International Olympic Committee

FACTSHEET

The Olympic Winter Games

16 July 2026

CHAMONIX 1924, France

Dates: 25 January to 5 February 1924.
Participation: 16 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), 258 athletes (13 women, 245 men), 16 events, 6 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Camille Mandrillon, military patrol.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: no ceremony.
Official opening by: Gaston Vidal, Under Secretary of State.
Emblem: no emblem.
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: municipality of Chamonix, with cross-country skiing in the valley.

This "International Winter Sports Week" was retroactively named the first Olympic Winter Games at the 24th IOC Session held in Lisbon in 1926. The decision to create a separate cycle for the Winter Games was taken at the 1925 Session in Prague. Charles Jewtraw (USA) was the first Olympic champion in the history of the Winter Games.

SAINT MORITZ 1928, Switzerland

Dates: 11 to 19 February 1928.
Participation: 25 NOCs, 464 athletes (26 women, 438 men), 14 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Hans Eidenbenz, Nordic combined.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: no ceremony.
Official opening by: President Edmund Shulthess.
Emblem: no emblem.
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: the municipality, with cross country skiing around the lake and some of the skeleton and bobsleigh tracks in the municipality of Celerina.

Since the Netherlands, which were hosting the Amsterdam Games, were unable to organise the Winter Games, Switzerland proposed three candidatures and the Games were awarded to Saint Moritz. The Games were limited to eight days, including two Sundays, and some events were disrupted by bad weather. For the first time, an Asian delegation (from Japan) participated in the Winter Games.

LAKE PLACID 1932, United States

Dates: 4 to 15 February 1932.
Participation: 17 NOCs, 252 athletes (21 women, 231 men), 14 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): John Aimes Shea, speed skating.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: no ceremony.
Official opening by: Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Emblem: no emblem.
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: ice events in Lake Placid and others on Mt. Van Hoevenberg (Nordic and sled disciplines). These were the first Winter Games to be held in North America. Lake Placid, a small town in the north-eastern United States, organised this third edition despite the economic depression. Formal ceremonies were held for the first time, with medals presented to athletes on a podium after the events. These Games were also notable for some inclement weather and disagreements between Americans and Europeans concerning the rules of speed skating. A female athlete carried her delegation's flag – that of Great Britain – at the opening ceremony.

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN 1936, Germany

Dates: 6 to 16 February 1936.
Participation: 28 NOCs, 646 athletes (80 women, 566 men), 17 events, 4 sports.

Olympic oath (athletes): Wilhelm Bogner, Nordic skiing and combined.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: no ceremony.
Official opening by: Chancellor Adolf Hitler.
Emblem: a circle containing the Olympic rings, beneath the Zugspitze mountain, with a ski track leading up to it. Around, there is the inscription "IV. Olympische Winterspiele 1936, Garmisch-Partenkirchen".
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: in the town, around the Riessersee lake, with cross-country skiing in the forest towards Mittenwald.
The resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen was formed by the amalgamation one year before the Games of two towns situated either side of the River Partnach.

For the first time, an Olympic flame burned in the city during the Games, although it was not lit by an athlete. This edition saw the introduction of Alpine skiing to the programme, as well as radio reporters who covered the events from the sidelines. This edition of the Winter Games was the first to have its own official film.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES OF 1940 AND 1944

Did not take place because of the World War II.

SAINT MORITZ 1948, Switzerland

Dates: 30 January to 8 February 1948.
Participation: 28 NOCs (nations), 669 athletes (77 women, 592 men), 22 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Riccardo Torriani, ice hockey.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: no ceremony.
Official opening by: President Enrico Celio.
Emblem: rectangle with a sun (logo of the municipality) whose rays shine onto the Olympic rings and the words "V Jeux Olympiques d'hiver Saint Moritz 1948".
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: the municipality, with cross country skiing around the lake and some of the skeleton and bobsleigh tracks in the municipality of Celerina.

After a 12-year break caused by the Second World War, these V Games were called the "Games of Renewal". Neither Japan nor Germany were invited to Switzerland, the memories of the war being too fresh. By hosting this fifth edition, the resort in Haute Engadine became the first city to organise the Winter Games twice. As in 1928, the accommodation was spread between the two parts of the village: Saint Moritz Dorf and Saint Moritz Bad.

OSLO 1952, Norway

Dates: 14 to 25 February 1952.
Participation: 30 NOCs, 694 athletes (109 women, 585 men), 22 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Torbjorn Falkanger, ski jumping.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Eigil Nansen.
Official opening by: HRH Princess Ragnhild.
Emblem: a circle containing the Olympic rings and the silhouette of Oslo's new town hall. On the outside border, the inscription: "De VI. Olympiske Vinterleker Oslo 1952".
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: in the city of Oslo and to the north, around the Holmenkollen hill (Oslo is one of the largest capitals in terms of surface area).

