



Britische Botschaft  
Berlin



Press Kit, 23 June 2015

**State Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Germany**

**23 – 26 June 2015**



## Britische Botschaft Berlin

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## **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in Germany**

### **An Overview of the visit programme**

Queen Elizabeth II accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh will pay a State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany from 23 to 26 June 2015. The visit by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness is at the invitation of the Federal President Joachim Gauck.

#### Tuesday 23 June

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will arrive at Berlin-Tegel airport in the early evening and will be received by an honour guard and 21-gun salute.

#### Wednesday 24th June

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will be ceremonially welcomed with military honours at Bellevue Palace, the official residence of President Gauck. They will then travel by boat along the River Spree, before The Queen meets Chancellor Angela Merkel. The Queen will then lay a wreath at Germany's Central Memorial for the victims of war and tyranny. In the afternoon, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the 50th anniversary Queen's Lecture at Berlin Technical University. The Queen launched this lecture series during her first State Visit to Germany in 1965. This year's lecturer is Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum and soon to be Chair of the Advisory Board to the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. That evening The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will return to Bellevue Palace for a State Banquet hosted by President Gauck.

#### Thursday 25th June

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will travel with President Gauck and Ms Schadt to Frankfurt. There they will visit St Paul's Church, where they will meet representatives of the local community and hear about the significance of the building as the birthplace of parliamentary democracy in Germany.

The Minister-President of Hesse and the Mayor of Frankfurt will then jointly host a lunch in honour of The Queen at the Römer, which has been Frankfurt's Town Hall for more than six centuries.

After leaving the Römer, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will greet members of the public in the central square. On returning to Berlin that evening, they will attend a Garden Party hosted by the British Ambassador.

#### Friday 26th June

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will greet members of the public at Pariser Platz and view



the Brandenburg Gate with the Mayor of Berlin. They will then drive through the Brandenburg Gate on their way to the airport to fly to Celle Military Airport. In Lower Saxony they will visit the Bergen-Belsen memorial site. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will lay a wreath at the inscription wall. They will then return to Celle Military Airport for a farewell with the local community before departing for the UK.

**The British Ambassador to Germany Sir Simon McDonald is looking forward to the visit:**

"I am honoured that Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will make a State Visit to Germany this month. They will visit three Bundesländer over four days. For the first time, The Queen will go to Frankfurt am Main, the biggest German city that Her Majesty has not yet visited. The programme will include opportunities for as many Germans as possible to see Her Majesty and will celebrate the strong relationship between Britain and Germany. "

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](https://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](https://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## Her Majesty The Queen

### Biography

Her Majesty The Queen is Head of State of the UK and 15 other Commonwealth realms.

The Queen was born on 21 April 1926 in Mayfair, London. She was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Princess Elizabeth was educated at home with Princess Margaret, her younger sister. When her father succeeded to the throne in 1936 after the abdication of King Edward VIII, she became heir presumptive. She started to study constitutional history and law as preparation for her future role. Princess Elizabeth also studied art and music, learned to ride, and became a strong swimmer.

In 1940, at the height of the Blitz, the young Princesses were moved for their safety to Windsor Castle, where they spent most of the war years.

In 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Mountbatten, now His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and a great-great-grandson of Queen Victoria. They have four children. Prince Charles, now The Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the throne, was born in 1948, and his sister, Princess Anne, now The Princess Royal, two years later.

In February 1952, while visiting Kenya, Princess Elizabeth received the news of her father's death and her own accession to the throne. The young Princess flew back to Britain as Queen. She was greeted by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other officials at the airport. The Coronation took place in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953.

In the 1960s, Queen Elizabeth gave birth to Prince Andrew (1960) and Prince Edward (1964). They were the first children to be born to a reigning monarch since Queen Victoria.

In 1977, Britain and the Commonwealth celebrated the Queen's 25 years on the Throne – her Silver Jubilee. These were followed by celebrations marking her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002 and her Diamond Jubilee (60 years) in 2012. In September this year, The Queen will overtake Queen Victoria and become Britain's longest reigning monarch.

The Queen is involved in numerous charities and other organisations. She has over 600 patronages covering every area of the charity and voluntary sector, from opportunities for young people, to preservation of wildlife and the environment.



Family life has been an essential support to The Queen throughout her reign. Today, the Queen and Prince Philip have eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The youngest is Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, born on 2 May.

For more information on Her Majesty The Queen and the Monarchy please visit [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk).

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](http://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](http://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## **His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh Biography**

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was born Prince of Greece and Denmark in Corfu on 10 June 1921. His paternal family is of Danish descent. His mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg.

