# Buckingham Palace to unveil largest ever exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II’s fashion in 2026



Buckingham Palace is set to host the largest exhibition ever dedicated to the fashion of Queen Elizabeth II, marking the centenary of the late monarch's birth in 2026. Titled *Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style*, the exhibition will showcase around 200 items spanning all ten decades of her life, with more than half being displayed publicly for the first time. The collection is a rich tapestry of her attire, including iconic gowns, jewellery, hats, shoes, accessories, design sketches, and fabric samples.

Among the standout pieces is a silver lamé and tulle bridesmaid dress by Edward Molyneux, worn by the Princess Elizabeth as an eight-year-old bridesmaid at the 1934 wedding of her uncle, the Duke of Kent, to Princess Marina of Greece. The exhibition also features her famous wedding and coronation gowns by Norman Hartnell, highlighting the craftsmanship of one of Britain's celebrated designers. One gown of special note is a white Hartnell creation worn at a 1961 state banquet in Karachi, designed to incorporate Pakistan’s national colours through an emerald-green pleat down the back, exemplifying how Elizabeth II used fashion as a subtle form of diplomatic expression throughout her reign.

This forthcoming exhibition runs from spring to autumn 2026, with tickets going on sale in November 2025, offering an unprecedented glimpse into the sartorial life of Britain’s longest-reigning monarch.

This new exhibition builds on a tradition of Royal Collection Trust showcases that explore royal style and history. A notable precedent was in 2016, when Buckingham Palace hosted *Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe* to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. That event highlighted over 150 outfits worn during the Queen's life, also featuring creations from designers such as Hartnell, Hardy Amies, and Ian Thomas. These exhibits not only celebrated fashion but also tied the garments to significant national moments, underscoring the symbolic resonance of royal attire.

In the broader royal context, Buckingham Palace will also present *The Edwardians: Age of Elegance* in The King's Gallery from April to November 2025. This exhibition explores the lavish lives and tastes of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, alongside King George V and Queen Mary, showcasing over 300 items from the Royal Collection. Among these treasures is Queen Alexandra’s gold coronation dress, displayed publicly for the first time in over three decades. This show offers a backdrop of early 20th-century aristocratic opulence and change, setting the scene for how royal style has evolved through successive generations.

Alongside the palace exhibitions, Hillborough Castle is hosting *Royal Style in the Making*, an exhibition running until January 2026. It offers an intimate look at the relationship between royal clients and their designers, displaying key pieces including the toile used in creating Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother’s 1937 coronation gown. This exhibition underscores the collaborative artistry behind royal fashion and deepens understanding of the craftsmanship involved in these historical wardrobes.

Together, these linked exhibitions provide a layered narrative about British royal fashion, from Edwardian grandeur through to the pragmatic yet symbolic modernity of Elizabeth II’s wardrobe. The forthcoming *Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style* marks not only a centenary commemoration but a profound celebration of how royal dress shapes and reflects royal identity, diplomacy, and continuity across a changing century.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14927131/Buckingham-Palace-stage-largest-exhibition-Queen-Elizabeth-IIs-fashion-celebrate-centenary-late-monarchs-birth.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14927131/Buckingham-Palace-stage-largest-exhibition-Queen-Elizabeth-IIs-fashion-celebrate-centenary-late-monarchs-birth.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.rct.uk/event/fashioning-a-reign-07-2016)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/the-edwardians-exhibition-opens-at-the-kings-gallery), [[3]](https://www.rct.uk/about/press-office/press-releases/queen-alexandras-trailblazing-coronation-dress-on-show-as), [[6]](https://www.discoverbritain.com/whats-on/news-events/edwardians-exhibition-buckingham-palace/), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/buckingham-palace-edward-vii-king-queen-mary-elizabeth-ii-b1221739.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.rct.uk/whats-on/royal-style-in-the-making)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14927131/Buckingham-Palace-stage-largest-exhibition-Queen-Elizabeth-IIs-fashion-celebrate-centenary-late-monarchs-birth.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/the-edwardians-exhibition-opens-at-the-kings-gallery> - The Royal Collection Trust has announced the opening of 'The Edwardians: Age of Elegance' exhibition at The King's Gallery in Buckingham Palace. This exhibition, running from 11 April to 23 November 2025, showcases over 300 works from the Royal Collection, including Queen Alexandra's gold coronation dress. The exhibition explores the lavish lives and tastes of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, as well as King George V and Queen Mary, during a period of great opulence and profound change in Britain.
3. <https://www.rct.uk/about/press-office/press-releases/queen-alexandras-trailblazing-coronation-dress-on-show-as> - The Royal Collection Trust has announced that Queen Alexandra's gold coronation dress will be displayed at The King's Gallery in Buckingham Palace as part of 'The Edwardians: Age of Elegance' exhibition. The exhibition, running from 11 April to 23 November 2025, explores the lavish lives and tastes of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, as well as King George V and Queen Mary, during a period of great opulence and profound change in Britain.
4. <https://www.rct.uk/event/fashioning-a-reign-07-2016> - In 2016, Buckingham Palace hosted 'Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe' to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. The exhibition showcased over 150 outfits worn by The Queen, highlighting her support of British couture and millinery. The display included creations by renowned designers such as Sir Norman Hartnell, Sir Hardy Amies, and Ian Thomas, charting significant events in The Queen's life and the nation's history through clothing and accessories.
5. <https://www.rct.uk/whats-on/royal-style-in-the-making> - Hillsborough Castle is hosting 'Royal Style in the Making', an exhibition running until 4 January 2026. The exhibition unveils the intimate bond between royal clients and fashion designers, showcasing three stunning outfits, including the extraordinary toile used in the design of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother’s coronation gown worn in 1937. Original design drawings feature some of Britain’s finest designers, including Madame Handley Seymour, Norman Hartnell, Hardy Amies, and Oliver Messel.
6. <https://www.discoverbritain.com/whats-on/news-events/edwardians-exhibition-buckingham-palace/> - The Royal Collection Trust has announced the opening of 'The Edwardians: Age of Elegance' exhibition at The King's Gallery in Buckingham Palace. This exhibition, running from 11 April to 23 November 2025, showcases over 300 works from the Royal Collection, including Queen Alexandra's gold coronation dress. The exhibition explores the lavish lives and tastes of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, as well as King George V and Queen Mary, during a period of great opulence and profound change in Britain.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/buckingham-palace-edward-vii-king-queen-mary-elizabeth-ii-b1221739.html> - Queen Alexandra’s gold coronation dress is to go on show at Buckingham Palace for the first time in more than 30 years. The dress will be displayed alongside more than 300 items from the Royal Collection in a new exhibition, 'The Edwardians: Age of Elegance', in The King’s Gallery. The exhibition explores the public and private lives of Alexandra and her husband, Edward VII, as well as George V and Queen Mary.