
WEDDINGS AT BATH'S HISTORIC VENUES

ASSEMBLY ROOMS
ROMAN BATHS & PUMP ROOM
VICTORIA ART GALLERY
GUILDHALL



BATH'S HISTORIC
VENUES

BATH: A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

863 BC

The legendary Prince Bladud discovers Bath's healing thermal springs

c1090

King's Bath built over the Roman Sacred Spring



c75AD

Romans build the sacred baths and temple of Aquae Sulis

1174

St. John's Hospital built beside the Cross Bath

1499

Building of present Abbey started

1539

Bath's monastery closed by King Henry VIII; incomplete Abbey left to disintegrate

1574

Queen Elizabeth I orders restoration of Abbey and promotion of hot baths

577

Bath captured by Saxons

973

Edgar crowned the first king of all England in Bath's Saxon cathedral

1580s

Queen's Bath built beside King's Bath

1617

Abbey Church completed

1661

Drinking Pump installed at the King's Bath

1702

Bath's profile is raised by Queen Anne's visits

1704

Richard 'Beau' Nash appointed Master of Ceremonies

1706

First Pump Room opens

1727

Minerva's Head discovered beneath Stall Street

1742

Royal Mineral Water Hospital opens, designed by John Wood the Elder

1767

Royal Crescent started, designed by John Wood the Younger

1771

Assembly Rooms built, designed by John Wood the Younger



1775

Guildhall built, designed by Thomas Baldwin

1801

Jane Austen moves to lodgings in Bath

1840

World's first postage stamp sent from Bath Post Office

1880

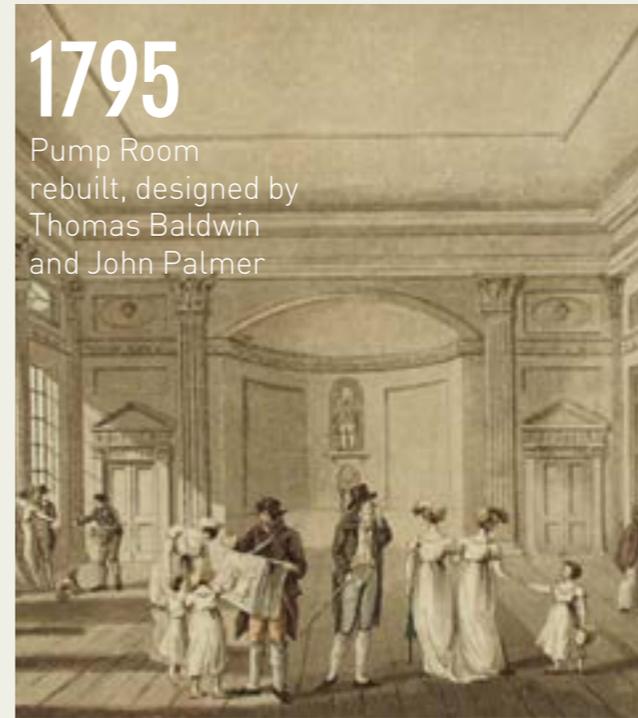
Roman Baths discovered

1897

William Harbutt invents Plasticine in Bath

1795

Pump Room rebuilt, designed by Thomas Baldwin and John Palmer



1897

Roman Baths opens to visitors



1900

Victoria Art Gallery opens



2002

HM The Queen visits the Guildhall, Pump Room and Roman Baths

2006

Thermae Bath Spa opens

2007

'The Duchess' with Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes, filmed in the Assembly Rooms

2016

Roman Baths wins Winner of Winners at the South West Tourism Awards

1987

Bath designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO



Our Venues	4	Assembly Rooms	10	Roman Baths & Pump Room	22	Kingston Room and Drawing Room	32	Victoria Art Gallery	38	Guildhall	42	Further Information	49	Booking Information	56
Tailor Made	8	Great Octagon	14	Great Bath	26	Temple Pediment and Aquae Sulis	33	Upper Gallery and Lower Gallery	40	Banqueting Room	46	Catering	50		
		Tea Room	16	Pump Room	28	Sunrise Weddings	34			Council Chamber and Brunswick Room	47	Wedding packages	52		
		Ball Room	18	Terrace and Reception Hall	30	Sunset Weddings	36			Alkmaar Room, Mayor's Parlour and Russell Room	48	Capacity and availability	54		
		Card Room	20												
		Fashion Museum	21												

OUR VENUES



Dave Saunders

For something a little different, why not exchange your vows beside your favourite painting at the Victoria Art Gallery?

