidding! They were all Georges… obviously. Bet that got confusing at family parties.

[“THIS ONE IS FOR GEORGE, THAT ONE’S FOR GEORGE. NO NOT THAT GEORGE, THAT GEORGE…]

It was an exciting time when there were loads of new scientific discoveries and fashions. But for the Georgians, it was also a time of feuds, duels, arguments - and gossip!

We’re starting at the Queen’s Staircase - a massive entrance for the people who wanted to meet the King and Queen. It must have felt like coming up the red carpet at a posh event!

Now, if you’re at the bottom of the staircase, you need to walk up the landing.

And if you’re already on the landing, you’re ready to go!

There’s quite a lot of rooms in the Georgian Apartments, so make sure you stick together and don’t let the grownups get lost.

The rooms and all the things in them are really old and fragile, so take care as you go!

And here’s a great tip - select the next track to see an image of where your next stop begins. We’re going to start by entering the Queen’s Guard Chamber. It’s signposted ‘Georgian Story’. When you’re there, play the next track.

### Stop 2 Queen’s Guard Chamber

#### Zac:

Welcome to the Queen’s Guard Chamber. Back in Georgian times, it would have been full of people – courtiers, visitors to the palace and not forgetting the Yeomen of the Guard. They were the protectors of the monarch and were here to make sure NO ONE got further without permission.

There are still two Guards in the room today – looking down at whoever passes through the room. Can you spot them? That’s right! They’re statues on either side of the fireplace!

[SWOOSHING SOUND / TICKING OF CLOCKS / MUSIC / CHATTER]

#### Zac:

Woah! It looks like we’ve gone back in time to 1733 – and the reign of George II. The room’s heaving with people. It’s a right squash and squeeze in here - not much room for furniture or anything else!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

YOU BOY!

#### Zac:

Uh oh! There seems to be a VERY BIG Guard coming my way! This might be a VERY SHORT tour! Not many people are getting past them to the next room. We might be out on our ears!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

You’re a page, right?

#### Zac:

Uh…. Yeah, DEFINITELY a page.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Well, take this here letter and deliver it to Queen Caroline’s favourite. I’ve not got time for fetching and carrying today!

#### Zac:

Wow - that’s one fancy looking letter. So… Queen Caroline – that’ll be the wife of George II. Ok, but can I ask… who IS her favourite?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

[SURPRISED] Who’s the Queen’s favourite? I thought everyone knew that! Well, you’ll have to work it out for yourself. There are plenty of clues if you just use your brain. Now, don’t dally!

#### Zac:

Looks like we have ourselves a job - we better move on!

When you’re ready, we’re going to go through the open door by the window. As you walk through it, check out the carved stone around the door – you might see some funny carvings of men’s faces near the top. They’re known as the Green Men… and no one really knows why they’re here! If you need help to spot them… or want to ask a question about any the rooms, just ask any of the room guides.

### Stop 3 Queen’s Presence Chamber

#### Zac:

So this is the Queen’s Presence Chamber. Here in Georgian times, it’s bustling with courtiers, all desperate to get to see King George II and his wife Queen Caroline.

If you look around the room today, you’ll see it’s a great place to find out more about how the Georgians came to the throne after Queen Anne died. She was the last monarch of the House of Stuart.

It’s a really sad story. Usually when a king or queen dies, one of their children or a close relative takes over, but although Anne had 17 babies, none of them survived. That made it difficult for the government to find a new ruling family. And it was extra tricky because as the monarch is head of a Protestant church, the government had to find someone with a particular kind of Christian religion - Protestant, not Catholic. They trawled through the royal family tree and finally found the Elector of Hanover, who became King George I.

Excuse me, I’m looking for Queen Caroline’s favourite? Do you know who that is?

#### Servant:

Well, the Queen does meet with all sorts. She’s so clever and likes the company of the leading minds in the country - poets, scientists, painters and politicians. Unlike the King, [SCOFFS] he couldn’t care less for all that. Anyway, she must have many favourites - although I’m not sure any of them are in this room!

#### Zac:

It’s busy in here, isn’t it?

#### Servant:

Oh, it’s busy for sure! [GOSSIPY] Between you and me, folk are so curious about their highnesses, they can’t resist the opportunity to meet them. But they’re not to everyone’s taste! Of course, you didn’t hear that from me!

#### Zac:

My lips are sealed! As sealed as this letter! So, I suppose people are still getting used to having a new royal family?