After his family was forced to leave Greece in the 1920s, Prince Philip started school in France but came to England to attend school in 1928. He left at 12 to spend a year at Salem School in south Germany. He then went to Gordonstoun School in Morayshire, Scotland.

Prince Philip left Gordonstoun in 1939 and joined the Royal Navy as a Cadet. After completing his initial training, he served on battleships in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean, and in the Allied landings in Sicily during the Second World War. He was serving as First Lieutenant on HMS Whelp in Tokyo Bay when Japan signed the surrender. He left active service with the Royal Navy in 1952 having reached the rank of Commander.

In 1947, Lieutenant Mountbatten became engaged to Princess Elizabeth, the elder daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. He had previously adopted the family name of Mountbatten and became a naturalised British subject. Shortly before the wedding, he was created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich with the style of His Royal Highness.

The Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Elizabeth had two children – Prince Charles and Princess Anne – before Princess Elizabeth became Queen in February 1952. In the 1960s, the couple had two further children: Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

The Duke of Edinburgh accompanies The Queen on all her Commonwealth tours and State Visits overseas, as well as on tours and visits to all parts of the United Kingdom. He has also travelled abroad a great deal on his own account.

The Duke of Edinburgh is also Patron or President of some 800 organisations. His special interests are scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, and conservation and the environment.

The Prince Philip Designers Prize, established in 1959, rewards the best in design from products and graphics to buildings and feats of engineering. The Duke of Edinburgh himself chairs the judging panel.

Prince Philip is perhaps most closely associated with the Duke of Edinburgh's award. The scheme initially addressed concerns about the development of boys following the Second World War. The



Award continued to evolve over subsequent decades until 1980, when the upper age limit was extended to 24, and the Award took on its current four-section format: Service, Adventurous Journey, Skills and Physical Recreation. Today, over 140 countries and territories run the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](https://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](https://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## Queen Elizabeth II: Previous State and Official Visits to Germany

In 2015, 50 years after their first State Visit in 1965, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will be visiting Germany for the seventh time. There have been four previous State Visits in all (the others were in 1978, 1992 and 2004) and two official visits in 1987 and 2000.

The **first State Visit in 1965**, twenty years after the end of World War II, was characterised by reconciliation between the two countries. The Queen spent 11 days in Germany at the invitation of President Lübke and travelled principally by special train but also by car and steamer through seven of the then ten western Federal States, visiting over 20 cities.

Accompanied by Governing Mayor Willy Brandt, The Queen took a tour of West Berlin, which was divided from East Berlin by the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. As a gift to the people of Berlin, she inaugurated a series of annual lectures by renowned British scientists at the Technical University which is known as the “Queen’s Lectures”.

The **second State Visit in May 1978** took place in the middle of the Cold War. The Queen visited Bonn, Mainz, Bremen, Bremerhaven and Kiel hosted by President Scheel. She also visited West Berlin again, walking with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt from the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church to the Ku’Damm.

She paid her **third State Visit in October 1992** at the invitation of Richard von Weizsäcker shortly after German reunification and the collapse of the Soviet Union. This was her first visit to anywhere in Europe previously behind the Iron Curtain. She visited Dresden, Leipzig, Potsdam and the eastern part of Berlin, where a member of the public pressed a piece of the Wall into her hand.

The past but also the future of British-German relations were central themes of the **fourth State Visit in November 2004**. In Berlin, the Queen hosted a gala concert at the Philharmonie which raised € 358,000 towards the rebuilding of the Frauenkirche in Dresden. At a State banquet in Berlin hosted by President Köhler, Queen Elizabeth spoke out against “stereotypical views” in British-German relations and proposed stronger contacts between German and British young people. To this end the two governments founded the exchange programme “[UK-German Connection](#)” in 2005.

In addition to the State Visits, Queen Elizabeth also paid two official visits to Germany: in 1987 for the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berlin and in 2000 for the opening of the British Embassy in Wilhelmstraße. There have also been numerous visits to British forces stationed in Germany.



Recent visits to Germany by other members of the Royal Family:

**The Duke of Gloucester** represented Her Majesty at the official commemoration marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 2015.

**The Duke of Kent**, represented Her Majesty at a commemorative ceremony in Dresden in February 2015 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WWII bombing of the city. He attended a memorial service in the Frauenkirche with which he has strong personal links: as patron of the Dresden Trust he was closely involved in its reconstruction. The following day he was awarded Dresden's international Peace Prize at a ceremony in the Semperoper for his contribution to British-German reconciliation.

