

The history of Olympics

The **Olympics** were established in **776 b.C.** in Olympia in honour of the dead or deities.

The name 'Olympics' was chosen is due to the name of the city in which they were created: Olympia.

The Games stopped officially in **393 b.C.** because of an edict by Sant'Am-brogio.

Only in the 19th century the tradition of the Games started again thanks to Baron **Pierre De Cuobertin** who wanted to recreate a competition similar to the one that was held in Greek. He didn't want females to participate, but eventually he lost his cause.



The first Olympics took place in Athens in **1896**. Starting from the **1924** there were established the Winter Olympics Games. The first celebration of the Winter Olympics was held in Chamonix, France, in **1924**.

The original sports were alpine and cross-country skiing, figure skating, ice hockey, Nordic combined, ski jumping and speed skating.

Nowadays the Olympics and the Winter Olympics are alternated every two year in different capital cities and countries across the world.

Viola Di Cuonzo, Chiara Bertocchini

The olympic village in Stratford

London 2012 has been the catalyst for transforming 2.5 square kilometres of land in east London. What was once industrial land has been rapidly transformed over the last few years into green space that both visitors to the Games and local residents can enjoy.

As well as being home to eight venues – including the iconic Olympic Stadium, Aquatic Centre and Velodrome – the Olympic Park will host a range of exciting attractions and events during the Games.

The site covers parts of Stratford, Bow, Leyton and Homerton, in East London. The Royal Mail, has given the park and Stratford City, which was previously only used by the television soap opera Eastenders for the fictional suburb of Walford.

The park will be overlooked by ArcelorMittal Orbit, an observation tower and Britain's largest piece of public art. After the Olympics, the park is to be known as Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, though it will not be an official Royal Park of London.

Design and construction

The park is being designed by the EDAW Consortium working with ARUP and WS Atkins. The park including legacy has since been taken over by LDA Design in conjunction with Hargreaves Associates.

London's Olympic and Paralympic bid proposed that there would be four arenas in the park, but the revised master plan published in 2006 reduced this to three. The fencing arena was also cancelled, and the Fencing events will now take place at ExCeL London.

the electricity for the park is now run through underground tunnels.



The village also includes :

Aquatics Centre

Located at the south-east corner of the Olympic Park, the Aquatics Centre will be the venue for swimming, paralympic swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and the aquatics discipline of the modern pentathlon. It was designed by Zaha Hadid and features a spectacular wave-like roof that's 160m long and 80m wide.

Basketball Arena

The Basketball Arena, at the north end of the Olympic Park, will host the basketball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and the final stages of the handball competition during the London 2012 Games. The arena is one of the largest temporary venues ever built for any Games, with a capacity of 12,000

BMX Circuit

The BMX Circuit will host the Olympic BMX competition during the London 2012 Games. The daredevil riders race around a 400m circuit which has jumps and obstacles. After the games, the BMX Circuit will become part of Lee Valley's new VeloPark.

Eton Manor

Eton Manor will host the wheelchair tennis during the Games. There will be nine competition courts and four warm-up courts with capacity for 10,500 spectators. Eton Manor, which is located on the site of the old Eton Manor Sports Club will also host training pools for swimmers and water polo players.

The Handball Arena in the west of the Olympic Park has a capacity of 7,000 and will host the handball, goalball and the fencing discipline of modern pentathlon during the London 2012 Games. After the games, the venue will be transformed into a community sports centre for indoor sports.

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Hockey Centre

During the games, the Hockey Centre will host the hockey, Paralympic 5-a-side football and the Paralympic 7-a-side football. The main competition pitch will have 16,000 seats and the warm-up pitch will seat 300. After the games, the pitches will be moved to the north and become part of the Eton Manor sports facilities.

Olympic Stadium

The Olympic Stadium is located in the south of the Olympic Park and will host the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as the athletics and Paralympic athletics during London 2012. The stadium will seat 80,000 people; 25,000 in permanent seats and 55,000 in a removable upper tier.

Velodrome

The Velodrome hosts track cycling and Paralympic track cycling during the London 2012 Games. The Velodrome seats 6,000; 3,500 seats around the track and 2,500 seats in two upper tiers within the venue's roof. After the games, a mountain bike course and road cycle circuit will be added to create a Velopark for East London.