#### Servant:

Well indeed. And this lot from Hanover weren’t exactly first in line. You’d think they’d be happy with such privilege, but bless my soul, they just fight and argue with each other all the time.

#### Zac:

Why do they argue?

#### Servant:

Where to start! [CONSPIRATORIALLY] Let’s just the main problem is that the eldest sons hate their powerful fathers… and vice versa. Anyway, I can’t linger here - good luck!

#### Zac:

Sounds like Caroline might have had quite a few favourites. That hasn’t narrowed it down. Let’s see if we can find some more clues in next room. Go through the doorway and turn left, into a small corridor.

### Stop 4 Prince of Wales Landing

#### Zac:

This funny little corridor away from the hustle and bustle of the Presence Chamber is known as the Prince of Wales Landing. Let’s check out the end where it opens out. There’s a rather ornate staircase and doorway. I wonder where it goes? What do you think?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Here, you boy! You mustn’t linger here! The Monarch’s family enter their private rooms here and don’t want to be tripping over pages - especially one in such strange clothing!

#### Zac:

Um, yeah, sorry… I'm the Page of umm... Lord Stormzy of Narnia?

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Ahh... I see… so your garb is from your realm. Well, it won’t pay you to get in the way. King George II’s eldest son Frederick is visiting and he’s in a furious mood with his father - not that this is surprising… it’s been said that the Hanoverians trample their young like pigs!

#### Zac:

Wow, I knew George II didn’t get on with his dad, George I, but you’re saying George II didn’t like his son either! Sounds… kind of messy!

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

Well, you’ll be messy if you hang around. Move on!

#### Zac:

Let’s retrace our steps and turn left into the Public Dining Room. [SNIFF] I can smell something very tasty coming up.

### Stop 5 Public Dining Room

[BUSTLE OF CROWD]

#### Zac:

We’re in the very grand Public Dining Room. Wow! Look at that massive table! They could fit buckets of food on it. And it’s not just the table that’s huge – look at the marble fireplace and the paintings. Seems like the Georgians are trying to show how rich and powerful they are.

Check out the decorations on the dining table - they’re made of folded napkins and table linen.

[WHINNY! CLIP CLOP]

Woah! The napkin horse has come to life!

#### Horse:

Good day, young sir! Us horses are very special to the Hanoverians; I’ll have you know. They even enjoy watching us doing horse ballet.

#### Zac:

HORSE BALLET? In tutus and ballet shoes? [GIGGLES]

#### Horse:

Don’t be ludicrous. You might know it as dressage. Not my thing, I’ll be honest. I’d rather a jolly good canter and a crunchy apple. Mind you stay behind the rail now. It’s to keep the crowd at a distance from the King. It’s a big tradition for the Royal Family to eat in public.

#### Zac:

Some of those dishes look – well, a bit odd?

#### Horse:

Oh, if it’s not fast enough to get away, they’ll cook it up here. The King loves fine food – game, meat and fish of course, but I’ve seen them eating pineapple, blackbirds, birds’ nests, bear, and even snails and udders!

#### Zac:

Yuck!

#### Horse:

Tell me about it. Still, it’s quite the spectacle. Once the excitement was such that the rail fell over - there were people and wigs falling all over the place!

#### Zac:

That sounds well funny!

#### Horse:

The courtiers are DESPERATE to learn the latest fashions and food - or to see if their majesties are in good health or bad humour – which usually means another argument. This place is GOSSIP HQ.

#### Zac:

Oh, go on, tell us some gossip!

#### Horse:

AHEM. Well, it’s said that the old King, George I, hated dining in public and only did so because he didn’t want his son to have more attention than he got!

#### Zac:

Jealous of his own son! This lot are mad! But I’ve been given a job to find the Queen’s favourite. Can you help?

#### Horse:

Well - she does love to have a jolly time with the courtiers - so maybe her favourite was someone fun? [WHINNEY!]

#### Zac:

Let’s trot on to the next room and see if we can find out. Before we move on, you could follow the latest royal trend and take a selfie at the King’s table to show you were in the hottest place to be in Georgian times.

### Stop 6 Queen’s Privy Chamber

[BUSTLING CROWD]

#### Zac:

We’re in the Queen’s Privy Chamber. One step closer to meeting the King! In here, George II and Caroline would have had courtiers and dignitaries from all over the world come to talk to them. Their visitors would bring gifts - but you know what they say? There’s no such thing as a free gold necklace - right? They all wanted something in return.

