

**SOMERSET
HOUSE** step inside think outside

SUMMER 2025 ON THE RIVER TERRACE

A glamorous, alfresco, central London setting to entertain your guests



THE HOME OF CULTURAL INNOVATORS

Somerset House connects creativity and the arts with wider society, bringing minds together to intensify creativity and multiply opportunity, driving artistic and social innovation at once.

Home to the UK's largest creative community, working globally across art, technology, business and social enterprise, we draw fresh ideas and new talent in, attracting over 2.9 million visitors a year to our historic central London location.

Run as an independent charity by the Somerset House Trust, all event hire income directly contributes to our diverse cultural programme, pioneering engagement & skills work, support of emerging artists and helps to maintain our historic Grade I listed site.

You can be confident that your event will directly support an organisation offering immense value to an audience which goes far beyond your attendees.

THE RIVER TERRACE

Set against the backdrop of Somerset House's iconic 18th century façade and with sweeping views across the Thames, the River Terrace is our most exclusive outdoor space - the perfect location for a standing reception for up to 500 guests.

For the very first time, on selected dates in May, June and September 2025, there will be a stretch tent in situ for exclusive use.



YOUR HIRE

	SUPPLIER ACCESS	GUEST ACCESS	HIRE FEE
EVENING HIRE	Set up : from 16:00 De-install: 23:00-00:30	18.30 – 23.00	Mon-Tues & Fri-Sun: £16,000 + VAT Weds-Thurs: £17,000+VAT

Depending on your event requirements, suppliers may require additional time. In this instance, you can either adjust your guest timings accordingly or pay for additional hours outside of your Hire Period.

INCLUDED

- Stretch tent with lighting (*on selected dates in May, June and September 2025*)
- Event security
- Event Manager from the venue, to support with the planning process
- A dedicated Operations Manager on the day of your event
- Pre and post event cleaning of the event space

ACCREDITED SUPPLIERS

Catering and any additional AV, production requirements, are separate to the venue hire fee and can be provided by one of our accredited suppliers - details of which can be found [here](#). Please note that, as a Grade I Listed Building, you are required to work with our Accredited Suppliers for all elements of your event.

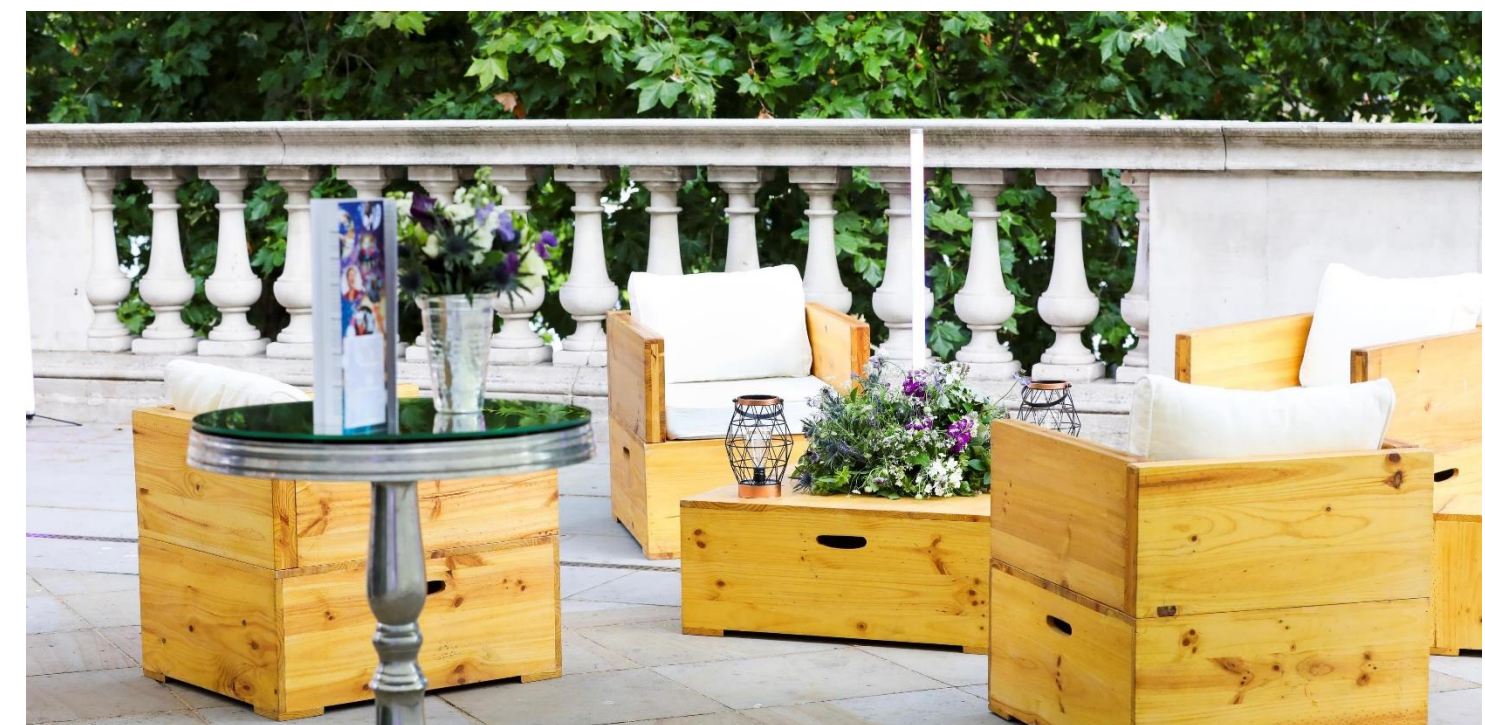
ADDITIONAL HOURS

If you would like to extend access outside of the standard hire times there is an additional cost of £1,500 + VAT per hour. Our late license on the River Terrace is till 00:00. Late night licenses are subject to approval and available on request.





