



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

PRESS RELEASE

No: 363/2012

Date: 7th June 2012

ROYAL VISIT FOR GIBRALTAR

Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex are visiting the Rock from Monday to Wednesday of next week as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. During their stay they will visit many parts of Gibraltar and meet a cross-section of people from across the local community. There will also be several opportunities for the public to give their own welcome to the Royal visitors.

Arriving at lunchtime on Monday, Their Royal Highnesses are being met by His Excellency the Governor and the Chief Minister. The Royal couple will then drive across the runway to RAF Gibraltar to inspect a Tri-Service Guard of Honour.

At around 12.30 after a short 'walkabout' in John Mackintosh Square, Their Royal Highnesses will watch excerpts from the Gibraltar Academy of Dance's production of 'An Audience with the Queen' on a specially-erected stage in the Square. A walk along Main Street to the Convent will then take place, providing another opportunity for everyone to welcome them.

At a public ceremony at 7pm on Monday, the Royal visitors are laying the foundation stone for the Diamond Jubilee Monument on Line Wall Road where it overlooks the site of the new Jubilee Commonwealth Park. They then move on to a reception at King's Bastion before attending a Government dinner as guests of honour.

Tuesday's programme includes a visit to Headquarters British Forces, the unveiling of a plaque on the Moroccan Fountain in Alameda Gardens to honour Moroccan Workers in Gibraltar and a visit to the Museum.

In the afternoon, they drive to the Upper Rock with a stop at Queen's Lookout to meet several local people involved with Her Majesty the Queen's visit in 1954. Later, their programme includes the opening of a children's playground at the Moorish Castle Estate, which has been included together with other estates at the express wish of the Chief Minister to enable the Royal visitors to meet a real cross-section of Gibraltarians from all walks of life. In the evening, Their Royal Highnesses attend the Queen's Birthday Parade in Casemates Square followed by the Queen's Birthday Party at the Convent.

As well as public events, Their Royal Highnesses are presenting Duke of Edinburgh awards and are scheduled to meet local religious leaders. Their itinerary also includes visits to the Mission for Seafarers, the Port Authority and the new law courts.

The Earl will visit GibDock and the two rowing clubs where he is naming a new boat and present regatta awards. Meanwhile, the Countess's busy programme includes visits to the Girl Guides' headquarters and to St Martin's School.

Having visited the Laguna estate on Wednesday morning, the Royal couple will tour the airport's new terminal building. His Excellency the Governor and the Chief Minister then say their farewells before the Royal visitors board their flight back to London.