



The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

Queen Elizabeth II:

Her Life in Style

Access Guide & Photo Journey



This guide will show you what to expect and help you plan a visit to the *Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style* exhibition at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.



Our staff wear a dark blue uniform and are there to help you on your visit They all wear a name badge, some printed with flags to show which other languages they speak.



Arrivals and admission:

The main visitor entrance is on Buckingham Palace Road. The Entrance Hall is a large space. Like most tall stone spaces, it echoes. There are some fluorescent, flickering lights. It can be difficult to hear voices clearly in this hallway, because of the levels of background noise, including the security equipment. Staff try to speak as clearly as possible.

If you wish to purchase a ticket you will be directed to next available desk. The different ticket options are: adult, young person (18-24), under 17/disabled person and under 5. All visitors who require an access companion are entitled to a free ticket for that companion. No proof of disability is required.



Admission & Security:

The entrance to the shop is in this area and visitors should be aware of the large black stone slab in the floor, which commemorates the gallery's change of name.

Before you enter the exhibition, you must show your ticket to a Warden, who will scan the barcode. Then you go through the security process. You must follow the instructions of the Wardens. You will be asked to put bags through an x-ray machine. All metallic items that could trigger the metal-detecting alarm – keys, coins, mobile phones etc. – must be put into your bag.



Admission & Security:

You will be asked to walk through a metal detector, which will make a loud noise if it detects something metal. If that happens, staff will use a hand-held detector and wave it around your body to find out what set-off the alarm. The detector should not touch your body. Often a watch or metal belt buckle will have caused the alarm to sound.

You will be given your bags again and directed through a set of doors into another lobby area.



Gallery Lobby:

The Gallery lobby is quite dark, and the light levels change dramatically from the Entrance Hall.

There are patterns on the floor, the echo is worse than the Entrance Hall and there is a background humming sound.

From the lobby you can find the cloakroom and the toilets – as shown in the photo here.





Gallery Lobby:

Cloakroom: all visitors are asked to leave their bags in the cloakroom, so they don't accidentally bang against works of art in the exhibition spaces. Only small bags can be taken into the exhibition space.

Please hand over your items to the Warden behind the desk. They will give you a wooden tag. Give this back to the Warden at the desk at the end of your visit, and they will give you your belongings. Please be aware that the space here echoes a lot and the humming is louder.

Toilets: can be found through the small archway shown above, they are indicated by a sign of a man and a woman on the wall. The toilets are accessed down a short flight of steps or via a ramp. There are cold, metal handles.



Toilets:

- All toilets – female, male and accessible – are available once you have passed through a brief security check.
- Baby changing facilities are available once you have passed through a brief security check.
- Changing Space: 5–10-minute walk away at the Royal Mews.



Toilets:

The toilets and the baby nappy-changing facilities often smell strongly of fragrance. There are noisy hand driers in all the toilets and lots of flickering fluorescent lights.

There is also an accessible toilet with a wheelchair sign on the door, this is opposite the archway to the other toilets. It can be used by any visitor who cannot use the other toilets – there is a fluorescent light above the mirror.



Lift access:

The Lift is in the far corner, near the accessible toilet. It can take you up to the exhibition level on the first floor if you press button 1.

There are lots of sensory hazards in the lift and it may be a difficult space for some to use. If you are visiting for an event, the lift can take you to the Redgrave Room if you press the button for floor 2.

The doors will open on a different side. Please note the lift has a voice announcer.



Exhibition entrance

Queen



Queen Elizabeth II's style was unique, elegant, timeless, restrained, occasionally quirky, her fashion choices were widely influential on contemporary and subsequent designers. Her life unfolded alongside a woman at the forefront of the fashion industry, the fashion designer, the actress of London culture, and the eventual rise of the modern British designer.

The Queen made her own dress choices and was intimately involved in the creation of her clothing. Wearing British fashion on the global stage, she promoted its excellence in craftsmanship through her choice of couturiers, designers and makers. As we mark the centenary of her birth, this exhibition, drawn from her fashion archive, traces her life in style.

The Exhibition:

The exhibition *Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style* is the largest exhibition of the late Queen's fashion ever mounted. Visitors can see clothing worn in all ten decades of her life - from birth to adulthood, from princess to queen, and from off-duty style to dressing for the global stage for momentous occasions in Britain's history. The exhibition features approximately 200 items.