Like other rooms here in Georgian times, it’s bustling with people in their finest dress. And is richly furnished in crimson, with candles making it glitter. It’s also… REALLY smelly and sweaty! Phew!

#### Lady in Waiting:

Ahem! Remember your manners, young sir. There are strict rules in here for all, including us Ladies in Waiting to the Queen. And if you break them, you will be ejected faster than a greased cannonball.

#### Zac:

I’m sorry. I wasn’t planning on breaking any rules!

#### Lady in Waiting:

If the King is present, you must not leave the room.

#### Zac:

What if I needed - you know - a pee?

#### Lady in Waiting:

Well, a servant would have to bring a pot to relieve yourself. And you must bow to the throne you know - even though their majesties are not present.

#### Zac:

Quick - we better bow to the throne before they call the Guards. You can bow or curtsey too - make it a big one! [FLOURISH]

#### Lady in Waiting:

That’s more like it. And don’t even THINK about turning your back on the throne.

#### Zac:

Don’t worry, I wasn’t going to… or sit on it or anything like that!

#### Lady in Waiting:

SIT ON THE KING’S THRONE! [DRAMATIC GASP!] That would be TREASON – and could get you thrown in the Tower! I’ll pretend I didn’t hear that. I suggest you move along post haste.

#### Zac:

We better go, after all I don’t think I want to be slung in the Tower of London for not being loyal to the King! But before we move into the next room, check out the mirrors. Big mirrors were mega expensive and a huge status symbol.

### Stop 7 Drawing Room

[MUSIC PLAYING / PEOPLE PLAYING CARDS / WHISPERS AND LAUGHING]

#### Zac:

Wow, here in the Drawing Room the first thing you absolutely HAVE to do is look up to the painted ceiling - how amazing is it? There’s a musician playing the harpsichord. Excuse me, is this… like… a games room for relaxing?

#### Musician:

It’s certainly a room for games, but I wouldn’t call it RELAXING. No one ever really relaxes in the presence of royalty. Especially when old George I was in charge. Oh, he was a boring grumpy old soul! He didn’t like parties or having fun. King George II and Caroline are far livelier - or rather she is, the King seems to be turning into as much of a grumpypants as his father! Their majesties can talk a little less formally here and enjoy a game with their chosen few.

#### Zac:

That’s lovely music you’re playing.

#### Musician:

It’s composed by their highnesses favourite, Frederick Handel. He’s about the only person that both the King and his father got along with.

#### Zac:

Yeah, I’ve heard they had some terrible arguments!

#### Musician:

Not least with each other - but who can blame the King when his father separated him and his sister from their mother when they were young children. Then years later, his father banished him from court after a dreadful disagreement, separating him and Caroline from their own children!

#### Zac:

Hmm, George I doesn’t sound like a very nice person!

#### Musician:

Well, it’s water round the moat now. Since you’re here, you should play a card game! Do you know how to play Basset? Ombre? Maybe Picquet?

#### Zac:

Um, sorry! I’ve never heard of those games.

#### Musician:

You would be well advised to keep that to yourself. It’s expected that you know these games to be permitted in this room. [CONSPIRATORIALLY] There’s rumoured to be a very select gathering being organised by Lord Hervey. The Queen adores Lord Hervey - he’s absolutely, positively BRIMMING with good humour and amusing schemes. And is charming to the ladyfolk and gentlemen in equal measure.

#### Zac:

Wow! He sounds like he might be the Queens favourite! Do you know where I’d find him? I’ve got to deliver this letter.

#### Musician:

Well, wherever the Queen is, you may well find him. Perhaps try the Queen’s Gallery - if they will permit you to enter of course!

#### Zac:

Let’s go. But before we do, why not challenge a member of your group to a game if you’d like?

### Stop 8 State Bedchamber

#### Zac:

We’re in the State Bedchamber. There’s a lady in waiting in here… Excuse me, have you seen Lord Hervey?

#### Lady in Waiting:

He’s certainly at court today - [GIGGLING] livening things up as usual!

#### Zac:

He sounds like fun. This room’s very fancy. Nothing but the best for Queen Caroline’s bedroom, right? She’d need a good night’s sleep after all those rows!

