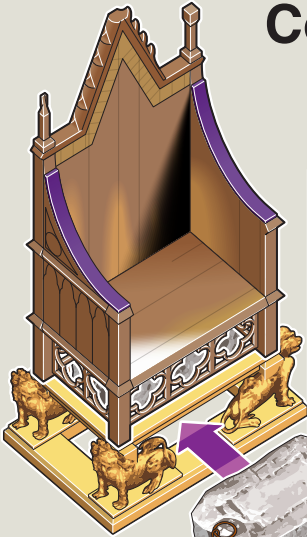


# Coronation rites and rituals

The United Kingdom is the only European nation with a coronation ceremony. Other monarchies around the world feature rituals and ceremonies steeped in ancient tradition



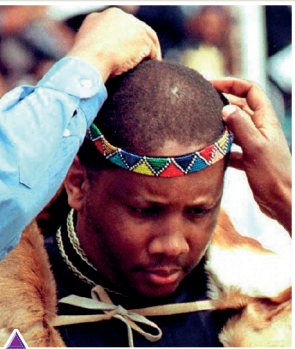
**2023, King Charles III:** Legendary **Stone of Destiny** – symbol of Scottish nationhood – is placed beneath **Coronation Chair** in Westminster Abbey



**2022, King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini:** In traditional KwaZulu-Natal ceremony, monarch takes place in ritual called **Ukungena Esibayeni**. King enters sacred royal cattle enclosure at KwaKhangelamankengane Palace, where he is introduced to royal ancestors and nation as next **Amazulu King**



**2019, Emperor Naruhito:** Following abdication of 85-year-old **Emperor Akihito** of Japan, his son, Naruhito, becomes Emperor. Ceremony includes **Kashikodokoro-Omae-no-gi** ritual in which Naruhito visits **Kashikodokoro** – main sanctuary in Tokyo Imperial Palace where **Sun Goddess** is said to be enshrined. Emperor then officially proclaims his ascension to **Chrysanthemum Throne** at Imperial Palace



**1997, King Letsie III:** Coronation held in Lesotho's Maseru Sports Stadium. Ceremony features beaded headband and feather to crown King Letsie



**2008, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck:** Bhutan's King abdicates throne in favour of his son. During coronation in Throne Room of Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu, his father places **Raven Crown** on his head, crowning world's youngest monarch

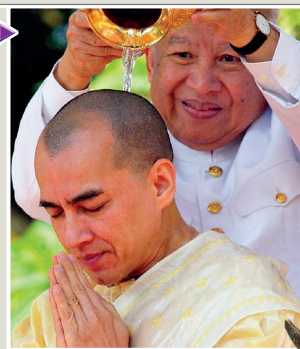


**1999, Asantehene Osei Tutu II:** Ghana's King is "enstooled" over most sacred object in Ashanti culture. Golden Stool – **Sika Dwa Kofi** – represents "**soul of the Ashanti people**." Stool is so holy nobody is allowed to sit on it



**2019, King Maha Vajiralongkorn:** Thailand's King, also known as **King Rama X**, pours holy water over his wife, **Queen Suthida**, who kneels in front of him in traditional display of respect

**2004, King Norodom Sihamoni:** Cambodia's former **King Norodom Sihanouk** pours holy water onto his son and new King during religious ceremony at Royal Palace in Phnom Penh. As there were no provisions in Cambodia's constitution to cover an abdication, Sihamoni was selected by nine-member council



**1999, King Abdullah II:** Hours after death of his father, **King Hussein**, Abdullah becomes King of Jordan. Speaker of Senate **Zaid Al-Rifai** recites from **Al-Fatiha** – opening chapter of Holy Koran. "**God, save His Majesty... God, give him advice and take care of him**"



Monarch is raised and lowered over Golden Stool during coronation without touching it