# British royal residences outside London

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## Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, and it's official royal residence of Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor in the English country of Berkshire.

The Castle is notable for its architecture, which consists of mixture of Gothic, Rococo, Victorian and Baroque.

Original castle was built in the 11th century after the Norman invasion by William the Conqueror. Since the time of Henry I., it was used by succeeding monarchs and is famous for its superb architecture. In the past castle survived the tumultuous period of the English Civil War, when it was used as military headquarters and also a prison for Charles I. During the Second World War it was used as refuge for the royal family and survived a fire in 1992.

Part of

Windsor Castle is St George's Chapel (gothic architecture). The castle is surrounded by beautiful gardens and the picturesque English countryside.

Today castle is preferred tourist attraction and Elizabeth II's preferred weekend home. Special exhibiton “Royal Paintbox: Royal Artists Past and Present” is held there.

## Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle is a large estate house in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, ocated near the village of Crathie.

Balmoral has been one of the residences of the British Royal Family since 1852, when it was purchased by Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria. Soon after the estate was purchased the existing house was found to be too small and the current Balmoral Castle was commissioned. The architect was William Smith of Aberdeen, although his designs were amended by Prince Albert. Current castle was completed in 1856 and the old castle was demolished shortly thereafter. The castle is an example of Scots Baronial architecture and is classified by Historic Scotland as a category A building.

The Balmoral Estate has been added to by successive members of the Royal Family, and now covers an area of about 49,000 acres (20,000 ha). It is a working estate, including grouse moors, forestry, and farmland, as well as managed herds of deer, Highland cattle, and ponies.

In 1931, the castle gardens were first opened to the public, and are now open daily between April and the end of July, after which the Queen arrives for her annual stay. The ballroom is the only room in the castle which can be viewed by the public.

Other properties on the estate include Birkhall, formerly home to Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and used now by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall for their summer holidays.Craigowan Lodge is used regularly by the Queen's friends and family, and has also been used by the Queen while Balmoral Castle is being prepared.Six smaller properties on the estate are let as holiday cottages.

## Frogmore House

Frogmore House is a 17th-century country house standing at the centre of the Frogmore Estate, amongst beautiful gardens, about a half a mile south of Windsor Castle in the Home Park at Windsor in theEnglish county of Berkshire. It is a Grade I listed building.

During the 1980s the house underwent extensive restoration, revealing the lost early 18th-century wall paintings by Louis Laguerre. In 1988, it was planned that the newly married Duke and Duchess of York would move into Frogmore House, but they decided against doing so. The house was opened to the public in 1990. It is open for the late Bank Holiday weekend in May and August plus group tours during August to the end of September each year. No one lives in the house, and it is speculated that it is being reserved as a country residence for the Duke of Edinburgh, in the event that he outlives the Queen.

Frogmore House has eighteen bedrooms, and a number of rooms retain 18th- and 19th-century decoration. These include the Duchess of Kent's sitting room, Mary Moser's Room, Cross Gallery, and a dining room by Wyatt.

Today, Frogmore House is no longer a Royal residence, but the house and gardens are sometimes used by the Royal Family for official purposes such as receptions.

## PalaceInsert Formula JOEInsert Formula a of Holyroodhouse

The Palace of Holyrodhouse is the official residence of the British monarchin Scotland. Located at the bottom of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, at the opposite end to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace has served as the principal residence of the Kings and Queens of Scots since the 16th century, and is a setting for state occasions and official entertaining.

Holyrood Palace was re-constructed in its present form between 1671 and 1679 to the Baroque design of the architect Sir William Bruce, forming four wings around a central courtyard.

Queen Elizabeth spends one week in residence at Holyrood Palace at the beginning of each summer, where she carries out a range of official engagements and ceremonies. At the Palace the Queen meets and appoints the First Minister of Scotland. Prince Charles also stays at Holyrood for one week a year, carrying out official duties as the Duke of Rothesay, while other members of the royal family, including Princess Anne, visit in a less official capacity.