The first edition of the Winter Games to be hosted in Scandinavia, birthplace of numerous winter disciplines, broke new ground in many ways. In particular, the Olympic flame lighting ceremony, which took place in the hearth of the home of Sondre Norheim, a pioneer of modern skiing. The final torch bearer was the grandson of Nansen, the famous polar explorer. This edition was the first Winter Games to be held in a capital and on the coast. It was also the first time the Olympic Games had been opened by a woman.

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO 1956, Italy

Dates: 26 January to 5 February 1956.
Participation: 32 NOCs, 821 athletes (134 women, 687 men), 24 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Giuliana Chenal-Minuzzo, alpine skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Guido Caroli, speed skating.
Official opening by: President Giovanni Gronchi.

Emblem: it represents a stylised snowflake containing the five Olympic rings surmounted by a star, representing the emblem of the Italian National Olympic Committee. Underneath this emblem, a summit from the Dolomites (Monte Pomagagnon), which overhangs the resort, is pictured.
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: The Trampolino Olimpico (ski-jumping stadium which can still be seen today) is at the resort entrance. The cross-country skiing tracks run alongside the river that flows across the resort and a provisional "snow stadium" was constructed at the finishing lines two kilometres from the village centre. The Stadio Appolonio and the Stadio Olimpico del Ghiaccio were the two open-air ice rinks. The latter, built especially for the Games, has an original design, since the stands form a Ushape, with the fourth side open, providing a view of the mountains which dominate the resort. This ice stadium, a real open-air theatre, hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games. The Pista Olimpica del bob finishes around 100m from the ice rink, but on the opposite slope (in the shade). The Olimpia Run, the Canalone and the Col Druscié, three of the four Alpine skiing pistes, are still on the same slope, beneath the Tofane massif. The men's giant slalom piste (la Ilio Coli) is opposite, on the Sorapis massif above Cortina. The final sports venue is the Misurina lake 13km away, in the municipality of Auronzo. This lake is at an altitude of 1752m and freezes over in winter, which means that speed skating can be held at the foot of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, famous Dolomite peaks.

Four years before hosting the Summer Games in Rome, Italy staged the Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, a resort in the Dolomites. For the first time, the Games were televised live and TV viewers were able to watch the light of the Olympic cauldron. The flame had been lit at the Capitol in Rome. The 1956 Winter Games were notable for the presence of Soviet athletes, who enjoyed numerous successes and retained an air of mystery by choosing separate accommodation from that of the other delegations. They brought an end to the Canadian domination of ice hockey and dominated the speed skating events, while Pavel Kolchin became the first non-Scandinavian to win a cross-country skiing medal. Alpine skier Toni Sailer also achieved an outstanding feat by winning the downhill, giant slalom and slalom events. In figure skating, American Tenley Albright was crowned Olympic champion even though she had been seriously injured only two weeks before the Games. As for the men, Hayes Alan Jenkins stood at the top of an all-American podium. Switzerland's Madeleine Berthod won the women's downhill on her birthday.

SQUAW VALLEY 1960, United States

Dates: 18 to 28 February 1960.
Participation: 30 NOCs, 665 athletes (144 women, 521 men), 27 events, 4 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Carol Heiss, figure skating.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Kenneth Charles Henry, speed skating.
Official opening by: Vice-President Richard Nixon.
Emblem: three superimposed triangles facing different directions, in the colours of the American flag, forming a stylised snowflake with the Olympic rings in the centre.
Olympic venues: all the venues were situated in the Olympic Valley (site of the ski resort). The resort of Squaw Valley was created especially for these Olympic Winter Games, at the instigation of the promoter Alexander Cushing. It is therefore easier to understand why the organisers refused to build a bobsleigh run, since there was so much work involved in constructing all the facilities and infrastructures and, particularly, since only nine NOCs had entered the bobsleigh competitions. Buildings were erected especially to house the delegations, breaking with the tradition of accommodating them in hotels in the host resort. These Games were notable for the invention of a technology which revolutionised sports broadcasting: the slow-motion replay. Following the IOC's decision in 1958 to officially approve the Olympic anthem by Spiros Samaras and Kostis Palamas, a version by Robert Linn, with the words translated into English by Basil Swift, was performed at the opening ceremony.

INNSBRUCK 1964, Austria

Dates: 29 January to 9 February 1964.
Participation: 36 NOCs, 1,091 athletes (199 women, 892 men), 34 events, 6 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Paul Aste, bobsleigh.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Joseph Rieder, alpine skiing.
Official opening by: President Dr Adolf Schärf.

Emblem: the Olympic rings are depicted above the city's coat of arms, which represents a white bridge on a red background (Innsbruck literally means bridge over the Inn).
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: Innsbruck (ice sports and ski jumping), Seefeld (Nordic), Igls (sled sports), Axamer-Lizum (Alpine).

When the Games were held in Innsbruck, Austria became the last of the Alpine countries to host the Games (although Innsbruck is in a valley rather than a ski resort). For this occasion, the Tyrolean capital built an Olympic village, a brand-new accommodation complex based on the Summer Games model, as well as a smaller village in Seefeld for the athletes involved in the Nordic competitions. For the first time, the competition venues were spread across a number of different towns and it was also the first time the Olympic flame was lit in Olympia. Timing to a hundredth of a second was introduced in Alpine skiing.

