



ROYAL RIDE

The republicans in the UK dismiss their role as that of wearing pretty clothes, making appearances and being polite to people. And, indeed if that's what it is, William and Kate – or the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge – did the job to a T on their India visit all through the week. Here's what kept Catherine Elizabeth Middleton (Kate, duh) and the Prince (who is, well, also a Duke) busy in the country. Plus we look at past royal visits, including those of kings and queens from countries other than Britain; as well as what the future holds for the royal family in Old Blighty (by some accounts, not a lot)

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Why India (and Bhutan): The visit was at the request of Her Majesty's government

What They Did and Where:

Mumbai (April 10, 11)



William and Kate laid a wreath for 26/11 victims at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel

They tried their hand at cricket with Sachin Tendulkar and children at Oval Maidan

Visited the ancient Banganga water tank and chatted with slum-dwellers

Attended a party with Bollywood stars to raise funds for charities

Met Boman Kohinoor, 93, owner of Mumbai's iconic Britannia restaurant and self-proclaimed biggest fan of the British Royal Family

Launched Tech Rocketship Awards for young entrepreneurs



Delhi (April 11, 12)

Laid a wreath at India Gate
Visited Gandhi museum and interacted with students

Attended a garden party to mark the Queen's 90th birthday at the British high commissioner's residence

Met children at a centre run by Salaam Baalak Trust at New Delhi railway station



Hosted by PM Narendra Modi for a lunch at Hyderabad House

Met NGO helping women facing domestic abuse, discrimination and acid assaults

Flew to Assam

Greeted by CM Tarun Gogoi and wife Dolly with *garmchas*

Got a traditional welcome in Tezpur, with song and dance around campfire



Assam (April 13)



Visited the Kaziranga National Park, the largest habitat of the one-horned rhino

Bhutan (April 14-15)

Visited Bhutan at the invitation of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema



Agra (April 16)

Rounded off the trip with a visit to the Taj Mahal



Kate's Dresses

A paisley Alexander McQueen outfit



Breezy, printed tunic dress by Anita Dongre



Embellished, blue Jenny Packham evening gown



Emilia Wickstead wool crepe dress with a flattering flared skirt, which Kate teamed with blush-pink court heels by Rupert Sanderson and a matching Mulberry clutch bag



The nude-and-black, patterned £3,000 skirt and top was by one of her favourite designers Alice Temperley



Boho maxi dress from high street label Glamorous



Mint lace Temperley dress



An £805 green, patterned dress by American designer Anna Sui



Other Visits by British Royals...

Queen Elizabeth II

Visited India thrice – first in 1961, when she and her husband Prince Philip toured Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. They visited the Taj Mahal and were the guests of honour at the Republic Day Parade

Her second visit was in 1983 for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting



The third – in 1997 to mark 50 years of India's independence – turned controversial because of remarks on Kashmir by the then British foreign secretary Robin Cook and a wreath-laying ceremony at the site of an infamous massacre by British colonial soldiers

Princess Diana

Prince William's mother, Diana, visited India in 1992 with Prince Charles. There were many photo ops during the trip, including the iconic image of her seated alone in front of the Taj Mahal. Charles, meanwhile, addressed a gathering at Bengaluru, adding to rumours of their troubled marriage. They announced their separation later that year



Prince Charles

The Prince of Wales is an indophile and has visited India eight times since 1975. He visited the Taj Mahal with his second wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, on his last visit three years ago.

His two official visits on behalf of the Queen were in 1991 for the funeral of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and in 2010 to inaugurate the Commonwealth Games in Delhi



...and Visits by other Royals

In July 2014, Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands visited India as the UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. Her visit was to promote the need for financial inclusion globally



In February 2014, the then crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, visited Delhi on a three-day trip to seal security, energy and business agreements with India



In February 2014, Thailand Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, a Sanskrit and Pali scholar visited India. She was at Nalanda and Bodhi Gaya in Bihar and Kohima in Nagaland, before visiting Delhi



In October 2012, Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, was in Mumbai and Delhi on a state visit

The landmark state visit of King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein and Queen Rania of Jordan to India in December 2006 provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging views on all aspects of bilateral relations. During the visit, a number of bilateral agreements were signed. Prince El Hassan bin Talal paid a visit to India during October-November 2012

State visit by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in October 1993 to meet President



Bankrolling the Royals

The British Royal Family is financed mainly by the hereditary revenues of the Crown. The British Parliament uses a percentage of the Crown Estate, a part of the Crown's hereditary revenues belonging to the sovereign that is placed at the disposal of the House of Commons, to meet the costs of the sovereign's official expenditures. The Keeper of the Privy Purse is Head of the Privy Purse and Treasurer's Office and has overall responsibility for the management of the sovereign's financial affairs.



In October 2013, Sir Alan Reid, the Queen's treasurer and keeper of the royal purse, was pulled up for the royal family's spendthrift ways by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. The committee noted that the royal family had been authorised by Parliament to spend £31 million in the last fiscal year but spent £33.3 million. Japanie into a rescue fund to make

Long Live the Queen?

The British republican movement, which has been growing over the past few years, roots for democratic reform and a rejection of inherited power and privilege. The case is for Britain becoming a republic with no place for a hereditary monarch

But Then There's Succession Planning

Late last year, the Queen, as the Head of the Commonwealth, addressed the leaders of 53 countries, with the Prince of Wales, Charles, by her side. The British press was quick to see that as a sign of "handover". "So this trip is about dropping hints and testing waters. Hence the carefully enhanced role for Prince of Wales at this summit."



Source: ABC News, British High Commission, NDTV