# King Charles III’s unusual travel rituals reveal a quest for comfort and familiarity



King Charles III, balancing a hectic schedule filled with royal duties and engagements, finds rare moments to unwind, often in the company of friends. When he does take a break from his demanding role, the monarch reportedly has a unique approach to ensuring his comfort, reminiscent of a well-prepared guest. As highlighted by journalist Tina Brown in her book *The Palace Papers*, it is said that Charles sends a van ahead to his friends’ country houses filled with personal items to create a familiar environment during his stays.

Among the items he insists on having with him are his orthopaedic bed and a selection of landscape paintings depicting the Scottish Highlands. Notably, the monarch also takes his own lavatory seat and an often-favoured brand of toilet paper—Kleenex Velvet. While these claims have not been officially verified by the King, they offer a glimpse into his desire for comfort and familiarity, even in the casual setting of a friend’s home.

King Charles's travel habits have been described elsewhere as quirks that might surprise many. Reports suggest that he demands not only the right kind of bed but also specific details like ironed shoelaces and controlled water temperatures for his baths, underscoring his attention to detail and personal preference for comfort. This meticulousness reflects a broader pattern in how he approaches his lifestyle, merging royal tradition with personal convenienc.

Moreover, his affinity for aesthetics extends beyond his travel habits. The King has a known penchant for colour and design, exemplified by his choice to paint garden furniture bright yellow at Highgrove House. This vibrant choice reveals a side of the monarch that enjoys personal expression through decor, which combines both tradition and modernity, something that has become increasingly significant in his role as a contemporary monarch.

The King’s appreciation for antiques and craftsmanship further adds depth to his character. He has been actively involved in restoration projects, such as an 18th-century bracket clock and a Wemyss Ware vase. This involvement illustrates his commitment to preserving historical craftsmanship and his fondness for pieces that carry stories and heritage, aligning with his public persona of championing sustainability and tradition.

In a world where the royal family is constantly under scrutiny, King Charles's unique travel preferences and personal touches reflect an individual striving to maintain a sense of normalcy amidst his storied lineage. His choices not only shed light on his character but also highlight the balance he seeks between royal duties and personal comfort, making him a figure of intriguing complexity in modern British monarchy.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 2
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/spotlight/king-charles-iiis-unusual-travel-habits-will-leave-you-shocked/photostory/94199602.cms> - An article detailing King Charles III's unique travel habits, including his preference for bringing his own bed, furniture, and paintings when staying at friends' country houses. It also mentions his demand for ironed shoelaces and specific water temperatures for his bath.
3. <https://www.inkl.com/news/king-charles-brings-his-own-bed-and-landscape-paintings-when-he-stays-with-friends> - This piece discusses King Charles's travel preferences, highlighting that he sends a van ahead to his friends' country houses containing his orthopaedic bed, landscape paintings of the Scottish Highlands, his own lavatory seat, and Kleenex Velvet toilet paper.
4. <https://www.rsvplive.ie/news/celebs/prince-charles-proudly-shows-bright-24938008> - An article about Prince Charles's choice to paint his garden furniture bright yellow at Highgrove House, showcasing his fondness for color and personal touch in his residences.
5. <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/prince-charles-visits-furniture-workshop-in-leicester> - A report on Prince Charles's visit to Soane Britain's rattan workshop in Leicester, where he engaged with local craftspeople and demonstrated techniques of steam-bending cane and weaving rattan to create intricate furniture pieces.
6. <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/prince-charles-designed-a-furniture-line-for-his-highgrove-house> - An article detailing Prince Charles's collaboration with designer Stephen Florence to create a collection of contemporary garden furniture for his Highgrove House, emphasizing sculptural and tactile designs.
7. <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/king-charles-iiis-love-of-antiques-is-giving-him-a-pr-boost> - A piece highlighting King Charles III's appreciation for antiques, including his involvement in restoring an 18th-century bracket clock and a Wemyss Ware vase, showcasing his commitment to preserving craftsmanship.