THE STREETCH TENT



ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE

From season to season, our cultural programme is ever changing, offering opportunities to provide guests with an unforgettable experience at Somerset House. Speak to the team and discover how you can make the most of our unique offering by incorporating the programme into your event.

EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITION ACCESS

Combine your event with a private view of Somerset House's curated exhibitions. Starting from £2,000+VAT.

Options to include a curated tour or talk on the themes of the exhibition are also available at an additional cost.

GUEST TICKETS

Surprise your guests with tickets to an exhibition or live event alongside your event.

See [What's On](#).

THE COURTAULD

Home to one of the greatest art collections in the UK and located in the historical setting of Somerset House, options to combine your event with a private view of **The Courtauld** are also available. Find out more [here](#).

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

In this 1 hour experience, you'll take a walk through the varied and surprising history of the site, take a peek behind closed doors, step into our fascinating Deadhouse, explore an unrivalled architectural gem and learn more about the very special story of this building and amazing individuals who have lived and worked here across the centuries.

Tours are available for up to 20 people and two tours can run simultaneously. Starting from £400+VAT per tour.

PAY IT FORWARD

Should you choose to enhance your event, you will be supporting one of our focus groups by automatically opting in to donate tickets to them.

Somerset House's Engagement & Skills activity exists to deepen and widen engagement, to remove barriers and increase representation across the arts and creative sectors and within our workforce and audiences. It focuses on targeted groups for 2+ years to establish meaningful relationships. We look at those groups which identify as underrepresented in the sector's audiences and workforce, and work with partners to reach those we wish to engage.

Our focus groups include those who identify as underrepresented in the sector's audiences and workforce; 16-30-year-olds; single parent families; young refugees; young carers; LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming young people of colour.

YOUR HIRE

ACCREDITED SUPPLIERS

Catering, AV, production and all other requirements, including furniture, are separate to the venue hire quote and can be provided by one of our accredited suppliers - details of which can be found [here](#).

Please note that as Somerset House is a Grade 1 listed building, we do not allow any non-accredited suppliers to work onsite. If you would like us to gather some initial quotes on your behalf, then please do send a full brief of your requirements for the event.

REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT

A refundable security deposit is required for all bookings. The amount of deposit owed is calculated on the length of hire period and will be invoiced separately from the Hire Fee. This deposit is fully refundable up to 30 days after the event, subject to no damage having been caused to the building or overrunning of the contracted timings.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Somerset House require all clients to have £10 million public liability insurance.

WI-FI

Complimentary browsing Wi-Fi of 15Mbps is included within your hire. Upgrades are available at an additional cost.

SITE ACTIVITY

As an arts and culture centre open to the public, we cannot always confirm what might be happening in the Courtyard or around the rest of the public areas at Somerset House at that time, and we cannot guarantee that our fountains will be on at that time. We have a very exciting and constantly expanding public programme, which sees lots of different installations, exhibitions, artwork, and public events all over the site. It is a huge part of what makes us Somerset House. There are also occasions where essential works need to take place on the building and these instances are out of our control.

OPT-IN TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG TALENT FUND

Somerset House's Young Talent Fund supports the next generation of early career creatives and artists to fulfil their potential, by providing financial relief to resident artists and opportunities to under-represented young people aged 18-25.

Since the emergence of the pandemic, the Young Talent Fund has become critical in allowing us to break down barriers and tackle inequality. The fund directly supports Upgrade Yourself, offering digital training, networking, upskilling, and a pioneering London Living Wage paid industry placement scheme for young people; and Somerset House's Studios', providing the space and conditions in which over a hundred pioneering interdisciplinary artists can thrive.

If you would like to support this fund by making a donation please speak to a member of our team. Your support will help to secure a future for our creative community for many years to come. Thank you.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive community reflecting the diversity of our society. A community where everyone feels valued, where their contribution matters and where they can reach their full potential, irrespective of their background, identity or circumstances. We aim to ensure the diversity of all our staff reflects our society as fully as possible. Similarly, we aim to be home to a resident community of artists and enterprises from an equally diverse range of situations, backgrounds, and disciplines. Ongoing initiatives include running the Black Business Incubator.

ANTI-RACISM

Somerset House is committed to being actively anti-racist and publicly releases updates on the actions it is taking in relation to its Anti-Racism Pledge every six months. We recognise that this is a journey. We have divided our focus into 5 key areas: History, Community, Workforce & Recruitment, Language and Procedures & Policy. A comprehensive list of our current actions can be found [here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability and responsible event management are of paramount importance to Somerset House and, by extension, our Accredited Suppliers.

You can download our sustainability booklet, outlining what we are up to and top tips on how to host a sustainable event at Somerset House, [here](#).

LONDON LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

Somerset House is proud to be an accredited Living Wage payer. We pay all our staff and sub-contractors the London Living Wage.



SOMERSET HOUSE

OUR BUILDING

Over **500,000**
SQ FT
of Grade I listed architecture

OUR VISITORS

OVER
2.9 MILLION
VISITORS ANNUALLY

OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Creative Enterprise

450+
resident organisations

Artists & Makers

400+
SOMERSET
HOUSE
STUDIOS

Our Neighbours

THE
COURTAULD and
KING'S
COLLEGE LONDON

2,500+
People working
in the creative
industries

Somerset House
Studios artists and
Makerversity
members

OUR PEOPLE

120 **100+**
Staff Volunteers



Download our Venue Hire Brochure [here](#)

Download our Brand Activation Brochure [here](#)

View our virtual tours: [360 Footage of Somerset House Event Spaces](#)

CONTACT US

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somersethouse.org.uk/venue-hire

OUR LOCATION

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