GRENOBLE 1968, France

Dates: 6 to 18 February 1968.
Participation: 37 NOCs, 1,158 athletes (211 women, 947 men), 35 events, 6 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Léo Lacroix, alpine skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): no oath.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Alain Calmat, figure skating.
Official opening by: President Charles de Gaulle.
Emblem: a snow crystal surrounded by three red roses, the symbol of the city, with the Olympic rings.
Mascots: "Schuss", a little character on skis.
Olympic venues: Grenoble (ice disciplines), Chamrousse (alpine), Saint Nizier (ski jumping), Villard-de-Lans (luge), Autrans (Nordic), l'Alpe d'Huez (bobsleigh).

Television viewers were able to watch colour broadcasts of the 1968 Games. Whereas in 1964 the luge and bobsleigh runs had been built virtually side by side, this time they were at two different resorts several dozen kilometres apart. It was the first time Grenoble had been a candidate. This was also the first time the IOC Medical Commission carried out doping controls at the Olympic Games.

SAPPORO 1972, Japan

Dates: 3 to 13 February 1972.
Participation: 35 NOCs, 1,006 athletes (205 women, 801 men), 35 events, 6 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Keiichi Suzuki, speed skating.
Olympic oath (officials): Fumio Asaki.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Hideki Takada, schoolboy.
Official opening by: Emperor Hiro-Hito.
Emblem: it represents a combination of three elements: the Rising Sun, symbol of Japan, a snowflake and the rings with the inscription "Sapporo' 72".
Mascots: no mascot.
Olympic venues: Sapporo and Makomanai (ice and Nordic disciplines), Mount Teine (Alpine and sled sports), Mount Eniwa (Alpine). This second edition of the Games to be held on the coast and the first in an Asian country was notable for the increasingly urgent question of the amateurism of athletes. At the sporting level, these Games saw some outstanding performances, such as the Japanese ski jumping treble, the individual trebles of Soviet Kulakova in cross-country skiing and Dutchman Ard Schenk in speed skating, and the Alpine skiing gold medal won by Spaniard Ochoa (the only Winter Games gold won by a Spaniard).

INNSBRUCK 1976, Austria

Dates: 4 to 15 February 1976.
Participation: 37 NOCs, 1,123 athletes (231 women, 892 men), 37 events, 6 sports.
Olympic oath (athletes): Werner Delle-Karth, bobsleigh.
Olympic oath (officials): Willy Köstinger, Nordic combined.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Christl Haas and Josef Feistmantl, alpine skiing and luge.
Official opening by: President Dr Rudolf Kirschschläger.
Emblem: identical to the emblem of the 1964 Games, except the rings are not in colour. The Olympic rings are depicted above the city's coat of arms, which represents a white bridge on a red background (Innsbruck literally means bridge over the Inn).
Mascots: a snowman wearing a Tyrolean hat.
Olympic venues: Innsbruck (ice sports and ski jumping), Seefeld (Nordic), Igls (sled sports), Axamer-Lizum (Alpine).

After Denver (USA), which had been awarded the Games, pulled out, the IOC approached the other candidate cities and asked Innsbruck to organise this edition. The Austrian city used its existing sports facilities, but also had to build a new track for the sled sports in Igls. For the first time, these two sports were held on the same track. In order to mark Innsbruck's second edition of the Games, organised 12 years after the first, two Olympic cauldrons were lit. They can still be admired at the foot of the ski-jump on the Bergisel, which dominates the city.

LAKE PLACID 1980, United States

Dates: 13 to 24 February 1980.
Participation: 37 NOCs, 1,072 athletes (232 women, 840 men), 38 events, 6 sports, 6,703 volunteers.
Olympic oath (athletes): Eric Heiden, speed skating.
Olympic oath (officials): Terry McDermott, speed skating.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Dr Charles Morgan Kerr, team doctor.
Official opening by: Vice-President of the United States, Walter Mondale.
Emblem: a capital L adapted to represent a mountain and a column with a serration symbolising the fact that the Games had been held twice in Lake Placid.
Mascots: "Roni", a small raccoon.
Olympic venues: Lake Placid (ice sports), Mt. Van Hoevenberg (Nordic and sled sports), Mt. Whiteface (Alpine).

Lake Placid has submitted more bids (eight) to host the Olympic Winter Games than any other city. After Saint Moritz and Innsbruck, it became the third city to organise the Winter Games twice, but this time after a gap of 48 years. In order to overcome a lack of snow, the organisers used artificial snow for the first time. Many outstanding sporting feats were achieved at these Games, although the Olympic village, situated less than 6 km from the centre, was the first to be converted into a prison.

