

## Bienvenue aux jeux\*



\* That's the French for  
'Welcome to the Games'

### INSIDE

Olympic history...	page 2
Great moments...	page 3
Legends .....	page 4
Records .....	page 5
Paris focus .....	page 6
Paralympics .....	page 7
Games schedule...	page 8

## PARIS OLYMPICS 2024 ■ SPECIAL EIGHT-PAGE PREVIEW EDITION

**T**he biggest show in world sport is set to dominate this summer as Paris hosts the 30th modern Olympic Games.

Around 10,500 athletes will take part in competitions over more than two weeks of action in the spectacular French capital city. The Stade de France will be the principal arena but other purpose-built arenas have been created around the city while football will also be played in six other cities around the country.

The Games will run for 19 days from July 24 until August 11. The official opening ceremony is on Friday, July 26, but four sports – archery, football, handball and rugby sevens – all begin their programmes in the two days before that.

One sport new to the Olympics this year will be breakdancing, known officially at the Games as 'breaking'. There will be two competitions, one male and one female, with 16 people taking part in each.

Its introduction to the Olympics follows that of skateboarding, surfing and

sport climbing at the last Games in Tokyo. They also feature again this year and, like breakdancing, are included to attract a younger audience.

In a break with tradition, the opening ceremony will not be staged in the main stadium for the first time.

Instead it will take place along a three-and-a-half mile stretch (6km) of the river Seine through the centre of the city. Instead of the usual parade of athletes around the athletics track, each national team will have their own boat sailing along the river.

They will then arrive at the Trocadero, a large open space across the river from the famous Eiffel Tower, where formal parts of the opening ceremony will take place.

The Seine will also take its place in competitions during the Games. The 10km marathon swimming race as well as the swimming section of the triathlons are all scheduled to take place in the river – but there are fears that pollution levels in the Seine could make that dangerous for competitors.

## The Olympics' leading light

A key part of the build-up to the Games is the Olympic torch relay.

The torch was lit from the Sun's rays at Olympia in Greece, the Games' spiritual home, in April and is now on an epic journey carried by volunteers.

This year it has visited French overseas territories in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and Caribbean before a lengthy tour around France itself, visiting many of the country's historic sites and Olympic venues.

It will finally arrive in Paris in time for the opening ceremony when it will be used to light the Olympic flame which burns throughout the Games.



PARIS



2024

## Fact SHED

The Summer Olympics have been held every four years since 1896, with some exceptions: the Berlin Games in 1916 were cancelled because of World War One; Tokyo in 1940 and London in 1944 were scrapped because of World War Two; and Tokyo 2020 was delayed until 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

### Host cities

■ 1896	Athens	Greece
■ 1900	Paris	France
■ 1904	St Louis	USA
■ 1908	London	England
■ 1912	Stockholm	Sweden
■ 1920	Antwerp	Belgium
■ 1924	Paris	France
■ 1928	Amsterdam	Netherlands
■ 1932	Los Angeles	USA
■ 1936	Berlin	Germany
■ 1948	London	England
■ 1952	Helsinki	Finland
■ 1956	Melbourne	Australia
■ 1960	Rome	Italy
■ 1964	Tokyo	Japan
■ 1968	Mexico City	Mexico
■ 1972	Munich	W. Germany
■ 1976	Montreal	Canada
■ 1980	Moscow	Soviet Union
■ 1984	Los Angeles	USA
■ 1988	Seoul	South Korea
■ 1992	Barcelona	Spain
■ 1996	Atlanta	USA
■ 2000	Sydney	Australia
■ 2004	Athens	Greece
■ 2008	Beijing	China
■ 2012	London	England
■ 2016	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
■ 2021	Tokyo	Japan
■ 2024	Paris	France
■ 2028	Los Angeles	USA
■ 2032	Brisbane	Australia

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## OLYMPIC HISTORY



The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, main venue for the first modern Olympics in 1896

# The early years: who forgot the sailing boats?

## » De Coubertin's dream comes true

**T**he first modern Olympics were staged in Athens in 1896 after French teacher and historian Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee.

They were a revival of the contests in Ancient Greece – but were very different to the huge sporting extravaganza we know today.

Only 14 countries took part – all European nations, apart from the United States – and there were only 12 sports, although the sailing had to be scrapped because everybody forgot to provide the boats!

