

Opening Ceremony

London 2012 Paralympic Games
Olympic Stadium, Olympic Park
29 August 2012



London 2012 Paralympic Games
Official spectator guide

Plan your travel

Getting to the Olympic Park

Great news! You can use the Games Travelcard sent to you with your ticket for free travel on public transport in London zones 1-9 on the day of the Opening Ceremony, including to and from the Olympic Park. The recommended stations are:

Stratford – around 15-minute walk

Stratford International – around 15-minute walk

West Ham – around 25-minute walk

London will be very busy so leave plenty of time to get to the Olympic Park and be prepared for crowds. Plan and book your journey at london2012.com/paralympics/travel and check it before you set off as things may change.

Or why not take the active option and get on your bike? There's secure cycle parking outside Greenway Gate.

There is no spectator parking at the Olympic Park, except for pre-booked Blue Badge spaces.

For days when you're not going to a London 2012 sports event or ceremony, beat the queues for travel tickets and buy a Visitor Oyster card before you leave home at tfl.gov.uk/visitorshop

Accessible travel

If you've reserved Blue Badge parking, you'll receive details in the post soon. For more information, go to london2012.com/paralympics/bluebadge

Stratford and Stratford International are the recommended stations with step-free access and staff assistance available.

Games Mobility

Inside the Olympic Park you can use our free Games Mobility service, which loans out mobility vehicles on a first come, first served basis. Audio description and guiding are also available. Find out more at london2012.com/paralympics/accessibility

BARCODE



Top tips

Welcome

This guide includes handy tips to help you get to the Opening Ceremony and make the most of your Paralympic experience. So have a good read – and don't forget to bring it on the day!

Arriving at the Olympic Park

Aim to arrive early – the gates to the Olympic Park will open at 5pm*. You need to be in your seat inside the Olympic Stadium by 7.30pm at the latest, in time for the pre-show.

When you get to the Olympic Park, you'll be asked to go through airport-style security screening. With thousands of visitors arriving at the same time, there may be a queue.

One soft-sided bag is allowed per person – for example, a medium-sized handbag or small backpack (maximum 25 litres).

We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Games, so there are some things you can't bring into the Olympic Park. Go to london2012.com/paralympics/security for the full list, which includes water and other liquids.

You'll need to have your ticket ready to be checked at the entrances to the Olympic Park and the Stadium.

Arriving at the Olympic Stadium
The Stadium will open at 5pm*. It could take around 15 minutes to get there once you've gone through security screening.

Please note that the majority of the Olympic Park will be closed for the Opening Ceremony – just follow directions from staff. Your ticket will show you which bridge to use as you approach the Stadium.

*All information, including gate opening times, is correct at the time of going to print. You'll receive an email with detailed arrangements nearer to the event.

1 Check the London 2012 website for the latest information, including gate opening times, a few days before

2 Remember your tickets!
Everyone needs a ticket for entry

3 Aim to arrive at the Olympic Park early –
you should be in your seat inside the Stadium by 7.30pm at the latest

4 The transport system will be very busy so **leave plenty of time to travel.**
London Underground trains will run into the early hours to help you get home

5 You'll need to go through airport-style security when you arrive so make sure **you've read the list of items that aren't allowed inside the Olympic Park** at london2012.com/paralympics/security

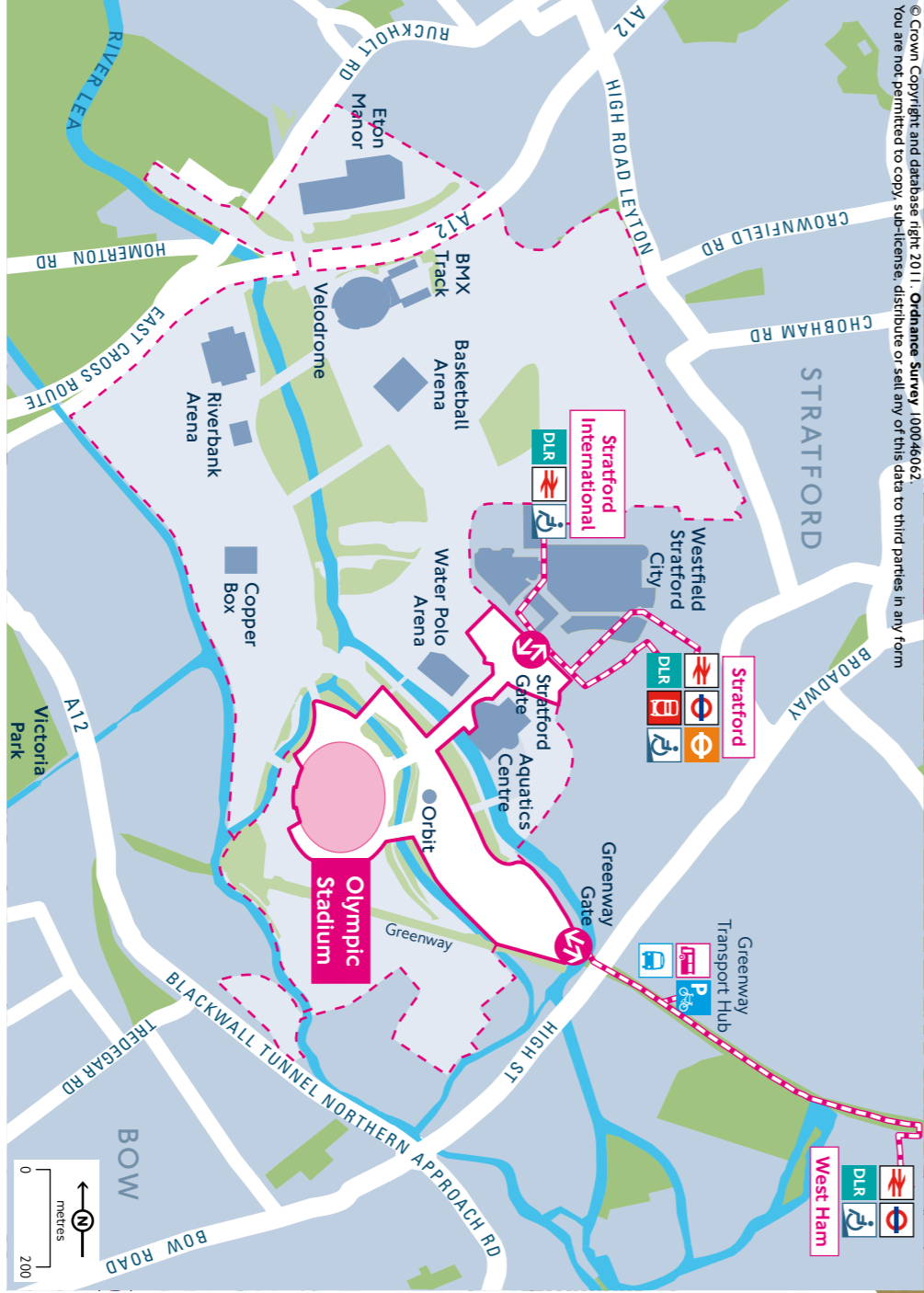
6 Your bag must fit under your seat or on your lap.
If you can manage without one, even better

