

SOMERSET HOUSE

Weddings at Somerset House: **Somerset House announces a new wedding and civil partnership service**

Somerset House, the most spectacular eighteenth century palace in London, is now available for weddings and civil ceremonies. Situated on the North bank of the River Thames, Somerset House has views across the whole of the South bank and Palace of Westminster. The building's neo-classical architecture and rich history will lend a priceless setting to these special events.

Built by Sir William Chambers in 1776, the current Somerset House was constructed on the site of an earlier Royal Palace. Since the sixteenth century, the site has been a Queen's Royal Residence, the workplace of Charles Darwin whilst writing his theories of evolution, and home to the Royal Academy.

On the big day, entrances will be made through the dramatic Strand Vestibule into the public Edmond J Safra Fountain Court, an Italian-style piazza and stunning location for photographs. The Portico Rooms provide a flexible space for a bespoke pre-ceremony reception, followed by the service in the main Portico Room.

After the ceremony, the party can be invited to The Navy Board Rooms, the historic office of Admiral Lord Nelson, for a magnificent champagne reception. In the Portico Rooms there will be the opportunity for a seated wedding breakfast, with access to two balconies offering uninterrupted views of the River Thames on one side, and the Edmond J Safra Fountain Court on the other. For a beautiful evening reception, The Seamen's Hall can accommodate up to 150 guests with a dance floor and private use of the stunning River Terrace.

Venue Details

Somerset House is able to accommodate up to 80 guests for a ceremony and wedding breakfast, and up to 150 guests for an evening reception with dancing.

Ceremonies are available from Friday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm (4pm on Sundays), subject to Westminster City Council registrar availability.

Catering and other event elements are provided by the venue's list of accredited suppliers, also attached, with Leith's having sole catering rights for evening receptions in the Seamen's Hall.

For further information please contact:

Events Department
Somerset House Trust
Tel: 020 7845 4618

Email: events@somersethouse.org.uk

**SOMERSET
HOUSE**

SOMERSET HOUSE ENTERPRISES LIMITED COMPANY NO 3920330.
WHOSE REGISTERED OFFICE IS SOMERSET HOUSE STRAND LONDON
WC2R 1LA. VAT REGISTRATION NO 751893404

 **THE
COURTAULD
Gallery**

THE COURTAULD GALLERY COMPANY NO 4464432.
WHOSE REGISTERED ADDRESS IS SOMERSET HOUSE STRAND
WC2R 0RN. VAT REGISTRATION NO 798646648

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Wedding and Civil Partnership Formats

Option 1 – Ceremony only, maximum 100 guests

The ceremony is held in Portico Rooms, Embankment East or Navy Board Rooms, with drinks served afterwards in the spaces.

Photos may be taken throughout the public spaces, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, and in the hired areas.

Suggested timings (based on wedding at 11am):



From 9am – Access to set up.
10.30am - Guests arrive and are held in one of the Portico or Navy Board Rooms.
11am – Ceremony in main Portico Room

11.30am – Drinks in Navy Board Rooms with photos taken in hired and public areas

12.30pm – Guests depart for wedding breakfast / reception



Price: £3,000 + VAT

Capacities:

100 for ceremony in the Portico Rooms

60 for ceremony in the Navy Board Rooms

Option 2 – Ceremony and wedding breakfast, with dancing, maximum 80 guests

Guests arrive via the Strand entrance, bridal party cars (maximum 2) drop at Upper Terrace in Courtyard.

Guests make their way across the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court to the Stamp Entrance and up to Portico Rooms/Navy Board Rooms.

Ceremony is held in Portico Rooms with drinks served afterwards in The Navy Board Rooms.

Photos may be taken throughout the public spaces, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, and in the hired areas.



Wedding breakfast takes place in the main Portico Room, approx 1 hour after ceremony.

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Guests may move down to the Seamen's Hall for the evening reception and dancing, anytime from 6.30pm.



Suggested timings:

From 12.30pm – Access to set up.

2pm - Guests arrive and await ceremony in one of the Portico or Navy Board Rooms.

2.30pm – Ceremony in main Portico Room

3pm – Drinks in Navy Board Rooms with photos taken in hired and public areas. The main Portico Room is reset for the wedding breakfast.

4.30pm – Wedding breakfast in the main Portico Room

7.00pm – Guests move down to The Seamen's Hall or Embankment East for the evening reception & dancing (evening guests arrive via Seamen's Hall or Great Arch entrance as required)

11.00pm – Guests depart

Price: £8,000 + VAT

Additional £1,000 + Vat per hour after 11pm, until 1am.

Capacities:

80 for ceremony and wedding breakfast in the Portico Rooms

Additional 70 guests can join for the evening reception in the Seamen's Hall

Additional 220 guests can join for the evening reception in Embankment East

Option 3 – Wedding breakfast and reception (with/without dancing, no ceremony)

Guests arrive via the Strand entrance, bridal party cars (maximum 2) drop at Upper Terrace in Courtyard.

Guests make their way across the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court to the Stamp Entrance and up to Portico Rooms.

Photos may be taken throughout the public spaces, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, and in the hired areas.

Suggested timings:

From 5.30pm – Guests arrive and have photos in the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court

6.30pm - pre-dinner drinks served

7.30pm - dinner served

Dancing begins (Seamen's Hall or Embankment East), if required

12 midnight – guests depart



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Capacities with dancing:

80 with dancing (in the Seamen's Hall)

Capacities without dancing:

50 in The Courtauld Gallery

60 in the Navy Board Rooms

80 in the Portico Rooms

100 in the Seamen's Hall

Price: £6,000 + VAT

Additional £1,000 + Vat per hour after 11pm, until 1am.



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