#### Lady in Waiting:

Goodness no, the Queen doesn’t sleep here! Although I can see why you’d think that – what with a bed the size of an elephant in here! It’s a state room, young sir – a place for the privileged to watch the Queen dress and undress and share private conversations - as long as they stay behind the rail of course!

#### Zac:

It’s kind of weird but I guess it’s just like in the dining room - people like to see celebrities close up. And you don’t get more close up than seeing them in their pyjamas!

#### Lady in Waiting:

The ceremony of dressing is known as Levee in the morning and Couche in the evening. French words of course - we LOVE French style. They have the most elegant courts in Europe - well, second to our own of course.

#### Zac:

But no sign of Lord Hervey in here though. The musician said he might be in the Queen’s Gallery, so let’s keep moving.

### Stop 9 Queen’s Gallery

#### Zac:

So this is the Queen’s Gallery. It’s more private than the other rooms, so the Royal Family could have been themselves a bit more. I wonder how many arguments they had in here? From what we’ve found out - probably quite a few!

[RAISED VOICES IN ARGUMENT]

I guess this is also where Queen Caroline might hang out with artists, politicians and even scientists to find out all the latest cool stuff - away from the smelly crowds in the Privy Chamber. She didn’t just lounge around eating swan and wearing crowns - she wanted to make life better for the people.

When a friend of hers, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, brought news from her travels in Turkey of a way to protect against smallpox, the Queen had her own children inoculated - a bit like getting a vaccine - to show it could be safe - even though many didn’t think it would work. That’s pretty cool, I think.

That man over there - he looks very stylish! I wonder. Ahem! Lord Hervey?

#### Lord Hervey:

Why yes? That’s my name, don’t wear it out! [CHUCKLE] What do you want boy?

#### Zac:

I have a letter for you. I was told to give it to the Queen’s Favourite! You’re like her BFF, right?

#### Lord Hervey:

I’m not sure what you mean but I think I’m very flattered that she thinks so kindly towards me. Thank you boy, let me see!

[RUSTLE OF PAPER - HERVEY LAUGHING]

#### Zac:

I wonder what was in the letter. What do you think it would have been about? The latest scientific discovery, an invitation to a party or perhaps some scandalous gossip?

#### Lord Hervey:

As a thank you for bringing me the letter, I can - if you wish, show you something very special indeed - Queen Caroline’s private quarters no less, just over the hall!

#### Zac:

Wow! That sounds good. Yes please, let’s do it!

#### Lord Hervey:

Here’s a coin for your trouble. I must ask you to leave promptly - there are important matters to be attended to.

#### Zac:

That’s ok – got my job done. It looks like the private apartments are off limits today, so let’s follow the Way Out sign down to Fountain Court.

### Stop 10 Private Drawing Room

#### Lord Hervey:

So, this is the QUEEN’S Private Drawing Room - it’s MUCH cosier than the public drawing room. And JUST the place for divulging secrets, sharing jokes and planning amusing things to do. I’ve spent many happy hours in here with the Queen.

#### Zac:

There’s books and tables full of the Queen’s favourite food - and hot drinks too?

#### Lord Hervey:

Tea for the ladies, the gentlemen favour coffee - after all coffee houses are where all the deals are done. [TEA AND COFFEE BEING POURED]

#### Zac:

Can I smell… Chocolate?

#### Lord Hervey:

Indeed, you can! We’re quite delirious for hot chocolate. Queen Caroline is particularly fond, but her waistline has paid the price I’m afraid - she’s struggling to keep up with the King on his walks and he huffs and puffs about how she’s always stuffing herself with it! But - it’s the very latest expensive fashion you know. I’m sure you know that there’s even a chocolate kitchen here at the palace!

Now be careful as we proceed through the private rooms. They’re quite small and can get a little crowded.

### Stop 11 Queen’s Private Bedchamber

#### Zac:

We’re in the Queen’s Private Bedchamber - another room where she could be just herself with her closest friends and servants. Right?

#### Lord Hervey:

Oh yes! The laughs we have had here! The Queen loves a joke - such as this one - ahem!

A Lady’s Age happening to be questioned, she affirmed she was but Forty, and call’d upon a Gentleman that was in Company for his Opinion; Cousin, said she, do you believe I am in the Right, when I say I am but Forty? I ought not to dispute it, Madam, reply’d he, for I have heard you say so these ten Years. [PEALS OF LAUGHTER]

#### Zac:

Um, I guess that’s funny? Have YOU got any jokes that would be fit for a King? Or something you think might make the Queen laugh?