SARAJEVO 1984, Yugoslavia

Dates: 8 to 19 February 1984.
Participation: 49 NOCs, 1,272 athletes (274 women, 998 men), 39 events, 6 sports, 10,450 volunteers, 7,393 media (2,363 written press, 5,030 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Boran Krizaj, alpine skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): Dragan Perovic, alpine skiing.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Sanda Dubravcic, figure skating.
Official opening by: President Mika Spiljak
Emblem: it symbolises a stylised snowflake with the Olympic rings above. It also features the design of the embroidery produced in the Sarajevo region.
Mascots: "Vuchko", the tough and courageous wolf, both happy and serious.
Olympic venues: Sarajevo (ice sports), Bjelasnica and Jahorina (Alpine), Igman (Nordic sports), Trebevic (sled sports).

After the Alps, the Appalachians, the Rockies, the Baltic Shield and the Japanese Alps, the Winter Games were held in the Dinarides (or Balkan Alps), in a semi-Socialist (non-aligned) country. The Games in Sarajevo, which is now the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, marked the beginning of a new economic era for sport, with the development of television broadcasting rights.

CALGARY 1988, Canada

Dates: 13 to 28 February 1988.
Participation: 57 NOCs, 1,423 athletes (301 women, 1,122 men), 46 events, 6 sports, 9,498 volunteers, 6,838 media (2,477 written press, 4,361 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Pierre Harvey, Nordic skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): Suzanna Morrow Francis, figure skating.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Robyn Perry, schoolgirl.
Official opening by: Her Excellency Jeanne Sauvé.
Emblem: it represents a stylised snowflake above the Olympic rings. It can also be seen as a stylised maple leaf, the national emblem of Canada. Composed of different letters "C" for Canada and Calgary, the emblem is rich in symbolism.
Mascots: "Howdy and Hidy" are an inseparable brother and sister pair of polar bears.
Olympic venues: Calgary (ice disciplines), Canmore (Nordic disciplines), Nakiska (Alpine), Canada Olympic Park (ski jumping, sled sports, freestyle skiing).

The city of Alberta organised the first Winter Games to be held in Canada, with the Vancouver Games to come in 2010. In order to avoid the disastrous effects

of the Chinook (a warm wind similar to the Alpine foehn), snow cannons were placed along the Alpine ski runs and the cross-country skiing tracks. The facilities at the Canada Olympic Park (sled sports track, ski-jump), built on the edge of the city, were for a long time the only facilities of this type in this part of North America and enabled athletes to train and practise. Curling, short track speed skating and freestyle skiing all featured on the programme as demonstration sports and disciplines.

ALBERTVILLE 1992, France

Dates: 8 to 23 February 1992.
Participation: 64 NOCs, 1,801 athletes (488 women, 1,313 men), 57 events, 6 sports, 8,647 volunteers, 5,894 media (2,271 written press, 3,623 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Surya Bonaly, figure skating.
Olympic oath (officials): Pierre Bornat, alpine skiing.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Michel Platini (football) and François Cyrille Grange.
Official opening by: President François Mitterrand.
Emblem: an Olympic flame in the colours of Savoie (white cross on a red background), with two lines in the colours of France forming ski tracks underneath. The Olympic rings are at the bottom.
Mascots: "Magique", half-imp half-star wearing a red bobble hat.
Olympic venues: Albertville (ice events), Val d'Isère and Les Ménuires (Alpine), Méribel (Alpine and ice hockey), Les Saisies (cross country skiing), Courchevel (ski jumping), La Plagne (bobsleigh), Pralognan-la-Vanoise (curling), Les Arcs (speed skiing), Tignes (freestyle skiing), Brides-les-Bains (Olympic Village).

This third edition of the Winter Games to be held in France used the very dense network of winter sports resorts in the Tarentaise valley. This meant that accommodation was available for all categories of people participating in or wishing to watch the Games. For the first time, the Olympic village was not located in or adjacent to the host, but in the thermal spa of Brides-les Bains, 32 km away. Albertville only hosted the skating events and ceremonies. As far as the delegations were concerned, these Games saw a number of firsts. The countries that made up the former USSR competed under the name Unified Team (EUN), while Croatia and Slovenia participated for the first time as independent nations. A unified German team participated for the first time since 1936, while the Baltic states (Estonia and Latvia) entered for the first time since 1936 and 1928 respectively.

LILLEHAMMER 1994, Norway

Dates: 12 to 27 February 1994.
Participation: 67 NOCs, 1,737 athletes (522 women, 1,215 men), 61 events, 6 sports, 9,054 volunteers, 6,633 media (2,615 written press, 4,018 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Vegard Ulvang, Nordic skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): Kari Karing, figure skating.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Prince Haakon Magnus.
Official opening by: His Majesty King Harald V.
Emblem: it is comprised of a stylised aurora borealis against a blue background, the five Olympic rings, snow crystals and the title "Lillehammer '94".
Mascots: "Haakon and Kristin", small Norwegian children in traditional costume.
Olympic venues: Hafjell and Kvitfjell (Alpine), Hunderfossen (Alpine disciplines), Gjøvik (ice hockey), Hamar (ice sports), Lillehammer (ice sports + ski jumping), Birkebeineren (cross-country skiing), Kanthaugen (freestyle skiing).

