# Royal Welcome for Japanese Emperor and Empress in London



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LONDON – Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will pause his campaigning activities on Tuesday to participate in a ceremonial welcome for Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. The event will take place at Horse Guards Parade in London, followed by a state banquet at Buckingham Palace in the evening.

The Emperor and Empress received a warm welcome from King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron and Home Secretary James Cleverly were also present. Prince William escorted the Japanese royals from their hotel.

Due to traffic delays, the Japanese royals arrived a few minutes later than scheduled. The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and the Band of the Welsh Guards provided a Guard of Honour, with a 41-gun salute marking the occasion.

After the welcome, the royals travelled to Buckingham Palace in a historic carriage procession. There, King Charles and the Emperor inspected another Guard of Honour in the palace quadrangle. The visit includes various engagements and will conclude on Thursday with a visit to Windsor Castle.

Prime Minister Sunak, and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, will both attend the state banquet, which is set to include speeches by King Charles and Emperor Naruhito.

The three-day state visit underscores the ongoing diplomatic and cultural relations between the UK and Japan, although no political engagements are included due to the proximity of the general election.