#### Lord Hervey:

Of course, this is where the King can meet privately with his wife too. He can come to her quarters through hidden corridors. It’s well known that for all their arguments, they are passionately in love. He said no other woman was fit to buckle her shoe!

The Queen is tended here by the most important of all her servants - the Lady of the Bedchamber, who is at her bidding at any time of the day or night. The current lady is Henrietta Howard. [CONSPIRATORIALLY] You do know Henrietta is also the King’s mistress, you know, kind of like a girlfriend.

#### Zac:

Sounds like umm… a tricky situation? Why would the Queen put up with that?

#### Lord Hervey:

Well, you see a King is expected to have a mistress, royal marriages are often for the country, not for love. And even if he doesn’t really want one, it can be useful. King George II does SO like to have someone listen to him talk about military matters. He’s also got quite the temper and has to have everything just so. He even has his underpants numbered!

#### Zac:

So, it’s probably quite a relief that someone else is keeping him company at times? Not sure what is in it for Henrietta.

#### Lord Hervey:

Protection from her rather unpleasant husband is her recompense. And then there’s the favours, money, power… Oh and she’s hard of hearing, so I expect that helps a lot. [THEY GIGGLE].

### Stop 12 Queen’s Private Bathroom

#### Zac:

It’s nice and clean here in the Queen’s Private Bathroom. But other rooms at Hampton Court could be crowded and quite smelly places. So why IS the court so stinky?

#### Lord Hervey:

That’s because people think bathing is bad for their health! And it’s not easy to clean our elaborate gowns and costumes that we’re required to wear.

#### Zac:

But Caroline must have felt differently because she had this bathroom built - with hot running water, right?

#### Lord Hervey:

Indeed. She’s an educated lady and believes the latest scientific findings that cleanliness is not only indeed next to godliness but can actually promote good health!

#### Zac:

Strange to think THAT’S news!

#### Lord Hervey:

Henrietta Howard and the other ladies fill the bath with buckets of hot water and the Queen takes to the water in her bathing gown and cap to preserve her modesty. She even cleans her teeth with a sponge.

#### Zac:

So why is there material in the bath?

#### Lord Hervey:

I don’t know what bathing tubs you have where you come from but ours are made of wood. The linen is to prevent the [AHEM] royal posterior from suffering injury!

#### Zac:

Ouch! You mean splinters in the royal bum, right?

There’s a story that workers and visitors at Hampton Court in our time - hundreds of years after Queen Caroline’s death can sometimes smell roses in this private bathroom. It’s said to be the ghost of Caroline. Can you smell roses? Have a sniff! [SNIFFING]

### Stop 13 Private Dining Room

[CRACKLE OF FIRE]

#### Zac:

We’re in the Private Dining Room. Have you noticed that almost every room has a fireplace – everywhere would be filled with the smell of wood smoke. Feels really private compared to the busy public rooms.

And THAT’s one full table- imagine those dishes piled high with the finest roasts and pies, fruit and vegetables. It would look like someone’s ordered the WHOLE MENU at once!

#### Lord Hervey:

Well, no one is going to tell the King and Queen what to eat or in what order, are they now? And when they’ve eaten what they like from a spread, another will be brought out.

#### Zac:

A serious blow out! But why no glasses on the table?

#### Lord Hervey:

Have you not seen the sleeves on the ladies’ gowns and on my tailcoat. They might knock them over. But don’t worry, there are plenty of servants to bring a cup from which to sip.

### Stop 14 Private Oratory

#### Zac:

Our final room is the Queen’s Private Oratory. This is a room for prayer. You can see a prayer book on the lectern and if you look up, you can see an amazing glass ceiling so you can look up at heaven.

#### Lord Hervey:

The Oratory is indeed a beautiful place for quiet contemplation. Whilst the Queen may well be the life and soul of the party, she is also religious. And as we have found, quite serious at times.

#### Zac:

Yes! I’m not surprised with all the clever people she met - scientists, philosophers, writers, artists and politicians!

#### Lord Hervey:

And remember she helped prevent smallpox, being one of the first to protect her children.

#### Zac:

You really get the feeling in these apartments that Queen Caroline is a bigger celebrity than her husband and has a lot of influence. She’d definitely have a lot of followers today.