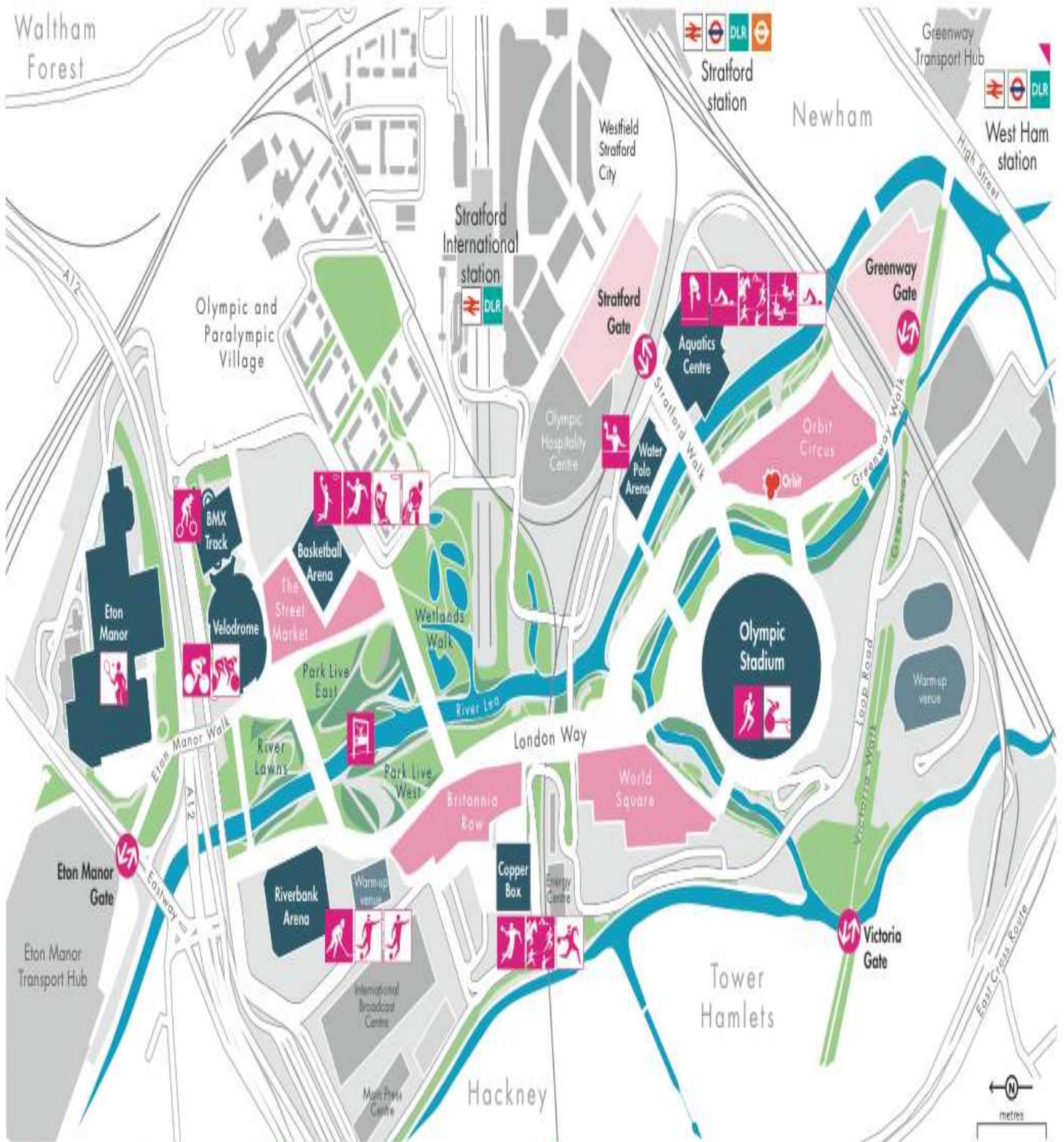
Water Polo Arena

The Water Polo Arena has a competition pool and a warm-up pool and will host the men's and women's water polo competitions during the London 2012 Games. The temporary arena seats 5,000 and is located in the south east corner of the Olympic Village; next to the Aquatics Centre.

Anish Kapoor: Arcelor-Mittal Orbit

Award-winning London-based artist Anish Kapoor has designed a stunning new artwork and visitor attraction for the Olympic Park. The ArcelorMittal Orbit is the tallest sculpture in the UK and, at 114.5m, is 22m taller than the Statue of Liberty. There are two indoor viewing platforms offering dramatic views of London's skyline.





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|---|---|--|--|---|
| Spectator zone | Warm-up venue | ↻ Entrance and exit | D London Overground | 🏊 Olympic sport |
| Entrance area | Non-sports venue | U London Underground | DLR Docklands Light Railway | 🏏 Paralympic sport |
| Competition venues | Back of house | N National Rail | P Park Live | |

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Sporting Events



Archery



Athletics



Badminton



Basketball



Beach
Volleyball



Boxing



Canoe Slalom



Canoe Sprint



Cycling - BMX



Cycling -
Mountain Bike



Cycling - Road



Cycling - Track



Diving



Equestrian



Fencing



Football



Gymnastics -
Artistic



Gymnastics -
Rhythmic



Handball



Hockey



Judo



Modern
Pentathlon



Rowing



Sailing



Shooting



Swimming



Synchronised
Swimming



Table Tennis



Taekwondo



Tennis



Trampoline



Triathlon



Volleyball



Water Polo



Weightlifting



Wrestling

The most popular are :

- [Diving](#)
- [Boxing](#)
- [Football](#)
- [Swimming](#)
- [60 metres](#)

The beginning of the events are all in different dates :

- Diving will start on the 29th of July at Aquatics Centre
- Boxing on the 28th of July at Excel
- Football on the 25th of July at Coventry Stadium, Coventry Hampden Park, Glasgow Millennium Stadium, Cardiff Old Trafford, Manchester, Newcastle and Wembley Stadium
- Swimming on the ` 28th July at Aquatics Centre
- 60 metres on the 3rd of August at Olympic Stadium



It's London 2012!

