

# Access Guide for Henry VIII's Joust at Hampton Court Palace 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024



Image description: Left, Two armoured knights on horseback charge towards each other with their lances raised while a crowd of people watch. Right, smiling woman in blue accessibility tabard.

## Welcome

- Hampton Court Palace is in south-west London and has over 500 years of history to discover.
- The home of Henry VIII, his wives and children, the palace is the greatest and most authentic Tudor experience in the world.
- The full Palace accessibility guide can be found here: [Hampton Court Palace | Accessibility Guides](#)

## Henry's Joust

- This is a special Event which takes place in the East Front Gardens of the palace.
- The Event site can be accessed through both the Rose Garden and Main Palace Entrance. It is included in palace admission.
- The Event includes amplified sound and music at both the Joust and falconry Arena's.
- An accessible seating area is provided at each arena.
- The Joust will take place at 11:00, 13:30 and 16:00 daily. They last about 45 minutes.
- The Falconry displays will take place at 12:30 and 15:00 daily. They last for about 30 minutes.
- A **joust** is a competition between two knights on horseback. They ride towards each other on either side of a fence and try to hit each other with a long pole called a lance. The show will also involved stunts where riders will fall from their horses, wrestling and sword fighting.

- A **falconry** display is where birds of prey are trained to fly towards moving objects.


## Getting to the Joust

We are located in East Molesey, Surrey. You can find [information on our website here](#).

## Wheelchair and physical access

- This Event is wheelchair accessible.
- Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are available from the main entrance to the palace, they cannot be booked in advance. Please note that mobility scooters are for outdoor use only. These are sanitised between each use.
- There is step-free, level access from the main palace entrance to:
  - Joust Arena, Falconry Arena, East Front temporary accessible toilet
- There is step-free, level access from the onsite car park and Rose Garden entrance to:
  - Joust Arena, Falconry Arena, Falconry Arena, East front temporary toilets, Wilderness accessible toilets
- Please note that in the Event site in the East Front Gardens is accessed via some gravel paths. If you need assistance please ask a member of the Events team.

## Accessible seating area

- An accessible seating area is available at both the Jousting and Falconry arenas. These areas are available to anyone with any access needs.
- Wheelchairs can be placed in this area and seats are also available.
- Please ask a member of the Event team if you would like to use this area or look for the  symbol.

## Accessible Toilets

- Temporary toilets, including an accessible toilet, will be installed near the Event site.
- We do not have a Changing Places toilet on site.

## Carer Tickets

- Complimentary adult Carer tickets are available with your booking. Please see [here](#) for further information.

## Assistance animals

- Trained Assistance dogs are welcomed inside the palace. This includes medical alert dogs. We are happy to provide water on request.

- We ask that you bring your 'Assistance Dog (UK)' identification book (or the appropriate international equivalent) with you and that your dog wears their designated jacket or lead slip.

### **Sensory access**

- There is amplified sound at both the Jousting and Falconry arenas. Please speak to a member of the Event team if you would like to be positioned away from the speakers.
- Between falconry displays there is the chance to speak to the team directly at their tent and see the birds up close. This will be a quieter, more relaxed experience.
- The Joust is very popular and can get very busy and loud. Please ask an Event team member if you would like to know where the nearest quiet space is.
- There will be live animals in the performances and they can be a bit noisy (and smelly!)
- We do not provide ear defenders but you are very welcome to bring your own.

For more detailed information please see our online guides:

- The *Autism Spectrum: Easy read general visit guide* can be found here:  
[https://www.hrp.org.uk/media/1634/2018\\_easy-read-general-visit-sheet\\_v2.pdf](https://www.hrp.org.uk/media/1634/2018_easy-read-general-visit-sheet_v2.pdf)
- The *Autism Spectrum: Guide for parents and Carers* can be found here  
[https://www.hrp.org.uk/media/1059/2016\\_hcpautismspectrumguide.pdf](https://www.hrp.org.uk/media/1059/2016_hcpautismspectrumguide.pdf)

### **Auditory access**

- We have a hearing loop at the till points in the Ticket Office, shops and cafes.
- Some staff have disability awareness, British Sign Language and Next Generation Text training.

### **Visual access**

- There are no audio descriptions or describers available for the performances.
- There is a raised seating area which provides a wide view of the Jousting arena. If this area is not suitable for you then please speak to a member of the Event team who will assist you.
- Due to the dangerous nature of the sport it is not possible to be close to the horses or knights.
- Between falconry shows the birds are on display at the falconry tent, where they can be viewed closely and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

### **Get in touch**

Web page: Henry VIII's Joust | Hampton Court Palace | Historic Royal Palaces (hrp.org.uk)

Contact person: Alex Rowe-Mayer

Phone number: 033 3320 6000

Email: [hamptoncourt@hrp.org.uk](mailto:hamptoncourt@hrp.org.uk)