# The Chocolate Kitchens Audio Tour

# Hampton Court Palace

## Overview

Discover how this luxurious drink was prepared for royalty.

## Stop 1 The Chocolate Kitchens

### Aileen Pierce

My name is Aileen Pierce I’m creative programming and interpretation manager here at Hampton Court Palace and I was the project manager responsible for opening the chocolate kitchens to the public for the first time in their 300 year history.

So chocolate was a very fashionable drink in the early 18th century. It was unlike coffee which had become something for the middle classes, chocolate was really of an aristocratic drink, only for the very rich, and George I had his own chocolate maker called Thomas Tosier.

And we’re standing here where Thomas Tosier worked, he would have had a kitchen boy working for him, but the two of them, their job was solely to provide the chocolate for the king.

We have intact, virtually, the fireplace with the smoke-jack mechanism inside it which, would have automatically roasted the beans.

Behind me we have a brazier, a charcoal brazier which is the 18th century equivalent of a two-ring hob, and we have a surviving fold down table, shelves and cupboard.

And if Mr Tosier walked in here tomorrow he would be able to roast coco beans and cook chocolate for the king as he did 300 years ago.

## [End of Tour]