There were only around 240 competitors in total (there will be around 10,500 this year), and all were men – women took part for the first time four years later in Paris. Around 65 per cent of the

athletes at the first modern Games in Athens were from Greece itself.

As the Olympics developed, they began to include some sports and competitions that would seem strange at this year's Games.

Cricket was staged in Paris in 1900, when a touring team of club cricketers known as the Devon and Somerset Wanderers beat a team made up from two clubs in Paris. Croquet and tug-of-war were also in the schedule.

Cultural events were also a part of the early Olympics. Medals were awarded in subjects such as painting, music and literature, while the 1928 Games in Amsterdam even featured an architecture competition.

This year's Olympics will be the third staged in the French capital after those in 1900 and 1924. London is the only other city to stage the Games three times, although Los Angeles will have a third edition in four years' time.



**MEMORABLE MOMENTS**

# British glory on Super Saturday

**S**aturday, August 4, 2012 had already been a good day at the London Olympics for Team GB with two gold medals in the rowing and another in cycling.

But in the evening at the Olympic Stadium it went off the scale. One of the greatest days in British sporting history would become forever known as Super Saturday.

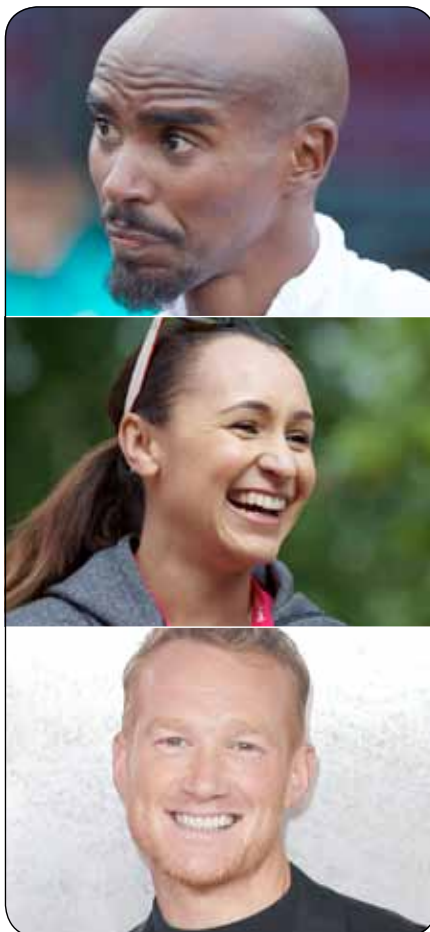
With 80,000 people packed into what is now known as the London Stadium, home to Premier League football club West Ham United, three more golds came in quick succession.

Jessica Ennis was on her way to victory in the seven-event heptathlon when she stepped onto the track for the final part, the 800m.

At the very moment she was introduced to the crowd, Greg Rutherford clinched gold in the long jump with his winning leap of 8.31m. Ennis duly won the 800m with what was effectively two laps of honour.

And there was even more to come when Mo Farah sent an already excited crowd into ecstasy with a dominant victory in the 10,000m.

A week later, Farah would complete the long-distance double by winning the 5,000m as well. Four years later, in Rio de Janeiro, he would again take gold in both events.



Golden trio (from top): Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis and Greg Rutherford



## Kennys keep it in the family

When Jason Kenny won the keirin cycling race at Tokyo in 2021, it wasn't just his ninth Olympic medal – it was the 15th in his household!

Jason is the most successful British competitor in Olympics history with seven cycling gold medals and two silvers, won across four separate Games.

Remarkably, his wife Laura is Britain's greatest British female Olympian with five golds and a silver from the last three Olympics.

Her fifth gold medal came two days before Jason's seventh in Tokyo.

As well as their record Olympic successes, the couple have more than 50 medals between them from World and European Championships and Commonwealth Games.

Jason, now 36, retired from the sport soon after Tokyo and Laura has since decided not to compete in Paris to spend more time with their children, Albie and Monty.

Two of the most famous moments in Olympic Games history came in Mexico City in 1968.

In the long jump final, American athlete Bob Beamon produced a leap that stunned the world of sport.

He had won 22 of the 23 events he had competed in that year when he added Olympic gold in astonishing fashion.

His leap of 8.90m (29ft 2¼in) broke the existing world record by 55cm (21¾in). Beamon was unfamiliar with metric measurements and went into shock when his coach told him he had beaten the record by almost 2ft.

