

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

National Edition

Northern California: Mostly cloudy north. A rain shower and mountain snow shower. Mixed clouds and sun elsewhere. Highs in 30s to low 70s. Details, SportsSunday, Page 10.

In Transit

TRAVEL NEWS, DEALS AND TIPS

Q. AND A.

NICOLA BUTLER on how to celebrate the queen's 90th.



London is a popular destination anytime, but this year there is even more of a reason to visit: the 90th birthday of Queen

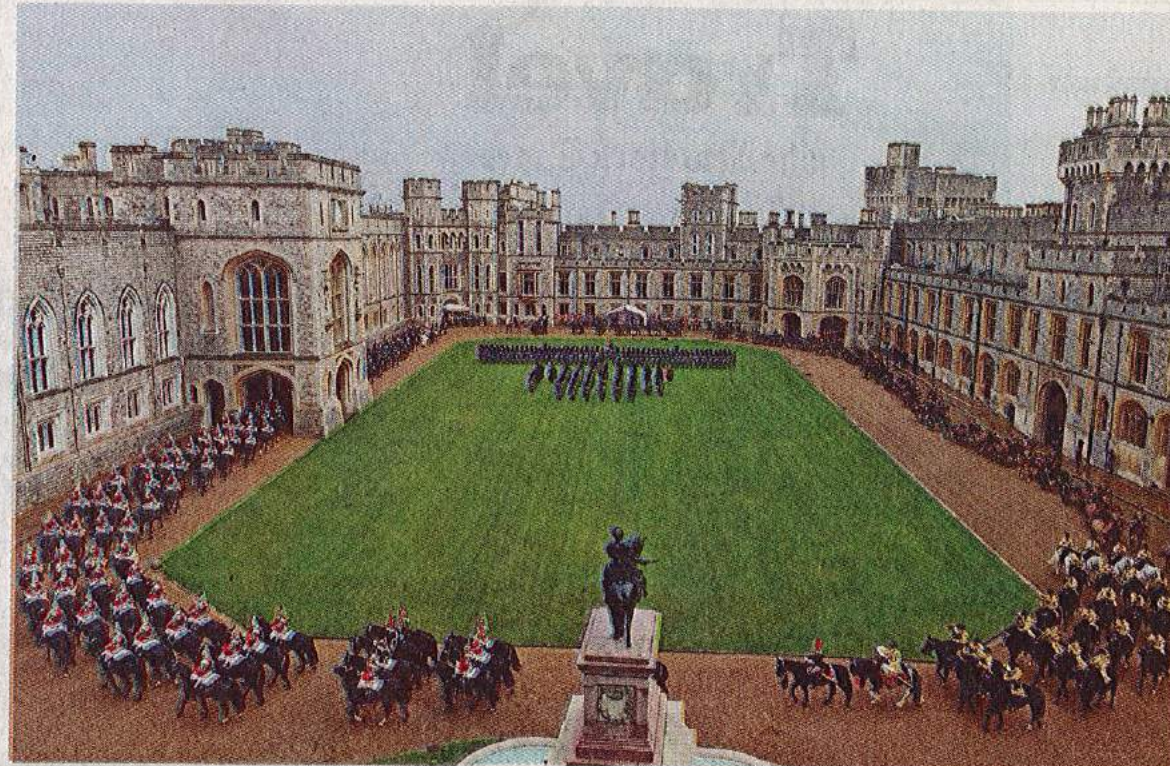
Elizabeth II. Though her birth date is April 21, the city is celebrating the occasion with events starting in May.

Nicola Butler, who owns NoteWorthy, a London travel company specializing in excursions such as watching the changing of the guard from inside the parade grounds, has advice on how to take in the spectacle of the monarch's birthday and what else travelers should see while in town. Here are edited excerpts.

Q. What does the queen's 90th birthday mean for tourists to London?

A. Tourists can partake in the festivities. Most of the celebrations are from May 12 to 15 in Windsor Castle, where there will be performances highlighting the queen's love of horses and her involvement with the navy, army and air force.

Tickets are sold out, but it's fun to be in town when they're going on because



LEON NEAL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Most of the celebrations marking the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II will take place in May at Windsor Castle.

Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style From the Queen's Wardrobe that will rotate among her three official residences: the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

What sights do visitors miss?

Hampstead is an overlooked area. It's

relocated near St. James's Palace. For more casual Indian, there's Dishoom, resembling a Bombay cafe. There are a few locations, and they are inexpensive and lively. Order the masala chai and omelet with coriander and tomatoes for breakfast and the chile cheese toast and biryanis anytime.

big English breakfast, either at your hotel or at a pub, and then book a traditional afternoon tea at a luxury hotel that doubles as lunch and dinner because the spreads are lavish with scones, sandwiches and tarts. You get a sense of extravagance but save money overall.

BRIEFS



PONANT/GUILLAUME PLISSON

Le Ponant will make several port calls.

CRUISES

New Sailings to Cuba

In the wake of Fathom cruise line's announcement that it will be the first American line to travel from Miami to Cuba, the French line Ponant has received approval to cruise around Cuba. Its 64-passenger Le Ponant will begin seven- and eight-night trips in January. Passengers will gather in Miami and fly to Havana to meet the ship, making port calls in the wildlife-rich Cayo Largo, the French colonial town of Cienfuegos and the Unesco World Heritage site city of Trinidad and to Santiago de Cuba. In a "people to people" program, guests will meet Cuban artists. This is the first time the company will accommodate Americans, though it has been offering cruises to Cuba for Europeans. Eight-night trips start at \$8,190 per person, double occupancy, including round-trip airfare between Miami and Cuba.

ELAINE GLUSAC