



KING CHARLES III CORONATION

When history plays out in the modern age

Arab News Riyadh

In the UK, people are preparing to celebrate a truly once-in-a-lifetime event. On Saturday, King Charles III will be crowned alongside Queen Camilla, the first such coronation in 70 years.

However, the British are not the only ones who will be commemorating the coronation — in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar, many locals and expatriates alike are gearing up to show respect and adoration

for the time-honored tradition.

Some older citizens of the Gulf will remember when Charles, who at the time was the Prince of Wales, visited the UAE with Princess Diana 34 years ago, and others will recall watching the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on black-and-white televisions in 1953.

The coronation is a bittersweet moment given the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, but it is one that many in the Gulf hope will symbolize a new beginning for British-Arab relations.

Though the British royal family is separated from the Gulf states by

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thousands of kilometers, Muslims with British citizenship recognize King Charles' affinity for the Arab and Muslim world.

Charles has been a leader in promoting interfaith dialogue, has made dozens of official visits to Arab nations, and stood by the Muslim community even as Islamophobia began to mount in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on the US.

The monarch also bestowed an Order of the British Empire, one of the highest honors in the UK, on Mohammed Abdul Latif Jamil, a Saudi citizen and curator of the Islamic Art exhibition at London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

Charles is the patron of the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, and studied Arabic for six months prior to touring several Gulf countries in 2016.

Despite some questioning the place of the British monarchy in the modern world, many are captivated by the cultural and traditional aspects of the coronation. Hundreds of thousands of British citizens reside in the GCC countries — both expatriates and those who grew up in the UK — and many plan to celebrate just as they would if they were still in Britain.

In Dubai, the former ocean liner-turned-hotel, the Queen Elizabeth

II, is hosting a special coronation event complete with afternoon teas, a gala, and heritage tours. The QE2, as the ship is called, will also screen the coronation live on large TVs during a special luncheon.

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King Charles: visionary, bridge builder, sword dancer

KHALID BIN BANDAR AL-SAUD

The coronation of King Charles is a moment for everyone around the world to reflect on this important moment of transition, but it is especially significant for those nations, like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where we also have a monarchy. Although the nature and role of the monarchy in our two countries are different, they share some significant and positive aspects. In both countries, being monarch reflects a profound commitment on behalf of an individual to leading his people, and in both countries that is demonstrated by the long-term view taken by monarchs to the interests and needs of their people.

One example would be King Charles' life-long interest in the environment, where for many years he led the way in thinking imaginatively about how to protect the natural inheritance of the people of Britain and the world, while also looking to secure and enhance its built inheritance. This forward-looking vision now looks impressively prescient, and is increasingly being reflected

around the world, not least in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In 2021 our Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, announced the Middle East Green Initiative, with a promise to reduce emissions from hydrocarbons by more than 60 per cent. The following year he followed this up by committing to plant 50 billion trees across the Middle East, and the funding to do so.

Another area of increased cooperation between the two nations is in supporting traditional arts and craft schools, through a network of Schools for Traditional Arts set up by King Charles in Saudi Arabia, one in Jeddah and the other at the extraordinary historic site of AlUla.

This shared understanding between monarchies perhaps explains why King Charles has made so many visits to Saudi Arabia over the years. These visits have been very important for Saudis like myself with a personal connection to both countries, but also reflect his life-long belief in building connections across national and religious borders.



HRH Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Sultan Al-Saud is the Saudi ambassador to the UK

They also demonstrate his lighthearted side. While visiting in 2014, he found time to participate in an Ardah, a traditional Saudi sword dance, alongside members of our royal family. By all accounts he acquitted himself very well, but most of all it showcased his determination, which we can see in his numerous visits to many other parts of the world, to embrace and understand cultures other than his own. In this respect also, King Charles has shown leadership and understanding with an impact far beyond his own country. While, as he himself has acknowledged, his role must necessarily change following his accession to the throne, his ability to bring the nations and the peoples of the world closer together will be undiminished.

So on Saturday, my British wife, my two

daughters and I will be eagerly anticipating the coronation, as it will be a moment to reflect not only on the enduring institution that is the British monarchy, not just on the impressive individual who is now taking up the mantle of monarchy, but also on the deepening and enduring ties between our two countries. In terms of economic and security ties we have never been closer, but also as our country has in recent years become easier to visit, there are more and more ties between individual Britons and Saudis, and a greater understanding between us as a result.

As Saudi ambassador to the UK, I would like to wish His Majesty King Charles a long, prosperous and happy reign. But also to thank him for all he has already done over his long life of service to build bridges between our two nations.

His ability to bring the nations and the peoples of the world closer together will be undiminished.

Spotlight KING CHARLES III CORONATION

KING CHARLES III

Friend of Arabs, defender of faith

New British monarch has empowered Muslim communities and is known for his admiration and love of the Middle East

Nadia Al-Faour Dubai

As the UK prepares for the coronation of King Charles III on May 6, royals from around the world are readying to attend the ceremonial swearing in of Britain's new monarch.

