

The Best Time to See Blenheim Palace's Rose Garden



Visitors can enjoy a botanical bounty at Blenheim Palace this June, the best time to see the Rose Garden as the circular rosarium comes into bloom.

The Rose Garden is contained within a circular walk, arched over by slender hoops supporting climbing roses of a delicate pink. The central statue is surrounded by symmetrical beds of roses that form a delightful display of floral beauty.

This history of the Rose Garden at Blenheim Palace is rather fascinating. The original Rosary, created by the 5th Duke of Marlborough, a horticulturalist of international standing, was located near to the Cascades. However it was the 7th Duke of Marlborough, whose passion for gardening and plant hunting, who commissioned the current rosarium. Rose Gardens became very popular in Victorian England, highly admired for their English beauty and scent. The 7th Duke of Marlborough possibly renovated the Rose Garden because he was typical Victorian!

The creation of the garden in 1760 was in two stages replacing the 5th Duke's Chinese Garden; beginning with the outer circle of roses trailing around arches of ironwork forming a circle with a lawn inside. Latterly the beds were added with the roses inside, the water and statue. Today visitors can enjoy this ancient Rose Garden most recently restored by the 11th Duke of Marlborough.

Taunt described the Rose Garden in 1896 to be:

'The Rosary (Rose Garden) is 140 feet in diameter, all round it is an arcade covered with cluster Roses, and when the flowers of these and the beds are at their greatest beauty about the end of June or the beginning of July, this circular enclosure is the bower of loveliness. In the beds are Lilies which act as a foil to the Roses. The centre piece of the Rosary is a beautiful sculptured marble fountain, representing a River God offering water to a female who he has rescued; the bottom is a bowl shaped and covered in glazed tiles, and in the water are a number of Japanese Gold Fish with double tails. Beyond the rosary is the small Temple of Flora.' [Original Image Available]

Formal Gardens Walk – Rose Garden & Cascade

From the Water Terraces, follow the signs for the Rose Garden, the Cascade and the Pump House. Follow the slope above the cascade and continue along the edge of the lake to the Boathouse, then up the slope to the bottom of the Water Terraces.

This circular walk of up to a mile (45 minutes) takes in some difficult terrain, so walking shoes are recommended.

www.blenheimpalace.com

WHAT: Visit Blenheim Palace's Rose Garden
WHEN: Best time to visit is June
WHY VISIT: Discover the beautiful Rose Garden and explore Blenheim Palace's stunning Parkland.
ADMISSION: Park & Gardens ticket required: Adult £13.50 / Child £6.60 (Age 5-16) / Concession £10.20 / Family £36.00 (2 Adults & 2 Children)
WEBSITE: www.blenheimpalace.com for more information
INFO LINE: **0800 849 6500**

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