His world record stood for 23 years before fellow American Mike Powell beat it in the 1991 world championships with a jump of 8.95m (29ft 4¼in).

Two days before Beamon's historic leap came one of the Olympic Games' most famous protests.

After receiving their 200m gold and bronze medals

respectively, American athletes Tommie Smith – who had set a new world record – and John Carlos stood with heads bowed and gloved fists raised in a silent Black Power salute, as it became known, while the national anthem played.

It was a human rights protest against the racial discrimination still widespread in the United States at the time and Peter Norman, the Australian athlete who took silver, wore a badge in support of his fellow athletes.

Officials expelled the pair from the Games but they came to be seen as heroes of the human rights movement.





**OLYMPIC LEGENDS****NADIA COMANECI**

As a tiny 14-year-old, the Romanian gymnast made sporting history at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Canada.

Gymnastic routines are scored by judges, and Comaneci became the first ever to be given a perfect 10 for her routine on the uneven bars. It was so unprecedented, the electronic scoreboard was not programmed to show a 10, so her score actually appeared as 1.00.

Incredibly, Comaneci went on to be given six more scores of 10 for various routines as she won three gold medals. She went on to win two more golds in Moscow four years later, to go alongside her two World Championships gold medals and nine from the European Championships.

**STEVE REDGRAVE**

The British rower won gold medals at a remarkable five successive Games. Competing in a range of fours and pairs events, he won gold at Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. He also won a bronze medal at the Seoul Games.

**CATHY FREEMAN**

An indigenous Australian, Freeman was the poster girl of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Specialising in the 400m, she had won silver in Atlanta four years earlier and already had two World Championships gold medals and three in the Commonwealth Games (and would go on to earn a fourth).

The build-up, as well as her record, meant she was under huge pressure to win. Freeman, wearing a revolutionary skin-tight full-length hooded suit, duly delivered by winning the final in 49.11sec.

**JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE**

The popular American is one of the greatest all-round athletes of the modern era.

Competing in the heptathlon as well as the long jump, she won three golds, a silver and two bronzes at four Games from Los Angeles 1984 to Atlanta 1996.

The heptathlon is a multi-discipline event comprising the 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m, long jump, javelin and 800m.

**USAIN BOLT**

The Jamaican sprinter became one of the world's most popular sportsmen of the 21st century with his string of record-breaking performances.

He completely dominated world sprinting, winning the 100 metres and 200 metres at three successive Games: Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016.

He added golds in the 4x100m relay at London and Rio, and has no fewer than 11 World Championships gold medals.

**PARIS****JESSE OWENS**

The American athlete was already famous before the 1936 Berlin Olympics for an extraordinary feat a year earlier.

Competing at an athletics meeting in Michigan, Owens set world records in the long jump, 220 yards sprint and 220 yards hurdles and equalled the world record in the 100 yards – all in the space of 45 minutes!

A year later he was in the American team for Berlin and at the centre of controversy as a black athlete competing when there was so much discrimination in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Nevertheless, Owens proved what

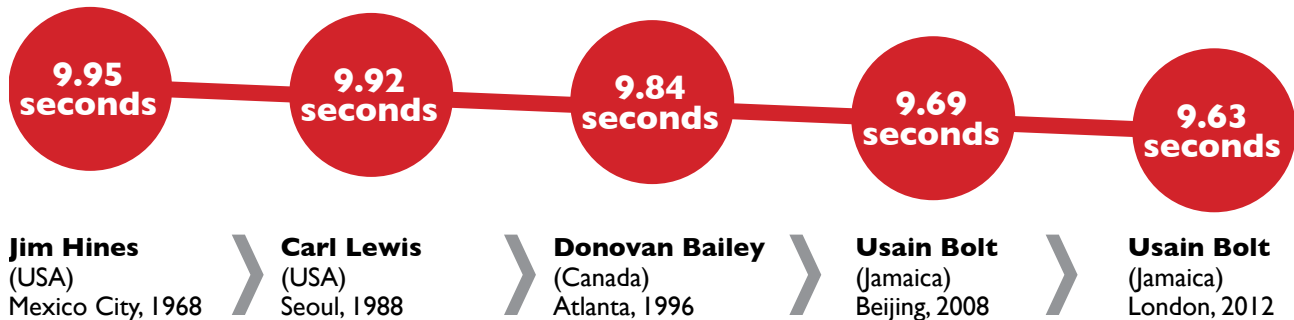
a great athlete he was by winning four gold medals. He won the 100 metres, long jump and 200 metres on three successive days and then, four days later, was part of the winning American team in the 4x100 metres relay.