At the desk, at the top of the stairs, you should be greeted by a member of staff.



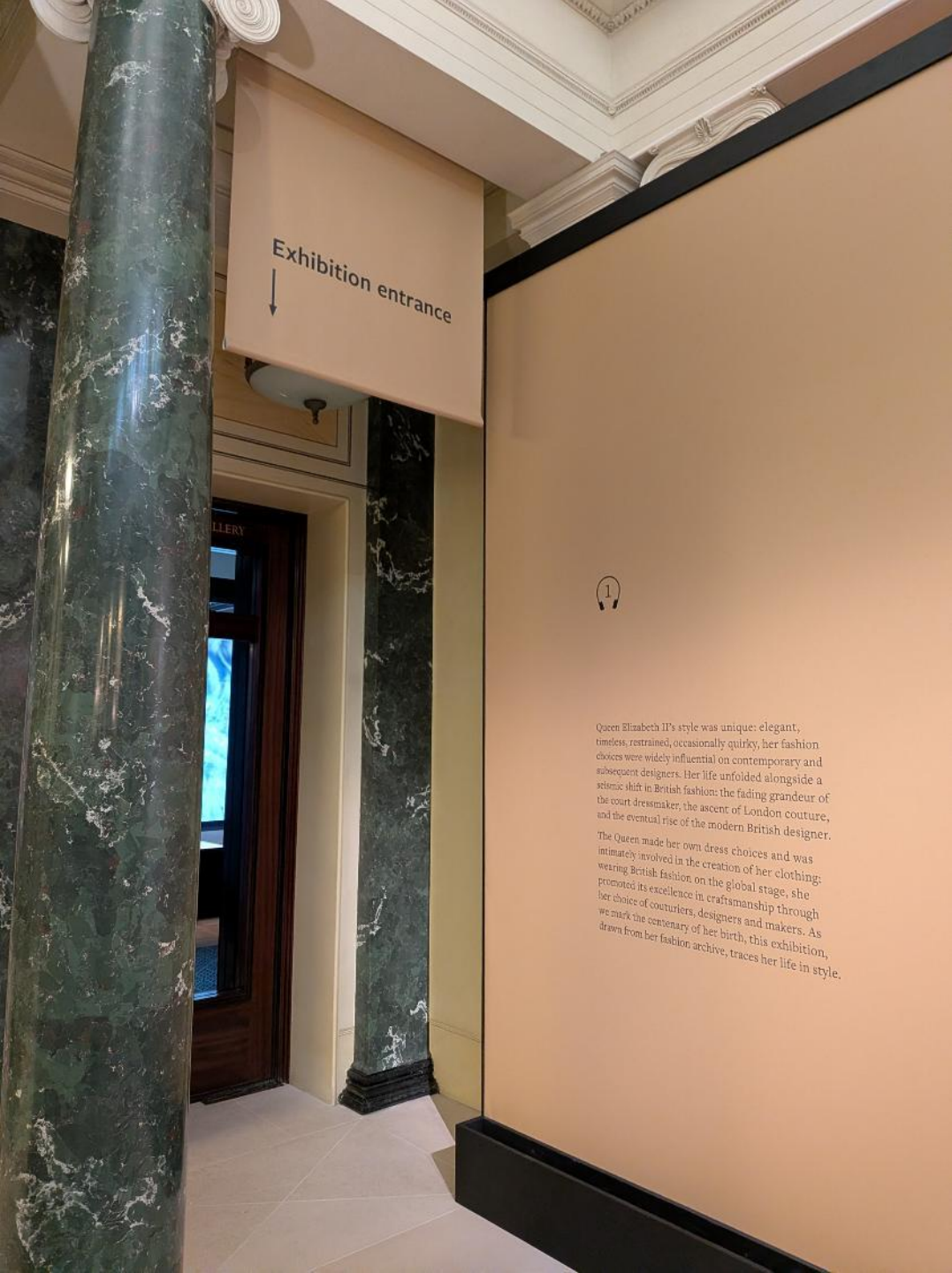
Here you can ask to borrow one of these:

Multimedia tour: tells you about the exhibition using spoken word, with background music, images and film clips. You can stop and restart the tour at any point. The tour lasts about an hour. The tour can be used with or without headphones. If used without, you should hold it like a mobile phone.