The Lillehammer Games marked a turning point in the history of the Winter Olympics. Firstly, because they were held two years after the Albertville Games in order to separate them from the Summer Games, but particularly because they were organised under the banner of total respect for the environment. This edition was also a public success and was notable for architectural feats such as the Gjøvik ice stadium, which was dug out of a cave, and the one in Hamar, shaped like an upside-down Viking ship.

NAGANO 1998, Japan

Dates: 7 to 22 February 1998.
Participation: 72 NOCs, 2,176 athletes (787 women, 1,389 men), 68 events, 7 sports, 32,000 volunteers, 8,329 media (2,586 written press, 5,743 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Kenji Ogiwara, Nordic combined.
Olympic oath (officials): Junko Hiramatsu, figure skating).

Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Midori Ito, figure skating.
Official opening by: Emperor Akihito.
Emblem: "Mountain flower" is a flower with each petal representing an athlete practising a winter sport and can also be seen as a snowflake symbolising the Olympic Winter Games.
Mascots: The "Snowlets", "Sukki", "Nokki", "Lekki" and "Tsukki", are four very colourful owls. A bird which has long represented "the wisdom of the woods" in many countries.
Olympic venues: Nagano (ice and sled sports), Karuizawa (curling), Nosawa Onsen (biathlon), Hakuba (ski jumping, alpine skiing), Yamanouchi (alpine skiing + snowboard), Lizuna Kogen (freestyle skiing).

Japan hosted the Winter Games for the second time. Azerbaijan, Kenya, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay and Venezuela participated in the Olympic Winter Games for the first time. Curling returned to the Games programme, while snowboarding and women's ice hockey featured for the first time. Like previous Games, this edition focussed on environmental protection and the use of technology to protect nature. Curling, snowboarding and women's ice hockey were included in the programme; all these sports were open to women.

SALT LAKE CITY 2002, United States

Dates: 8 to 24 February 2002.
Participation: 77 NOCs, 2,399 athletes (886 women, 1,513 men), 78 events, 7 sports, 22,000 volunteers, 8,730 media (2,661 written press, 6,069 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Jim Shea, skeleton.
Olympic oath (officials): Allen Church, alpine skiing.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: 1980 US ice hockey team.
Official opening by: President George W. Bush.
Emblem: it represents a stylised snow crystal with bright colours – yellow, orange and blue. These are colours found in the Utah landscape. Under the picture, above the Olympic rings, are the words "Salt Lake 2002".
Mascots: taken from Indian legends, "Powder" the hare, "Copper" the coyote and "Coal" the bear illustrate the Olympic motto "faster, higher, stronger".
Olympic venues: Snowbassin (alpine skiing), Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo (ice disciplines), Park City (snowboard + alpine skiing), Deer Valley (freestyle skiing + alpine skiing), Soldier Hollow (cross-country skiing), Utah Olympic Park (ski jumping and sled sports). The fourth edition of the Olympic Winter Games to be held in the United States took place on the shores of the Great Salt Lake which gave its name to Salt Lake City, capital of Utah. Most competition venues were situated high up in the Wasatch Mountains. The cross-country skiing event was held at the maximum altitude permitted by the International Ski Federation, while the Salt Lake ice rink was one of the highest in the world. The skeleton made a return to the Games programme after the two editions in Saint Moritz. Meanwhile, the bobsleigh was opened to women in 2002, leaving ski jumping and the Nordic combined as the only single-sex winter disciplines. There were numerous firsts at these Games: the first medals ever won in Winter Games history by Estonia and Croatia, and the first gold medals for China and Australia.

TURIN 2006, Italy

Dates: 10 to 26 February 2006.
Participation: 80 NOCs, 2,509 athletes (959 women, 1,550 men), 84 events, 7 sports, 18,000 volunteers, 9,408 media representatives (2,688 written press, 6,720 broadcasters).
Olympic oath (athletes): Giorgio Rocca, alpine skiing.
Olympic oath (officials): Fabio Bianchetti, International Skating Union (ISU).
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Stefania Belmondo, cross country skiing.
Official opening by: President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.
Emblem: it represents the silhouette of the Mole Antonelliana, a building and historical monument with an unmistakable silhouette. This emblem also represents a mountain of ice crystals, a reference to the natural elements of the Winter Games. In this way, the emblem passes on a message of exchange and interaction between the Alpine communities and the great city in Piedmont.
Mascots: "Neve" and "Gliz" were also inspired by the natural elements essential to the Winter Games: snow and ice. They are affectionate and warm, and come to life through the passion that is so characteristic of Italy. "Neve", who is round and inspired by snow, is dressed in red, while "Gliz" is squarer, wears a blue outfit and represents ice.
Olympic venues: Bardonecchia (snowboard), Pinerolo (curling), Pragelato (Nordic combined, ski

jumping and cross-country skiing), Cesana-Pariol (luge and bobsleigh), Cesana-San Sicario (biathlon), San Sicario-Fraiteve (women's Alpine skiing), Sauze d'Oulx (aerials), and Sestriere (men's Alpine skiing). Turin hosted speed skating, short-track, figure skating and ice hockey, as well as the opening, closing and medal presentation ceremonies.

