**Royal Attractions**

**Visit some of London's top royal attractions. You can visit working palaces and learn about London's royal history.**

**Morning: Buckingham Palace or Tower of London**

Start your regal day out with a visit to the top royal attraction in London: Buckingham Palace.

Buckingham Palace is the official home of the Queen, and is open to the public from the end of June to early October. During the summer opening, you can go on a tour of the spectacular State Rooms and see the special exhibition, which changes each year. Last year's exhibition was a stunning display of diamonds, including some of The Queen's personal jewels.

Your Buckingham Palace ticketB also includes the Royal Mews and The Queen's Gallery, which are open for a longer proportion of the year.

Time your visit well, and you could also see the Changing of the Guard, which takes place at 11.30am every day or every other day, depending on the time of year.

For a more bloodthirsty morning, visit the Tower of London. This imposing fortress hosted some of the most gruesome events in London's history, including torture, death and beheadings. Highlights include the Crown Jewels, in a sparkling new display; the king's medieval bedchamber; and the White Tower, built by William the Conqueror.

If it's sunny, head to Hyde Park, one of London's eight Royal Parks. You'll find the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain near the Serpentine Lake. If you continue into Kensington Gardens, you'll also see the impressive, gold-plated Albert Memorial, dedicated to Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who died in 1861.

**Lunch: Afternoon Tea in The Orangery**

By now, you'll probably be feeling a bit hungry. Stop for lunch at The Orangery in Kensington Palace. This stunning 18th-century building is the perfect setting for a royal lunch and in good weather, you can sit on the terrace for a view of the palace and gardens.

The food on offer at The Orangery ranges from delicious homemade lunches to traditional afternoon tea, cakes and pastries. There's a special children's menu and adults can enjoy a good selection of teas, premium wines and champagne.

**Afternoon: Kensington Palace**

Will and Kate will make Kensington Palace their London home next year

Next, it's time to visit Kensington Palace, which has been transformed following a £12 million refurbishment. There's now a brand new entrance hub with four different routes to take through the palace.

You can visit The King's and The Queen's Apartments, see a small exhibition of Princess Diana's dresses, and explore the new permanent exhibition, Victoria Revealed. This exhibition tells the story of the life of Queen Victoria, the only other British monarch to have celebrated a Diamond Jubilee.

**Evening: Dinner at Fortnum & Mason**

After sampling all these regal attractions, it seems fitting that you dine like a king at Fortnum & Mason. Opened in 1707, this prestigious department store is the Queen's grocer! It has five eateries, but only one is open in the evening – The Fountain Restaurant.

Situated on the ground floor, The Fountain has a deluxe brasserie feel. The menu includes favourites such as Fortnum's Welsh Rarebit, as well as a selection of seasonal starters, salads, fish dishes and meats from the grill. There's even a guitarist who plays at dinner every evening.