

**AN UNBEATABLE LOCATION FOR THE
PERFECT WEDDING**



**SOMERSET
HOUSE**

**'SOMERSET HOUSE
WAS THE PICTURE-
PERFECT SETTING...
WE WOULDN'T
HESITATE TO
RECOMMEND
SOMERSET HOUSE TO
ANY COUPLES
LOOKING FOR THEIR
DREAM WEDDING
VENUE.'**

—Adrienne & Hugo



PORTICO & NAVY BOARD ROOMS

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Celebrate your special day in timeless style at Somerset House — where historic elegance meets contemporary charm on the banks of the River Thames.

Our [Portico Rooms](#) and [Navy Board Rooms](#), both licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies, offer stunning architecture, natural light, and breathtaking London views.

Enjoy private balconies overlooking the river or our iconic fountains in the Portico Rooms, ideal for ceremonies or receptions. The Navy Board Rooms feature grand marble fireplaces, wooden floors, and sweeping Thames views — perfect for intimate celebrations or post-ceremony gatherings.

CAPACITIES

The Navy Board Rooms

- Ceremony – 60 Guests
- Reception – 100 Guests
- Dinner – 50 Guests

The Portico Rooms

- Ceremony – 100 Guests
- Reception – 200 Guests
- Dinner – 100 Guests

View our spaces [here](#).



YOUR SPECIAL DAY

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR UP TO 100 GUESTS

1. Ceremony – Portico Rooms
2. Reception – Navy Board Rooms
3. Dinner – Portico Rooms
4. Dancing & Entertainment – Navy Board Rooms (N.B. dancing is not permitted in the main Portico Room)

07.30 Supplier access to Portico & Navy Board Rooms

15.30 Guests arrive

16.00 Wedding ceremony

17.00 Post ceremony drinks reception

18.00 Dinner begins

20.00 Bar & dance floor opens

22.15 Bar closes & music ends

22.30 Carriages

23.00 All guests off site

00.00 All suppliers off site

Should you have bespoke timings in mind please get in touch and we would be happy to review these for you.

WEDDING PLANNER

We do not provide a wedding planning service. We recommend working with a professional Planner to coordinate suppliers and support your preparations. We're happy to suggest trusted Planners or collaborate with your chosen one to ensure everything runs smoothly.



YOUR BOOKING OPTIONS

VENUE HIRE TYPE		ACCESS	VENUE HIRE TIME	HIRE FEE
CEREMONY ONLY	NAVY BOARD ROOMS	SUPPLIER ACCESS GUEST ACCESS	07.30–17.00 08.30–16.00	Mon–Thurs: £4,000+VAT Fri– Sun: £6,500+VAT
CEREMONY ONLY	PORTICO ROOMS	SUPPLIER ACCESS GUEST ACCESS	07.30–17.00 08.30–16.00	Mon–Thurs: £6,000+VAT Fri–Sun: £8,500+VAT
CEREMONY, RECEPTION, DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	PORTICO ROOMS & NAVY BOARD ROOMS	SUPPLIER ACCESS GUEST ACCESS	07.30–00.00 08.30–23.00	£15,000+VAT
ADDITIONAL HOURS £1,000 + VAT per hour				

INCLUDED

Event Security, an Event Manager, a dedicated Operations Manager who will be on-hand for your special day, & pre and post event cleaning.

SUPPLIERS

Catering, furniture, floristry, entertainment, production and all other requirements, are separate to the hire fee and must be provided by our accredited suppliers - details [here](#). As a Grade I listed building, we do not allow any non-accredited suppliers to work onsite.

You must allow at least one hour either side of your event for supplier set up. Depending on your event requirements, suppliers may require additional time.

WEDDING REGISTRAR

A registrar is an additional cost and must be booked directly via the City of Westminster. We do not advise confirming a registrar before contracting your venue but do recommend checking availability first.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/registrars>



Rose Francis Events
Photography by Camilla Joy

'SOMERSET HOUSE WAS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR MY CLIENTS' INTIMATE SUMMER WEDDING. THE PORTICO ROOMS PROVIDED A STUNNING BACKDROP, WITH THE BALCONY OFFERING BREATHTAKING VIEWS OVER THE THAMES — AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE COUPLES AND THEIR GUESTS.

