



2026 Media Information

Latest News

- ⚓ Voted Tripadvisor's No.1 UK Attraction in the world, 2026-27.
- ⚓ 2026 marks 100 years since the birth of Queen Elizabeth II who considered Britannia her 'residence at sea'.
- ⚓ New world-class Visitor Centre and Retail Experience opened Spring 2025 to elevate the visitor journey.
- ⚓ Exciting developments afoot for Britannia's fleet of former Royal racing and sailing yachts; Bloodhound, Bluebottle and Coweslip. Recent investment by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust has seen the fleet of three vessels, all formerly owned by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, restored in all their glory.
- ⚓ The audio guide is available in over 35 languages - making it one of the most translated tours in the world - and the attraction is highly accessible, offering a British Sign Language hand-held tablet, an English Braille tour script, and a wheelchair-friendly route.
- ⚓ 2026 sees the launch of a new online digital archive - safeguarding and sharing Britannia's heritage
- ⚓ Cuddly Corgi Treasure Hunt throughout the ship for kids... and adults alike!



The Royal Yacht Britannia Today

Britannia is an award-winning five-star visitor attraction and exclusive hospitality venue, permanently berthed in Leith, Edinburgh, just two miles from the city centre.

The Yacht is owned by a charitable organisation, The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust, which receives no public sector funding. All revenue generated goes towards Britannia's long-term maintenance and preservation.

The Visitor Experience

Visitors collect an audio handset, which is included in the admission price, and step aboard Britannia to explore five fascinating decks.

Highlights of the tour include the Sun Lounge, the State Dining Room and State Drawing Room, which contrast with the working side of the ship, including the Crew's Quarters, Laundry and gleaming Engine Room.

95% of items on display are the original artefacts on loan from The Royal Collection Trust.

Visitors can enjoy the stunning harbour views from our Royal Deck Tearoom. Traditionally, the Royal Family would have used the Royal Deck for cocktail parties and receptions.

Britannia's entire visitor experience is highly accessible, with wheelchair access, lifts and ramps throughout.

The Audio Tour

The audio tour is available in over 35 languages including; English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch, Finnish, Greek, Russian, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Korean, Japanese, Urdu, Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic, Thai, Turkish, Cantonese, Punjabi, Portuguese-Brazilian, Welsh, Romanian and Gaelic.

In English there are versions of the audio tour for children, for visually impaired visitors and for those with learning difficulties. A British Sign Language hand-held tablet or printed script are also available.



Royal Deck Tearoom and Shop

Offering stunning views and a warm welcome, Britannia's Royal Deck Tearoom serves a tempting choice of cakes, scones, soups and sandwiches all freshly made on board. Refreshments include speciality teas and coffees, beer, wine and Champagne. Additionally, Britannia's own confectioner makes delicious homemade fudge in the NAAFI sweet shop.

After the tour, visitors can enjoy browsing in Britannia's Shop, which is fully stocked with official Royal Collection china, Britannia memorabilia, toys, books and gift ideas – something for everyone!

Brief History

On 16 April 1953, Britannia was launched from the John Brown & Company shipyard in Clydebank, the start of a long and illustrious career. For over forty years she proudly served the Royal Family, sailing over one million miles to become the most famous ship in the world and playing a role in some defining moments of recent history.

Britannia undertook 968 official visits, including the Handover of Hong Kong. In 1986, the Royal Yacht rescued over 1,000 refugees from war-torn Aden in the Republic of Yemen.

The Royal Yacht Britannia was decommissioned on 11 December 1997 in Portsmouth, the last in a long line of Royal Yachts stretching back to 1660. Britannia opened her doors as a tourist attraction in 1998.



Facts and Figures

- ⚓ During 44 years in Royal service Britannia sailed the equivalent of once round the world for each year, calling at over 600 ports in 135 countries.
- ⚓ Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip worked closely with interior designer Sir Hugh Casson to create both a functional Royal Navy vessel, and a sumptuous Royal residence.
- ⚓ Britannia was designed to double as a hospital ship in wartime, but never served this purpose.
- ⚓ Queen Elizabeth II chose deep blue for Britannia's hull, instead of the more traditional black.
- ⚓ Unlike any other ship, Britannia was captained by nine Admirals and latterly a Commodore. The full crew comprised of 220 Yachtsmen, 20 Officers, three Season Officers and during Royal Tours, a Royal Marines Band of 26 men.
- ⚓ Britannia proudly displays her crest on her bow and stern, but, unlike other vessels, her name is not on the side of the ship.
- ⚓ Shouting was forbidden on the ship. Orders were given by hand signal to preserve the tranquillity.

Quotes

"I name this ship Britannia. I wish success to her and to all who sail in her." Queen Elizabeth II

"Britannia is the one place where I can truly relax." Queen Elizabeth II

"Britannia is special for a number of reasons. Almost every previous sovereign has been responsible for building a church, a castle, a palace or just a house. The only comparable structure in the present reign is Britannia. As such she is a splendid example of contemporary British design and technology." Prince Philip

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The Royal Yacht Britannia's Evening Events

Britannia is open year-round as an exclusive evening venue. Drinks receptions for up to 450 and dinners for up to 196 can be hosted in the State Apartments and Royal Deck on board, where guests experience an exceptional level of quality, service and hospitality.



Fingal Hotel by The Royal Yacht Britannia

Developed by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust, Fingal is a luxury floating hotel permanently berthed on Edinburgh's vibrant waterfront. A former Northern Lighthouse Board ship which has been transformed into an exquisite 23 cabin boutique hotel inspired by her rich maritime heritage.

Tucked away on the top deck is the Lighthouse Restaurant - a beacon of culinary excellence. Fingal's 2 AA Rosette restaurant serves exquisite Afternoon Teas, delicious breakfast dishes and seasonal dinner menus.

Hosting up to 60 guests, Fingal's Ballroom is ideal for exclusive hire, private parties, weddings and corporate events. Reached by two sweeping staircases, the Ballroom features a raised gallery for music and entertainment with a moveable skylight.

fingal.co.uk