Following tradition, the coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey where Charles will be anointed with holy oil and crowned with the 17th-century St Edward's Crown, molded to fit his head.

Thousands are expected to gather at the abbey and its surrounding streets in London to witness the historic event, its glorious pageantry, and to swear allegiance to their new king.

Among them will be a who's who of Arab royalty: Ruling families who have shared close bonds with the House of Windsor over seven decades during the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II and whose members the new British king knows well.

Charles' affinity for the Arab world, and the Middle East more broadly, has created a bond with the region. So too has his curiosity about Islam, a fact that has led him to study the faith in depth and embrace many of its tenets.

Islamic art adorns many of Britain's royal palaces. Charles has been an enthusiastic participant in interfaith dialogue between leaders of the monotheistic faiths and he handed an OBE honor to Saudi citizen Mohammed Abdul Latif Jamil, who curated the Islamic Art exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Such is his enthusiasm for the Middle East that Charles has told friends among Gulf royalty that some of the most profound experiences in his life have taken place in the deserts of the Hijaz where prophets once roamed and where the history of the region and its great faith was forged.

The coronation will be attended by national and international heads of state, royal families and their representatives from around the world, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait.

Echoing the relationship his late mother Queen Elizabeth forged with the Middle East, King Charles is expected to continue the close bond during his reign, a bond that he is renowned for.

For example, he considered Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah a personal friend, and following his death in January 2015, Charles flew to Riyadh to express his condolences in person to his successor, King Salman, and to pay his final respects to his friend.

Charles last visited the region with his wife, the Queen Consort Camilla, in November 2021 where he went to Egypt and Jordan to discuss and fortify inter-religious dialogue.

In Jordan, he also visited Syrian and Palestinian refugees who most rely on Saudi and British donations to make do.

In total, Charles has made 12 official visits to Saudi Arabia, seven to both the UAE and Kuwait, six to Qatar, and five to Jordan.

His admiration and love for the Middle East is even reflected in his watercolor paintings where he often draws inspiration from Wadi Arkam and Diriyah in Saudi Arabia as well as Aqaba in Jordan.

The then Prince of Wales established many charitable foundations in the Middle East, notably The Prince's Foundation, which is dedicated to "realizing the



Prince of Wales' vision of creating communities for a more sustainable world."

The foundation is focused on education, the appreciation of heritage and creating equal opportunities for youth in the UK and abroad. It runs satellite programs in more than 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt where it has built centers.

In Jeddah's old city, Al-Balad, it has established an arts and crafts center, allowing students to participate in the Ministry of Culture's restoration projects there.

At the Tantora festival in AlUla, held in winter from Jan. 10 to March 21, 2020, the foundation hosted an exhibition titled "Cosmos, Color, and Craft: The Art of the Order of Nature in AlUla." It also ran a series of hands-on workshops in cooperation with the Royal Commission for AlUla.

The new king, although not having executive powers, holds the title of defender of the faith and supreme governor of the Church of England. For many, his interest and warm views on Islam are a hopeful sign.

After the 9/11 attacks on the US, Charles, who had long immersed himself in Islam, studying the religion's textiles, gardens, and architecture, doubled down on his views opposing Islamophobia.

Quoting the Holy Qur'an during his visit to Pakistan in 2006, he said: "Only they pay attention who have hearts; only they believe or see signs who have hearts."

Charles, who also serves as the patron of the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, learned Arabic for six months prior to his Gulf tour in 2016.

In 2020, he visited the Palestinian territories for the



Above: King Salman welcomes Charles during a meeting in Riyadh in 2015.

Left: Charles and Camilla in Egypt in 2021.

Below: Charles in traditional Saudi dress during a performance of the Ardah dance in Riyadh in 2014. AFP

The Islamic world is the custodian of one of the greatest treasures of accumulated wisdom and spiritual knowledge.



first time and wished Palestinians "freedom, justice, and equality" while repeatedly urging the British government to do more to better the conditions and living standards of Palestinians.

While his ascension to the throne means he will no longer be able to freely express his views, he has made his opinion on the Middle East and Islam clear.

With more than 3 million Muslims in the UK, Islam is the second-largest religion in the country, and its new monarch's views on it are well known.

Following the news of Queen Elizabeth's death on Sept. 8, prayers and sermons were held throughout the country in her honor. A Friday sermon was held in Cambridge's Central Mosque where Islamic scholar Abdul Hakim Murad reiterated and read some lines from one of Charles' speeches. He said: "Whether we are monarchist or not monarchist, or care about this or not, it does matter that in a time of mounting Islamophobia, there are some people who wish to stand with us."

Charles was once quoted as

saying, "Islam can teach us today a way of understanding and living in the world which Christianity itself is the poorer for having lost. At the heart of Islam is its preservation of an integral view of the universe."

