

What's the Difference Between a Castle and a Palace?

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/engineering/architecture/castle-palace-difference.htm>

If you hear the word "castle" or the word "palace," you might picture the same kind of building for both: large, made of cut stones, probably with a tower or turret. And, of course, you're not entirely wrong, as those are features of both palaces and castles.

So then why bother calling one royal building in the United Kingdom Buckingham Palace and another in the same country Windsor Castle? It turns out there is a difference, and you can see it pretty plainly in these two popular buildings.

Castles were built throughout Europe and the Middle East primarily for protection of the king and his people. Some common features of castles include:

- thick walls and heavy gates to keep invaders out
- high towers for keeping a lookout over the surrounding lands
- parapets or slits in the walls for archers to shoot with cover
- gatehouses for admitting allies instead of allowing enemies into the castle
- moats for defensive purposes

Castles were (and sometimes still are, as in the case of Windsor Castle) residences for royalty. But they were also intended as defensive seats. Say you're a king who has taken a particular area over. Now you have to hold it. So you build a castle and staff it with soldiers and ministers to defend your conquered territory and ensure it remains part of your kingdom.

Palaces, on the other hand, have no defensive purposes. They're meant for showing off — big time. This is where the spoils of war might be displayed, along with elaborate architecture, golden thrones, massive banquet halls, gilded table settings and dozens — maybe even hundreds — of sumptuously decorated rooms.

While kings and queens certainly took up residence in palaces as well as castles, nonmilitary royals might also have lived in (or still live in) palaces. Bishops and ministers could live in castles to showcase the power of their immense riches rather than their nonexistent military power. The term comes from Palatine Hill in Rome, where the first palaces were built to display wealth.

You can see this when you look at Buckingham Palace, which is in the middle of London and built to impress visitors rather than to defend against any raiding hordes that might make it past Trafalgar Square.

The Swedish royal family owns more than a dozen palaces and residences across the country. Here's a look at their properties.

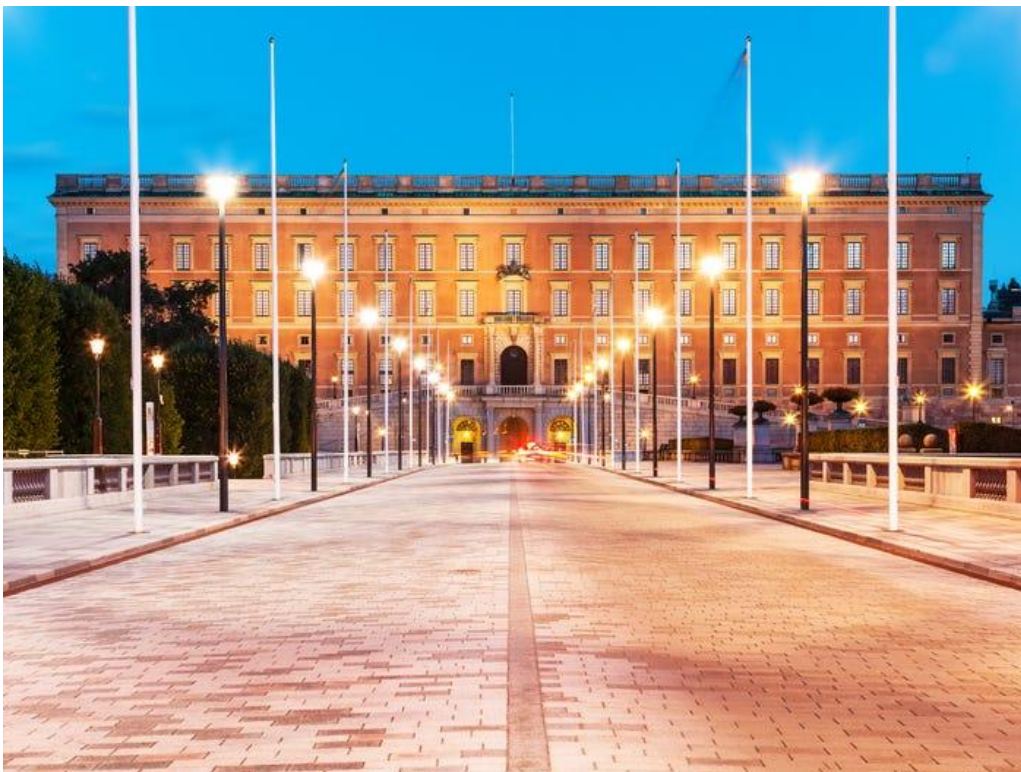
[Matthew Wilson](https://www.insider.com/swedish-royal-family-residences-palaces-photos) The Insider - Feb 18, 2020, <https://www.insider.com/swedish-royal-family-residences-palaces-photos>

Headed by King Carl XVI Gustaf and his wife, Queen Silvia, the Swedish royal family may not get as much attention as their British counterparts, but they're every bit as noteworthy for their controversies, celebrations, and sprawling properties.

Whether they're ruling Sweden or away on summer vacation, the Swedish royal family has an impressive list of real estate. Some of the properties are famous for their opulence, others for their intriguing design — and one is best known as a former makeshift prison.

Here is a look at some of the palaces of the Swedish royal family.

Located in Stockholm, Sweden, the Royal Palace is the official residence of the royal family, though they live elsewhere.



The Royal Palace. Oleksiy Mark/Shutterstock

Construction began on the [Royal Palace](#) in 1679, but a fire in 1697 burned most of the palace down. The palace continued to be worked on for the next 63 years.

