

The 10 Most Popular Royal Palaces in Europe Revealed

Submitted by: Celebrity Cruises

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Celebrity Cruises

Research released today by Celebrity Cruises

(<https://www.celebritycruises.co.uk/destinations/europe-cruises/>) has revealed the 10 most popular royal palaces in the whole of Europe.

With royal interest at an all-time high following the birth of Prince Archie and the increasing popularity of royal TV shows such as *The Crown* and *Victoria*, the research provides the ultimate inspiration for anyone looking to get up close and personal with royalty during their travels.

To reveal the top 10, Celebrity Cruises analysed Google search data to discover how many people search for each palace and combined that with the number of photos of the palace posted on Instagram. Resulting in a definitive popularity score for each palace.

The 10 Most Popular Palaces in Europe:

1. Buckingham Palace, UK

Yearly searches: 5,400,000, total Instagram posts: 1,070,678

2. Windsor Castle, UK

Yearly searches: 4,416,000, total Instagram posts: 297,003

3. Kensington Palace, UK

Yearly searches: 3,612,000, total Instagram posts: 284,840

4. Palace of Versailles, France

Yearly searches: 1,320,000, total Instagram posts: 434,262

5. Hampton Court Palace, UK

Yearly searches: 726,000, total Instagram posts: 239,464

6. Schonbrunn Palace, Austria

Yearly searches: 325,200, total Instagram posts: 175,541

7. Palacio Real, Spain

Yearly searches: 325,200, total Instagram posts: 213,577

8. Buda Castle, Hungary

Yearly searches: 266,400, total Instagram posts: 146,718

9. Chateau De Fontainebleau, France

Yearly searches: 325,200, total Instagram posts: 24,726

10. Amalienborg, Denmark

Yearly searches: 217,200, total Instagram posts: 46,125

The UK dominated the top spots, with only one palace from another country making it into the top five. Topping the list is arguably the most famous palace in the entire world; London's Buckingham Palace. The top 10 however includes a mix from across Europe, with the likes of Buda Castle in Hungary and Amalienborg in Denmark showing their popularity with tourists.

1. Buckingham Palace, UK

Probably one of the most recognisable royal palaces in the world, Buckingham Palace is officially THE most popular palace in Europe, with 5.4 million people wanting to know more about it on Google, and a whopping 1.1 million photos of the palace uploaded to Instagram.

The iconic London-based palace has served as the official London residence of UK sovereigns since 1837 and it has 19 state rooms, 52 royal and guest bedrooms and 188 staff bedrooms. The palace opens its doors to visitors every summer, and a further 50,000 people are also entertained at the palace as guests at state banquets, lunches, dinners, receptions and garden parties.

2. Windsor Castle, UK

Home to the Queen and offering up more than 900 years of royal history, Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world.

Incredibly it has been home to 39 monarchs since it was originally founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, and luckily for us, it's now open to visitors all year round.

3. Kensington Palace, UK

Once home to Princess Diana, Kensington Palace is now home to a host of royals, including Kate and Wills and their young family, and Princess Eugenie and her husband Jack Brooksbank. The palace was also the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria and has been the home to young royals for over 300 years.

A visit to Kensington Palace is a great way to step back in time and walk in the footsteps of royalty – key highlights include the King's State Apartments, the Queen's Apartments and the famous Sunken Garden.

4. Palace of Versailles, France

The iconic Palace of Versailles played a central role in the infamous history of the French royal family; the French Revolution forced Louis XVI to flee the palace in 1789 for Paris and never again would the decadent palace be home to a French king. In 1837 it became the Museum of the History of France, and today the collections of the Palace of Versailles contain over 60,000 works.

Oozing privilege and excess, The Palace of Versailles is the first UNESCO World Heritage Site on the list. If you're lucky enough to visit it, there's an incredible number of lavish rooms to explore, including The Hall Of Mirrors, The Royal Opera House, Marie-Antoinette's Private Chambers, The King's Apartments and many more.

5. Hampton Court Palace, UK

The fourth UK royal palace to feature in the list, Hampton Court Palace is synonymous with one of the most famous British Kings in history – King Henry VIII. Home to the notorious king and his six wives,

you can visit Hampton Court Palace to explore Henry's Great Hall, the infamous Haunted Gallery, the Tudor Kitchens, The Baroque Palace that was built for William III and Mary II and the spectacular gardens.

6. Schönbrunn Palace, Austria

The second UNESCO World Heritage Site on the list, Schönbrunn Palace is one of Austria's most important cultural assets, drawing millions of visitors each year. The vast and impressive palace was the main summer residence of the Habsburg rulers who ruled over Austria for nearly 650 years. Maria Theresa, Emperor Franz Joseph, Empress Elisabeth all once resided at the palace.

Schönbrunn Palace is reported to be Austria's most visited tourist attraction, and with good reason – in addition to the imperial ceremonial rooms and magnificent gardens, Mozart is also said to have made music in the mirrored hall as a six year-old prodigy. Napoleon apparently held conferences in the Vieux Lacque Room. And, in the Blue Chinese Salon, Emperor Charles I signed his renunciation of government (end of the monarchy).

7. Palacio Real, Spain

The Royal Palace of Madrid is no longer called home by the Spanish royal family, instead it plays host to state ceremonies, official banquets and other state functions. The current palace's construction started in 1734, and there have been royal buildings on the same site since the 9th century - at more than 135,000 square meters of floor space and 3,418 rooms, Palacio Real is the largest functioning royal palace in Europe.

When exploring the elegant palace, visitors have access to lavish halls, the throne room, residential areas, banqueting rooms, The Royal Armoury and the Royal Pharmacy, as well as the majestic gardens

8. Buda Castle, Hungary

Buda Castle is the historical castle and palace complex of the Hungarian kings in Budapest, and the third UNESCO World Heritage Site on our list. Today, the castle houses the Hungarian National Gallery and the Budapest History Museum.

Statues surrounding the castle provide a fascinating window to its history. One notable example is the statue of Prince Eugene of Savoy that was created in 1900 to honour him for liberating Budapest from the Turks.

9. Chateau De Fontainebleau, France

Located 55 kilometres from the centre of Paris, the second French palace in the top 10 list, and another UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the Palace of Fontainebleau. One of the largest royal chateaus, Fontainebleau served as a residence for a host of France monarchs, from Louis VII to Napoleon III.

With 1,500 rooms and 130 acres of parkland and gardens, Fontainebleau is the only royal palace to have

been continuously inhabited for seven centuries, and a visit to the magnificent site provides an unparalleled view of French history and architecture.

10. Amalienborg, Denmark

Home to Denmark's present-day royal family, and one of the world's oldest monarchies, Amalienborg is made up of four identical buildings: Christian VII's Palace, Frederik VIII's Palace, Christian IX's Palace and Christian VIII's Palace.

Originally built as residences for four high-ranking aristocrats, it wasn't until 1794, when Christiansborg Palace burnt down, that the royal family took up residence at Amalienborg, and ever since then, successive royal family members have lived there.

From June to August visitors can explore the Royal Representation Rooms, the Gala Hall and other state rooms which are still used by the royal family.

... Notes to editors ...

Images of each palace available on request. Contact: alex@propellernet.co.uk, 01273 760 976

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