

Where
in the
World?

Welcome to the Royal Wedding

This month, a British prince will marry an American actress—and the whole world will be watching. BY TOD OLSON

A GLOBAL EVENT
The royal wedding is front-page news in England—and all around the world.

For months, the town of Windsor, England, has been getting ready for thousands of visitors. Restaurants are hiring extra staff. Store owners have filled their shelves with souvenirs. Hotels are completely sold out of rooms.

What's the special occasion?

No, One Direction isn't getting back together. There's no championship soccer match happening either.

These fans are traveling to Windsor to cheer outside the most magnificent of British events: a royal wedding.

A Royal History

On May 19, Prince Harry is getting married. He is the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II of England. England has had a royal family in place for about 1,200 years.

A country that has a king or queen is called a monarchy. A monarchy's leaders aren't chosen by the people. They gain these roles simply because they were born into the royal family.

Today, the British royal family has almost no power. It can't make laws and doesn't choose government officials.

England's true leaders are elected by the people.

Another Era

Still, the royal family is extremely popular. And the world will be watching Harry's wedding. It will take place at Windsor Castle—the queen's weekend “house.”

Windsor Castle sits on 13 acres and has about 1,000 rooms. One dining room is bigger than most homes.

Thousands of people will line up outside the castle's stone walls. Millions more will watch the event on TV.

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