In 2006, at Egypt's Al-Azhar, the leading university for Islamic teachings, the then Prince of Wales said: "We in the West are in debt to the scholars of Islam, for it was thanks to them that during the Dark Ages in Europe the treasures of classical learning were kept alive."

In 2010, during a speech at the University of Oxford, Charles said: "The Islamic world is the custodian of one of the greatest treasures of accumulated wisdom and spiritual knowledge available to humanity."

At a time when Islamophobia and xenophobia are on the rise throughout the West, the new British monarch is empowering Muslim communities, his stance unparalleled in any other Western political figure.

Charles was one of the handful who publicly opposed the European ban on the burqas and condemned the Danish cartoon insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

King Charles III: Official trips to the Arab world

1986 Nov. 10-19 Prince of Wales embarks on first GCC tour visiting Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.



1990 Dec. 21-23, Saudi Arabia Prince Charles meets British forces deployed for the Gulf War.

1999 Nov. 17-23, GCC Prince Charles meets royal families of UAE, Sultan Qaboos of Oman and Saudi Arabia's King Fahad and Crown Prince Abdullah.



2014 Feb. 17-19, Saudi Arabia Attended the Janadriyah festival, wore traditional Saudi clothes and participated in the Ardah dance, attracting global attention.

2014 Feb. 19-21, Qatar Visited the Museum of Islamic Art, the National Heritage Library, and the Anglican Centre at the Religious Complex.

2014 Feb. 21, Bahrain Met King Hamad at Bustan Palace in Manama.

2015 Feb. 7-9, Jordan Visited Za'atari Refugee Camp.

2015 Feb. 10-12, Saudi Arabia Toured AlUla and the historical Hejaz Railway.

2016 Nov. 7-9, UAE Visited Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

2020 Jan. 24, Palestine Visited Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus.



2021 Nov. 16-17, Jordan Visited Al-Maghtas, where Jesus was baptized, and collected water from the Jordan River.

2021 Nov. 18-19, Egypt Toured the Giza pyramid complex, Al-Azhar Mosque, and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION



How Charles III can Make Britain Great Again!

FAISAL J. ABBAS | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Back in 2016, I had just finished writing my book about London, a reflection on nearly a decade living in the UK capital in which I conclude that the 18th century English man of letters Samuel Johnson was correct: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for

there is in London all that life can afford." But that was then, and this is now. Seven years after Britain voted to leave the EU, if anything it is London and the UK that are tired.

We now know that much of that Brexit campaign was based on lies, and many of those who voted for it are suffering from buyers' remorse. The latest opinion polls suggest that only 33 percent of the British people believe the country was right to leave the EU, while 55 percent now believe it was a catastrophic mistake.

And given what has happened since the 2016 referendum, who can blame them? It is true that the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine have unavoidably blighted the UK's economy, but every other country suffered those effects too.

While they have largely recovered, the OECD predicts that the UK economy will be the worst-performing in the G7 for the next two years, and last month the Bank of England's chief economist told the British people they would simply have to accept that they were poorer than before.

Meanwhile, the revolving door of 10 Downing Street has not exactly been conducive to domestic political stability. Theresa May was shown the door in 2019 for failing to deliver Brexit, and replaced by Boris Johnson. After three controversial years and "Partygate," Johnson gave way to Liz Truss — whose mercifully brief 45-day period in office was the shortest in British political history, and was memorably compared to the shelf life of a supermarket lettuce.

The current incumbent, Rishi Sunak, has at least restored calm, but Thursday night's local election results suggest that he too is likely to be shown the door at the next general election, probably in October 2024.

Internationally, the British Empire is of course long gone. Members of its replacement, the Commonwealth, particularly Australia and the Caribbean islands, are increasingly resistant to having a foreign head of state. The much vaunted "special relationship" with the US seems to be dependent on the mood of the serving president. And since Britain's departure from the EU, many countries are coming to view it as a secluded island off the coast of Europe.

If that all sounds like doom and gloom ... well, it is. But it need not be. As world leaders gather in London for Saturday's coronation of King Charles III, could it be that the new monarch has what it takes to (to borrow a phrase) Make Britain Great Again?

The British people certainly seem to think so. While the approval ratings of most political leaders tend to decline the longer they spend in office, those of King Charles are moving in the opposite direction. A poll in March suggested that 39 percent of British people thought he would be a good king, but the same poll this week had that number increasing to 62 percent.

With British domestic politics in turmoil, there is no better time for the country to play its trump card: soft power, history and tradition, as represented by a popular and effective monarch.

Few people know more about national "brands" than Simon Anholt, the leading international authority on the images of countries. And Anholt is unequivocal. As he told Arab News in an interview last November, an effective monarchy is good value for taxpayers money.

"What they actually return to the country's image in terms of pure brand value is in the order of billions. People love monarchies, especially people who don't live in monarchies themselves. Without the monarchy, the UK would be significantly less interesting to people than it is."

