

Facts and Statistics about London's Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Games:

The London Olympic Games 2012 takes place from 27th July – 12th August, and the Paralympic Games 2012 from 29th August – 9th September.

London has hosted the Games twice before, in 1908 and 1948.

Taking part in the Olympic Games will be 10,500 competitors from 205 nations taking part in 26 sports.

Taking part in the Paralympic Games will be 4,200 competitors from 147 nations taking part in 21 sports.

Over 9 million tickets will be sold for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On the busiest day it is estimated that 800,000 people will use public transport to travel to Games events.

Though the Games were awarded to London, they will take place throughout the UK.

There will be over 20 Live Sites – official big screen centres with associated activities - throughout the UK.

The Olympic Stadium, in the Stratford area of London, will have a capacity of 80,000 during the Games

The International Broadcast Centre, based in the Olympic Park, will be a 24 hour media hub for around 20,000 broadcasters, photographers and journalists, who will bring the Games to an estimated four billion people worldwide

The Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays:

The Olympic Flame is one of the most recognised symbols connected with the Games. It will be lit in Olympia, Greece, in a traditional ceremony, before being taken on a short relay through Greece.

The Olympic Flame stands for peace, unity and friendship, and is intended to carry the 'spirit of the Games' to everyone in the nation.

On 18th May 2012, the flame will arrive at Landsend in Cornwall, from there travelling around the UK for 70 days. It will be carried by some 8,000 torch-bearers - mostly young people nominated by members of the public.

By the time the torch reaches London for the Opening Ceremony, it will have passed through over 1,000 communities and have come within ten minutes miles? of almost the whole UK population.

The Paralympic Flame will begin as four separate flames, lit in London, Greater Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff over the August Bank Holiday weekend, starting on 24th in London.

These flames will then be merged into one flame at Stoke Mandeville, home of the Paralympic movement, before making an overnight relay journey to Stratford for the Opening Ceremony on 29th August.

The Cultural Olympiad

The Olympic vision is about more than just sport. Ever since the Games were re-established in 1896, culture has played a vital part – in fact there were competitions in sculpture, art and music until 1948.

The UK's Cultural Olympiad was launched in autumn 2008, and continues through till the Games themselves in 2012. It is a series of cultural events and celebrations which are officially linked to the 2012 Games, and which happen all over the country.

Every event in the Cultural Olympiad must embrace three core values of:

- Celebrating London and the whole of the UK welcoming the world
- Inspiring and involving young people
- Generating a positive legacy

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