This year there are 200 competing countries and over 10000 athletes that will fight for world wide glory and fame!

The most important competing countries are the following:



China, the most populated country in the world.
The main character of the last Olympic Games.



The Russian Federation, the biggest country in the world, known for it's harsh winters and even harsher athletes.



The USA, the most powerful country in the world,
Homeland of many goldwinners.



Germany, one of the most awarded countries of all times, having won over 1000 medals total.



The UK, the host of this year's Olympic Games.

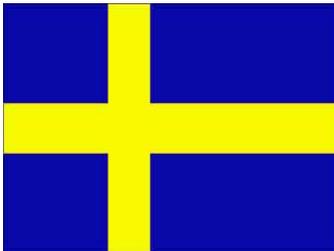
But there are many other countries that even with less medals, athletes and resources have good chances of winning!



Jamaica, even if it's a poor country it has a lot of medals thanks to one man: Usain Bolt. And they have achieved a lot of fame in the Winter Olympics thanks to their National Bobsled Team.



The Netherlands, a small nation famous for its winter athletes, especially ice-skating.



Sweden, a nation covered by ice but with many strong and brave athletes. It has conquered many disciplines, but not as many times as other countries, remaining underrated.



Hungary, a poor country that has over 400 won medals, excelling in fencing.



Greece, the nation that founded the Olympic Games. The Greek athletes haven't won many medals, but the ones that were obtained through arduous battles, because of this it always was one of the favourites.

We only mentioned 10 of the 200 competing countries, so there are many many others ready to surprise the wholeeeeeeee woooooooooorl!

The Games are beginning, who are you going to cheer for?

The London 2012 Olympic Festival



The London 2012 Festival is a huge cultural 12-week nationwide celebration coinciding with the Olympic and Paralympic games in London.

Leading artists from all over the world are taking part, including Plan B, Toni Morrison, Mike Leigh, Leona Lewis, Damon Albarn and Tracey Emin.

The London 2012 Festival is the finale of the Cultural Olympiad, a four-year programme of cultural events leading up to the London 2012 Games, it has started since the cultural Olympiad in 2008.

The festival lasts from 21 June to 9 September, it includes many

events, for example art exhibitions, artists from around the

world, music events, free concerts, films and digital innova-

tions, dance performances, theatre, fashion, a part dedicated for

kids and families and much more.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vphCktTQQ-s&feature=plcp!>

Ruth Mackenzie, Director, Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival, said: 'When the UK won the bid for the Olympics in 2005, we promised to return to Baron Pierre de Coubertin's original idea of an Olympic Games based on the three pillars of sport, art and education. This summer, London 2012 Festival showcases the world's greatest artists alongside the stars of the sports world, a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience to match the once in a lifetime visit of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to the UK.'



The London 2012 Festival team have worked with the BBC to develop a programme of films that will run throughout the day on the permanent big screens in Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cardiff, Coventry, Derby, Dover, Edinburgh, Leicester, Leeds, Liverpool, Londonderry, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Swansea, Swindon, Waltham Forest and Woolwich.

The screens will show films from events in the London 2012 Festival, including the Tracey Emin Review Show interview, excerpts from previous BBC Proms, films made by young people through the Cultural Olympiad's Film Nation:Shorts programme, excerpts from Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) shows for the World Shakespeare Festival, clips of female comedians performing from the BFI archive to celebrate the venue's Britain's Queens of UK TV Comedy programme, and a film about Sacrilege, the life-sized inflatable replica of Stonehenge by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller that will pop up in places around the UK throughout the London 2012 Festival.

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The events were among seven guerrilla-style performances at London landmarks taking place as part of the London 2012 Festival. Each was shrouded in secrecy until the power of social media brought out crowds that increased in number throughout the day.

The Millennium bridge event was – unsurprisingly since it was at 7.30am – the most sparsely attended. Small children were more intent on throwing pebbles, stones and – despite the protestations of parents – bricks into the low tide as the dancers spun on their bungee ropes in a performance called Waterfall. A solitary duck swam upstream, bemused by all the kerfuffle.



The dancers were choreographed precisely, their performance lasting for around 15 minutes until four support boats came in to get them down.

At City Hall, Streb and her two dancers performed Skywalk – an abseil down the outside of the Norman Foster-designed glass building on the Thames' south bank.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ChSxKiBUP-I