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The Life of Princess Diana

★ *Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales* ★

Princess Diana: Biography



Family album picture of Lady Diana Spencer at Park House on her first birthday, Sandringham, Norfolk, July 1, 1962?



Family album picture of Lady Diana Spencer in Cadogan Place Gardens, London, summer of 1968*



Lady Diana Spencer at Itchenor, West Sussex, summer of 1970*



Prince Charles and Princess Diana on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on their wedding day, London, England, July 29, 1981*

“I understand people’s suffering, people’s pain, more than you will ever know yourself...” Princess Diana

The Princess of Wales, Diana Frances Spencer was born on July 1, 1961 as ‘The Honorable Diana Spencer’ to then Lady and Lord Althorp—Frances and Edward John Spencer in Norfolk, England. Princess Diana, cared for by her nanny, grew up in an aristocratic family, living in her father’s house on the Queen’s estate at Sandringham and then at the family home of Althorp in Northamptonshire with two elder sisters, Sarah and Jane, and a younger brother, Charles. Princess Diana’s parents separated when she was six, and she lived with her father after he was awarded custody of she and her siblings. Sarah and Jane were sent to boarding school and Princess Diana attended Silfield day school, later attending boarding school at Riddlesworth Hall in Norfolk in 1970, where she excelled in swimming, diving and ballet. In 1975 her father, a former Captain in the Royal Scots Greys, who was Equerry to the late King George VI and subsequently Queen Elizabeth II, became the 8th Earl Spencer upon his own father’s death, granting Diana the title ‘Lady Diana Spencer’ and the family moved to Althorp, the Spencer family estate in Northampton.

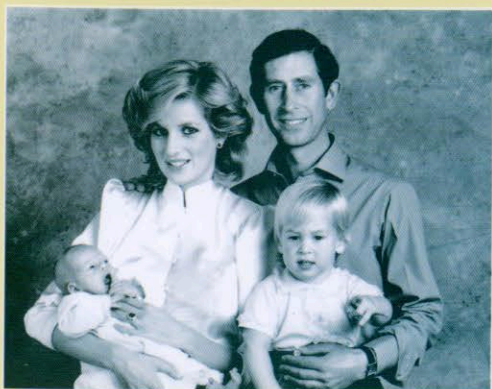
After attending Riddlesworth Hall and West Heath secondary school, Lady Diana completed her education at a finishing school at the Institute Alpin Videmanette in Rougemont, Switzerland. When she returned to London she worked as a mother’s helper in Hampshire and did occasional babysitting and cleaning work, before gaining employment in early 1979 as a student teacher, helping children with their dance lessons. That same year, Lady Diana moved into a London apartment with some friends, using money left to her in a trust by her American great-grandmother. In the fall of 1979, she worked as an assistant teacher at Young England Kindergarten and spent a

short time as an unpaid nanny to an American family, before she began dating Prince Charles in 1980, meeting him at a shooting party one weekend at Althorp. A year later, Lady Diana, 20, became Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales upon her marriage to Prince Charles, 32, at St. Paul’s cathedral on July 29, 1981. The couple honeymooned at the Mountbatten family home in Broadlands, Hampshire & embarked on a 12-day cruise aboard the Royal Yacht HMY BRITANNIA through the Mediterranean to Egypt, with their stay ending in Scotland at the Balmoral estates. Princess Diana and Prince Charles shared the birth of two sons—William Arthur Philip Louis on June 21, 1982, and Henry Charles Albert David on September 15, 1984. The family shared a three-story apartment at Kensington Palace in London and also spent time at their nine-bedroom 37-acre estate, Highgrove House in Gloucestershire.

As Princess of Wales, Princess Diana transformed the monarchy’s role to extend to public service. Diana was active with AIDS organizations and charities for children, and also crusaded against land mines, visiting Bosnia and Angola. Princess Diana’s work with the sick and dying was relentless, visiting hospitals and hospices in the United Kingdom at least three times per week, spending four hours with each visit. She also raised money and awareness for charities and numerous research initiatives for AIDS and breast cancer.