His feat was celebrated around the world, with countries as far afield as Mongolia, Liberia and Equatorial Guinea releasing commemorative postage stamps featuring Owens' image.

Although he was known around the world as Jesse, that was not his real name. He was christened James Cleveland, which became shortened to JC, which in turn morphed into Jesse.

**OLYMPIC RECORDS**

» Olympic men's 100m record progression since Jim Hines became the first to break 10 seconds

**72 YEARS, 281 DAYS**

Oscar Swahn's age when he competed for Sweden in the shooting at the 1920 Games in Antwerp, Belgium, making him the oldest Olympian. He also qualified for the 1924 Games in Paris, but withdrew without competing.

**4**

The United States has hosted the Summer Olympic Games more often than any other country: St Louis (1904), Los Angeles (1932 and 1984) and Atlanta (1996). The 2028 Olympics are also scheduled to return to Los Angeles, which will join London and Paris as the only cities to host the Games three times.

**265kg**

The Olympic record for a single lift, set by Georgian weightlifter Lasha Talakhadze in the clean and jerk at Tokyo 2020. That is the equivalent of lifting up footballers Harry Kane, Cristiano Ronaldo and Harry Maguire all at the same time.

**28**

The record number of Olympic medals won by American swimmer Michael Phelps, 23 gold, three silver and two bronze. Some of those were in relay events, but he also holds the record for most medals in individual events with 16 (13 gold, two silver and one bronze).

**Fact SHED**

■ Two Olympic records in women's athletics have now stood for 44 years. Nadezhda Olizarenko's 1min 53.43sec in the 800 metres and Ilona Slupianek's 22.41 metres in the shot put were set in Moscow in 1980.

■ Five women's Olympic athletics records still stand from the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea – 36 years ago:

200m	Florence Griffith Joyner .....	21.34sec
4x400m	Soviet Union .....	3min 15.17sec
Long jump	Jackie Joyner-Kersey .....	7.40m
Discus	Martina Hellmann .....	72.30m
Heptathlon	Jackie Joyner-Kersey .....	7,291 pts

**PARIS****2024****18**

Russian gymnast Larisa Latynina has won more Olympic medals than any other woman – nine gold, five silver and four bronze across the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Games.

**11,476**

The Tokyo Olympics three years ago featured the most competitors, 5,982 men and a record 5,494 women.

**10**

Most appearances at the summer Olympics by one sportsman. Canadian show jumper Ian Millar appeared at every Games from 1972 until 2012, when he was 65, apart from 1980.



**HOST CITY: PARIS FACTFILE**

# The city of light

## » Eight facts about Olympics host Paris

■ The capital of France has just over two million residents and is a world centre of culture, fashion and fine food. Its extensive system of street lighting in the 19th century earned it the nickname 'the city of light'.

■ Based on the number of international visitors last year, Paris is the fifth most visited city in the world. It had 15.5 million visitors, putting it behind only Istanbul, London, Dubai and the Turkish holiday destination of Antalya.

■ The Eiffel Tower, pictured, is the most visited attraction in Paris. The 330-metre (1,083ft) iron tower was designed by Gustave Eiffel as the centrepiece of the 1889 World's Fair.

Next most popular attractions are a cruise on the river Seine through the city, Disneyland Paris, Chateau de Versailles, Arc de Triomphe and two world-famous museums, the Musee d'Orsay and the Louvre.

■ As well as existing stadiums such as the Stade de France, Parc des Prince, Roland Garros and many

specialty-built facilities in Paris, the football competitions will be played in six other cities around France. The surfing will take place more than 9,000 miles away on the French Polynesian island of Tahiti.

■ Gare du Nord is the world's busiest station outside of Japan with more than 250 million passengers every year. The city's underground Metro system, opened in 1900, carries 5.2 million passengers every day.

■ The finals of the 1938 and 1982 football World Cups, the 2019 Women's World Cup, three European Championships and the 2007 Rugby World Cup were all staged in Paris.

■ The city takes its name from the Parisii, an Iron Age tribe which lived on the banks of the Seine.

■ The city's famous Notre-Dame cathedral was badly damaged by fire in 2019. It is expected to reopen later this year after major reconstruction.