So how can King Charles make a difference? First, there is his lifelong passion for protecting the environment. Liz Truss may not have lasted long as prime minister, but she was in office long enough to prevent the new king from attending the COP27 climate change conference in Egypt in November.

That, as I wrote at the time, was unwise. COP28 in Dubai at the end of this year is an opportunity to remedy it with the attendance of the new king, and it need not stop there. The Saudi and Middle East Green Initiatives are another opportunity for the king to leverage both his environmental credentials and the lasting Middle East relationships forged while he was heir to the throne, all to Britain's advantage.

Broader connections with the Gulf are another area rich with promise. As the UK and European trade policy expert Paul McGrade told Arab News in January, while Britain has struggled since Brexit to reach free trade agreements with countries around the world, the GCC's doors are open.

"The Gulf states become more important than ever, not just for energy, but for the markets that they represent, the investment and the partnerships that they're looking to build," he said.

After finally understanding the rising importance of the GCC, the EU has just nominated Luigi Di Maio as its first special envoy to the Gulf states. With all due respect to the former Italian foreign minister, King Charles can do a better job for Britain, even with his eyes closed.

As Anholt observed: "The data very clearly shows the number one reason why people admire a country is because they think it contributes something to humanity and the planet." Who better to personify that role for his country than King Charles?



INTERVIEW

'We're going to learn a lot about our own history'

Neil Crompton, UK ambassador to Saudi Arabia, reflects on the significance of 'a very big day in the Kingdom and British embassies around the world'

Lama Alhamawi Riyadh

On Saturday, King Charles III will officially be proclaimed the UK's new monarch in a grand ceremony broadcast around the world from Westminster Abbey in London.

"This is the first coronation that has taken place in my lifetime. My mother is 87 and talks to me about the (last) coronation," Neil Crompton, the UK ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told Arab News.

Crompton visited the Arab News headquarters in Riyadh on Thursday to celebrate the historic event with Arab News reporters and the assistant editor-in-chief, Noor Nugali.

He highlighted some of the ways people will celebrate the coronation in the UK, and also detailed the events planned by the UK Embassy in Riyadh.

"Most people will watch it live on television. A lot of people will go to London to line the streets. But I believe normally during royal events like this, big communities come together and have street parties, and it's nice to get together with tables and cakes and flags, and children running around," he said.

The UK Embassy will be holding a special reception to which friends who have supported the Saudi-UK bilateral relationship and Saudi alumni of British universities have been invited.

"Obviously it's a very big day for the United Kingdom and British embassies around the world," Crompton said.

Also in attendance at the UK reception celebrating the coronation will be previous Saudi ambassadors of the UK as well as Saudi businessmen and women with close connections to the UK.

Crompton highlighted the state of Saudi-UK relations, saying: "The relationship is probably as strong as it has ever been — I would say that it is a historical relationship.

"But I think that it has become a very modern partnership (that



UK ambassador to Saudi Arabia Neil Crompton (in red tie) celebrated the coronation during a visit to the Arab News office in Riyadh on Thursday. Photos by Saad AlAnezi

we have, and changes like Brexit, and you have an exciting reform program Vision 2030."

Crompton said King Charles III is expected to continue the legacy of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, while also carrying on his own interests and work in interfaith dialogue, youth development, and of course in environmental action.

"I expect there to be lots of continuity in terms of that — we have a constitutional monarchy, so part of the emphasis is on monitoring continuity. But, of course, he will bring a slightly different style — he (the king) has some slightly different interests and I think everyone is looking forward to seeing (them)," he told Arab News.

Among the continued interests of the king will be his work in promoting harmony and respect among different religions and cultures, as well as his work in the Arab world.

"He (King Charles) has made seven official visits to Saudi Arabia and, of course, there is an old relationship between the two royal families," Crompton said.



He (King Charles) has made seven official visits to Saudi Arabia and, of course, there is an old relationship between the two royal families.

"King Charles has always taken an interest in the Arab world and in matters of faith and Islam in particular.

"He has always had an interest in interfaith dialogue."

One of King Charles's strongest commitments has always been to strengthening and building various bridges between the world's many diverse faiths and cultures.

"I remember just before I joined the foreign embassy in 1995, King Charles did a famous speech or lecture in Oxford called 'Islam in the West,' in which he talked about the sort of common heritage between Islam, Christianity and Judaism, which I think won a lot of appreciation," Crompton said.

He believes that as the UK's monarch, Charles will continue his new legacy along these themes while also adding his interests in youth development programs.

The coronation ceremony will be attended by many dignitaries from around the world, and thousands of Britons will throng Westminster Abbey to experience savor the magical moment.

As announced so far, King Charles' coronation will differ in certain aspects from the late Queen Elizabeth's, whose procession was 5 miles long with more than 8,000 guests attending the ceremony.

Charles' procession will be more modest, at 1.3 miles and with 2,000 guests in attendance.