After 11 years of marriage, Prime Minister John Major announced the royal couple’s separation to Parliament on December 9, 1992. The troubled marriage began to take its toll in 1986, when Charles began to see his old love, Camilla Parker Bowles, and Diana developed depression,

* AP/Wide World Photos



The Prince and Princess of Wales pose for a family portrait with their sons, Prince William, right, and Prince Harry, left, at the Kensington Palace in London, England, October 6, 1984*



Diana, Princess of Wales, kisses her husband Prince Charles after presenting him with a polo match prize in London, October 26, 1988*

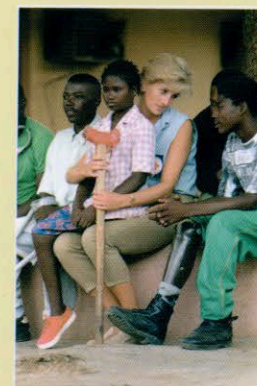
bulimia nervosa and became involved in her own extramarital affairs. Their marriage ended in divorce four years later on August 28, 1996, shortly after her 1995 BBC television interview, admitting her bulimia, adultery, and accusation of an uncaring royal family. Upon her divorce, Princess Diana gave up her right to be Queen of England, and ceased to be both a Royal Highness and a princess, as these titles were hers by marriage not birthright, but kept the title, Princess of Wales (being known by the name Diana, Princess of Wales) and continued her charity work. After the divorce, Diana continued to live at Kensington Palace, while Charles moved into St. James's Palace. She and Charles shared custody of their two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry.

Unfortunately, Princess Diana only enjoyed another year helping others, and only a short time with companion Emad "Dodi" Fayed, before her life ended abruptly at the age of 36 in a car crash in Paris on August 31, 1997. She had spent her last day with Fayed, with their journey to a private villa across the Seine River ending in a high-speed crash in their attempt to escape paparazzi. Princess Diana's funeral took place on September 6, 1997 at Westminster, London. The procession was watched on television in 60 countries around the world.

Princess Diana officially served as Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales from July 29, 1981 to August 28, 1996.



Princess Diana tours a minefield in Huambo, central Angola, January 15, 1997*



Princess Diana talks to amputees, at the Neves Bendinha Orthopedic Workshop on the outskirts of Luanda, Angola, January 14, 1997*

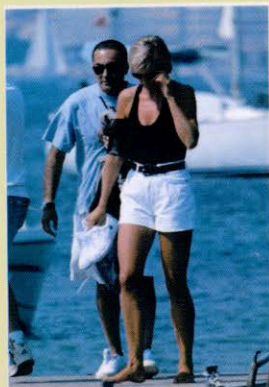
Princess Diana: Personal Trivia

Birthday: July 1, 1961 **Birth Name:** Diana Frances Spencer **Hometown:** Norfolk, England **Parents:** Frances and Edward John Spencer **Childhood and Youth Activities:** Swimming, Diving, Piano, and Ballet **Education:** Silfield Day School; Riddlesworth Hall Preparatory School; West Heath Secondary School; Institute Alpine Videmanette finishing school **Career and Public Service:** Assistant teacher at Young England kindergarten; unpaid nanny to an American couple; Princess of Wales; Patron of Centerpoint homeless charity, English National Ballet, Leprosy Mission and National Aids Trust; President of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street and the Royal Marsden Hospital; raised money for AIDS and cancer research; campaigned against landmines; assisted in refugee camps; worked with AIDS organizations and charities for children; Red Cross relief projects; set up trust in name to donate to others **Married:** July 29, 1981 **Husband:** HRH¹ Prince Charles Philip Arthur George **Children:** Prince William Arthur Philip Louis Windsor (Wills) & Prince Henry Charles Albert David (Harry) **Hobbies:** Charity

¹His Royal Highness



Princess Diana says goodbye to Mother Teresa, left, after a private meeting with her at The Missionaries of Charity in the South Bronx section of New York, June 18, 1997*



Princess Diana with companion Dodi Fayed in the French Riviera resort of St Tropez, August 22, 1997*



Princess Diana riding on the Maid of Mist with her sons, Prince Harry, 7, and Prince William, 9, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, October 1991*

work, tennis, swimming, skiing, tap dancing, playing the piano, listening to music and enjoying the ballet

Interesting Facts

- ❖ Dreamed of becoming a ballerina but became too tall
- ❖ Recognized with a special service award at West Heath Secondary School
- ❖ Eldest sister, Sarah dated Prince Charles from June 1977 until February 1978
- ❖ Charles and Diana are seventh cousins once removed
- ❖ At 5'10" was taller than Charles who is 5'9 ½" tall
- ❖ Dresses auctioned at Christie's Auction House for \$3.25 million (£1,960,150) for cancer and AID's charities

- ❖ First Englishwoman to marry an heir to the throne in 300 years
- ❖ Had 17 godchildren
- ❖ Last official visit with Prince Charles was in South Korea in 1992
- ❖ Supported over 500 charities
- ❖ Received Humanitarian of the Year Award
- ❖ Two British roses are named in Diana's honor: 'England's Rose' and 'The Princess of Wales' rose
- ❖ Since 1998 the US Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, has granted funding to over 40 organizations

Princess Diana: Timeline

1961

Born July 1 to Frances and Edward John Spencer in Norfolk, England

1969

Mother remarried

1975

Became Lady Princess Diana Spencer when father succeeded his father and became the 8th Earl Spencer
Moved to Althorp House, Northamptonshire