Fifty years after the Games of Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy hosted the Winter Games for a second time, in the city of Turin, capital of the Piedmont region. The Alpine events took place to the west of the city in the resorts of Val di Suza and Val di Chisone, near the French border. These Games were the occasion for the general public to discover new events, such as snowboard cross, team speed skating races and biathlon group start. With a record 80 NOCs participating, these Games included athletes from Albania, Madagascar and Ethiopia participating for the first time. Latvia won the first Winter medal in its history. France won its first medal in cross country skiing, and Finland its first medal in Alpine skiing.

VANCOUVER 2010, Canada

Dates: 12 to 28 February 2010.
Participation: 82 NOCs, 2,566 athletes (1,044 women, 1,522 men), 86 events, 7 sports, 18,500 volunteers, 9,800 media representatives (7,000 broadcasters, 2,800 written press).
Olympic oath (athletes): Hayley Wickenheiser, ice hockey.
Olympic oath (officials): Michel Verrault, International Skating Union (ISU).
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Catriona Lemay Doan[1], Steve Nash, Nancy Greene Raine and Wayne Gretzky (ice hockey). Wayne Gretzky lit alone the cauldron located outside.
Official opening by: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michäelle Jean, Governor General of Canada.
Emblem: Ilanaaq the Inukshuk. Inukshuks were created for centuries by the people of the Canadian north to act as guideposts across the vast terrains of snow and ice. The Inukshuks were rocks that were stacked in such a way as to create human forms. They were of different sizes and each stone in the form was necessary to support the others. Their creators used them in many different ways, such as to indicate directions to shelter, for hunting and to locate fishing areas. The word Ilanaaq is the Inuit word for friend and this represents the friendly spirit and soul of Canada.
Mascots: the three Vancouver 2010 mascots are distinct and special, both in terms of their personalities and in their physical appearance. "Quatchi" is a big, gentle and shy sasquatch. "Miga" is a small, mischievous and outgoing "sea bear". Sumi, an animal guardian spirit, is a natural-born leader with a passion for protecting the environment. All three are mythical creatures inspired by local geography and legend. "Quatchi" and "Miga" will represent the Olympic Games and Sumi will represent the Paralympic Games, but they will all work together as a team. The three mascots are accompanied by "Mukmuk", a small and friendly Vancouver Island marmot who always supports and cheers loudly for his friends during games and races.
Olympic venues: Vancouver (curling, ice hockey, figure skating, short track speed skating, opening and closing ceremonies, medals ceremonies), Richmond (speed skating), Cypress Mountain (snowboard and freestyle skiing). Whistler Olympic Park (biathlon, cross country skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping), Whistler Creekside (alpine skiing), The Whistler Sliding Centre (luge, skeleton, bobsleigh) Whistler (medals presentation ceremonies).

For the second time, Olympic Winter Games took place in Canada, 22 years after those of Calgary in 1988. Two new events make the Olympic appearance: the ski-cross for men and women. Amongst the 82 NOCs present in Vancouver, six of them competed for the first time: Cayman Islands, Colombia, Ghana, Montenegro Pakistan and Peru.

SOCHI 2014, Russia

Dates: 7 to 23 February 2014.
Participation: 88 NOCs + 1 Independent Olympic Athlete (IOA), 2,780 athletes (1,121 women, 1,659 men), 98 events, 7 sports, 25,000 volunteers, 2,731 written and photographic press and 7,625 rights holding broadcasters.
Olympic oath (athletes): Ruslan Zakharov, short track.

[1] Due to a technical problem Catriona Lemay Doan, was not able to participate in the lighting during the opening ceremony but that she did so during the closing ceremony.

Olympic oath (officials): Vyacheslav Vedenin, Jr., cross country skiing.
Olympic oath (coaches): Anastasia Popkova, alpine skiing.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Vladislav Tretyak (ice hockey) and Irina Rodnina (figure skating).
Official opening by: President Valdimir Putin.
Mascots: The Hare, the Polar Bear and the Leopard are the three official mascots of 2014 the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.
Emblem: "sochi2014.ru" is the first Olympic emblem that also forms a web address. It has been designed to actively encourage dialogue between Russians, nations and winter sports fans – particularly young people – facilitated by Sochi 2014's online platforms.
Motto: "Hot. Cool and Yours.".
Olympic venues: Sochi coastal cluster: Fisht Olympic Stadium (opening, closing and medals ceremonies), Bolshoy Ice Dome and Shayba Arena (ice hockey), Ice Cube Curling Center (curling), Iceberg Skating Palace (figure skating and short track), Adler Arena (speed skating).
Krasnaya Polyana mountains cluster: Rosa Khutor Extreme Park (snowboard and freestyle skiing), Laura Center (cross country skiing and biathlon), Rosa Khutor Alpine Center (alpine skiing), the Sanki Sliding Center (luge, skeleton, bobsleigh) and RusSki Gorki Jumping Center (ski juming).