Plain English Script: Suitable for D/deaf and hard of hearing visitors who cannot listen to the audio tour and other visitors who would prefer written information.

Large Print Texts: Printed copies are available in the exhibition spaces.

Neck Induction Loops: For visitors who wear a hearing aid, to help them hear the audio guide better.



Entering the Exhibition:

You enter the exhibition via the door to the left of the desk. The door may be closed, please be aware that it is a heavy door you will need to push open, and it may swing back on you. If you need help with the door, please ask the Warden at the desk.

The exhibition is visually busy with lots of shadow, glare and reflection in the glass display cabinets.

There is limited bench seating in the Gallery, please ask if you would like to borrow a folding stool.



Chambers I – small blue room:

The first space is small, with a large glass cabinet. There is a film, with background atmospheric sound, showing on a loop, projected on the wall behind. This space may be overwhelming if very busy.



Chambers II – large blue room:

There is a darker narrow lobby that you must walk through to get into the next, larger gallery. The space echoes, the lighting is variable and there is a lot of shadow in the space.



Chambers II – large blue room:

This room feels small, with a narrow walkway between displays. It may be difficult to navigate if busy.

There are several large grates in the flooring, which in some areas of the exhibition make it difficult to get close to the exhibits without the potential for these to clang when stepped on.

There are several glass display cabinets in this space with the potential for reflection and glare.



Nash Vestibule:

There is a dark, downward slope into the room, with no handrail. It can echo in here and there are two large grates in the floor.



Nash – large red room:

The next space is a large, bright red room with lots of shadow and grates in the floor.

There is a lot of reflection and glare from the display, and the space may appear visually confusing. The space echoes and other people's conversations can be over-powering.

The dresses are displayed on raised stage areas, please do not sit on these.



Nash – large red room:

If you are a wheelchair-user it may be tricky to see some of the objects in the display cabinets in this gallery – please ask a Warden if you would like more information.



Visitors should be aware of a thin black barrier in one corner of the room, which stops you going into dead space.



Pennethorne – large green room:

There are more floor grates in this gallery, light levels are low and there may be reflection in the glass cabinets displaying the jewellery and hats.

There are two smaller rooms which you can view from this main gallery.



Pennethorne – large green room:

There are more floor grates in this gallery and reflection in the glass cabinets displaying the jewellery and hats.

There are two smaller rooms which you can view from the main gallery.



Exiting the Exhibition:

After leaving the green room you will find yourself back on the landing, near the top of the stairs. There is a small unit here where you should return your Multimedia guide, if you borrowed one. You put the headphones on the rack and the machine in the box on the desk.

To the right is the desk you encountered when you first came up the stairs. You can give back other borrowed guides and equipment at that desk.



Learning Room:

There is one more space to see – the Learning Room. This is a space where you can reflect on the exhibition, although the space is bright, it echoes and it can be a bit chilly, there is also a loud humming noise and the central light is fluorescent. You exit this room from the same door that you entered – this is the final space to see in The King’s Gallery.

To exit, go back down the stairs where you will find the cloakroom, toilets and then the shop. If you need the lift, walk across landing area past the central desk.



The Shop:

The entrance to the shop is in the gallery foyer, you can visit the shop before or after the exhibition.

There are lots of items on open display in the shop. The shop is very brightly lit, with central ceiling lights and a lot of glass cabinets with lights. There may be loud music playing.

To the left, as you enter, there is a ramp taking you up to the higher level – as you walk up the ramp you may find bright display lights shining in your eyes.



The Shop:

The ramp brings you up near the jewellery counter where there is a lot of bright light and glass. There are brightly lit photographs of the Royal Family next to the ramp. There is also a staff door here, which has a noisy keypad that staff use to enter.

There are also three stairs up to the higher level, the handrail is cold to the touch. These steps are made of stone, please be careful. There is a hidden slope up on the top level, to the right-hand side. The shop has music playing and areas are very fragrant. There is also a 'chair' display case which is not for sitting on.

You exit the shop the same way you entered.