Our venues are in close proximity to one another in the centre of this stunning city. We are lucky to have with numerous beautiful outdoor spaces nearby including Parade Gardens, and Royal Victoria Park, with views of the historic city that include Pulteney Bridge, the Royal Crescent and the Circus: perfect locations for stunning photographs on your wedding day.

A successful wedding with us is not weather-dependant. Rain at the Roman Baths simply adds to its unique atmosphere. The hot water creates more steam when the weather is cold outside. At the Assembly Rooms, there are ample opportunities for beautiful indoor photographs under the crystal chandeliers or from the musicians' balconies.

Be part of the history and hold your wedding in one of Bath's historic buildings.

What could be more romantic than a torch-lit ceremony alongside the steaming waters of the Roman Baths? Alternatively, the Great Octagon in the Assembly Rooms is undoubtedly one of the most elegant settings for a wedding in the country. Add a touch of Georgian splendour with a reception in the beautiful Assembly Rooms, Pump Room or Guildhall Banqueting Room and your day will be truly unforgettable.

Above left: Chandelier at the Assembly Rooms

Left: Entrance to the Roman Baths

Below: Celebration in the Pump Room



Lee Niel

Our Venues Tailor Made

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ASSEMBLY ROOMS



Our Venues Tailor Made

4	Assembly Rooms
8	Great Octagon
	Tea Room
	Ball Room
	Card Room
	Fashion Museum

10	Roman Baths & Pump Room
14	Great Bath
16	Great Bath
18	Pump Room
20	Terrace and
21	Reception Hall

22	Kingston Room and Drawing Room	32
26	Temple Pediment and Aquae Sulis	33
28	Sunrise Weddings	34
30	Sunset Weddings	36

Victoria Art Gallery Upper Gallery and Lower Gallery

38	Guildhall	42	Further Information	49	Booking Information	56
	Banqueting Room	46	Catering	50		
	Council Chamber and Brunswick Room	47	Wedding packages	52		
	Alkmaar Room, Mayor's Parlour and Russell Room	48	Capacity and availability	54		

ASSEMBLY ROOMS

With its original 18th century Whitefriars crystal chandeliers, high ceilings and portraits by Gainsborough and Ramsey, the Grade I Listed Assembly Rooms make a stylish and truly historical setting for a wedding or civil partnership.

The Assembly Rooms consist of four splendid rooms, the Great Octagon, Tea Room, Ball Room and Card Room. In addition to these magnificent spaces, there is a small formal garden well suited to summer drinks receptions and wedding photographs.

On your wedding day, the bridal car can drive onto the forecourt outside the main entrance so that you can make an impressive arrival and walk straight down the red carpet to your chosen room.

Royal Victoria Park, The Circus and The Royal Crescent are just a short walk away and give you a choice of breath-taking backdrops for wedding photographs.



A VIBRANT HISTORY

Designed by John Wood the Younger in 1769 for entertainment, tea drinking and dancing, the Assembly Rooms were at the heart of fashionable Georgian society. When completed in 1771, they were described as 'the most noble and elegant of any in the kingdom'. Guests would gather in the rooms in the evening for balls, concerts and other social functions, or simply to play cards and socialise.

Scenes such as this feature in the novels of Jane Austen, who lived in Bath with her parents and sister from 1801 to 1805. Her two novels set in Bath, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both mention the Assembly Rooms, which she called the "Upper Rooms".

Charles Dickens visited Bath on several occasions. He gave public readings in the Assembly Rooms and mentions them in the *Pickwick Papers* (published in 1837): "In the ball-room, the long card-room, the octagonal card-room, the staircases, and the passages, the hum of many voices, and the sound of many feet, were perfectly bewildering. Dresses rustled, feathers waved, lights shone, and jewels sparkled".

Adaptations of several novels have been filmed in the Assembly Rooms, in addition to films such as *The Duchess* (2008) with Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes.