The 2014 Olympic Winter Games were the first time that the Russian Federation hosts the Winter Games; the Soviet Union hosted the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow. Six countries participated for the first time in the Olympic Winter Games – Malta, Paraguay, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga and Zimbabwe. Twelve new events were contested: team figure skating, luge relay, biathlon mixed relay, women's ski jumping, snowboard and ski slopestyle (men and women), ski half-pipe (men and women) and snowboard parallel slalom (men and women).

PYEONGCHANG 2018, Republic of Korea

Dates: 9 to 25 February 2018.
Participation: 91 NOCs + Olympic athletes from Russia (OAR), 2,833 athletes (1,664 men, 1,169 women), 7 sports, 15 disciplines, 102 events, 22,400 volunteers, 2,853 written and photographic press and 10,898 broadcasters.
Olympic oath (athletes): Mo Tae-Beom, speed skating.
Olympic oath (officials): Kim Woosik, snowboard.
Olympic oath (coaches): Park Ki-ho, Nordic combined.
Lighting of the Olympic cauldron: Kim Yuna, figure skating.
Official opening by: President Moon Jae-In.
Emblem: the emblem's design has its roots in Hangul, with the shapes that form the logo stemming from the first consonants of each syllable in the word "PyeongChang" when it is written in Hangul. The first character in the emblem also represents a gathering place where the three elements of Cheon-ji-in – heaven, earth, and human – are in harmony. The second character symbolises snow and ice, as well as the athletes' stellar performances. PyeongChang 2018's new emblem symbolises a grand gathering of people from all around the world in celebration of Olympic winter sports, which is taking place in the harmonious land of PyeongChang – "A square where the earth meets the sky, and where athletes excel in snow or on ice" where everyone celebrated the world's biggest winter festival.
Mascots: A white tiger named "Soohorang". The white tiger has been long considered Korea's guardian animal. "Sooho", meaning "protection" in Korean, symbolises the protection offered to the athletes, spectators and other participants of the 2018 Games. "Rang" comes from the middle letter of "Ho-rang-i", the Korean word for "tiger", and is also the last letter of "Jeong-seon A-ri-rang", a cherished traditional folk song of Gangwon Province, where the Games were held. "Soohorang" not only has a challenging spirit and passion but is also a trustworthy friend who protects the athletes, spectators and all the participants of the Olympic Games.
Motto: "Passion. Connected.".
Olympic venues: PyeongChang mountain cluster: Alpensia Sports Park (biathlon, ski jumping, nordic combined, cross country skiing, luge, skeleton, bobsleigh, Bokwang Snow Park (snowboard, freestyle skiing), Jeongseon Alpine Centre (alpine skiing), Yongpyong Alpine Center (alpine skiing).
Gangneung coastal cluster: Gangneung Olympic Park (curling, ice hockey, speed skating, short track, figure skating), Kwandong Hockey Center (ice hockey).

The historic moment of these Games was when the athletes of the two Koreas marched together as one team at opening ceremony. Four new medal events were included on the Olympic programme: curling

mixed doubles, speed skating mass start, Alpine skiing team event and snowboard big air, reflecting the continued evolution of the Winter Olympic programme and building on the success of recent editions of the Games. These Games also set records in terms of participation, with more NOCs taking part and more female athletes competing than ever before. Six NOCs competed for the first time. The performances of the athletes were watched by over a quarter of the world's population, making PyeongChang the most digitally viewed Olympic Winter Games ever – an increase of 124 per cent from Sochi and 870 per cent from Vancouver. PyeongChang also enjoyed the largest amount of broadcast coverage in the history of the Olympic Winter Games, up 38 per cent from Sochi.