The Royal Palace has more than 600 rooms and is open to visitors all year.



The Royal Palace. Maurizio De Mattei/Shutterstock

The layout of the palace consists of rows, each symbolic in nature. For instance, the northern row represents the common royal, the southern is symbolic of the nation, the east represents the queen, and the west is the king.

Drottningholm Palace is where King Carl XVI Gustaf and his wife Queen Silvia actually reside, and it's where they raised their three children.



The Drottningholm Palace Mikael Damkier/Shutterstock

The residence, which is 15 miles east of the center of Stockholm, was commissioned by Queen Hedwig Eleonora in the 1600s and built as a Baroque summer palace.

[Princess Louisa Ulrika of Prussia](#) was given the palace as a gift when she married the heir to the Swedish throne in 1744.

It is one of best-preserved palaces in Sweden.



The Drottningholm Palace Kiev.Victor/Shutterstock

Among its extensive features are a park, a theater, and a Chinese Pavilion.

Located on the grounds of the Drottningholm Palace park, the Chinese Pavilion was designed in the 18th century.

In 1753, [King Adolf Fredrik](#) built the Chinese-inspired palace as a birthday present for his wife. Over the next decade, the wooden building was replaced by one made of brick. Two pavilions were built as well, and it was finished in 1769.

Over the years, the Chinese Pavilion has undergone both interior and exterior renovations to maintain its original design.

During a renovation in 1996, electricity and fire protection were added to the pavilion.



The Chinese Pavilion. Maykova Galina/Shutterstock



The Chinese Pavilion. Nadezhda Kharitonova/Shutterstock

Haga Palace is where Princess Victoria and her family reside.



Haga Palace. Christopher Hunt/WireImage/Getty Images

Also known as the Queen's Pavilion, the palace was built in 1802 after being commissioned by Gustav IV Adolf. Built as a villa for the royal family, the palace remained empty for a number of years before it was used to house foreign guests. Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel moved to the palace in 2010.

Gustav III's Pavilion is also located in Haga Park.



Gustav III's Pavilion. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

It was designed by King Gustav III in the 18th century. In addition to the Pavilion, the king had many plans for Haga Park, but he was assassinated in 1792 before they were realized.

The Solliden Palace is a summer residence on the island of Oland.



The Solliden Palace. kimson/Shutterstock

Solliden, which was built in 1906, is privately owned by King Carl XVI Gustaf, whose net worth is reportedly \$70 million.

Solliden is often the location of summer events, such as Victoria Day, which celebrates the Crown Princess' birthday on July 14. The surrounding park is open to the public.

In 2012, a safe was stolen from Solliden Palace while the king and queen slept, proving that not even the royal family is immune to burglary.

The thieves stole several items from the palace before escaping in a stolen car that was later found in a nearby parking lot.

Gripsholm Castle was built in the 1500s and once housed the royal family.



Gripsholm Castle. Olga Miltsova/Shutterstock

[Gustav III](#) would throw lavish Christmas parties at the estate. It is located in Mariefred, about an hour east of Stockholm, and it reportedly took 95 horses and 21 carts (six to carry the king's clothes alone) to transport the royal family and their possessions from Stockholm to the castle.

The castle was also used as a makeshift prison for members of the royal family.

In the 1560s, [King Erik XIV](#) kept his brother Johan and Johan's wife prisoner in the castle. In 1571, Johan returned the favor and imprisoned his brother in the castle.

Seven decades later, the castle would become a prison for Queen Dowager Maria Eleonora, who only escaped by disguising herself as one of the middle class. Then in the 1809, Gustav IV Adolf was placed under arrest at the castle for nine months until he abdicated the throne.



Gripsholm Castle. Stefan Holm/Shutterstock

Located in Djurgården, Rosendal Palace was built in the 1820s for King Karl XIV Johan.



Rosendal Palace. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

It is an "an outstanding example of Swedish Empire style."

Rosendal Palace was a summer retreat for members of the royal family to escape the pressures of ruling and court life.



Rosendal Palace. alljoh/Shutterstock

The palace is largely unchanged since it was built the [1820s](#). It is open to the public each summer.

North of Stockholm, the Rosersberg Palace was built in the 1630s.



Rosersberg Palace. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

Karl XIV Johan and Queen Desideria were the last members of the royal family to live there. The rooms have remained largely untouched from how the royal couple left them in the 1800s.

Parts of the Rosersberg Palace have been turned into a museum and hotel, allowing the public to stay the night.



Rosersberg Palace. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

The hotel has 64 rooms as well as conference rooms and a restaurant.

Located near Vasteras, Stromsholm Palace was built by Queen Hedwig Eleonora, who also built 20 other buildings in the palace grounds.

The royal family would often stop at the palace to sleep overnight when they were traveling southbound. The chapel remains a popular spot for couples to get married.



Stromsholm Palace. Magnus Binnerstam/Shutterstock

The Tullgarn Palace was the summer home of King Gustaf V and Queen Victoria during the early 1900s.



Tullgarn Palace. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

The palace was originally built for [Duke Fredrik Adolf](#) in the 1770s, and his interior designs are still present today.

Ulriksdal Palace was built in Stockholm in the 1600s.



Ulriksdal Palace. ARK NEYMAN/Shutterstock

Several Swedish royalty have made the palace their home including [Queen Kristina](#) who built a pleasure garden in the front.