Left: Assembly Rooms

Below left: Tea Room

Below: Thomas Rowlandson, 'Comforts of Bath: Ball at the Upper Assembly Rooms', watercolour 1798



Our Venues	4 Assembly Rooms	10 Roman Baths & Pump Room	Kingston Room	Victoria Art Gallery	38 Guildhall	42 Further Information	49 Booking Information	56
Tailor Made	8 Great Octagon	14 and Drawing Room	22	Upper Gallery and	Banqueting Room	46 Catering	50	
	Tea Room	26 Temple Pediment	26	Lower Gallery	Council Chamber and	Wedding packages	52	
	Ball Room	and Aquae Sulis	28		Brunswick Room	Capacity and availability	54	
	Card Room	Sunrise Weddings	33		Alkmaar Room, Mayor's			
	Fashion Museum	Sunset Weddings	34		Parlour and Russell Room			
			36					

TEA ROOM



Lee Niel

Wonderfully light and well-proportioned, this graceful room features original fireplaces, a double columned balcony and three stunning Whitefriars crystal chandeliers.

The Tea Room is the perfect setting for an elegant wedding breakfast, or, bedecked with flowers, becomes a delightful venue for the ceremony itself, prior to a wedding breakfast in the Ball Room.



Marianne Taylor

CAPACITY

Ceremony	250
Drinks Reception	300
Dinner	170
Dinner Dance	120



Marianne Taylor Photography

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	16 Ball Room	18 Card Room	28 Terrace and Reception Hall	44 Alkmaar Room, Mayor's Parlour and Russell Room	47	47 Capacity and availability	54	
	20 Fashion Museum	21	30					

ROMAN BATHS AND PUMP ROOM

From the first century AD to the twenty first century, people have been drawn to this place for entertainment and relaxation.

What remains today is a remarkable sequence of ancient, medieval and later structures that give testimony to the continuous use of hot water here over nearly 2000 years.



Anthony Bennett Photography



Lee Niel



How Photography



©B&NES Council

deities Sulis and Minerva, the latter being their own goddess of healing. The hot baths, which yield around 1,200,000 litres of water daily at 46°C, were in use between the 1st and 4th centuries.

The first Pump Room was built in 1706 and the improved, current structure was built in 1795 by Thomas Baldwin and John Palmer.

In 1878, the city surveyor architect Major Charles Davis, worried by a leak in the King's Bath, decided to explore the ground around it. In doing so he found Roman remains and by 1880 had uncovered large parts of the Great Bath. The Reception Hall and Terrace were completed in the late 19th century, providing the city with a monument for which it is now famed throughout the world.

Left: Great Bath

Above: 'Pump Room', coloured aquatint by John Hill after JC Nattes, 1804

Above top: The Pump Room

A VIBRANT HISTORY

The story of the hot springs in Bath began thousands of years ago. Rain on the Mendip Hills was driven deep underground before rising, hot and bubbling, to the surface, warmed by the heat of the earth's core. The site of this extraordinary phenomenon prompted the Celts to adopt the spring as the home of their goddess Sulis. Following the Roman invasion of Britain, the Romans built a grand religious spa complex on this site in c.75AD, which they dedicated to the

Our Venues	4 Assembly Rooms	10 Roman Baths & Pump Room	22 Kingston Room and Drawing Room	32 Victoria Art Gallery Upper Gallery and Lower Gallery	38 Guildhall Banqueting Room	42 Further Information Catering	49 Booking Information	56
Tailor Made	8 Great Octagon Tea Room Ball Room Card Room Fashion Museum	14 Great Bath 16 Pump Room 18 Terrace and Reception Hall	26 Temple Pediment and Aquae Sulis Sunrise Weddings Sunset Weddings	33 34 36	40 Council Chamber and Brunswick Room Alkmaar Room, Mayor's Parlour and Russell Room	46 Wedding packages Capacity and availability	50 52 54	

GREAT BATH

What could be more romantic and impressive than exchanging your vows amid the flickering torchlight and rising steam from the waters of the Great Bath? Sunrise Weddings can be followed by a wedding breakfast in the Georgian Pump Room or Roman Baths Kitchen. Or in the evenings, after a Sunset Wedding, you can choose to have your reception in either the Pump Room or Terrace and Reception Hall.

Alternatively, the Great Bath can be hired for an evening drinks reception prior to dinner. Guests can gather on the 2000 year old paving and enjoy drinks and delicious canapés, whilst enjoying the historic setting.

In July and August, when the Great Bath is unavailable for private events, an inspiring alternative for your pre-dinner ceremony or drinks reception is the nearby Victoria Art Gallery.

Ceremonies at 8.30am or 7.30pm. Drinks receptions from 7pm. Evening events available September to June.