7 There's a **wide variety of healthy and tasty food** around the Stadium

8 You can **pay by Visa (debit, credit or prepaid) or cash (£) only**

9 The Stadium is an open-air venue so **check the weather forecast and come prepared**, whether that means bringing a sun hat or rain jacket – we are in the UK after all!

10 Please be aware that the Opening Ceremony will feature **flashing lights and loud noises**



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Key

Recommended station for spectators	National Rail
Olympic Park area open during the Opening Ceremony	London Underground
Event area during the Opening Ceremony	London Overground
Olympic Park entrance and exit	Docklands Light Railway
DLR	Bus station
Coach pick-up/drop-off	Station with step-free access and staff assistance
Cycle parking	Park-and-ride shuttle bus pick-up/drop-off
Spectator access route	

Opening Ceremony

With a cast of thousands, stunning sets and incredible special effects, the Opening Ceremony will provide the perfect curtain raiser to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



The Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games will see a breathtaking spectacle that champions the Paralympic Values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

In the midst of all the celebration and entertainment, you'll see some protocols and traditions that are common features of every Paralympic Opening Ceremony. We don't want to give away too much just yet, but here's an idea of what you can expect...

After the Host Nation's flag (the Union Jack) has been raised and the national anthem played, the spectacular Parade of Athletes will begin.

Once the athletes have entered the Stadium, nation by nation and in alphabetical order, Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee, and Seb Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee, will address the assembled crowd.

Co-Artistic Directors

Co-Artistic Directors Bradley Hemmings and Jenny Sealey share a long history of staging exciting live shows together, including work with deaf and disabled artists.

Hemmings is Artistic Director of the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival. He also curates and produces Liberty, London's annual disability arts festival, for the Mayor of London.

The Games will be declared open and oaths taken by representatives of participating athletes and judges.

Towards the end of the evening, the Paralympic Flame will be brought into the Stadium and passed to the final Torchbearer, who will light the Paralympic Cauldron. The Flame will continue to burn until it's extinguished at the Closing Ceremony on 9 September.

Did you know?

The Paralympic Flame will begin its journey to the Stadium 24 hours before the Opening Ceremony, when four flames from across Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be united at a special event in Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire – spiritual home of the Paralympic Movement.

Olympic Stadium



Key

- Ticket checking point
- Ticket resolution office
- Food and drink
- 102 Seating block
- Spectator medical
- Bar
- Baby changing facilities
- Pushchair and wheelchair storage
- Toilets can be found around the concourse and inside the Stadium.
- Information, Games Mobility and lost and found
- London 2012 Shop

Scan me or go to

london2012.com/paralympics/mobileapps to find out about the official London 2012 apps, with sports results, spectator information and more.



Inside the Olympic Park

Please do your bit for the environment – take your rubbish home or help us recycle it by following the coloured icons on the bins, and on food and drink packaging.

Smoking is not permitted in the Olympic Park, except in designated areas.

VISA In recognition of Visa's longstanding support of the Paralympic Games, only Visa (debit, credit and prepaid) and cash can be used for purchases inside the venue. Contactless payment is also available.

Out and about

Find out what's on at a London 2012 Live Site near you or discover the great range of Paralympic, London 2012 Festival and other events taking place across the UK at london2012.com/paralympics/joinin

Get the perfect souvenir or gift – including exclusive merchandise only available in venues – at the London 2012 Shop. Or go online at london2012.com/shop



Delivering a memorable Paralympic Games to inspire a generation with the support of our Partners



This guide is available on request in other formats up to and including 30 June 2012. To obtain these please quote reference number LOC2012/PSG/03. Email info@enquiries.london2012.com. Phone +44 (0)845 267 2012. This guide is also available to download at london2012.com/paralympics

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