**The Duke of York** visited Lower Saxony in June 2014 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Personal Union of the Crowns of Britain and Hanover. The Duke attended the State Exhibition "When the Royals Came From Hanover" and paid a visit to the historic University of Göttingen, founded by George II. The Duke learned about Germany's dual training and management schemes during visits to Volkswagen and TUI and acted as Guest of Honour at the annual "Queen's Birthday Party", held in the reconstructed Herrenhausen Palace.

**Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie** visited Germany on their first joint overseas engagement in January 2013. In Berlin, they launched the British Embassy's Great Britain Mini Tour as part of the British Embassy's global GREAT campaign. In Hanover, they attended the opening of the reconstructed Herrenhausen Palace, the summer residence of the House of Hanover,. The Palace had been reconstructed ahead of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Personal Union" of the Crowns of Britain and Hanover in 2014.

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk  
www.facebook.com/UKinGermany | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](http://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## Partners in Europe

### The British-German relationship today

**Economic Relations:** Germany is the UK's second largest export market worldwide after the US, and provider of the greatest share of UK imports. The UK is one of the first investment destinations for German companies: about 2,200 companies including E.ON, BMW, RWE and Siemens have a presence in the UK, employing almost 350,000 people. Almost every tenth foreign company in Germany is British. There are over 1,200 British companies in Germany, employing over 200,000 people.

**European and international affairs:** The UK and Germany are both members of the G7. They are close partners in Europe and were the largest net contributors to the EU budget in 2014. The UK and Germany are working together through the EU and NATO to respond to the crisis caused by Russia's failure to respect Ukraine's sovereignty. The UK and Germany are also close partners in tackling ISIL and are among the largest contributors of humanitarian aid to the victims of the Syrian civil war. Both countries are working together in the nuclear negotiations with Iran. Germany is also a key partner for the UK on the EU Reform agenda. Following the NATO mission in Afghanistan, where the UK and Germany provided the largest contingents of European troops, British and German armed forces continue to make a major contribution to multilateral operations across the world.

**Tourism:** Almost 2.3 million Britons travel to Germany each year; the British are the largest visitor group to the capital, Berlin. More than 3.2 million Germans visited Britain in 2014, an increase of 6% on the previous year. Just over 130,000 German nationals live permanently in the UK. Around 100,000 British nationals live in Germany.

**A Shared History:** Britain and Germany's shared history began over one thousand years ago with the arrival of the Angles and Saxons from northern Germany, and expanded through maritime trade links between the Hanseatic cities and English ports from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Britain and Germany were bound even closer together with the union of the crowns of Hanover and Great Britain, which lasted 123 years and provided five British kings. The Duke of York attended the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Union in Hanover last year. The first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a dark period in the British-German relationship. But the end of the Second World War 70 years ago ushered in a new alliance between the UK and Germany. Precipitated by the Cold War, the role of British troops



in Germany quickly changed from one of occupier to protector, with British forces playing a key role in the Berlin Airlift. The partnership between Coventry and Dresden remains the ultimate symbol of British-German reconciliation.

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](https://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](https://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## The Individual Programme Elements of the Visit

The June 2015 State Visit will celebrate the breadth, depth and continuity of the German-British relationship. This will be marked by the many interesting people Her Majesty will meet, the places in Germany she will see and the activities she will undertake.

The programme reflects the vibrancy and intensity of the bilateral relationship and its continuity through the younger generations. There are also a few elements which recall the past: the birth of parliamentary democracy in Germany, and the reconciliation which the countries have achieved since the horrors of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

It is the fifth State Visit of Her Majesty to Germany, the first was 50 years ago, in June 1965.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will travel in their own car, a Bentley brought over from the UK for the State Visit.

During the visit the [Royal Standard](#) will be flown on the Adlon Hotel and the British Ambassador's residence while Her Majesty is present on the premises.

### Arrival in Germany

23 June, 19.00

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be met on arrival at Berlin Tegel inside their aircraft by British Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald and Ambassador Jürgen Mertens, Chief of Protocol in the German Foreign Ministry. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be accompanied on their visit by the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond. They will be received by an honour guard and be greeted by senior British and German dignitaries and officials, including the British Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald. They will then depart to the Adlon Hotel.

### Bellevue Palace

24 June, 10.35

Federal President Gauck and Ms Schadt will welcome Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to their official residence, [Bellevue Palace](#). Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then sign their names in the Guest Book and proceed to the rear garden terrace. Following the playing of both national anthems and an inspection of the Guard of Honour, there will be an encounter with Berlin school children followed by private talks with the President, including an exchange of gifts.



