



Campus Travel

The Smart Choice

Travel Intuition

Navigating your way around the London Olympics



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Impacts on price and availability

If you are planning to be in London during the summer of 2012, particularly during the Olympics, cost and availability of flights and hotels are the two hurdles you need to clear as quickly as possible. Prices are rising as availability closes out in the lead up to the games, so you need to plan and book your travel now.

Air travel

As inbound travel to London will be significantly affected, some airlines are considering extra capacity and could release 'early-bird' specials. But in those cases 'early' could mean 12 months early! If you delay booking until closer to the event, you will almost certainly pay premium prices as discount tickets are snapped up.

Hotels

Hotels and property chains in central London have already allocated rooms to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). With the subsequent decline in hotel room supply and the spike in demand, London's accommodation rates will potentially be on the rise – subject to supply and demand. Fortunately, some of the demand is expected to be met with new hotel supply of more than 4,800 rooms coming onto the market within the next 12 months.

Many UK hotels have not yet set their rates for the games period and are only taking enquiries rather than bookings. Other properties have indicated minimum length of stay and rate/spend requirements will apply during the peak games period.

Ground transport

Rail: If you are planning any rail travel, advance tickets are not likely to be available in peak travel times during the Olympics. With 80% of spectators expected to travel by Tube or Docklands Light Railway, train carriages may be declassified and extra carriages may operate to cope with demand. Rail 'hotspots' for commuters are expected to include:

- The West End
- Westminster
- Bank
- The South Bank from Waterloo to London Bridge
- Canary Wharf
- Stratford and Canning Town
- Liverpool Street
- King's Cross St Pancras.

The Jubilee Line and Central Line, as key routes to the Olympic Park will be significantly busier than usual during the peak games period. The Northern Line is also expected to be heavily impacted.

Eurostar: If you are planning to use the Eurostar service for travel to/from Europe, advance fares will be available during the peak period and priced within the current fare range, however, they could carry different terms. All Eurostar tickets purchased four months before departure or later will revert to the normal pricing schedule.

Road and river services: Throughout Greater London, road and river services will be heavily impacted by high demand and temporary road closures around the Olympic Route Network and Paralympic Route Network. Parking controls will be in place around each Olympic venue. Roads that will be affected around the venues outside London include: Eton Dorney, Hadleigh Farm, Lee Valley, White Water Centre, Weymouth, Portland and regional football stadiums such as Cardiff and Manchester. Buses and coaches will be transporting spectators from local rail stations and park-and-ride sites used by the venues.

Key ways to reduce costs

Campus Travel offers the following advice to keep your travel costs down and minimise the impacts of this hectic period on your own plans.

During the peak Olympics period...

If you really don't need to be in London at this time, consider travelling before or after the Olympics as this will deliver cost benefits across all aspects of your trip.

For international travel to/from London during the peak summer period...

If you absolutely have to travel to London at this time:

- organise your bookings with Campus Travel now, before prices rise and for a better chance of using your preferred airlines and hotels etc
- consider using alternative airports to Heathrow, such as Gatwick and Stansted or Luton
- use a different class of travel if practical
- look into accommodation options outside Greater London, which will be more affordable than within the city area (see map on following page)
- allow enough time for travel to and from the airport as well as additional time for security and visa checks at the airport.

For domestic travel within the UK:

- reduce any non-essential journeys during the peak games period
- reschedule trips or meetings to avoid busy periods
- re-route trips to avoid busy locations
- factor in extra time for potential road, rail or domestic air travel delays.

For further information please visit
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