BEIJING 2022, China

Dates: 4 to 20 February 2022.
Participation: 91 NOCs, 2,834 athletes (1,567 men, 1,267 women), 109 events in 7 sports, 18,000 volunteers, 1,952 written and photographic press and 7,436 rights holding broadcasters.
Olympic oath (athletes): Wang Qiang (cross-country skiing) and Liu Jiayu (snowboarding)
Olympic oath (officials): Tao Yongchun (freestyle skiing).
Olympic oath (coaches): Ji Xiaoou (freestyle skiing).
Olympic cauldron lit by: Dinigeer Yilamujiang and Zhao Jiawen.
Officially openened by: President Xi Jinping.
Emblem: the emblem combines traditional and modern elements of Chinese culture, as well as features embodying the passion and vitality of winter sports. Inspired by 冬, the Chinese character for "winter", the emblem resembles a skater at the top and a skier at the bottom. The flowing ribbon-like motif between them symbolises the host country's rolling mountains, Olympic venues, skiing pistes and skating rinks. It also points to the fact that the Games will coincide with the Chinese New Year.
The use of blue in the emblem represents dreams, the future and the purity of ice and snow, while red and yellow – the colours of China's national flag – symbolise passion, youth and vitality.
Mascot: a panda named "Bing Dwen Dwen". In Mandarin Chinese, "Bing" has several meanings, though the most common is ice. The word also symbolises purity and willpower of athletes, while "Dwen Dwen" means robust and lively, and also represents children. This Olympic mascot will serve as an ambassador for winter sports, bringing joy to those who participate in and watch the Olympic Winter Games.
"Bing Dwen Dwen" wears a full-body "shell" made out of ice, which resembles an astronaut suit - a tribute to embracing new technologies for a future with infinite possibilities. The shell also helps the panda to skate, snowboard and ski alongside the Olympic athletes.
The bright colours of the halo around its face are a representation of the latest advanced technologies of the ice and snow sport tracks at the Games, while the heart on its left palm symbolises China's hospitality for athletes and spectators at the Winter Olympics.
Motto: "Together for a Shared Future".
Olympic venues: Beijing zone: National Speed Skating Oval (speed skating), National Indoor Stadium (ice hockey), National Aquatics Centre (curling), Capital Indoor Stadium (short track speed skating, figure skating), Wukesong Sports Centre (ice hockey), Big Air Shougang (snowboard, freestyle skiing).
Yanqing zone: National Alpine Ski Centre (alpine skiing), National Sliding Centre (bobsleigh, skeleton, luge).
Zhangjiakou zone: Genting Snow Park (snowboard, freestyle skiing), National Biathlon Centre (biathlon), National Ski Jumping Centre (ski jumping), National Cross-Country Centre (cross-country).

MILANO CORTINA 2026, Italy

Dates: 6 to 22 February 2026.
Participation: 2,842 athletes (1,514 men, 1,328 women), 92 NOCs + the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN), 8 sports, 16 disciplines and 116 events. 18,000 volunteers, 2,537 written and photographic press and 6,668 rights holding broadcasters.
Olympic oath (athletes): Stefania Constantini (curling) and Dominik Fischnaller (luge).
Olympic oath (officials): Raffaella Locatelli (figure skating) and Gabriele Toldo (alpine skiing).
Olympic oath (coaches): Elisabetta Biavaschi (alpine skiing) and Maurizio Marchetto (speed skating).
Olympic cauldron lit by: Alberto Tomba and Deborah Compagnoni in Milan and Sofia Goggia in Cortina d'Ampezzo.
Officially openened by: President Sergio Mattarella.
The opening ceremony was a multi-site celebration uniting Milan's San Siro with the mountain clusters in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Livigno and Predazzo. Two Olympic cauldrons were lit – one at the Arco della

Pace in Milan and the other in Piazza Angelo Dibona in Cortina – symbolically linking the city and the mountains.

Emblem: "Futura" is made up of the number 26 in one single, ice-white trace, reflecting Milano Cortina 2026's ambition to put sustainability and legacy at the heart of its activities. This is underpinned by a commitment to using mainly temporary and existing venues and infrastructure, with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality for the Games and the ambition to stimulate economic development in northern Italy. The emblem also aims to evoke a sense of integration and consciousness that any single action has the power to contribute to a world which is more sustainable and fairer for all.

It is the first time in the history of the Olympics that a popular vote has decided the Games emblem. "Futura" was revealed in an online live stream announcement from the Milano Cortina Organising Committee on 30 March 2021, having captured 74 per cent of the 871,000 votes.

Mascots: Two stoat siblings named "Milo and Tina", their names are the diminutives of the two host cities.

Motto: "IT's Your Vibe"

Sports: Ski mountaineering is the only sport making its debut at Milano Cortina 2026. The principle of skimo is for athletes to race up and down a course and can alternate between being on skis and on foot. Medals will be awarded in men's and women's sprints and in a mixed-gender relay. Other than that, some new events are introduced, namely: Women's Doubles in luge, Women's Large Hill in ski jumping, Mixed Team event in skeleton, Men's and Women's Dual Moguls in freestyle skiing and Team Combined in alpine skiing.

Olympic venues:

- **Milan**: Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena and Rho Ice Hockey Arena, Ice Skating Arena (figure skating and short track speed skating), Speed Skating Stadium, San Siro Olympic Stadium (opening ceremony).
- **Cortina d'Ampezzo**: Curling Olympic Stadium, Sliding Centre (bobsleigh, luge skeleton), Tofane Alpine Skiing Centre.
- **Bormio**: Stelvio Ski Centre (alpine skiing and ski mountaineering).
- **Anterselva/Antholz:** Biathlon Arena (biathlon).
- **Livigno**: Aerials & Moguls Park (freestyle skiing), Snow Park (freestyle skiing and snowboard).
- **Predazzo**: Ski Jumping Stadium (Nordic combined and ski jumping).
- **Tesero**: Cross-country skiing stadium (Nordic combined and cross-country skiing).
- **Verona**: Olympic Arena (closing ceremony).

For further information, please contact:
The Olympic Studies Centre
Tel. + 41 21 621 66 11
studies.centre@olympic.org