A VIBRANT HISTORY

The Romans originally roofed this area of their spa buildings first with a wooden structure and then with an enormous barrel-vaulted tiled roof. Today the Great Bath is open to the sky and surrounded by a 19th century Italianate colonnade.



**Our Venues
Tailor Made**

4	Assembly Rooms	10	Roman Baths & Pump Room
8	Great Octagon	14	Great Bath
	Tea Room	16	Pump Room
	Ball Room	18	Terrace and Reception Hall
	Card Room	20	
	Fashion Museum	21	



Rich Howman Elan Images

22	Kingston Room and Drawing Room	32
26	Temple Pediment and Aquae Sulis	33
28	Sunrise Weddings	34
30	Sunset Weddings	36

Victoria Art Gallery
Upper Gallery and Lower Gallery

38	Guildhall	42	Further Information	49	Booking Information	56
	Banqueting Room	46	Catering	50		
	Council Chamber and Brunswick Room	47	Wedding packages	52		
	Alkmaar Room, Mayor's Parlour and Russell Room	48	Capacity and availability	54		



First Avenue Photography

“FROM DAY ONE YOU HAVE BEEN ORGANISED, PUNCTUAL, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL. SO I DID THINK I WOULD BE IN GOOD HANDS, BUT THE TEAM WERE FANTASTIC. I CANNOT RECOMMEND YOU HIGHLY ENOUGH!”

Hannah Peters

CAPACITY

Ceremony	200
Drinks Reception	300

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ...

...taking advantage of our Sunset Wedding Package? See p36



ROMAN BATHS AND PUMP ROOM

PUMP ROOM

The Pump Room remains at the social heart of the city and still has the power to impress, with its tall windows, Corinthian columns and glittering crystal chandelier. Grade I Listed, with the thermal spa fountain and historic long case Tompion Clock as added focal points, this exceptional room has a stage for live music and a fine dance floor for your guests. The adjoining King's Lounge, overlooking the spring, makes a convenient location for a bar, for a night you will never forget.

Available from 8pm

CAPACITY

Ceremony	300
Drinks Reception	300
Dinner	200
Dinner Dance	160

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...

...hiring the Victoria Art Gallery for pre-dinner drinks?



EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT FROM EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM. OUTSTANDING SERVICE. WONDERFUL PEOPLE, GENUINE INTEREST IN OUR EVENT AND NEEDS FROM ALL STAFF"

Matthew Chivers

A VIBRANT HISTORY

The grand Pump Room was opened by the Duchess of York in 1795 as the focal point for Georgian society. Jane Austen observed people and fashions from within the Pump Room and it features in her novel *Northanger Abbey*. This elegant room is much as it was when first built; the unique spa water still flows from the fountain overlooking the natural hot spring and a crystal chandelier still sparkles from the centre of the room.



Our Venues Tailor Made

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Tea Room	16 Pump Room	28 Terrace and Reception Hall	47	48	52	54	
Ball Room	18	30			52		
Card Room	20				54		
Fashion Museum	21						

ROMAN BATHS AND PUMP ROOM

SUNRISE WEDDINGS

Whether you would like an intimate wedding for two, or a much larger ceremony, a Sunrise Wedding will provide a truly romantic start to your special day. It is perfect for the smaller celebration or for couples wanting something a little less formal and unique.

Your ceremony will take place around the Great Bath at 8.30am and the exact position can be decided by you. There are plenty of opportunities for photographs in this stunning location, with the option to follow the ceremony

with a Champagne breakfast in the grand Pump Room restaurant or at the Roman Baths Kitchen just across the churchyard.

The party could also return in the evening for dinner on the Terrace overlooking the Great Bath.

Right (above and below): Great Bath

Below: Roman Baths Kitchen



atallongleggedbird



Colin Hawkins



atallongleggedbird

TIMINGS FOR THE MORNING

- 8am Arrival
- 8.30am Ceremony
- 8.50am Photographs
- 9.15am Call for Breakfast
- 9.20am Toast and speeches
- 9.30am Breakfast served
- 11am Departure

Right: Entrance to the Roman Baths



Sam Wiajek



atallongleggedbird

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	18 Card Room	20 Fashion Museum						
	21							

GUILDHALL

The Guildhall is conveniently situated in the heart of the city near the Pump Room and Roman Baths. An impressive setting for a ceremony and reception, the Georgian interiors and grand staircases make a magnificent backdrop for a wedding party.