1980

Began dating Prince Charles



Diana Spencer as a toddler in an undated family album photo at Park House, Sandringham, Norfolk

1970

Sent to her first boarding school, Riddlesworth Hall in Norfolk; participated in swimming, diving, and ballet

1967

Parent's divorce and enter custody battle during which her time is spent at both her mother's and father's homes
Father won custody battle
Enrolled in Silfield day school

1977

1978-1981

Attended finishing school at the Institute Alpin Videmanette in Switzerland
Finished schooling at West Heath secondary school in Kent
Father remarried
Met Prince Charles during a shooting party at Althorp, the Spencer estate

1981

Charles proposed February 24
Engagement to Prince Charles
Moved to Clarence House
Queen Elizabeth
Married on July 29 in St. Mark's Church, Windsor
Set up a trust in her name to give money to others
Moved to Kensington Palace

Moved into a flat in London
Helped children with dancing lessons as Assistant teacher at Young England Kindergarten
Unpaid nanny to an American couple's baby

1982

Son Prince William Arthur Philip Louis Windsor born June 21 (Wills)

1984

Son Prince Henry Charles Albert David born September 15 (Harry)

1985

Began making solo trips abroad
Visited Royal Hampshire Regiment's base in Berlin
Went to Italy with 2 sons and Prince Charles

1987

Visited Middlesex Hospital,
London to meet with AIDS patient

1990

Visited Yaounde Deaf School,
Cameroon, and Lagos
Hospital, Nigeria

1992

Father d
Visited M
Dying i
Traveled
Prime M

199

ary 6 at Windsor Castle
Charles announced

ie, London, home of

Paul's Cathedral, London
ie as to donate

lace, London

a student teacher
ergarten in London
aby



Princess Diana and Prince Charles with their son Prince William at
Kensington Palace in London, December 22, 1982*

1983

6-week visit with Prince Charles to Australia and New Zealand

1989

Visited sufferers at a
leprosy clinic in Indonesia
and AIDS pediatric unit at
Harlem Hospital in the US

1986

Visited British Columbia with Charles for the
opening of Expo 86 in Vancouver

1991

Visited a shelter
Six Acres Day C
Norpoor Famil
Prince William s
Family trip to Or

ed of a heart attack in a London hospital
 other Theresa's Hospice for the Sick and
 n India & Westlawn Special School
 to South Korea with Prince Charles
 nister announced official separation to Charles

1996

Divorce with Prince Charles finalized
 Raised \$1.4 million for US breast cancer benefit
 Attended the White House breakfast hosted by First Lady Hillary Clinton
 Visited London Lighthouse AIDS center
 Received humanitarian award in Italy from the Pio Manzu Centre
 Attended heart research fundraising dinner at Harrods

1995

Attended charity dinners in New York
 and Argentina
 Arranged a Concert of Hope to raise
 money for a new hospice, Ty Hafan
 Last official engagement with Prince
 Charles at VJ Day celebrations, London

1993

Visited Red Cross
 Helped serve food at the
 Tgongora & Nemazura refugee
 camps in Zimbabwe

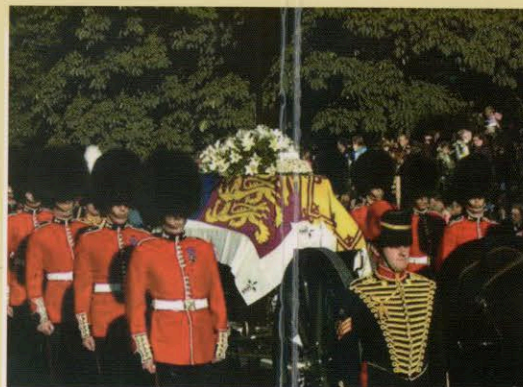
1997

Joined the British Red Cross's campaign against landmines
 Traveled to Angola and Bosnia to help with de-mining efforts
 Sold gowns at Christie's auction house in NYC for AIDS and
 cancer research
 Visited Mother Teresa at the Missionaries of Charity residence
 in the South Bronx
 & the children's unit at Northwick Park and at St. Mark's
 Hospital in London
 Died in car crash in Paris, France August 31
 Funeral at Westminster, London September 6

1994

Awarded International
 Humanitarian of the Year
 in the US

for abandoned children with AIDS in Sao Paulo, Brazil;
 enter, Taunton, Devon; & Pakistan's Badshahi Mosque,
 y Center and Khyber Regiment
 suffered skull fracture when accidentally struck by a golf club
 tario, Canada



Funeral service of Princess Diana, London, Westminster Abbey,
 September 6, 1997*