When Crompton was asked what he looks forward to seeing most during the coronation, he said: "We are fascinated by the ceremony, we haven't seen it and sadly the late Queen Elizabeth died, and we had the funeral, so many of the ceremonies have been for that."

He said most of the funeral rituals were witnessed by a lot of people in the UK for the first time in their lives, and provided an opportunity for the British to see their history come to life.

"We learned a lot, we re-learned a lot about our history, and that is something we are looking forward to," Crompton said.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION



CHARLES CORONATION SCHEDULE

Saturday 06/05/2023

The Coronation service at Westminster Abbey

The Coronation service will take place on the morning of Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Westminster Abbey.



At Buckingham Palace, the King and the Queen Consort, accompanied by members of the royal family, will appear on the balcony to conclude the day's ceremonial events.

Sunday 07/05/2023

The Coronation concert at Windsor Castle

On Sunday, May 7, 2023, a special Coronation concert will take place at Windsor Castle.



The Coronation Big Lunch
Neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches.

Monday 08/05/2023

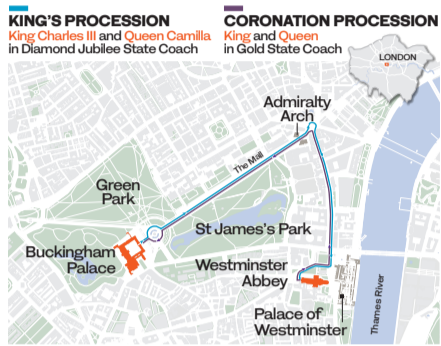
The Big Help Out

The Big Help Out is a tribute to His Majesty The King's public service. The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.



ACCESSION TO THE BRITISH THRONE

CORONATION PROCESSION ROUTE



Their Majesties The King and Queen Consort will arrive at Westminster Abbey in procession from Buckingham Palace. This is known as 'The King's Procession.'

CORONATION RITUALS

Six phases to the Coronation: Recognition, oath, anointing, investiture, enthronement and homage.

26 MONARCHS CROWNED IN ST. EDWARD'S CHAIR

1 Recognition
11:00 King Charles will enter through the Great West Door. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will proclaim Charles the "undoubted King" and ask the congregation to show their homage and service – a tradition dating back to Anglo-Saxon times.

2 Oath
The Archbishop will ask King Charles to confirm that he will uphold the law and the Church of England before the King places his hand on the Holy Gospel and takes the Coronation Oath.

3 Anointing
The King's ceremonial robe will be removed and he will sit in the Coronation Chair. The Archbishop will pour oil from the Ampulla onto the Coronation Spoon before anointing the King with a cross.

4 Investiture
The Archbishop will place St. Edward's Crown on the King's head. Trumpets will sound and gun salutes will be fired across the UK.

5 Enthronement
The King takes the throne. Traditionally, royals and peers would then pay homage by kneeling before the new king, swearing allegiance and kissing his right hand.

6 Communion
The King and Queen Consort take part in Holy Communion – the principal act of worship in the Christian faith.

Departure
After the homage, Queen Camilla will be anointed, crowned and enthroned. The King and Queen Consort enter St. Edward's Chapel where Charles will put on the Imperial State Crown before joining the procession out of the abbey as the national anthem is played.

THE CROWN
Height: 30.2 cm
Weight: 2.23 kg
Made of gold, silver, rubies and sapphires
The St. Edward's Crown is placed on the monarch's head at the moment of crowning.

Coronation Chair
Height: 2.05 m
Weight: 152 kg
Made of oak
Stone of Destiny added in 17th century
4 gilt lions added in 1728

THE AMPULLA
Height: 20.7 cm (8.1 in)
Length: 26.7 cm (10.5 in)
The solid-gold Ampulla was made in 1661
Coronation Spoon made of silver gilt and pearls

