



## Looking ahead to 2025: Royal Events

2025 is shaping up to be a royally exciting year, with an array of events that offer a glimpse into British traditions and royal life. This summer, all eyes will also be on King Charles III as he celebrates his 75th birthday in June. Whether visitors are keen to experience the elegance of Royal Ascot, soak in the grandeur of Trooping the Colour, or be immersed in Scotland's Highland Games, there is something for everyone. Don't miss the lively Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the historic Ceremony of the Keys, or the chance to explore the regal past with exhibitions like Royal Portraits: A Century of Photography at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Get ready to step into Britain's rich heritage with these royal spectacles.

## **Trooping the Colour, London, England**

*14 June 2025*

[Trooping the Colour](#) is a grand spectacle held in London each June to celebrate the sovereign's official birthday. In 2025, the event takes on added significance as King Charles III marks his 75th birthday – a royal milestone expected to be honoured with extra pageantry and celebration. This iconic event brings together more than 1,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians for a dazzling display of military tradition. The parade, dating back to the 17th century, starts from Buckingham Palace and proceeds down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, where members of the Royal Family gather to watch the display. The highlight is the King's inspection of the troops, after which the Royal Family makes a balcony appearance at Buckingham Palace. The event concludes with a fly-past by the Royal Air Force, featuring everything from historic Spitfires to modern fighter jets. It's advised to arrive early as crowds begin gathering as early as 9am. Limited seated tickets are available via a ballot, but standing areas are free and open to the public.

## **Royal Ascot, Berkshire, England**

*17 – 21 June 2025*

[Royal Ascot](#), held over five days in June in the Berkshire countryside, is the highlight of Britain's summer season. Known for its elegance and for appearances by the Royal Family, Ascot offers an experience that blends the thrill of world-class horse racing with British high society. Each day begins with the Royal Procession at 2pm, a spectacle as horse-drawn carriages deliver the Royal Family to the Royal Box. Tickets for Thursday's Ladies' Day and Saturday's events are highly sought-after, with options for upgrades that include access to private bars and gourmet dining. Dress codes add a touch of British glamour – think top hats, tailcoats, and elaborate fascinators. Ascot is just a short train-ride from London, making it easy for visitors to soak up a slice of quintessentially British sporting history.

## **Windsor Castle Guard Change, Windsor, England**

*Happens three times a week at 11am*

The [Changing the Guard](#) ceremony at Windsor Castle is one of the country's most iconic traditions. Set against the majestic backdrop of Windsor Castle, the ceremony involves the Old Guard handing over responsibilities to the New Guard, led by a Regimental Band, Corps of Drums or Pipe Band. The ceremony begins with the Old Guard, dressed in their red tunics and bearskin hats, forming up outside the Guard Room as the New Guard arrives. Visitors can watch from a designated area near the Guard Room, where they can view both the procession and the exchange. Exact dates and further details can be found [here](#)

## **Ceremony of the Keys, Tower of London, England**

*Happens every night at precisely 9:53 pm*

[The Ceremony of the Keys](#) is a historic ritual that has taken place every night at the Tower of London for over 700 years, marking the official locking of the Tower gates. At exactly seven minutes to 10pm, the Chief Yeoman Warder, dressed in the iconic Beefeater uniform, is escorted by a member of the Tower Guard to secure the ancient fortress. The Chief Yeoman Warder approaches with the ceremonial keys, calling, "Halt, who comes there?" to which the guard responds, "The keys!" This exchange is followed by a salute, and the Warder and guard watch as the doors are locked.

## **Highland Games, Scotland**

*Spring to early autumn*

[The Highland Games](#) are a celebration of Scottish heritage and sportsmanship, taking place in towns and villages across Scotland from spring to early autumn. These events highlight traditional Scottish sports, music and dance, with activities ranging from iconic events like caber tossing and hammer throwing to tug-of-war and stone put. Beyond the competitions, visitors can enjoy the sound of bagpipes and drums, admire Highland dancing performances, and marvel at colourful clan parades, where local families display their tartans. Food stalls serve up traditional Scottish fare, and vendors offer handcrafted items, including kilts and heritage gifts. The Braemar Gathering (6 September 2025) in the Cairngorms, attended annually by the Royal Family, is one of the most famous Highland Games events. But other gatherings like Inverness (12 July 2025) also draw large crowds.

### **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh Castle, Scotland**

*1-23 August 2025*

[The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo](#) is a spectacular showcase of military music, precision and tradition set against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. Taking place each August, this world-renowned event brings together military regiments, marching bands, pipers, drummers and dancers from across the globe in a vibrant nightly performance. With bagpipe music, well-rehearsed choreography and a grand finale of fireworks lighting up the Edinburgh sky, the Tattoo is an immersive experience that celebrates Scotland's cultural heritage. Each year's show has a unique theme, incorporating new acts and elements to make each performance fresh and exciting. Book well in advance, as the Tattoo is extremely popular and often sells out in advance.

### ***Royal Portraits: A Century of Photography*, The King's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, Scotland**

[The Royal Portraits: A Century of Photography](#) exhibition at The King's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, offers a glimpse into the British monarchy over the past 100 years through an array of photographic portraits. This exhibition features iconic images of British royals, capturing formal moments and family life. From early black-and-white photography to contemporary digital shots, visitors can explore the evolving image of the monarchy across generations.

### ***The Edwardians: Age of Elegance*, The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, London**

Step into the elegance of Edwardian Britain with [The Edwardians: Age of Elegance](#) exhibition at The King's Gallery in Buckingham Palace. This exhibition brings to life the opulent lifestyle, art and fashion of the Edwardian era, spanning the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. Displaying portraits, fine art, and historical artifacts that reflect the refinement and social changes of the period, the Edwardian age offers a window into British aristocratic society.

### **Highgrove Gardens, Gloucestershire**

[Highgrove Gardens](#) in Gloucestershire is a botanical haven fit for a King – literally! Owned by King Charles III since 1980, these stunning gardens reflect his commitment to sustainability and the environment. Visitors can mark the 20th wedding anniversary of Their Royal Highnesses Charles and Camilla by strolling through the landscaped grounds, from the Wildflower Meadow to the Thyme Walk, or by enjoying a champagne tea tour or a meal at the Orchard Room.

### **The State Rooms at Buckingham Palace, London**

Experience the grandeur of British royalty with a visit to the [State Rooms](#) at Buckingham Palace. Open to the public during the summer season, these opulent rooms showcase glittering chandeliers, exquisite furniture and remarkable works of art, all steeped in history. Visitors will step into spaces used for official ceremonies and royal receptions, offering a rare glimpse into the monarch's working residence. Highlights include the Throne Room, the Picture Gallery and the Ballroom, where state banquets are held. Guided tours will be available to gain a deeper insight

into the history of the rooms.