#### Lord Hervey:

The Queen is certainly more popular than the King! And talking of being popular, I must take my leave young sir. Your letter informed me that I am expected to promenade with her Majesty in the gardens at this hour, and I mustn’t keep her waiting. Good day - It’s time for me to go!

#### Zac:

That’s OK! It’s time for us to also end our tour, so let’s take the stairs down to Fountain Court.

### Stop 15 End of Tour

[SWOOSHING SOUND / BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY]

#### Zac:

Looks like we’re back in the present!

These Georgian royals might not have got on with each other, but in public they behaved pretty well. And they had loads of children - so many that there were heirs to spare! Queen Caroline died in 1737 and after that George II didn't really have the heart to hold a glittering court without her. After he died, his grandson became King George III, but he didn’t want to live at Hampton Court, so the palace sort of fell asleep.

I hope you enjoyed the tour around the Georgian Apartments. I think my favourite things were the Yeomen of the Guards in the fireplace and the crazy napkin creatures in the dining room, but I’m not sure about the sweaty smell of the Queens Privy Chamber! And what about all that weird food? What do you think udders or blackbirds would taste like? If you had to choose between them, what would you go for?

Thank you for joining me and I hope to see you on another tour soon! if you’re staying inside the palace, choose another tour if you like, but if you’re heading out to the gardens, make sure you leave your audio guide and headphones on a trolley. There’ll be a member of staff nearby if you need any help.

#### Yeoman of the Guard:

‘YOU BOY!

#### Zac:

Uh oh!! That sounds like that Guard again. I don’t fancy delivering another letter – not just yet.

## Tour 10: Chocolate Kitchens

#### Zac:

Welcome to the Chocolate Kitchen. If you ask me, it’s one of the most important rooms at Hampton Court Palace. Now, I wonder… do the Palace Pigeons like chocolate? Let’s ask an expert.

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! I’m more partial to a juicy worm truth be told, but humans always seem VERY keen on the stuff - and kings and queens were no different! It all began when chocolate arrived in England in the 17th century and was an instant hit - or was if you were rich… very VERY rich. Chocolate was expensive!

The Chocolate Kitchen was built by Christopher Wren around 1690 as part of King William and Queen Mary’s rebuilding of the Palace. Having chocolate around the Palace showed everyone the wealth and power of William and Mary’s court - and also how modern they were, as it was the latest craze. Monarchs love showing off!

[CLINKING OF CUPS AND SAUCERS]

The King and Queen would usually take their chocolate as a drink at breakfast, although William would often drink it all day. In the Georgian era which followed, Queen Caroline loved the drink so much so that her husband, George II, would tell her off for stuffing herself with it! Pretty cheeky if you ask me!

In the Chocolate Kitchen you can see the fireplace and stove used to make this delicious royal drink. If you walk further round Fountain Court, you’ll find the Chocolate Room in the corner where you can see shelves full of the equipment used by Mr Tosier to make and serve the king’s chocolate. The chocolatiers liked to experiment with different flavourings, including red chillies for those who liked the extra heat! COO!

#### Zac:

Chilli chocolate? Hmmm, I’m partial to something a little more fruity. What’s your favourite flavour?

## Tour 11: Fountain Court

#### Zac:

Welcome to Fountain Court – a nice peaceful place for promenading in the Baroque Palace. Promenading just means a fancy walk! Let’s ask our feathered friend, the Palace Pigeon, for a bird’s eye view.

#### Palace Pigeon:

COO COO! I love a good bird bath and this fountain ‘ere is a bath fit for a pigeony princess - or prince! But it’s not always been here. In Tudor times, this area was called Green Cloister Court and before that it was a knot garden - full of herbs and shrubs in fancy patterns. The fountain was built by King William and Queen Mary, who demolished loads of the old Tudor Palace – including most of the royal bedrooms – to build their brand-new Baroque Palace. Baroque was a style of building designed to look really fancy, with curvy lines, columns and lots of twiddly touches! But they built it in such a rush, it wasn’t always safe a deadly collapse killed two workers.

[SOUND OF CRUMBLING BRICKS]

And even Mary died before it was finished. So who might have peered out onto this rather lovely place? Well, the rooms around Fountain Court would have been home to secretaries, pages and other servants, including a barber and even a chocolate maker. COO!

#### Zac:

Thanks Palace Pigeon!! And here’s something amazing - the fountain runs on river water from the Thames! How high do you think the water shoots up in the air?

## [End of Tours]