**PARALYMPIC GAMES**

# How Dr Guttman's idea grew into a global celebration

It started as a small gathering of injured World War Two soldiers at a hospital in Buckinghamshire.

An idea by Dr Ludwig Guttman at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, the small athletics event was put on to coincide with the first day of the London Olympics in 1948.

Four years later some disabled Dutch athletes also took part and the seeds of the international Paralympic movement had begun to grow.

The first formal Paralympic Games were staged in Rome in 1960 and it has grown into a major global event every four years, usually staged just after the Olympics and hosted by the same city, although that was not always the case in the early years.

This year's Paralympics in Paris will see more than 4,000 athletes compete from August 28 to September 8.

Athletes compete against each other in different categories depending on the type and level of their disabilities. There are eight different categories of physi-

cal disability, competitions for visually impaired athletes and others for those with learning disabilities.

In athletics events for some visually impaired runners, including those who are completely blind, competitors will be accompanied by guide runners who can see normally and have to be just as fast.

Apart from athletics, there will be 21 other sports at the Games in Paris this year. Many of these are the same as Olympic sports or adapted versions of them such as wheelchair basketball, fencing, rugby and tennis.

There are two sports on show in Paris specifically for disabled competitors: boccia, which is similar to bowls, and goalball, a sport for visually impaired athletes who play in teams of three and try to throw a ball containing a bell into their opponents' goal.

Many of the Paris venues will be the same as for the Olympic Games, including the Stade de France and the Roland Garros tennis complex.

**PARIS****2024**

## 5 of the greatest Paralympians

**TRISCHA ZORN**

Blind from birth, American swimmer Trischa Zorn is the most successful Paralympian of all time.

Competing at every Games from 1980 until 2004, from the age of 16 until she was 40, she won a remarkable 55 medals – 41 gold, nine silver and five bronze.

She topped the individual medal table across all sports at Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996, her best haul coming at Barcelona, where she won 10 golds and two silvers.

**TANNI GREY-THOMPSON**

The Welsh wheelchair racer, who has a spinal condition, won 16 medals across five Paralympics, 11 of them gold.

Equally well-known as a disability rights campaigner, she has been a baroness sitting in the House of Lords since 2010 and is now a leading sports administrator.

(Fun fact: Tanni was actually christened Carys. When her older sister Sian first saw her as a baby she said she was 'tiny', but pronounced it 'Tanni' and the name stuck.)

**ALEX ZANARDI**

A former racing driver who competed in more than 40 grands prix, Zanardi had the lower part of both legs amputated after a crash in Germany.

The Italian returned to motor racing and also took up hand cycling on special bikes on which the pedals are turned by the hands instead of feet. He won two gold medals and a silver at both London 2012 and Rio 2016.

**SARAH STOREY**

Born without a working left hand, Sarah is the most successful British Paralympian with 17 gold medals, five in swimming and 12 in cycling.

She is also a six-time British champion against able-bodied cyclists.

**ELLIE SIMMONDS**

A winner of eight Paralympic swimming medals, five of them gold, between 2008 and 2016, Ellie was born with a form of dwarfism and is 4ft tall.

One of the sport's most popular figures, she took part in Strictly Come Dancing in 2022.

# PARIS 2024 SCHEDULE: WHAT'S ON EACH DAY

	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11
Opening ceremony																			
3x3 basketball																			
Archery																			
Artistic gymnastics																			
Artistic swimming																			
Athletics																			
Badminton																			
Basketball																			
Beach volleyball																			
Boxing																			
Breaking																			
Canoe slalom																			
Canoe sprint																			
Cycling BMX freestyle																			
Cycling BMX racing																			
Cycling mountain bike																			
Cycling road																			
Cycling track																			
Diving																			
Equestrian																			
Fencing																			
Football																			
Golf																			
Handball																			
Hockey																			
Judo																			
Marathon swimming																			
Modern pentathlon																			
Rhythmic gymnastics																			
Rowing																			
Rugby sevens																			
Sailing																			
Shooting																			
Skateboarding																			
Sport climbing																			
Surfing																			
Swimming																			
Table tennis																			
Taekwondo																			
Tennis																			
Trampoline																			
Triathlon																			
Volleyball																			
Water polo																			
Weightlifting																			
Wrestling																			
Closing ceremony																			

Key:

= competition days

= medal days

= reserve days

= ceremonies