President Gauck visited London in November 2012. He was received in Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

### **Boat trip along the River Spree**

24 June, 11.15

Her Majesty and his Royal Highness, accompanied by President Gauck and Ms Schadt, will travel by boat from Bellevue Palace to the Chancellery for a private audience with Angela Merkel. The trip will last around 15 minutes and allow panoramic views of central Berlin from the unique vantage point of the River Spree.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will travel along the River Spree on the express cruiser *Ajax*. The *Ajax* was built in 1926 by the Engelbrecht shipyard as a private vessel for a Berlin brewing magnate. It was rediscovered in poor condition in a Rhineland shipyard near Cologne in 2007 and was fully restored over the next three years.

Beyond the entire stretch of river on the southern banks is the broad expanse of the Tiergarten, the second largest area of parkland in Berlin covering 520 acres of land. The park was originally created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as hunting grounds for the King of Prussia.

Shortly before reaching the Federal Chancellery, the *Ajax* passes the House of World Cultures, which was conceived in 1957 as a location for international congresses and now serves as Germany's national centre for international contemporary arts, particularly non-European cultures and societies. Owing to its unique shape, local wits were quick to label it "the Pregnant Oyster", and the name has stuck.

The *Ajax* then reaches the new Government quarter, a growing modern architectural collage on the banks of the Spree built to house the relocation of the government from Bonn to Berlin. On a bend in the Spree, the *Ajax* passes the imposing glass facade of the new Berlin Central train station, which was inaugurated by Chancellor Merkel when Germany hosted the football World Cup in 2006.

### **Visit to German Chancellery**

24 June, 12.05

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will travel by car from the River Spree to the [German Chancellery](#) where they will be welcomed by Chancellor Angela Merkel in the ceremonial courtyard outside the front entrance. Chancellor Merkel will then accompany Her Majesty to the Chancellor's private office for bilateral talks, while Chancellery Minister Peter Altmaier will host His Royal Highness in the Cabinet Room for talks.

Angela Merkel visited London in February 2014. In Westminster Hall she gave a speech to representatives of both houses of parliament (making her the third representative of Germany to do so after Brandt and von Weizsäcker). After talks with David Cameron, Merkel's visit ended with an audience with Her Majesty The Queen.



## Central Memorial for the Victims of War and Tyranny (Neue Wache)

24 June, 12.45

Her Majesty will lay a commemorative wreath at Germany's [Central Memorial for the Victims of War and Tyranny](#), welcomed by Vice Admiral Joachim Rühle, and a Guard of Honour at the entrance. As Her Majesty pays silent tribute inside the memorial a lone trumpeter will play "The Good Comrade", a 19<sup>th</sup> century lament that plays a ceremonial role in the German Armed Forces.

The neo-classical *Neue Wache* (New Guardhouse) has been Germany's central memorial for all victims of war and tyranny since 1993. Built in 1816 as a guardhouse for Prussian troops from a design by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, it has been used as a war memorial since 1931, initially during the Weimar Republic and later by the Soviet Union. Inside the building is a single object, located directly under an oculus: an enlarged version of a sculpture by Käthe Kollwitz depicting a mother holding her dead son. The sculptor was moved to create her masterpiece following the loss of her own son in World War I.

## Queen's Lecture, Technical University Berlin

24 June, 14.30

Federal President Gauck will greet Her Majesty and His Royal Highness at the [Technical University Berlin \(TU\)](#) and will introduce them to the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller. The President of the TU, Professor Thomsen, will say a few words to introduce the speaker Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum and soon to be Chair of the Advisory Board to the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. Mr MacGregor will then deliver the Queen's Lecture to an audience of 2,000 TU students and invited guests from the world of science and innovation.

Neil MacGregor's lecture is entitled *Symbols of a Nation*. He will speak about some of the ideas, images and objects that make up the UK in Germany's collective imagination. Last year's exhibition at the British Museum "Germany – Memories of a Nation" provided a new perspective on Germany's national identity to the British audience. Now, Neil MacGregor focuses on the other side of the British-German relationship. In the context of the State Visit of Her Majesty, he examines a range of topics - including plants, pets and politics - from the Houses of Parliament to the English Garden, which are part of the German idea of the United Kingdom. He will look at how this narration reflects and shapes our joint history as European nations.

Following the lecture, Professor Thomsen will guide Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to into the Lichthof (covered courtyard) and introduce the orchestra Collegium Musicum, which is made up of students from the TU Berlin and the Free University Berlin. The orchestra will play a short piece of music (Elgar, Pomp and Circumstance, March No.1). Thereafter Professor Thomsen will lead Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to a table to greet students and junior researchers. The first junior researcher, Martin Berger, will demonstrate a robot and a robotic dog that are used for research at the TU. The second student, Björn Bollensdorff, will demonstrate a camera ball that he has invented, which can take 360 degree photos. The concert and the following reception are attended by students from the four major universities in Berlin (Free University Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, TU, University of Arts). The students all have close links to the UK, be it through student exchange or research links.



