

# Trooping the Colour

## What is the Trooping the Colour?

The official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II is marked each year by a military parade and march-past, known as **Trooping the Colour** (Carrying of the Flag). The official name is "the Queen's Birthday Parade".



Each June, **the Queen** and other members of the Royal Family attend the Trooping the Colour ceremony on **Horse Guards Parade**, Whitehall in **London**. The Queen attends the ceremony to take the salute from thousands of **guardsmen** who parade the Colour (their regiment's flag).

It is only the **Foot Guards** of the Household Division that take part in the Queen's Birthday Parade, with the exception of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, (based in St. John's Wood). The Kings Troop, parade round with the Household Cavalry after the Foot Guards have trooped the Colour in slow and quick time.

## The Sovereign's Official Birthday



The Queen's birthday parade is the biggest royal event of the year. In 1748, the celebration of the official birthday of the sovereign was amalgamated (merged) with the Trooping the Colour.



The Colours today are trooped in front of the Queen troops of the Household Division (Foot Guards and Household Cavalry)

## Parade Route

The parade route goes from **Buckingham Palace** along **The Mall** to **Horse Guards Parade**, Whitehall and back again.

## Time

Queen leaves Buckingham Palace 10.40 am

Parade starts 11 am

Precisely as the clock on the Horse Guards Building strikes eleven, the Royal Procession arrives at Horse Guards Parade and The Queen takes the Royal Salute.

The parade begins with the Inspection, The Queen driving slowly down the ranks of all eight Guards and then past the Household Cavalry.

After the event, the Royal Family gathers on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch a RAF fly past at 1pm.

