REDEFINING LUXURY IN THE ROYAL CORNER
Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences offers authentic luxury experiences in a bespoke and personalised environment a gemstone’s throw from Buckingham Palace. It comprises three Victorian townhouses - Kings, Minsters and Falconers, each distinctly designed and beautifully restored to their iconic heritage.

The 85 luxurious suites and residences with butler service offer the space and exclusivity of a private home each with their own separate kitchen and living area. Treading the path from tradition to tomorrow, Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences redefines the meaning of luxury, creating a distinctive, customised and exclusive Taj experience.

A 45 minutes drive from Heathrow International Airport, Taj 51 Buckingham Gate is perfectly located for shopping in Knightsbridge and Mayfair, London’s business areas and tourist attractions including the London Eye, Westminster Abbey and Tate Britain.

A STORIED HISTORY

The origins of Taj 51 Buckingham Gate can be traced to Victorian aristocracy and another period of hospitality. Once home to the Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Royal Court, this exclusive hotel still resonates with echoes of history reaching back four centuries to Shakespearean times. Lord Dacre, treasurer to Queen Elizabeth the First and his wife, Lady Anne, related to the Queen through Anne Boleyn, bequeathed the land to provide rooms for the habitation of poor children. The cottages that constituted the ‘Emmanuel Almshouses’ in 1601 were replaced by three beautiful Queen Anne buildings laid out round the present quadrangle that became known as the institution of Emmanuel Hospital a century later.

As London grew, so did the appeal of the land. All the major centres of power - from Buckingham Palace and the Royal Court of St. James, to the Houses of Parliament and Downing Street - were within walking distance. This was not lost on Major Charles Pawley, who acquired the site in 1897 and spared no creative expense in building an institution to secure the patronage of the highest in the land, when Britain ruled the waves and a third of the world. Embellishing the eight townhouses, the surface of brick and stone was broken into turrets, balconies, arches, columns, cornices, gable ends, consoles and copings, all overlaid with scrollwork and bas-reliefs topped by a monumental frieze – actually carved out of the brickwork – in which Shakespearean characters disport themselves. He meant it to be exclusive – and exclusive it has remained.
TOWNHOUSES

The original eight townhouses that comprise St. James’ Court, A Taj Hotel and Taj 51 Buckingham Gate stand tall today, overlooking the secluded courtyard with its delightful cherub-adorned Victorian fountain, restored to its original glory, as the centre piece. The surrounding porches glitter with a sea-green faience glaze while the endless frieze carved from the red brick runs right around the quadrangle featuring sylvan scenes from Shakespeare’s plays.

Kings Townhouse
The Kings Townhouse features urban chic décor and hosts junior and one-bedroom suites, with a floor of residences of up to seven bedrooms and a select number of three bedroom suites. Kings has its own private entrance offering discretion to all guests.

Minsters Townhouse
Minsters marks the central entrance to the enthralling Taj 51 Buckingham Gate, offering contemporary and chic accommodation. Minsters plays host to royalty, dignitaries and celebrities, housing the signature Jaguar and Cinema suites, the Presidential Residence a distinct six bedroom floor and the Prime Minister’s Residence inspired by 10 Downing Street.

Falconers Townhouse
Falconers offers stylish and homely British décor and hosts one and two bedroom suites, forming residences of up to seven bedrooms, making it ideal for families and extended stays alike.
The Jaguar Suite
The world’s only Jaguar Suite is an exciting collaboration between two iconic Tata Group brands, Taj and Jaguar. The sleek design of this 1,832 square foot, two-bedroom abode alludes to classic and contemporary Jaguar models, from the legendary 1960’s E-type to the state-of-the-art C-X75. Overseen by Jaguar Design Director Ian Callum and his in-house design team, the suite features specially commissioned auto-inspired artwork and displays. Using material taken from the cars, such as leather, metal and high gloss veneer, the suite nods to the legacy and vision of Jaguar’s timeless style.

The Jaguar experience starts subtly at the door, with sleek wood panelling greeting guests on arrival and Jaguar damask lining the bedroom walls. Intriguing design features are evident throughout, from the minimalistic clean-fuel fireplace referencing the shape of the brand’s hallmark rear window to the finest leather that lines the cars, ebony veneer doors and custom-made Jaguar wallpaper. Small Jaguar wave motifs and Jaguar trapeze detailing accompany an array of carefully selected collector’s items that adorn the suite and will be familiar sights to those who know and love these luxury motoring masterpieces.

The spacious yet homely living room with a courtyard-facing balcony has one wall covered in Italian leather, embedded with a 42-inch television featuring a Denon and Crestron sound system above the modern and minimalist clean-fuel fireplace.

The Cinema Suite
A journey through world cinema and an ode to tradition - created by acclaimed designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee. This 1,832 square foot two bedroom suite with a dining room, study, powder room and kitchen, is designed in tribute to the history of film, most notably the era of 1940s and 1950s Hollywood and Indian Cinema. Guests will find reference to masters like Ray, Coppola and Bergman in the imposing study and world cinema leaders like Majidi, Wong Kar-Wai and Almodovar amongst the cultured kitsch of the living room. One bedroom is reminiscent of the golden era of Rita Hayworth and Marilyn Monroe whilst the Master Bedroom draws on colonial inspiration and artists like Guru Dutt, Merchant Ivory and Bimal Roy.