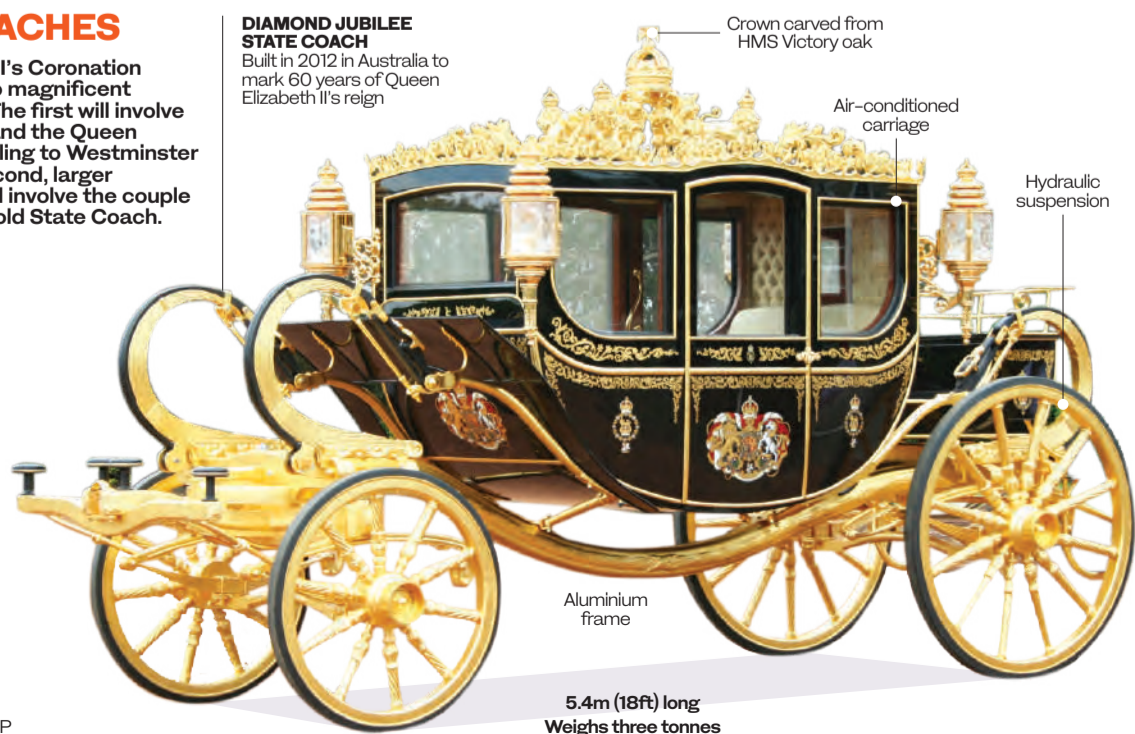
CHARLES TIMELINE

- Nov. 14, 1948**
Born at Buckingham Palace, to Princess Elizabeth and Philip
- July 1, 1969**
Formally invested as Prince of Wales
- 1970**
Graduates from Cambridge University
- 1971-76**
Serves in the navy
- July 29, 1981**
Marries Lady Diana Spencer
- June 21, 1982**
Birth of Prince William
- Sept. 15, 1984**
Birth of Prince Harry
- Dec. 9, 1992**
Prince and Princess of Wales agree to separate
- Aug. 31, 1997**
Princess Diana killed in a car crash in Paris
- April 9, 2005**
Marries Camilla Parker Bowles in civil ceremony
- May 6, 2023**
Coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey

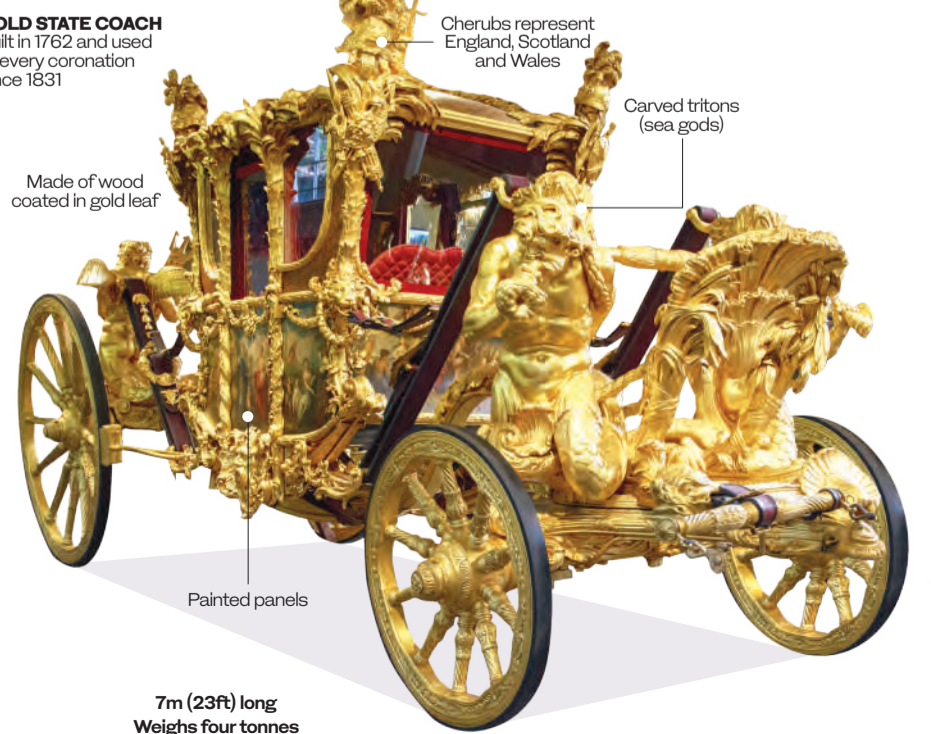
THE COACHES

King Charles III's Coronation will involve two magnificent processions. The first will involve King Charles and the Queen Consort travelling to Westminster Abbey; the second, larger procession will involve the couple riding in the Gold State Coach.

DIAMOND JUBILEE STATE COACH
Built in 2012 in Australia to mark 60 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.