Before leaving the TU Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will sign the Golden Book of the TU before a girl will present Her Majesty with some flowers at the main entrance. The TU President will bid Her Majesty and His Royal Highness good-bye, followed by the Mayor of Berlin. President Gauck will accompany Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the car before saying farewell.

During her first State Visit to Germany in 1965, Her Majesty gave an [annual lecture in science, humanities and arts](#) as a gift to the City of Berlin. The first Queen's Lecture was given by Denys Haigh Wilkinson, a British physicist, in 1966. Since 1997 the lecture has taken place annually at the TU Berlin. Previous speakers have included Anthony Giddens, Lord Rees of Ludlow and Dame Wendy Hall. Topics have ranged from robotics, to chemistry, the beginning of the internet to the scientific study of happiness. They celebrate British science and the close links between the research communities in Britain and Germany.

The TU Berlin was re-established after the Second World War in 1946 with support of the British allied forces, establishing a strong relationship between the TU and the UK until today.

### **State Banquet at Bellevue Palace**

24 June, 20.00

The State Banquet will be the centrepiece of Federal President Gauck's hospitality for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness and gather members of the German Government and leading figures in German society and business. Before forming a receiving line to welcome the 140 dinner guests Her Majesty will meet Horst Köhler, former Federal President of Germany, as well as Christina Rau and Marianne von Weizsäcker, widows of former Federal Presidents, in the President's office.

Her Majesty and President Gauck will both give short speeches, in which they will underline the strength and longevity of the German-British relationship. This will be the only speech that Her Majesty delivers during the visit.

A premiere 25 years after reunification, the 2015 State Banquet is the first State Banquet in honour of the Visit of The Queen to Germany that takes place in Bellevue Castle. During Her Majesty's 2004 State Visit Federal President Köhler and his wife hosted a State Banquet at the German History Museum (Zeughaus). Federal President Köhler hosted a lunch at Bellevue for The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in April 2009.

### **Arrival in Frankfurt**

25 June, 11.40

On arrival at Frankfurt am Main airport Her Majesty and HRH will be met by the Chief of Protocol of the State of Hesse, Dieter Beine, who will introduce the Minister-President of the State of Hesse Volker Bouffier and Ursula Bouffier, Her Majesty's Consul-General Düsseldorf Susan Speller, the British Honorary Consul to Frankfurt am Main Dr Andreas Fabritius and Dr Chiara Zilioli-Fabritius. There will be a guard of honour.

During her first State Visit to Germany in 1965 Her Majesty visited Hesse, when she travelled to Wiesbaden.



## **Visit to St Paul's Church**

25 June, 11.45

On arrival at St Paul's Church, Her Majesty, His Royal Highness, President Gauck and Ms Schadt will be met by the Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main, Peter Feldmann. Church bells will ring. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will listen to the Frankfurt Domsingschule choir of 70 young people singing "Die Gedanken sind frei", a 19<sup>th</sup> century German song about freedom of thought.

Accompanied by President Gauck and Ms Schadt, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then meet representatives of the local community from the field of arts, academia, business, charities and sports inside the church, including one of the winners of the British Embassy's Facebook competition to nominate deserving people in Germany to participate in the State Visit, a teacher from Lower Saxony. Afterwards the Mayor will give a brief explanation of the church and show Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the "Golden Bull" of the City, which dates from 1356 and was the most important constitutional document of the Holy Roman Empire, setting out the system of electing the Holy Roman Emperor. It was named after its golden seal (*bullae aurea* in Latin).

St Paul's Church is the birthplace of parliamentary democracy in Germany – the seat of the former Frankfurt Assembly, the first freely-elected German legislative body, which convened in St Paul's Church during the revolutionary years of 1848-1849 in an ultimately thwarted attempt to create a constitution for a united Germany.

Her Majesty's visit to the birthplace of German democracy comes just one week after the commemorations of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta, which represented one of the first steps towards democracy and the rule of law in the UK. The Magna Carta has influenced democratic thinking far beyond the UK's borders; and the principles it enshrines – equality before the law, limits to the arbitrary exercise of power, due and fair process for citizens – are still relevant today.

