

PRESS INFORMATION AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY



THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA – 70 GLORIOUS YEARS, 1953-2023

“I name this ship Britannia. I wish success to her and all who sail in her.”
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, April 16 1953.



On April 16 1953, The Royal Yacht Britannia was launched from John Brown’s Shipyard in Clydebank, Glasgow, to start over 44 years of faithful service to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family.

70 years on, Britannia is berthed in Leith, Edinburgh, and welcomes over 300,000 visitors per year who step aboard to explore this iconic ship and the illustrious role she proudly played in British history.

King Charles III, then known as Prince of Wales, first stepped aboard Britannia when he was 6 years old in 1954. The Prince of Wales and his sister, Princess Royal, made the maiden voyage on board the brand-new Royal Yacht to Malta to meet their parents, HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip, who were in Tobruk on Royal duties. The next four decades saw Britannia become one of the most famous ships in the world as it visited over 600 ports in 135 countries, travelling over one million nautical miles.

To mark the 70th anniversary, and the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III, special celebratory events are planned on the following dates:

16 April 2023 – Photo Call

Photo Opp – flags

Also:

- 50s dancers will entertain visitors – more details required.
- Step back in time as gramophone music creates a wonderful atmosphere in the State Apartments.
- Treat yourself to a souvenir of King Charles III's Coronation with a memento from Britannia's well-stocked Gift Shop.
- Britannia's Coronation-themed Cuddly Corgi Treasure Hunt will entertain children as they explore the 5 decks.
- Chin, Chin! The Royal Deck Tea Room on board will be serving a very special cocktail incorporating the monarch's favourite whisky, Royal Lochnagar, so visitors can toast the crowning of the new King.
- 'Titanic Moment' photo opportunity for visitors on Verandah Deck

8-11 May 2023 - Yotties

Britannia will be welcoming the return of 60 former Royal Yachtsmen for their annual Working Party. From Chefs and Engineers to Seamen and Royal Stewards, Britannia's 'Yotties' return to their duties once again. Decks scrubbed, brass polished, 'Pussers Grub' cooked, and stories shared.

As well as all the hard work, there will also be time for reviving some of Britannia's traditions, including a morning hymn and the historic daily rum ceremony at 4pm.

While in Royal Service, 220 crew lived and worked on board and their orders were nothing less than to 'strive for daily perfection'.

April-Oct 2023 – Coronation Private Tour & Coronation Dinner Package

In this significant year of our new King's Coronation, guests can book a behind-the-ropes private tour of Britannia, the perfect immersive way to experience the splendour of the Royal Yacht and hear stories of life on board for a young Prince Charles.

Additionally, book the Coronation Dinner package for an exclusive-use event where guests will enjoy an after-dinner speech by Britannia's Last Commanding Officer, Commodore Anthony Morrow RN CVO.

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For further information please get in touch:

Jennifer Campbell

Senior PR & Marketing Exec.

jenniferc@tryb.co.uk

0131 555 8800

0790 0000 430

The Royal Yacht Britannia is owned by a charitable trust (SC028070) and all proceeds are reinvested in protecting her for future generations.