

## **Scottish State Coach**

This elegant coach is called the Scottish State Coach, and is one of the oldest in the Royal Mews. It was built in about 1830 for the Duke of Cambridge, younger brother of George the Fourth.

In 1968 it was converted to become the Scottish State Coach by adding the Royal Arms of Scotland to the central doors. This has the unicorn to the left holding the Scottish saltire - a white diagonal cross on a blue background. To the right, the lion holds the flag of St George - a red cross on white. Between the unicorn and the lion is the Royal Standard. On the panels either side of the door is a circular wreath of thistles.

The carriage's flat roof is edged with a frieze of golden thistles and the Red and gold crown of Scotland sits in the centre. There's no box at the front, as it's postilion driven. At the back, the pale upholstered bench seat between the wheels is for footmen.

The carriage has large glass windows around three sides, with a small square one in the back, set within a white brocade upholstered interior. Uniquely, this carriage also features glass panels in the roof, which give a better view to onlookers, as well as admitting more natural light for those inside.

This coach is for ceremonial use during Her Majesty The Queen's official visits in Scotland, though it is used for other state occasions as well; The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh used this coach as they returned to Buckingham Palace following the wedding of Prince William to Miss Catherine Middleton in 2011.