## **Visit to the Römer**

25 June, 12.45

Her Majesty, His Royal Highness, President Gauck and Ms Schadt will attend a lunch hosted jointly by the Minister-President of Hesse Volker Bouffier and the Mayor of Frankfurt Peter Feldmann in the Römer, the building that has been Frankfurt's City Hall since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Following the lunch, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will sign the Golden Book and then greet the public from the balcony of the Kaisersaal which looks over the Römerberg Platz. They will also meet members of the public when departing through the historic door and via the main square.

## **Departing Frankfurt for Berlin**

25 June, 15.30

At Frankfurt airport, Minister-President Bouffier and Frau Bouffier will say farewell. Her Majesty, His Royal Highness, President Gauck and Ms Schadt will depart for Berlin together.

## **Queen's Birthday Party**

25 June, 18.35



The Queen's Birthday Party is the main element of return hospitality during the State Visit. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will meet members of the Federal and Länder governments, as well as leading business and society figures and British Community representatives.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be met on arrival at the British Ambassador's Residence by Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald and the Hon. Lady McDonald. Following President Gauck's and Ms Schadt's arrival the whole party will move to the Residence's library to be introduced to those Ministers-Presidents of the German Länder present.

A fanfare will be played before the Royal Party appears in the garden. Her Majesty will proceed clockwise, meeting members of the German Cabinet and groups of German businessmen, junior ministers and politicians, and a number of other prominent figures in German cultural and academic life. In the final group, Her Majesty will meet Katherina Reiche MP, who will show Her Majesty a brick commemorating her visit, which will be used in the reconstruction of the Garrison Church in Potsdam. The church was badly damaged by RAF bombing in 1945 and later demolished by the East German regime.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by Ms Schadt and Lady McDonald, will follow the path anti-clockwise. He will also meet the Cabinet Ministers present, followed by senior representatives of the German military, a group of young people participating in the [UK-German Connection](#) (a joint government initiative established by Her Majesty's 2004 visit to Germany, see below) and members of the British community.

Two winners of the British Embassy's Facebook competition to nominate people who had contributed to German-British engagement and understanding to participate in the State Visit will also attend the Queen's Birthday Party: a photographer from Berlin and a primary school teacher from Brandenburg. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will return to the Residence and move upstairs to the balcony, where a trumpet call will herald their arrival. The Ambassador will say a few words and the German national anthem will be sung, followed by a toast to the President. The British national anthem will then be sung, followed by a toast to The Queen.

All the military present at the Queen's Birthday Party are from British Forces Germany (BFG) stationed in and around Bielefeld. They come from a wide variety of regimental backgrounds representing cross-section of the British Army. British forces have been stationed in Germany continuously since 1945 although the numbers have reduced significantly since the end of the Cold War. All British Forces in Germany will relocate to the UK by 2020. Regiments represented at the Queen's Birthday Party include:

- The Corps of Royal Engineers, or Royal Engineers, commonly known as the Sappers. It provides military engineering and other technical support to the British Armed Forces.
- The Royal Regiment of Artillery is equipped with a variety of weapon systems including field artillery guns, rocket launchers, unmanned air vehicles and air defence missile systems. Its motto is Quo Fas Et Gloria Ducunt ("Where Right And Glory Lead").
- The Adjutant General's Corps, a corps in the British Army responsible for many of its general administrative services.



- The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are the technicians, mechanics and fabricators that inspect, repair, modify and maintain the large array of equipment that the British Army has to offer. As technologies advance and equipment becomes more complex, the role of the men and women of REME (pronounced “Reemee”) is increasingly important.
- Royal Army Medical Corps (Gurkha). Gurkha soldiers carry a khukuri, a Nepalese knife with an inwardly curved blade, similar to a machete, used as both a tool and as a weapon in Nepal and neighbouring countries of South Asia. It is a characteristic weapon of the Nepalese Army, the Royal Gurkha Rifles, the Assam Rifles and the Assam Regiment of Indian Army.
- The Royal Logistic Corps provides logistic support functions to the British Army. It is the largest Corps in the army.
- The Royal Army Dental Corps is a specialist corps in the British Army that provides dental care services to British Army personnel and their families in war and in peace.
- The piper is from the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland (the Highlanders). The Highlanders are based in Bad Fallingbommel Northern Germany, and are a light infantry battalion forming part of 7 Armoured Brigade “The Desert Rats”. They have seen active service in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and more recently Afghanistan. All members of the Pipes and Drums are trained soldiers and are in the fire support group of the battalion, responsible for operating heavy weapons. Links to Scottish Clans can still be seen in the uniform of the band, which incorporates the Gordon, Mackenzie and Cameron tartans. Other music is provided by the Band of the Royal Armoured Corps. The Band is based in Catterick, Yorkshire and represents the ten current regiments of The Royal Armoured Corps, which include the Hussar, Dragoon, Lancer and Tank Regiments of the British Army. Three of these regiments have been based in Germany and the Band played at the recent Farewell to Bergen-Hohne celebrations on 12-14 June.