GOLD STATE COACH
Built in 1762 and used at every coronation since 1831.



KING CHARLES III CORONATION



UK-GULF TIES

Celebration of a special connection

Locals and expats in Saudi Arabia and the UAE will tune in as Charles ushers in a new era in UK history

Rawaa Talass Dubai
Sulafa Al-Khunaizi, Riyadh

When King Charles III, then the Prince of Wales, visited the UAE for the first time in 1989, accompanied by Diana, Princess of Wales, many people were desperate to catch a glimpse of the royal couple.

Much has changed in the world in the 34 years since then, but the general fascination with the British royal family has not. With the last coronation being 70 years ago, May 6 marks a new beginning for the UK since the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022.

Many residents of Dubai will be tuning in to watch the coronations of King Charles and Queen Camilla. Rooted in tradition, pomp and pageantry, the event will be a uniquely British affair, though people will be watching worldwide.

Isobel Abulhoul, who was born in Cambridge, has lived in the UAE since 1968 and now calls Dubai home. She said she was just 3 when her parents bought a small black-and-white television so that they could watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. She plans to watch the first coronation to take place since then with some of her children and grandchildren.

Abulhoul has her own royal connection. In 2008, she established the much-loved Emirates Airline Festival of Literature in the UAE. Four years later, Queen Elizabeth awarded her the Order of the British Empire, one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a citizen of the British Commonwealth. She received the award during a special ceremony from the future King Charles.

"What I would say about King Charles III is he has always been way ahead of his time in his care and concern about the environment. He brings a wealth of that experience to his role as the king."



Main: Pall Mall in London will welcome the new monarch in traditional style. Below, right: The British flag is projected on the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE. Shutterstock, AFP



AFTERNOON TEA IN SAUDI ARABIA

- Chorisia Lounge
- The Ritz-Carlton, Riyadh
- Acoustic Restaurant & Gallery, Riyadh
- The Plaza
- Fairmont, Riyadh
- The Karamel Lounge
- The Ritz-Carlton, Jeddah
- Dradasha restaurant
- Park Hyatt, Jeddah
- Soleil
- Rosewood, Jeddah

She added that she is looking forward to the ceremonial aspect of the coronation, even though Charles has decided to scale it down in recognition of the ways in which the world has changed since his mother was crowned.

Tracy Alisa Jones, a UK expat who works as a nurse in the Kingdom, plans to watch the coronation on social media and attend the live showing at the British Embassy in Riyadh.

"I am very sad our queen has passed but excited to welcome a new king. It is time for a new perspective on the monarchy. It is also wonderful to have William as the prince of Wales, my home nation," she said.

Jones looks forward to a future filled with positive changes for young people through the embrace of new ideas.

"It opens the path for a more tolerant monarchy, (and) younger ideas with deeper impact for ordinary people. King Charles is the founder of the Prince's Trust,



which has helped thousands of young people. The coronation is a bright spark in what has been a gloomy few years."

Speaking to Arab News, Mohsin Tutla, British citizen and chairman of the World Hajj and Umrah Care Foundation, said: "King Charles has won the hearts of the Muslim community and that of my own. Being in Saudi Arabia, I would not be there to see the coronation, but I would join the ceremonial

events organized by the British Consulate and British Embassy and watch the coronation along with other British citizens living in Saudi Arabia."

Tutla added that were he in the UK, he would be celebrating in the traditional British way by walking down the streets waving the flag.

"King Charles has always had strong support for the Muslim community of the UK. He has joined the opening of masjids (and inaugurated) the largest Hajj exhibition in the western world, which was presented at the British Museum in conjunction with the Saudi government in London in 2012," he said.

Expat celebrations will not be limited to watching the coronation on television in their homes; some restaurants, bars and other venues popular with expatriates will be hosting coronation parties.

Among them is the ocean liner-turned-floating hotel, the Queen Elizabeth II. Now docked at Port Rashid in Dubai, it has a special



WHERE TO WATCH THE CORONATION IN THE UAE

- Speakeasy Dubai, JBR
- Cafe Gray, Dubai
- Emirates Golf Club, Dubai
- Maison Mathis, Dubai
- Nahaam, Conrad Abu Dhabi
- Marina Social, Dubai

connection with King Charles III, who was reportedly its first "passenger," as a 20-year-old prince, during its maiden voyage in 1969.

To mark the coronation, the QE2, as it is known, is offering special packages for the three-day coronation weekend that include afternoon teas, a gala ball, overnight stays, and heritage tours of the ship. On coronation day, two special luncheons will take place in spacious rooms fitted with large TVs showing the event live.

"We're hugely excited because we didn't expect the interest — it was phenomenal," the QE2's general manager, Irish hotelier Ferghal Purcell, told Arab News.

In September last year, the QE2 hosted special events marking the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, during which 3,200 people attended and signed the venue's books of condolence.

Purcell said some of the QE2's coronation events sold out quickly after they were announced this month, and about 1,000 guests are expected to attend.

