

An aerial photograph of Buckingham Palace in London, showing the grand neoclassical building and a massive crowd of people gathered in the forecourt. The text "BUCKINGHAM PALACE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE



BUCKINGHAM PALACE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN LONDON. IT IS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCY OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY. AT THE MOMENT BRITISH MONARCHY IS LED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH II. EACH TIME THE ROYAL FAMILY IS IN THE PALACE, A FLAG FLIES ON THE ROOF.

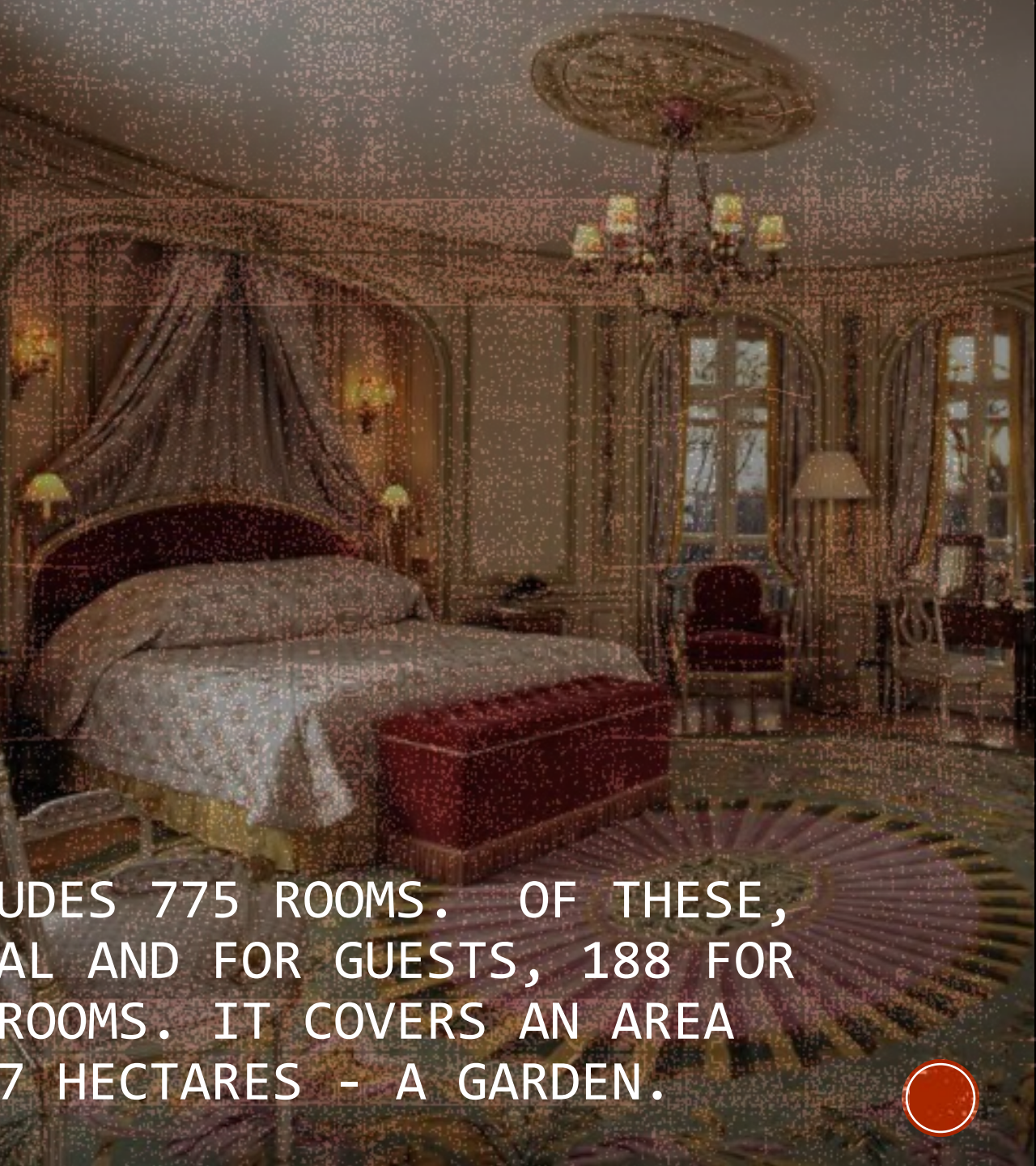




the Great Hall.

THE PALACE WAS BUILT IN 1705 BY THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM. IN 1761 KING GEORGE III BOUGHT THIS PALACE FOR HIS WIFE. IT BECAME A PRIVATE HOUSE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE AND WAS KNOWN AS "THE QUEEN'S HOUSE". DURING THE 19TH CENTURY THE HOUSE WAS ENLARGED AND BECAME THE OFFICIAL ROYAL RESIDENCE. QUEEN VICTORIA WAS THE FIRST MONARCH TO RESIDE IN THE PALACE. SHE MOVED THERE IN 1837 LEAVING KENSINGTON PALACE, WHERE SHE GREW UP.





CURRENTLY, THE PALACE INCLUDES 775 ROOMS. OF THESE, 19 ARE STATE ROOMS, 52 ROYAL AND FOR GUESTS, 188 FOR STAFF, 92 OFFICES, 72 BATHROOMS. IT COVERS AN AREA OF 20 HECTARES, OF WHICH 17 HECTARES - A GARDEN.





Visitors can admire the paintings collected in the Green Hall, elegant furniture, candelabra, watches and vases from Sèvres porcelain.



In the Throne Hall of the palace, contrary to expectations, there is no throne. Instead, there you can see two royal chairs. On each of them, the initials of the royal family are embossed: Elizabeth Regina and P (Philip).







The main dining room is also open for tourists. At a long table made of mahogany, which stands in the dining room, about 600 people can dine at the same time.





ROYAL GARDEN AND STABLES ARE ALSO CURIOUS SIGHTS. EVERY YEAR MORE THAN 50 000 INVITED GUESTS ARE ENTERTAINED AT GARDEN PARTIES, RECEPTIONS AND BANQUETS.



MANY TOURISTS COME HERE TO SEE THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL WHICH IS SET RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE. EVERY DAY AT 11 AM CHANGING OF THE GUARD CEREMONY TAKES PLACE. IT IS THE TIME WHEN COLORFULLY DRESSED NEW GUARD PARADES ALONG THE BUILDING AND REPLACE THE EXISTING OLD GUARD. THE CEREMONY IS ACCOMPANIED BY MUSIC AND ATTRACTS A LOT OF VIEWERS