The UK-German Connection was set up during the 2004 State Visit to bring young people from the UK and Germany together by facilitating and supporting educational activity, providing grants for school and youth projects, young ambassador networks (language assistants who promote German/English language and culture in schools), and coordinating seminars, trips, scholarships and German courses. Last year this involved 36 German courses, 8 German scholarships, 25 other youth projects, seminars and trips to Germany, WWI commemorative events, and the “Host a Teacher” programme, which had twice the uptake on the previous year (78 British hosting schools, roughly 1500 pupils). There was a programme for primary schools, school Christmas trips to discover the other country, and a German language club run in partnership with Arsenal and the Goethe-Institut.

The British Ambassador’s Residence: Villa Ullstein was built in 1930 for Louis Ullstein, a Jewish convert to Christianity, whose family owned what was then Europe’s largest publishing house. Ullstein published books, magazines and Germany’s first tabloid newspapers (e.g. Berliner Morgenpost and Berliner Zeitung, which are still published today). Following Louis’s death in 1933 and the forced sale of the Ullstein company in 1934, his wife and daughter sold the house and travelled to England.

The house was purchased by Hildegard Henschel, whose husband ran one of Germany’s locomotive and arms manufacturers during World War II. Following the war, it was requisitioned as the Berlin residence of the British Military Governor. It was purchased in 1957 for the use of the British Ambassador, becoming the official residence following German reunification in 1990.



In later life, Louis Ullstein's daughter Francesca, then Lady Annan, was able to visit the Residence. In November 2013, Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald gave a reception in the Residence for members of the Ullstein family including Lady Annan's two daughters to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Louis Ullstein.

Her Majesty spent two nights at the Residence in 2000, when she opened the new British Embassy building in Wilhelmstrasse.

### **Pariser Platz Walkabout**

26 June, 09.45

The Pariser Platz walkabout is an opportunity for the general public to see Her Majesty and His Royal Highness in front of the iconic Brandenburg Gate.

Accompanied by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, and his teenage daughter Nina, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will leave the Adlon Hotel passing through a guard of honour, composed of Adlon Hotel staff. The quartet will turn left upon exiting the Adlon and continue on foot, through the Pariser Platz square, in the direction of the Brandenburg Gate, greeting the crowd..

Upon reaching the awaiting car Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will bid farewell to the Mayor and his daughter. The car will then drive slowly through the Brandenburg Gate.

### **Departing Berlin for Celle**

26 June, 10.50

On arrival at the airport, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be met by the Head of the Federal President's Office, State Secretary David Gill, who will lead them through an Honour Guard before bidding them farewell. They will then depart Berlin for Celle.

### **Arrival in Celle**

26 June, 11.40

On arrival at Celle airfield, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be greeted by Stephan Weil, Minister-President of Lower Saxony. He will introduce his wife, Professor Kerkow-Weil, the British Honorary Consul to Hanover, Dr Gunter Dunkel, and his wife as well as the Mayor of Celle, Dirk-Ulrich Mende, and his wife.

### **Visit to Bergen-Belsen Memorial**

26 June, 12.20

In the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of its liberation, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will visit Bergen-Belsen to lay a wreath for the victims of National Socialism, meet survivors of the camp and meet members of the British forces who liberated the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen.

On arrival at [Bergen-Belsen Memorial](#), Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be met at the Jewish Monument by Dr Jens-Christian Wagner, Director of the Bergen-Belsen Memorial. Dr Wagner will give Her Majesty and His Royal Highness a brief explanation of the Memorial site and the Jewish



Monument. Her Majesty, His Royal Highness and Dr Wagner will then view the Anne Frank memorial stone next to the Jewish Monument.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then walk unaccompanied towards the House of Silence and pause there for a moment of reflection. On leaving the House of Silence Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will move to the Polish Cross. They will then continue to the Inscription Wall with Minister-President Weil and Mrs Weil, to lay the wreath under the English-language inscription in the middle of the wall (“To the memory of all those who died in this place”).

The Minister-President will then introduce Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, small groups of survivors (Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, Rudi Oppenheimer, Stefan Hertz) and liberators (Eric Brown, Bernard Levy) of Bergen-Belsen, members of the German Jewish community and civil society, and school children. The school children will use a tablet computer to show what Bergen-Belsen looked like when it was a concentration camp. The iPad app was developed by Prof. Paul Verschure, himself a grandson of a Bergen-Belsen survivor.

