



# The Queen's Birthday

# Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?



Queen Elizabeth II is the current reigning monarch of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and Head of the Commonwealth.

She is also Queen of 12 countries that have become independent since her accession: Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

# Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?



Queen Alexandra Mary, later to become Queen Elizabeth II, 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.

In 1952, when she was just 25, Elizabeth's father King George VI died and she became Queen.

# Queen Elizabeth II



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# The Queen of Many Countries

United Kingdom

Antigua

Grenada

Canada

Papua New Guinea

Australia

Solomon Islands

New Zealand

Tuvalu

Jamaica

Saint Lucia

Barbados

Saint Vincent

The Bahamas

Belize

The Grenadines



# When Is the Queen's Birthday?



The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year:

- Her actual birthday on 21 April.
- Her official birthday on (usually) the second Saturday in June.

Can you think of a reason the Queen would have two birthdays?

# Why Does the Queen Have Two Birthdays?



Official celebrations to mark a British monarchs' birthday have often been held on a day other than the actual birthday.

Often this is when their actual birthday is not in the summer, when there was a greater likelihood of good weather for the Birthday Parade, also known as Trooping the Colour.

The official birthday is usually in the summer months, in June.

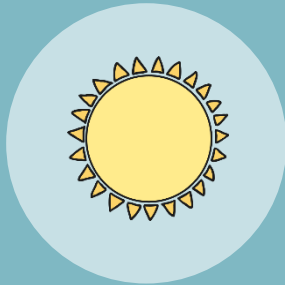
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# The Queen's Official Birthday



The Queen's birthday is officially celebrated in Britain on the second Saturday of June each year. This special day is referred to as 'The Trooping of the Colour'.

The Queen's Official Birthday, is the selected day on which the birthday of the monarch is officially celebrated in those countries.



The date of the celebration today varies in each country and is generally set around the end of May to start of June, to coincide with a high probability of fine weather for outdoor ceremonies.

In some countries, it is also an official public holiday.



# How Does The Queen Celebrate Her Actual Birthday?

The Queen usually spends her actual birthday privately, but the occasion is marked publicly by gun salutes in central London at midday:

a 41 gun salute in Hyde Park;

a 21 gun salute in Windsor Great Park;

a 62 gun salute at the Tower of London.

On special birthdays, such as her 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> celebrations, the Queen often takes a walkabout in Windsor to meet well-wishers.

# How Does the Queen Celebrate Her Official Birthday?



The Trooping of the Colour

On her official birthday, Her Majesty is joined by other members of the Royal Family at the spectacular Trooping the Colour parade which moves between Buckingham Palace, The Mall and Horseguards' Parade as well as a public appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

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# How Does the Queen Celebrate Her Official Birthday?



The Birthday Honours

The list of Birthday Honours is also announced at the time of the Official Birthday celebrations. The Queen's Birthday Honours recognise the achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people across the UK with awards such as knighthoods, OBEs (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) and MBEs (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

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