THE TEAM WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH — RESPONSIVE, HELPFUL, AND SUPPORTED BY A FANTASTIC LIST OF SUPPLIERS, MAKING THE PLANNING PROCESS SEAMLESS.'

— Rose Francis Events



CAPTURE YOUR DAY

One of the many highlights of celebrating your wedding at Somerset House is the opportunity to capture stunning photographs in our iconic settings — from the picturesque Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court with its seasonal dancing fountains to sweeping river views and elegant architecture.

Following your ceremony, you're welcome to take photographs in:

- Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court – perfect for couple portraits
- River Terrace – ideal for group shots
- Other locations – available upon request

Somerset House is an active arts and culture centre open to the public, with installations, exhibitions, and events regularly taking place across the site. This vibrant programme is part of what makes Somerset House so unique, though it means we cannot always guarantee specific backdrops will be available. There are also occasions where essential works need to take place on the building and these instances are out of our control.



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Photography by Camilla Joy

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can we use our own suppliers?

All events must use our accredited suppliers. External suppliers are not permitted.

Can we bring our own alcohol?

This may be possible at the discretion of our accredited caterers and could incur an additional charge.

I have a wedding planner — how does that work with your team?

Wonderful! We encourage all couples to work with a Planner. Please introduce us so we can support them with any venue-related queries.

Is there parking onsite?

No onsite parking is available. Cars may drop off guests at our Victoria Embankment entrance.

Can we have confetti?

Yes — biodegradable, colour-free confetti only (no rice paper).

Do you host proposals or engagement parties?

Absolutely! We have a range of spaces perfect for these occasions. Contact our team at events@somerset-house.org.uk to discuss options.

VENUE INFORMATION

Site Visits

Available Monday–Friday, 09:00–17:30, subject to availability. Book via events@somerset-house.org.uk.

Candles

As a Grade I listed building, no naked flames, candelabras, or gas are permitted.

Late Licence

Events may run until 01:00. Extensions are possible with advance notice and a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) application.

Public Liability Insurance

Clients must hold £10 million PLI to protect the building.

Security Deposit

A refundable deposit is required for all bookings. Refunded within 30 days post-event, subject to no damage or overruns.

Payment Terms

- 50% non-refundable deposit to secure your date
- Remaining 50% due 3 months prior to your event
- Full payment required for bookings within 3 months of the event date



'SOMERSET HOUSE IS A TRULY ELEGANT AND ICONIC BACKDROP FOR A WEDDING. THE SPACES FEEL CHIC AND ELEVATED, AND WE ADORE CREATING BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATIONS WITHIN THIS PRESTIGIOUS VENUE.'

—The Golborne Collection

GET IN TOUCH



Rose Francis Events
Photography by Camilla Joy

CONTACT

events@somersethouse.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7845 4618
somersethouse.org.uk/venue-hire

FOLLOW

Instagram: [@somersethouse_venuehire](https://www.instagram.com/somersethouse_venuehire)
LinkedIn: [Venue Hire at Somerset House](https://www.linkedin.com/company/venue-hire-at-somerset-house)

FIND

Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA

BY LONDON UNDERGROUND

Temple (Circle & District lines; 250m, 5 mins)
Covent Garden (Piccadilly line; 650m, 8 mins)
Charing Cross (Bakerloo & Northern lines; 700m, 10 mins)
Embankment (Circle & District lines; 700m, 10 mins)
Waterloo (Bakerloo, Waterloo & City, Jubilee & Northern lines; 800m, 11 mins)

BY RAIL

Charing Cross (700m, 10 mins)
Blackfriars (1km, 13 mins)
Waterloo (1km, 13 mins)

BY RIVER

River bus services RB1, RB2 and RB6 all stop at Embankment Pier, roughly 600m from Somerset House



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