The Minister-President and Dr Wagner will then accompany Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the exit behind the Polish Cross. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will say farewell and depart for Celle Air Base.

British Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald: “The Queen’s programme touches on many aspects of the UK’s relationship with Germany. Because this spring we are marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it is right that commemoration and reconciliation play a part in the programme. The Queen will visit Bergen-Belsen because it was the only major concentration camp liberated by British and Commonwealth forces.”

**The Duke of Gloucester** represented Her Majesty at the official commemoration marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 2015.

### **Leaving Ceremony, Celle Military Airfield**

26 June, 13.20

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will depart from Celle Military Air Base, ending the State Visit to Germany.

At the Air Base, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will pass along a red carpet, along which they will bid farewell to Minister-President Stephan Weil and his wife, Col Andy Reynolds MBE, Commander of the British Garrison, The Commander of Celle Air Base Lieutenant-Colonel Grube, Mayor of Celle Dirk-Ulrich Mende and his wife, British Honorary Consul Dr Gunter Dunkel and his wife, Brigadier Carsten Breuer, British Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald and his wife, German Ambassador to the United Kingdom Dr Peter Ammon and his wife, Head of Protocol for the German Foreign Office Jürgen Mertens. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness then board the awaiting aircraft and depart Germany.

Approximately 1,000 members of the public will also be present to say farewell to Her Majesty. 400 of them were personally invited by the State Chancellory of Lower Saxony. The rest entered their bid to participate via the State Chancellory’s website, with the 600 remaining slots gone within ten minutes. One of the four winners of the British Embassy’s Facebook competition to nominate people who have



contributed to German-British engagement to attend an event during the State Visit, a teacher from Lower Saxony, will also be present.

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](https://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](https://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)





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## Where to See The Queen

### How members of the public can participate in the State Visit

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II enjoys enormous popularity in Germany. This is evident not least of all from the overwhelming response to the British Ambassador's Facebook competition to nominate deserving people in Germany to participate in the State Visit – there were over 1,100 entries.

Wherever the Queen travels around the world, she likes to see as many people as possible. The visit programme, while emphasising the strong links between the two countries, is also designed with this in mind. The best opportunities to see Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be at the following venues:

#### **Wednesday 24 June, Berlin: The banks of the Spree, between Bellevue and the Reichstag**

The Queen and President Gauck, and the Duke of Edinburgh and Ms Schadt, will take a riverboat trip along the Spree starting around 11.15am. This will start adjacent to Bellevue Palace, and their boat will then travel east, past the Chancellery, Hauptbahnhof, and towards the Reichstag. The northern banks of the Spree will be accessible to the public on the entire stretch. The southern banks of the Spree will be accessible around the House of World Cultures cafe terrace, the upper level of Spreebogenpark (opposite Hauptbahnhof), and between the Reichstag and Marschallbrücke.

#### **Thursday 25 June, Frankfurt: Paulsplatz and Römerberg**

The Queen and President Gauck, and the Duke of Edinburgh and Ms Schadt, will arrive outside the Paulskirche around 11.45am and listen to a short choral performance. At around 12.30pm, they will walk from the Paulskirche to the Römer, and then at around 2.30pm they will appear on the balcony of the Römer, before walking through the square. Large areas of Paulsplatz and Römerberg will be accessible to the public.

#### **Friday 26 June, Berlin: Pariser Platz**

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will leave the Adlon at around 9.45am and have a brief walkabout in Pariser Platz. Pariser Platz will be open to the public but access will be controlled through points both at the Brandenburg Gate end and the Unter den Linden end. There is a limit on how many people can enter the square, and once it is full the police will close the entry points. So if you want to secure yourself a space, please arrive early!

#### **The State Visit on social media**

The British Embassy will post messaging about the State Visit on its social media sites and give the



occasional glimpse behind the scenes at [www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](http://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) and [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](http://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany).

Back in May the British Ambassador launched an appeal on Facebook to nominate deserving persons in Germany for an invitation to an event with The Queen during the State Visit. Within a week, 30,000 people watched the Ambassador's video message and over 1,100 nominations were received. The overall reach of the Facebook post was around 130,000.

**Pressestelle Britische Botschaft Berlin:**

**Karin Schulz** Tel.: 030-204 57-252 | Fax: 030-204 57-574 | E-Mail: [Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Schulz@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/UKinGermany](http://www.facebook.com/UKinGermany) | [www.twitter.com/UKinGermany](http://www.twitter.com/UKinGermany)