Marvel at rare film prints, history books, vintage mirrors, myriad portraits and crafts - from the leather Chesterfield to precious glassware, intriguing art and antique rugs. Each wall is a work of art, with striking Nina Campbell wallpapers and curios from over thirty cultures. The suite displays sumptuous silk drapery, magnificent oak flooring, antique furniture and rare Chinese porcelain, Bhutanese frames and 1920s embroidered Indian lamps.

An urban cocoon with cutting-edge technology and glamorous design - the 85-inch plasma cinema screen, with a 3D home theatre system, is the biggest private screen in a London hotel suite. The Steinway Lyngdorf sound system makes for a fully immersive cinematic experience, acknowledging that time is well spent amongst films, art and culture.
RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences offers an exceptional range of dining options with five restaurants including Michelin-star Quilon with its progressive Indian South West coastal cuisine, contemporary European Kona, the summer alfresco Courtyard as well as Bistro and Bombay Brasserie.

Quilon
The signature Michelin star restaurant brings the extraordinarily diverse cuisine of India’s South West coast to the heart of Westminster, courtesy Chef Sriram Aylur. A passion for contemporary cuisine from the region, a dedication to the freshest ingredients and a playful blend of traditional home cooking with innovative technique and presentation make for a thrilling and unique dining experience. At Quilon, modern healthy dishes are created with flair, style and a deep respect for authenticity, reflected in nuances like importing a larger variety of species than any other restaurant in Britain, ground and mixed carefully to create unique recipes, traditional fare and progressive dishes. The tantalising food is accompanied by a handpicked and award-winning wine and beer selection complementing the contrasting flavours and subtle textures of the menu.

Kona
Kona offers an innovative interpretation of the colours, flavours and vibrancy of European cuisine, marrying contemporary styling with traditional cooking techniques. Fresh ingredients and predominantly sustainable produce from within 120 miles are served in an elegant environment with homely, welcoming warmth. Modern and forward, yet etymologically rooted in the Proto-Indo-European roots of Sanskrit and Latin, the name Kona denotes comfort and cosiness and celebrates the provenance and proximity of the cuisine sources. It is exotic and personal, while balancing luxurious indulgence with delightfully fresh simplicity and extravagance in flavour. Kona also serves the celebrated 24 Karat Gold Afternoon Tea, an opulent experience featuring 24K Brut Champagne and decadent delights with edible gold flakes.

St. James’ Courtyard
Relax in the award-winning open yard, an al fresco wonderland boasting the world’s longest sylvan Shakespearean frieze. Enjoy traditional and innovative afternoon teas, al fresco dining and cocktails with a twist in a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of Central London. This secluded hidden gem is set around the historic Victorian fountain, overlooked by a Private Dining Terrace and ideal for summer events.

Bombay Brasserie
Located in eternally fashionable Kensington, London’s most iconic Indian restaurant, Bombay Brasserie has paved the way for Indian and Bombay cuisine since its inception in 1982. The treasured favourite of the glitterati, politicos and captains of industry, Bombay Brasserie reflects the cultural diversity of Bombay, with influences from Parsi, Goan, Bengali, Gujarati, as well as the Portuguese and Raj cuisines. The dishes on the menu today have been served on the tables of past Mughal Emperors and the spice traders of Goa. Like the city, Bombay Brasserie has evolved, while remaining true to its raison d’être of bringing authentic Indian cuisine to guests from every corner of the globe.
EXPERIENCES

Guests at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences can make the most of one of the finest Golden Keys Concierge services, multi-lingual staff, experienced security personnel, babysitting services, a dedicated 24/7 business centre, courier and currency exchange services. All the suites offer complimentary high speed wireless internet, personal butler and twice daily maid service, 24-hour in-room dining, in-room safes, washer-dryers, Nespresso coffee machines, laundry and dry-cleaning services, iPod docking stations and DVD players.

Wellness Centre
Our bespoke treatment approach means our highly trained therapists focus on ‘made-to-measure’ programmes, tailored to guests’ requirements. Each treatment begins with a full consultation, where a therapist consults the guest on his or her specific needs. The treatments are then adapted and ‘made-to-measure’.

The Wellness Centre comprises treatment rooms, with mood-adjusting lights and ambient music, designed to aid relaxation. In addition to the treatment rooms, guests have complimentary use of the fitness centre’s saunas and steam rooms. A dedicated team of personal trainers are also on hand to assist.

Discover London
Discover the heritage and history of St. James’ Court and the Westminster area with the Taj Heritage walk, commencing from the Courtyard to world heritage sites and local flavours like Westminster Cathedral, Strutton Ground Market, Westminster Abbey, the Victoria Tower Gardens and the Queen’s Gallery at Buckingham Palace. Or go on a guided tour with the Chef at the famous Borough market - a feast for all your senses. Browse the fares on offer and while you’re at it, hold Chef true to the motto of a Chef being only as good as his ingredients by picking yours for a bespoke meal when you get back.

For an exquisite experience, choose from the United Kingdom’s most extensive fleet of exclusive vintage and classic vehicles, including the Queen Mother’s favourite Jaguar DS420 Daimler limousine ‘Grand Princess’, the famous Downton Abbey Rolls Royce ‘Gabriella’ and Lord Mountbatten’s vintage Daimler ‘Silver Baroness’ available for transfers, leisure excursions and day trips.