At the Guildhall, couples are free to choose their own caterer. This is extremely unusual for a venue of this quality and further details can be found on our website: www.bathvenues.co.uk

A short stroll away is the beautifully kept Parade Gardens which overlook the River Avon and Pulteney Bridge. These gardens are a lovely choice for wedding photographs if the weather is fine.

For Guildhall enquiries, please call 01225 477793 or e-mail GuildhallWeddings@bathnes.gov.uk

Right: Banqueting Room

Below: Parade Gardens



Thomas Suttland



Betty Bhandari



Anna Barclay

A VIBRANT HISTORY

Built by Thomas Baldwin in 1775, this beautiful building replaced a Stuart building built in 1625. The Stuart building and the Georgian one after it were the centre of Bath's administrative and judicial life for more than 350 years, as well as a venue for corporation celebrations, balls, plays, and other events. This tradition continues to this day, although civic hospitality is on a more modest scale and many of the functions of the modern Council take place in other buildings. The Register Office, Mayor's Parlour and City Archives are still housed here.

In 1893 the central dome was added to Baldwin's building by J.M. Brydon, who added the Victoria Art Gallery soon afterwards.

Due to the outstanding architecture inside and out, the Guildhall was granted a Grade I listing status and with its imposing façade it is a masterpiece of the neo-classical style.



Left: marble staircase

Above: exterior, main entrance



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	Ball Room	18 Sunrise Weddings	30 Sunset Weddings					
	Card Room	20						
	Fashion Museum	21						

BANQUETING ROOM

The Banqueting Room is a fine, well-proportioned room, with beautiful Georgian decorative mouldings, original royal portraits and glittering chandeliers. It has been used for royal visits to the city including that of HM Queen Elizabeth II who was entertained to lunch here in 2002. The adjoining Aix-en-Provence Room is ideal for drinks receptions or as a bar area. There is another room nearby that can serve as a crèche with the appropriate adult supervision, subject to availability.

Below:
Banqueting Room



CAPACITY	
Ceremony	360
Drinks Reception	250
Dinner	200
Dinner Dance	180

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...

exchanging your vows in one of the Guildhall rooms before celebrating in the Banqueting Room?

Left: Aix-en-Provence Room

Above:
Banqueting Room

Above right:
Brunswick Room

Below right:
Council Chamber



Captivent Productions



Lemontree Photography

BRUNSWICK ROOM

This room on the ground floor is a flexible, well-proportioned space that can accommodate up to 120 guests for a ceremony. Alternatively, following a ceremony in another Guildhall location, a wedding party can enjoy a drinks reception in the Brunswick Room.



Freia Turland

CAPACITY

Ceremony	120
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COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Victorian Council Chamber is an impressive room with ornate plaster mouldings, fixed seating and a public gallery. It is a distinctive venue for a wedding ceremony for up to 120 guests.

CAPACITY

Ceremony	120
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Freia Turland

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		Card Room	20	Reception Hall	30	Sunrise Weddings	36			Alkmaar Room, Mayor's					
		Fashion Museum	21			Sunset Weddings				Parlour and Russell Room	48				

GUILDHALL

ALKMAAR ROOM

Originally Bath's court room, this is now a stunning setting for a wedding ceremony. It retains the features of the original court with wood panelled seating, now combined with a sumptuous red carpet and gold soft furnishings. The Alkmaar Room can seat up to 120 guests with a perfectly distanced aisle for the couple to make a grand entrance. A ceremony here can be followed by a wedding reception in the Banqueting Room.



CAPACITY

Ceremony **120**



MAYOR'S PARLOUR

The Mayor's Parlour is a sumptuous yet intimate room, housing the city's three hundred year old ceremonial maces and an impressive silver collection. For your ceremony, you will be seated at the large, circular table with up to 30 guests arranged in semi-circles on either side.

Available on Saturdays only.

CAPACITY

Ceremony **30**

RUSSELL ROOM

Accommodating up to eight guests, this sophisticated room is ideal for couples wanting a more intimate setting for their ceremony. With its tall sash windows and soft lighting the Russell Room is sure to create a romantic setting.

CAPACITY

Ceremony **8**

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...

...having celebratory drinks and dinner at the Roman Baths Kitchen?



FURTHER INFORMATION

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