

# Olympic Torch Relay

## What is it?

The torch relay is the ceremonial carrying of the Olympic flame prior to the beginning of an Olympic Games.

The relay begins with the torch being lit in Olympia, Greece, and then travelling for a number of months before finishing at the Host City Olympic Stadium to ignite the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony.

## Where will the torch visit?

The aim is for the torch to travel to as much of the UK as possible and visit a mixture of diverse communities and cultures to draw people into the London 2012 Games.

## When will details of the route be announced?

Details of the route the torch will take are due to be announced in 2011. London 2012 organisers have claimed that 95% of Britons will be within an hour's journey of seeing the torch.

## What makes this torch relay special?

Unlike traditional torch relays, the London 2012 Olympic Torch will only visit the UK during the relay rather than travelling to many different countries across the globe.

The reasoning is to provide as many people across the UK to feel as though they have been part of the 2012 Games and to inspire them around the Olympic movement.

## How do I find out more information about the Olympic Torch Relay?

### Websites

London 2012:  
[www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

West Midlands for 2012:  
[www.wmfor2012.com](http://www.wmfor2012.com)

## When will the torch arrive in Britain?

The flame will arrive on 18 May 2012 and will travel around the UK for 70 days before finishing in London before the start of the Games on 27 July 2012.

## Who will carry the torch?

There will be a nomination process used to pick the 8,000 torch bearers that will carry the torch on its journey around the UK which will focus on young people.

## What happens when the torch visits?

At each stop that the torch makes, the host venue will put on a celebration event to welcome the torch to its community to showcase Britain's towns, areas of outstanding natural beauty and cultural landmarks.

Visits from the torch will take place either during the day or for an evening event. The evening visits will consist of a grand exhibition or special event that will incorporate significant cultural and sporting activity.

## How long is the torch likely to be in the West Midlands for?

Due to the challenge of getting as many people to experience the torch as possible, the torch will only be in the West Midlands for a maximum of 4 days.

Due to the complexity of the route, it is unlikely that the visits will be on consecutive days as the torch is expected to travel through the night to its destination the following day.