"In my opinion," he said. "There won't be any place else outside of the UK that will celebrate it like we're going to celebrate it."

CULINARY DELIGHTS

Coronation quiche with a Middle Eastern twist

To mark the historic occasion, Dubai chefs create an Arab version of the British royal couple's chosen dish

Hams Saleh Dubai

The Arab world is gearing up to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, with regional chefs preparing an Arab twist on the couple's chosen coronation dish, a special quiche.

The dish, featuring spinach, broad beans and tarragon, is a nod to coronation chicken, a curry and mayonnaise-based dish which was invented for the 1953 coronation of Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II that is still enjoyed today.

Coronation chicken, created by Cordon Bleu-trained chef Rosemary Hume, was named the "poulet Reine Elizabeth" and consists of cold poached chicken in a sauce made from red wine, mayonnaise, whipped cream, apricot puree and a touch of curry powder.

By the 1980s, an easier to make version of coronation chicken salad had become ubiquitous in Britain, found in ready-made sandwiches at many local stores across the country.

Now, cold shredded chicken, mayonnaise and a healthy heaping of curry powder are considered a staple form of the dish, while some recipes call for raisins and mango chutney for a sweet kick.

As the UK celebrates the new monarch, the royal household

SARDOUK'S RECIPE

Serves 2 to 4.

Sardouk's quiche recipe:

INGREDIENTS

For the Mornay sauce:
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
2/3 cup whole milk
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup shredded Gruyere cheese

For the croque madam:
300 grams quiche dough
2 tablespoons butter, softened
2 teaspoon whole grain mustard
1/2 cups mornay sauce
6 thin slices turkey ham
1 cup shredded gruyere, divided

For the egg
1 tablespoon butter
2 large eggs
Salt flakes, for sprinkling
Freshly ground black pepper, as needed

Method:

For the Mornay:

Make the roux and add milk and salt and pepper as flavoring.

For the croque madame:

Roll the dough on a flat surface with a rolling pin.



The special recipe by chef Shelton D'Souza at Dubai's FireLake Grill House serves 4. Supplied



Dubai's FireLake Grill House in Radisson Blu hotel will serve the dish on coronation day. Supplied



Croque madame in quiche by chef Marwan Sardouk. Supplied

Shape it into a tall pie using a round ring mold.

Place all the filling and cover it with the remaining dough. Bake it at 180 C for 15 to 20 minutes or until the dough is golden and comes loose from the ring mold.

Fry the eggs in a frying pan with butter and season it with salt.

Set aside the fried eggs for later use. To finish off, place the egg on top of the pastry and garnish as you like.

D'Souza's quiche recipe:

Serves 4.

Ingredients:

For the quiche mix:
300 grams spinach (cleaned, blanched and chopped)
25 grams of white onion (chopped)
5 grams of garlic (finely chopped)
140 grams of akawi cheese (grated)
30 grams of gruyere cheese

For the quiche pastry:

200 grams of flour T55
200 grams of butter
1 pasteurized egg white
30 grams of dry zaatar powder
10 grams of salt
25 milliliters of water
For the quiche custard:
200 milliliters of milk

100 milliliters of cooking cream
2 eggs
2 grams of cinnamon powder
5 grams of salt
2 grams of black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 162 C. Prepare the quiche dough then mix all the ingredients together and make a dough. Roll out the dough into a pie mold. Line a pie dish with short crust pastry, cutting off any excess and pinching the edges. Bake the crust for 10 to 12 minutes until it becomes light brown.

In a medium frying pan, melt the butter over medium heat. Saute the garlic and onion in butter for about five minutes until lightly browned. Add the blanched and chopped spinach. Taste the mixture then wait for it to cool before adding the akawi cheese. Season the mixture with salt and pepper. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pastry-lined dish. In a medium bowl, whisk the custard mix. Season it with salt and pepper. Pour it into the pastry base, allowing the egg mixture to thoroughly combine with the spinach mixture. Bake in a preheated oven for 15 minutes. Bake an additional 35 minutes, until it is set in the center. Allow the dish to cool for five minutes before serving.

is hoping his "coronation quiche" will prove equally popular 70 years on.

Quiche was chosen because it is considered a good "sharing" dish to take to a street party and can be served hot or cold.

The palace said on its website that the dish had been chosen personally by Charles and Camilla, and was "easily adapted to different tastes and preferences," presenting it as a recipe for hundreds of community lunches planned across the country to mark the May 6 event.

"A deep quiche with a crisp, light pastry case and delicate flavors of spinach, broad beans and fresh tarragon. Eat hot or cold with a green salad and boiled new potatoes," said the recipe on the royal family's website, which accompanied a video clip featuring a royal chef preparing the dish.

Lebanese chef Marwan Sardouk (pictured), with culinary experience spanning 15 years, and chef Shelton D'Souza, of Dubai's FireLake Grill House at the Radisson Blu hotel, have added an Arab twist to the dish.

